



# News Release

**from the PA Tourism & Lodging Association**

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Pennsylvania Palate Competition Winners Announced**

The PA Tourism & Lodging Association recently held its 4th annual Food & Beverage Conference, "Shift Your Focus," at The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel in State College, PA.

Holding the event in State College offered many benefits, as Penn State University is a leader in hotel and restaurant management. Many of the Conference sessions were held at some of Penn State's instructional and operational facilities. The event also benefitted from the involvement of many Penn State students from the School of Hospitality Management.

The 2010 Pennsylvania Palate Competition, sponsored by Sysco Central Pennsylvania, closed the Conference, which consisted of eight chefs from around the commonwealth. Each chef was paired with a four-year culinary student from Pennsylvania College of Technology and was given three hours to complete their featured menu item with accompaniments. They were then required to set their presentation station to allow the guests to sample their creations. To allow for a truly creative competition, the chefs were not told what protein they would be working with until the competition began. They were provided common pantry items, fruits, vegetables, alcohol for cooking and a full kitchen.

Attendees at the reception, which was open to the conference registrants and the public, voted on their favorite dish/chef in three categories, Best Use of Local/Organic Foods, Most Creative and Best of Show. The winners were given a beautifully engraved chef's knife.

Below is a list of this year's competing chefs:

Claudine Cooper, University of Pittsburgh at Bradford

Eileen Watkin, Hilton Inn at Penn

Gaurav Navin, Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort

George Gerhart, K&G Consulting

James Christman, Holiday Inn Pittsburgh Airport

Justin Helmer, Bryn Mawr College

Mark Pawlowski, The Yorktowne Hotel

Shelly Funt, Best Western Gettysburg Hotel

This year's winners were:

**Most Creative** - Mark Pawlowski, Executive Chef, Yorktowne Hotel

**Best Use of Local/Organic Foods** - Gaurav Navin, Executive Chef, Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort

**Best of Show** - Eileen Watkin, Executive Chef, Hilton Inn at Penn

For more information visit [www.patourism.org/fb](http://www.patourism.org/fb) or call the PA Tourism & Lodging Association at (717) 232-8880.

*The PA Tourism & Lodging Association is a private, non-profit, membership-based association that exists to advocate, support, promote and enhance the tourism and lodging industry within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It provides lobbying, education and professional development opportunities, information and other resources as well as value-adding services to its members to ensure their—and the industry's—ongoing growth and success.*

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