



Hospitality Today

The Newsletter of the Miami Dade College Hospitality Student Association · January 2010

California Pizza Kitchen Gives to HSA

(December 1, 2009) More than 25 students and guests gathered at the California Pizza Kitchen (CPK) on Miracle Mile for an evening of friends, food, fundraising and fun.

Balazs Doyle, the General Manager, addressed the guests and provided a tour of the restaurant.

"It's all about keeping your options open", said Doyle, when discussing career options in the industry.

CPK uses a three-step process for employment that starts with a group interview. Doyle told guests that the important characteristics for people seeking employment at CPK are tenure (at least two years of employment with previous employers), personality, ability to sell and having good references.

The Hospitality Student Association benefitted in many ways from the evening, including fundraising. The restaurant gave the HSA 20% of all sales from that date where flyers were presented to the server.

If you missed this event, don't worry! We'll be doing it again in the Spring 2010 semester.

Pot Luck Raises Funds

The Wolfson Campus HSA and Shelly Fano's HFT 1000 class hosted a pre-Thanksgiving Pot Luck dinner on November 25, 2009.

Together with silent and live auctions hosted by the Kendall HSA, the event was attended by over 20 people and raised \$310 for the association.

Auction items were donated by students, advisors and administrators and included original paintings by John Vega, Wendy Almeida and Camila Vargas Love's grandmother.

Additional auction items included an overnight hotel stay donated by Susann Banek and the evening's highest bid item – Miami Heat tickets donated by Ericka Burke.

The event was considered a huge success and will be held again in Spring 2010.

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"This restaurant makes \$4.5 million annually in revenue and is number four in the country in beverage sales", said Balazs Doyle, the General Manager at California Pizza Kitchen on Miracle Mile.

Students Awe the Authors

By Juniette Alvarez, Kendall H.S.A. Member

The Miami Book Fair 2009 was held at the Wolfson Campus in November 2009 and the Hospitality Student Association helped at the hospitality suite where snacks and beverages were offered to the publishers and authors.

The hospitality suite served as a place for publishers, authors, and personnel from the media to freshen up and socialize with their colleagues. Several club members helped and took different shifts to keep each guest well-attended and satisfied. Every student worked hard to prepare and serve the food, serve beverages and guide each author to where they needed to go. The event was held at the Wolfson Campus library and the guests were greeted from the moment they arrived.

This event was certainly a success and it made the Hospitality Student Association look good since students did a great job. It was a great experience for hospitality students and good opportunity to be hospitable to people.



"Volunteering at the Book Fair is a wonderful experience for community involvement and learning."

- Ivan Rivas

Pictured above: Ivan Rivas, John Vega and Juniette Alvarez

Kendall Students Get Spooky

By Gabrielle Wong, Kendall H.S.A. Vice-President

Miami Dade College continues to make efforts to combine student life with the Miami community. Each year on October 30th, the MDC Kendall Campus hosts an event called "Spooky Nights," which allows active school clubs to create a magical Halloween experience for children by decorating booths, handing out candy, playing games, and having contests. This school year, the Kendall Hospitality Student Association joined the fun.

Several students from the club, along with volunteers from the hospitality classes, came together and decorated their booth with cobwebs, caldrons, skeletons, and bones. Each of the students also dressed up in aprons and chefs' hats to hand out candy as Halloween chefs to incorporate the culinary field of hospitality with the costume theme.

Taken from her own spooky childhood experience, Ms. Fernandez, the Kendall hospitality advisor, presented the idea of using candy corn as teeth, peeled grapes as eyeballs, and mushy spaghetti pasta as human brains. The contents were placed in miniature caldrons and covered just enough so that the kids were able to reach their hands in and feel the body parts for themselves.

"It was amazing and hilarious to watch the little kids play with the food and really imagine it as body parts. It was pretty cute. All the little girls were especially grossed out, but the babies were fearless and even took them out of the pot. Everyone had a great time," said Gabrielle Wong, Vice-President of the Kendall Hospitality Club. "Spooky Nights was a great way for the Hospitality Club to input their creative efforts. We're always looking to reach new heights of being hospitable, so it's wonderful to see the club getting out there and interacting with the community."

Food Show Feeds Minds

By Erik Maguina, Kendall H.S.A. Member

On November 10th, students from the H.S.A. participated in the Americas Food Show at the Miami Beach Convention Center. The food show was an incredible presentation of multiple companies and their distinct products. There were many options for the average consumer, as well as the local chefs.

The show itself had everything a food taster wanted. The atmosphere was totally friendly, and had many open sales people. The show had a great setup and options ran from food services to products and the variety of companies offering them. There were products at the food show that are not yet on store shelves.

"I never imagined that companies offered food testing to other establishments to assure quality. I was also amazed to see a large number of foreign companies offering their products and services," said H.S.A. member Erik Maguina.



Alejandra Beck, Carlos Quiroga, Juniette Alvarez, Gabrielle Wong, Oriana Lecznowski and Camila Vargas created a spooky night for children.

Dave and Buster's Delights

By Carlos Quiroga, Kendall H.S.A. Member

Some of the members of the Hospitality Student Association got together at Dave & Buster's restaurant in Dolphin Mall on Saturday, December 12th to eat and exchange our gifts for Christmas. It was an extremely busy day for everyone because of the holiday season so the members arrived late, but we had fun.

The first person to get there was Wolfson member William Lapane, the punctual member. Our group consisted of William, Elsie Pena, Erick Maguina, John Vega, Camila Vargas, Carlos Quiroga and our Kendall advisor, Isabel Fernandez. We ordered items from the menu such as mac and cheese, fried shrimp, black jack BBQ chicken and ribs, the double stacked chicken sandwich, the blackened chicken pasta and the burger. The food was really good and delicious and we had a nice lunch and great time.

After we ate we started with the game for the exchange of gifts for Christmas and were very excited to see the gifts. Everybody liked their gifts and everyone was fighting for the gift of coffee cups that Carlos brought. The lucky one to keep the cups was Camila.

As this nice event came to an end, all agreed that this time shared was very precious and we were happy that we celebrated our Christmas with a fun and lovely group of people.

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