



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gifts from the Earth Update
Celebrity Chefs and Wineries Added
South Seattle Community College Annual Food and Wine Event
Celebrates Hospitality Industry

SEATTLE, WA – John Hart – Seattle Sheraton, Richard Malia – Ponti Seafood Grill, and Sean Rogers – Broadmoor Golf Club are the latest additions to an all-star lineup of celebrity chefs participating in South Seattle Community College's annual Gifts From the Earth gala. The event, which celebrates the hospitality industry and raises funds for college programs and student scholarships, features 15 of the region's top chefs who will prepare a multi-course culinary feast for two tables of 10 guests each. Every course will be paired with fine wine from two of the 30 participating Washington state wineries.

The festivities, sponsored by Food Services of America, take place Saturday, January 24, 2009, at South Seattle Community College. The evening begins at 5 pm, and features hors d'oeuvres, wine tasting and a silent auction, followed by dinner and a live auction of unique fine wine and dining packages.

Celebrity Chefs:

Peter Birk – Ray's Boathouse; Dalis Chea – Herban Feast Catering; Dylan Giordan – Serafina; John Hart – Seattle Sheraton; Craig Hetherington – TASTE; David Hoyle – Westin Bellevue; Richard Malia – Ponti Seafood Grill; Jeremy McLachlan – Salty's on Alki; Will McNamara and Eric Floyd – Washington Athletic Club; Marc Powers – SIP Restaurant; Lenny Rede and Stephen Sparks – South Seattle Community College; Sean Rogers – Broadmoor Golf Club; and Dan Thiessen – O/8 Seafood Grill.

Participating Wineries:

Avery Lane, Barnard Griffin, Brian Carter Cellars, Cadence Winery, Cascade Cliffs, Caterina, Chandler Reach, Chatter Creek, Covington Cellars, DeLille, Desert Hills, Dusted Valley , Fall Line Winery, Flying Dutchman, Gamache Vintners, Hightower, Hoodsport, JM Cellars, Kiona Vineyards, Northstar, MaryHill, Northwest Wine Academy, Nota Bene, O.S. Winery, Pacific Rim, Pleasant Hill, Red Sky, Soos Creek, Tsillian, and Willis Hall.

Gifts from the Earth is a unique fundraising event that also provides invaluable, hands-on learning and professional networking opportunities for South Seattle Community College students. Hospitality Management bachelor's degree program students manage guest relations, Culinary Arts students prepare meals alongside celebrity chefs, and students in the Wine Technology program pour wine with winemakers.

Title sponsor Food Services of America (FSA) is the nation's sixth largest foodservice distributor, serving customers in 15 western and mid-western states from nine regional distribution centers. This is the second consecutive year that FSA, a long-time supporter of South's award-winning culinary and hospitality industry programs, has participated as Gifts from the Earth title sponsor. Additional sponsors include Boeing, Union Bank of California, Interbay Food, Tony's Coffee, Charlie's Produce, and Puget Sound Energy.

Tickets may be purchased for \$175 per person. Corporate and table sponsorships ranging from \$1,750 to \$10,000 are also available. More information on ticket purchase and sponsorship opportunities may be obtained by contacting the South Seattle Community College Foundation at (206) 764-5809, email to scccfoundation@sccd.ctc.edu, or on the web at www.southseattle.edu/foundation/giftsfromtheearth/index.html.

South Seattle Community College is a leader in culinary arts education, with a highly regarded and award-winning Culinary Arts program accredited by the American Culinary Federation. The program offers degree and certificate programs in Restaurant & Food Service Production, Catering & Banquet Operations, and Pastry & Specialty Baking. The college is also site of the Northwest Wine Academy, a first-of-its-kind program in Western Washington that offers certificate programs in Wine Making, Wine Marketing & Sales, and Food & Wine Pairing. In addition, the college offers a four-year Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degree in Hospitality Management.

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