and in that role, Stasi planned and managed the 6th Annual Atlantic City Food and Wine Festival, held July 25-27, 2014.

Stasi even drew acknowledgement from guest celebrity chef Martha Stewart.

This year’s festival featured a first, with all events being conducted outdoors. From the daytime grand market to the twilight cocktail parties, and everything in between, attendees experienced all of the festival’s sessions in the open air. In recent years, the festival’s schedule of events was split between the beach and the ballroom. This year, attendees had a chance to kick off their shoes and dip their toes into the sand, if they so chose, while taking in the festival’s offerings.

“The transition outdoors was so well received,” Stasi said. “Attendees responded very well to the change, the feedback was incredibly positive.”

Three celebrity chefs led demonstrations. Stewart hosted a session highlighting burgers, and posed with Stasi for a picture for her blog, “The Martha Blog,” wherein she credited Stasi for putting “a lot of work into organizing the events.”

Stasi, who has worked for Caesars Entertainment since 2011, oversees the Atlantic City Food and Wine Festival’s itinerary, budgets, sponsorship activations, logistics, “and just about everything else you can think of,” she said with a laugh.

“Mainly,” said the Cranbury, N.J., native, “if there’s a lifestyle event that we put on, I have a hand in it.”

—Christopher A. Vito

Alums of School of Tourism and Hospitality Management connect in Miami, create alumni group

After leaving Temple’s nest of Owls for “the Cruise Capital of the World,” Justin Wusinich and Jeff Rugg felt as though they had left their Temple University connections more than 1,000 miles behind.

Fortunately enough, for the School of Tourism and Hospitality Management alums, the Miami tourism industry leaders first crossed paths when they had reached South Beach.

“We met when I worked at the Miami Beach Convention Center,” said Rugg, BS ’07, the Director of Sales and Special Events for Live Nation. “Justin was in convention sales for the Greater Miami Convention Bureau, so we worked together on a variety of meetings, trade shows and conventions.”

With his newfound connection in Miami, Wusinich, BS ’11 – Corporate Sales Manager for the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau – wanted a way to connect with his fellow Temple Owls. He recently launched the STHM South Florida Alumni Association, a group that has nearly 20 members, including Rugg. The group hosts various networking events, in order to stay active within the Temple community. Dr. Elizabeth Barber, Associate Dean of STHM, could not be happier that alumni are linking up and promoting the spirit of STHM and Temple in Florida.

“I am proud to learn that our students have not only moved into the Miami market, but are thriving there,” said Barber. “Because of the accomplishments of Jeff, Justin and other alums of our School, we are sure to have more and more students following in their footsteps.”

—Angelise Stuhl