The School of Tourism and Hospitality Management’s 15th anniversary event gave guests quite a treat, with food prepared by 15 of Philadelphia’s finest chefs and more than $100,000 in scholarships awarded to students.

**STHM’S 15th anniversary event cooks up $100K for scholarships**

Fifteen of Philadelphia’s finest chefs prepared 15 meals for 15 tables (each with 15 guests) at an Oct. 15, 2013, event with a most appropriate title: Fifteen. Fifteen celebrated the School of Tourism and Hospitality Management’s 15th anniversary—and raised more than $100,000 for student scholarships.

STHM has come a long way in a short period of time. The school has more than 900 students and 3,000 alumni, making it one of the largest schools of its kind in the country.

“I’ve never heard of a school becoming world renowned in just 15 years,” said Steven H. Korman, who has chaired the STHM Dean’s Council for more than a decade. “It’s really very unique.”

Fifteen gave STHM an opportunity to showcase its uniqueness and bring together some Philadelphia flavor.

“The event was flawless, with 225 guests unanimously stating that the dinner from their individual chef was superb,” Associate Dean Elizabeth H. Barber said. “The uniqueness of having a chef serve you at the table was not only fun and entertaining, the environment was also special.”

Michael English, the first president of the STHM Alumni Association and a current member of the school Dean’s Council, announced a separate, endowed scholarship in honor of Professor Emeritus Ira Shapiro.

The Alumni Association also held a silent auction to benefit scholarships that it awards.

Participating chefs included Jasper Alivia of Cuba Libre, Terrance B. Clarke of Relish, Anthony Goodwin of Parc and Stephen Starr Events, Jean-Marie Lacroix of Brûlée Catering, Daniel Stern of R2L, and Jonathan Cichon of Lacroix.

—Christine Fisher

**STHM among partners of PHL Welcomes U! to enhance customer service**

The School of Tourism and Hospitality Management last summer joined in announcing major hospitality initiative PHL Welcomes U!, a free, online educational program to enhance customer service skills across Philadelphia.

Delivered by the Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau (PHLCVB) and accessible via www.PHLwelcomesU.com, the program guides participants through real-world situations. Skills learned throughout each of six video modules are tested through short quizzes, allowing participants to earn the Certified Hospitality Professional designation after completing the free program.

STHM sponsored the diversity module, titled *We the People*, and Assistant Professor Debra Blair collaborated with the writers, producers and actor on delivering key messages. Blair is an expert in diversity education management and inclusion.

“The School of Tourism and Hospitality Management is extremely supportive of this program and what it offers to Philadelphia’s hospitality industry,” said STHM Associate Dean Jack Ferguson, president and CEO of the Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau, and School of Tourism and Hospitality Management Associate Dean Betsy Barber (second from the right) along with other staff from the bureau at the launch of PHL Welcomes U!