



# News Release

From NORTHWOOD UNIVERSITY, Midland, MI

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## Northwood's Stafford Memorial Dinner to be Held January 12<sup>th</sup>

MIDLAND, Mich. – Northwood University's 33rd Annual Stafford Memorial Dinner will take place Saturday, January 12, 2008. The event will be held at Sullivan's Black Forest in Frankenmuth, MI. The evening takes a full school year to plan and is implemented solely by Northwood students enrolled in the Hotel, Restaurant & Resort Management program. The scholarship fund raiser will begin with a reception from 5:30 to 6:45 pm followed by the dinner from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. The silent auction will be held from 5:30 to 8:00 pm. For more information call Karla Spaeth, advisor, at 989-837-4264 or visit the website at [www.northwood.edu/mi/studentlife/stafforddinner/](http://www.northwood.edu/mi/studentlife/stafforddinner/).

This elegant five-course dinner, in honor of program founder William Stafford, will be overflowing with bright colors. Proceeds from the dinner benefit students through the Stafford Memorial Dinner Scholarship Fund. Last year was a record-breaking year and profit from the dinner and silent auction helped 11 lucky students receive scholarships.

There are two very special guests that will be attending this year's dinner. Douglas L. St. Souver, a two-time Food Network Challenge Champion, will be carving fruit and showing off some of his amazing centerpieces and displays throughout the course of the dinner. Along with him will be keynote speaker Dave Anderson, the founder of Famous Dave's Barbeque and KeyLime Cove Water Resort. There will also be a continuous balance of music throughout the evening with local artist Bret Mitchell.

Students serving on the Stafford Dinner executive board are:

### Heather Picklo, Co-Chair



Heather is the daughter of Jay and Peggy Picklo of Lake Orion, MI. She is currently a junior at Northwood University majoring in Advertising & Marketing/Management and minoring in Hotel, Restaurant & Resort Management. She is actively involved throughout campus. She is a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority, Delta Epsilon Chi (DEX), American Marketing Association (AMA), and Stafford Dinner. She is currently employed on campus at the Northwood Bookstore. Her future goals and aspirations are to move out West upon graduation and work in the sales and marketing department at a ski resort.

### Adam Schomaker, Co-Chair



Adam is the son of Thomas and Pam Schomaker of Saginaw, MI. He is currently a senior at Northwood University. He is the vice president of Northwood University Hospitality Enterprise (NUHE). He grew up locally in Saginaw, MI until he attended culinary school at Grand Rapids Community College. Upon completion of an associate's degree with an emphasis in culinary arts, he came to Northwood University to earn a bachelor's degree in Hotel, Restaurant & Resort Management. He has been married over a year to his beautiful wife, Aubrea Schomaker. He enjoys hunting, boating, and just being active outdoors in the fresh air.

### Tricia Meyer, Director of Public Relations



Tricia is a 20-year-old junior from Bay City, MI. She is the daughter of William and Linda Meyer. Her major is Hotel, Restaurant & Resort Management. She was elected to the executive board and serves as the vice president of new member education for Delta Zeta sorority as well as being an active participant of the judicial board. Along with these positions, Tricia also plays an active role serving on the Panhellenic executive board. In her spare time, Tricia enjoys running, going to the beach, and spending time with family and friends.

### Dana Perkins, Director of Entertainment



Dana is the daughter of Jennifer Perkins. Dana was born in Oakland, CA, however, she was raised in Detroit, MI where she and her mother now reside. Her major is Hotel, Restaurant & Resort Management at Northwood University. Dana is a junior and is a member of NUHE. She is a work study student who is employed at Northwood's Strosacker Library. After graduation Dana plans to get a great job out of Michigan and eventually own her own business.

### Luke Moeller, Director of Finance and Registration



Luke is the son of Cindee and Jeff Moeller of Downers Grove, IL. He is a junior in the Hotel, Restaurant & Resort Management curriculum at Northwood University. In his years here at Northwood he has been actively involved in Northwood University Hospitality Enterprise (NUHE), Stafford Dinner, Chi Alpha Mu fraternity, and various other activities. He is currently employed as a server at Nordstrom Café in Oak Brook, IL. He is also employed as a student assistant at the Hach Student Life Center on campus, as well as a contractor for his father. Luke was a recipient of the Stafford Dinner Memorial Scholarship both his freshman and sophomore years. Upon graduation in 2009, Luke hopes to achieve the position of restaurant manager through Nordstrom's manager-in-training program. Eventually he would like to open a nightclub or restaurant in the Chicago area.

Effie Minitisios, Co-Director of Service



Effie is the daughter of Eugenia and Antonio Minitisios of Sterling Heights, MI. She is a junior majoring in Hotel, Restaurant & Resort Management at Northwood University. She has held the position of public relations officer for two years in the Northwood University Hospitality Enterprise (NUHE) club. She is also the representative for the club in the Student Government Association. She is also the entertainment, food and moral chair for St. Judes Up til Dawn Program. She has worked at numerous operations as a server. Some of these operations include Thibault and Moore Catering, Olga's Kitchen, Chipotle Mexican Grill, and Riverwalk Grill. After graduating Effie would like to work for a management company that opens up new restaurants internationally.

Jared Schomaker, Co-Director of Service



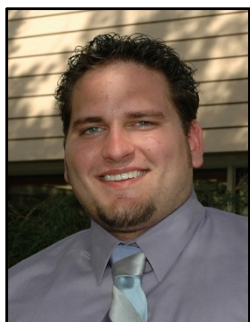
Jared is the son of Susan and Richard Schomaker of Saginaw, MI. Jared is a junior in the Hotel, Restaurant & Resort Management curriculum at Northwood University. He has volunteer experience in previous Stafford Dinners while also being an employee in the hospitality industry throughout his college career. He has worked for Towne Centre Hospitality, Tharaldson Management Company, and is currently employed by Crescent Management. He is trained to be a guest service agent at the Four Points by Sheraton in Saginaw, MI. Upon graduation in 2008, Jared would like to achieve an upper level management position for Crescent Management.

Heather Courtright, Director of Reception



Heather is the daughter of Robert and Janet Courtright of Mt. Pleasant, MI. Heather is a senior in the Hotel, Restaurant & Resort Management program at Northwood University. Heather is also a member of Northwood's cross country and track and field program, as well as Stafford Dinner and other various activities. She is currently employed at Auntie Pasta's Italian Café in Traverse City, MI. She enjoys hanging out with her family and friends in her spare time. Upon graduation Heather hopes to get a job in a resort or club outside of Michigan.

Patrick Martin, Director of Valet/Coat Check



Patrick is the son of Suzie and Victor Martin of Sterling Heights, MI. He is a junior in the Hotel, Restaurant & Resort Management curriculum at Northwood University. In his years here at Northwood University he has been actively involved in football, Stafford Dinner, the Northwood International Auto Show, and various other activities. Patrick is currently employed at the Best Western Sterling Inn assuming a multitude of other positions such as security director, front desk employee, sales representative, and banquet server. Upon graduation in 2009, Patrick would like to pursue the different areas of hospitality that he is not familiar with including night clubs, casinos, and cruise ships. Once he has learned everything he needs, he hopes to open a chain of nightclubs or a casino out West.

Chris Opperman, Co-Director of Kitchen



Chris was born and raised in Vassar, MI. He is the son of Ed and Sandy Opperman who are natives of the Vassar and Frankenmuth area respectively. Chris is currently a senior at Northwood and is scheduled to graduate in the spring of 2008. He currently holds an associate in arts degree in Business Administration from Delta College. In his free time Chris enjoys rollerblading, reading, snowmobiling, ATVing, camping, hunting, and fishing.

Calvin Richardson, Co-Director of Kitchen



Calvin is the son of Karen Anderson of Tawas City, MI and Charlie Richardson of National City, MI. Currently he is a sophomore in the Hotel, Restaurant & Resort Management curriculum at Northwood University. He has participated in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Stafford Memorial Dinner and is currently working as a cook for Berger's Family Restaurant in Bay City, MI. After graduation Calvin would like to open his own restaurant in Naples, FL.

Keely Mog, Director of Decorations



Keely is the only daughter of David Mog and Lillian Russell. She is a sophomore in the Hotel, Restaurant & Resort Management program at Northwood University. While at Northwood, Keely has been involved in the Northwood University Hospitality Enterprise Club (NUHE), Stafford Dinner, and other extracurricular activities. Upon graduation in 2010, Keely plans to enter the hospitality industry in the hotel network.

Katie Goncalves, Director of Silent Auction



Katie is the daughter of Amy Lutze of Miami Beach, FL. She is currently a sophomore and is in the Hotel, Restaurant & Resort Management curriculum. She knew hospitality would be her career path since her freshman year of high school when she was a part of the school's Academy of Hospitality and Tourism. She is an active member of NUHE and also the club secretary. Her goals include working for a cruise line and traveling the world. In her spare time, Katie enjoys watching the travel channel so that she can plan out her future destinations for travel!

Jessica Rustoni, Director of Venue Coordinator



Jessica is the daughter of Steve and Rita Rustoni of Chesterfield Township, MI. Jessica is a senior in the Hotel, Restaurant & Resort Management curriculum at Northwood University. She is currently employed at Daddy O's Diner in Midland, MI where she worked her way up from a server to a supervisor. She is also employed as a student assistant for Karla Spaeth, advisor for the Stafford Dinner. Jessica has also made the dean's list multiple times. Upon graduation in fall 2008, Jessica hopes to become a manager of a bakery and eventually she would like to open her own bakery.

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