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The James Beard Foundation Unveils 2015 Culinary Scholarship Opportunities

~ Beginning April 1, over \$500,000 in Educational Scholarships and Professional Grants Available ~

New York, NY (March 20, 2015) – Beginning April 1, the James Beard Foundation (JBF), the country's preeminent culinary organization, will accept applications for its 2015 scholarship program. This year, over \$500,000 in scholarships and grants will be available, the largest amount in JBF history. Established in 1991, the James Beard Foundation Scholarship Program assists aspiring and established culinary professionals who plan to further their education at a licensed or accredited culinary school or hospitality institution.

“For more than two decades now, our Foundation has nurtured and educated the next generation of great chefs, restaurateurs, sommeliers, and beverage experts through our prestigious scholarship program,” said Diane Harris Brown, director of educational and community programming for the James Beard Foundation. “This year the Foundation is expanding its reach with a global opportunity, offering international scholarships in France and Italy. As of 2015, we will have awarded over \$5.6 million in financial aid to 1,750 admirable recipients.”

The host of new scholarship and grant offerings for 2015 includes:

- **Charlie Trotter Memorial Scholarship:** In memory of the late Charlie Trotter, American chef/restaurateur and beloved friend to the James Beard Foundation, up to four scholarships of \$15,000 each will be granted to culinary professionals who plan to further their education by attending an accredited culinary school.
- **Taste America Scholarships:** Sponsored by the James Beard Foundation, up to 10 scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 will be granted to students residing or attending school in the states that hosted JBF's national epicurean tour.

The James Beard Foundation is expanding its global reach with new international scholarships:

- **Alain Ducasse Education Scholarship:** The renowned and multiple Michelin-starred French chef Alain Ducasse created the Alain Ducasse Education Scholarship to transmit his expertise in culinary, pastry and bakery arts, and wine. Up to one scholarship of \$20,000 will be granted and the amount may be applied to tuition for studies at any of the following:

Centre de Formation d'Alain Ducasse at Argenteuil, Ecole de Cuisine Alain Ducasse, or Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Pâtisserie.

- **Tony May Scholarship for Italian Culinary Studies at the Italian Culinary Institute for Foreigners:** Up to three scholarships of approximately \$5,000 will be granted, combining \$2,000 from the James Beard Foundation with tuition waivers and in-kind donations from the sponsors. This program includes full tuition, room, and board for the complete Master Course at the Italian Culinary Institute for Foreigners, headquartered in the Castle of Costigliole de'Asti, Regione Piemonte, Italy. Participants will have three weeks of intensive study, plus a two-month externship at one of the top restaurants in the Piemonte region.

Returning scholarships include:

- **Andrew Zimmern's "Second Chances" Scholarship:** A scholarship of \$13,750, sponsored by Eyebobs, will offer a student faced with extreme challenges a "second chance" to overcome their hardships.
- **Miljenko "Mike" Grgich's American Dream Scholarship:** A scholarship of \$5,000, sponsored by Grgich Hills Estate, offers a professional wine studies program.
- **Green Door Gourmet Scholarship:** Sponsored by Sylvia Harrelson Ganier, this scholarship will reward \$3,750 to a student with an interest in sustainable farming and learning to cooking creatively with fresh, nutritious foods.
- **ConnectOne Bank Scholarship:** An individual from the state of New Jersey and who possesses an entrepreneurial spirit and aspiration for excellence will be rewarded with a scholarship of \$4,250 from this New Jersey-based financial institution.

Returning work study programs include:

- **The Jean-Louis Palladin Professional Work/Study Grant:** In memory of one of the great culinary geniuses of the 20th century, this opportunity will enable a qualified professional to work with food producers at their source and to study varied specialized skills.
- **The Rhone Rangers Professional Study/Travel Grant:** Designed for working chefs or sommeliers who wish to learn about American Rhône-varietal wines.

The James Beard Foundation Scholarship Program is administered by the Scholarship Management Services division of Scholarship America, a nonprofit organization that has helped award scholarships to over one million students. Applications for scholarships are received and evaluated by Scholarship America. The applications of the finalists are then submitted to the James Beard Foundation's Scholarship Selection Committee for final review.

Application forms will be available at <http://sms.scholarshipamerica.org/jamesbeard> beginning on April 1, 2015. **All scholarship application materials, including transcript, must be postmarked by May 15, 2015. Professional grant applications must be postmarked by June 15, 2015.** Scholarship winners will be notified in August 2015.

About the James Beard Foundation (JBF):

Founded in 1986, the James Beard Foundation celebrates, nurtures, and honors America's diverse culinary heritage through programs that educate and inspire. A cookbook author and teacher with an encyclopedic knowledge about

food, James Beard, who died in 1985, was a champion of American cuisine. He helped educate and mentor generations of professional chefs and food enthusiasts, instilling in them the value of wholesome, healthful, and delicious food. Today JBF continues in the same spirit by administering a number of diverse programs that include educational initiatives, food industry awards, scholarships for culinary students, publications, chef advocacy training, and thought-leader convening. The Foundation also maintains the historic James Beard House in New York City's Greenwich Village as a "performance space" for visiting chefs. In September of 2012, JBF launched the Diplomatic Culinary Partnership with the U.S. Department of State's Office of Protocol and helped create the American Chef Corps as a way to champion American chefs abroad, promote American food products, and foster an interest in American culinary culture and history through international programs and initiatives. One such project is the next world's fair, Expo Milano 2015, for which the James Beard Foundation is co-leading the effort for the State Department to design and produce the USA Pavilion, a global gathering of 147 countries addressing the challenges of how we will feed ourselves in the future. The pavilion, whose theme will be "American Food 2.0: United to Feed the Planet," will showcase America's contributions to global food security and gastronomy. For more information, please visit jamesbeard.org. Find insights on food at the James Beard Foundation's blog [Delights & Prejudices](#). Join the James Beard Foundation on [Facebook](#). Follow the James Beard Foundation on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).