

# Scholarships awarded to culinary students

*PMA names grants in honor of late Mann Packing official, Joe Nucci*

By **SUNITA VIJAYAN**  
The Salinas Californian

Seven students from the Culinary Institute of America have been awarded the first Nucci Scholarships for Culinary Innovation by the Produce Marketing Association.

Presented at its Fresh Summit International Convention and Exposition in Atlanta, the scholarship was created in honor and memory of the late Joe Nucci for his passion for innovation in food-

service, said Debra Mitchell, director of public relations for the PMA.

Nucci, who died unexpectedly last July at age 40, was president of Salinas-based Mann Packing Co. and actively involved in the PMA.

Students and two faculty members of the culinary institute, which has campuses in Hyde Park, N.Y., and Napa Valley, will participate in the PMA's foodservice conference in July in Monterey.

PMA President Bryan Silbermann said the conference is an opportunity for the students and faculty to familiarize themselves with the industry and learn more about their chosen field.

For winning a student cook-off at the institute, three students will assist renowned chefs Robert Dahni, Joyce Jue and Joyce Goldstein during demonstrations.

## DETAILS

Nucci Scholarship winners:

Alan Breitman of East Meadow, N.Y.; Bertram Whitman of Norwalk, Conn.; Kara Borg of Portland, Ore.; Megan Jessee of Billings, Mont.; Nathaniel Auchter of Leesburg, Va.; Shannon Parent of Greenland, N.H.; and Tina Rusiecki of Chicopee, Mass. All are students at the Culinary Institute of America, which has campuses in Hyde Park, N.Y., and the Napa Valley.

## AGENDA

The Produce Marketing Association's Foodservice Conference and Exposition:

### THURSDAY, JULY 13

7:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. — Workshops

### FRIDAY, JULY 14

7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. — Golf tournament

7 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Workshops

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. — Homecoming celebration at Tanimura & Antle

### SATURDAY, JULY 15

7:15 a.m. to 8 a.m. — Breakfast

8:15 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. — General session

9:45 a.m. to 10:05 a.m. — Refreshment break

10:15 a.m. to noon — Workshops

Noon to 2 p.m. — Lunch general session

2:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. — General session

6 p.m. to 9 p.m. — Dine around

### SUNDAY, JULY 16

7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. — Breakfast general session

9:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. — Chef demonstrations

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. — Foodservice produce exposition

4 p.m. to 5 p.m. — Closing reception

## PMA/ It's an opportunity to network, introduce new products

From Page 3

Offering not only an opportunity to meet key decision-makers in the foodservice industry, the event also provides a chance to introduce the latest line of products, said Margaret D'Arrigo, executive vice president of sales and marketing for D'Arrigo Bros. in Salinas.

Her company will be showcasing a new product in foodservice called broccoli rabe, an Italian specialty vegetable, at the upcoming conference.

"It has always been a real positive experience for us, and it's a good chance for us to see all our customers at one venue," D'Arrigo said.

Excited by the prospect of networking and acquiring information to include in their sales plan for the rest of the year, Tonya Antle, Earthbound Farm's vice president of organic sales, said the conference is an ideal forum to bring the industry's buyers and sellers under one roof.

"The produce industry is a wonderful community of people who are passionate about the food industry," Antle said. "It's a great way to get together and talk about our favorite subject."

Focusing on organics in foodservice at this year's conference, Antle said the San Juan Bautista-based company will showcase its organic products and spe-



Some delegates attending the 2005 PMA conference in Monterey take a field trip to one of Monterey County's agricultural fields. PMA PHOTO

cialty salads, marketed under the Pride of San Juan brand, in two separate booths.

The PMA plans several events to commemorate the 25th year of the conference. Some of the highlights include

an anniversary celebration at Spreckels-based grower-shipper Tanimura & Antle and a golf tournament whose proceeds will benefit the Nucci Scholarship for Culinary Innovation, named for the late

Joe Nucci, who headed Mann Packing until his untimely death at age 40 in 2005.

The opening session, "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," will be led by PMA President Bryan Silbermann

and National Restaurant Association Vice President of Research and Information Services B. Hudson Riehl.

Contact Sunita Vijayan at [svijayan@thecalifornian.com](mailto:svijayan@thecalifornian.com).