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THE WORLD'S PREMIER CULINARY COLLEGE

Amanda Eberly

Chambersburg, PA

AOS Baking and Pastry Arts, September 2008

Marc Sarrazin Memorial Endowed Scholarship

"I sometimes step back and simply shake my head when I truly stop to think about how I am actually pursuing my dreams here at the C.I.A.," said Amanda Eberly. "I tend to get caught up in the hustle/bustle of college life, classes, and work and forget to realize that I am making my dreams HAPPEN! Being here at the C.I.A. has opened more opportunities to me than I could ever have imagined."

Those opportunities include crossing paths daily with Certified Master Bakers, meeting celebrity chefs, and a 21-week externship at Johns Island Club in Vero Beach, FL. "Beyond being impacted by these experiences, I am always encouraged by each chef I have the opportunity to learn under," said Amanda. "Each one always urges us to pursue our dreams, while never denying that it takes hard work. I believe if one truly has the passion, they view every moment as an opportunity to learn/expand/grow as a student. My goal is to never stop being a 'student' and to never stop being open and willing to learning new concepts."

Amanda grew up on a thriving dairy farm. "Fresh ingredients were always readily available at the peak of each season," said Amanda. "My mom, dad, and both of my grandmas are the people I consider to have inspired me most to pursue this career. My parents raised me to appreciate hand-cultivated seasonal ingredients at their prime. I will never forget being taught to appreciate the earth's bounty and the harvest that can be obtained through a little hard work."

The learning process started at a home-town deli and caterer where Amanda was in charge of opening/closing the store every week. "I learned responsibility and hard work as I juggled this job with high-school and worked over-time many weeks. I was trusted with keys to the building and codes to the security system. I learned not to abuse their faith in my abilities and character, and that employers seek out these types of qualities in their employees." More recently, waitressing 20 to 25 hours a week while she attends class at the CIA "has really opened me up to meeting new people. I used to be a very shy person, but in the food industry we are in constant communication with customers, purveyors, and other businesses on a daily basis."

Amanda counts her scholarship as a blessing. "Being chosen as a recipient for a scholarship such as this means a great deal more to me than I can even convey. It helps tremendously in lightening the financial burden I will be hit with in the coming months and years. It means a great deal to me to have this opportunity, and I am so grateful to those who have donated funds to make scholarships available for students like me."