

OCC chefs nab cooking prize

A team of students from the Oakland Community College Culinary Arts Program received a silver medal in the American Culinary Federation's Central Region Junior Chefs Mystery Basket Competition.

The gold medal went to the American Culinary Federation, Southwest Chapter, from Grand Rapids and Schoolcraft College of Livonia won the bronze. Five teams competed.

The competition was held last month at OCC's Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills.

OCC team members were Scott Blachura, Waterford; Richard Dmytryshyn, Detroit; Lawrence Fanale, St. Clair Shores; Scott McBryde, Ypsilanti; and Emil Rousseau, Rochester Hills.

The team was coached by OCC Culinary arts instructor Chef Dan Rowison and Michael Connery, a graduate of the OCC Culinary Arts Program and chef at the Bloomfield Hills Country Club.

Participating teams received a "mystery basket" containing

items commonly found in the kitchen and were allowed 30 minutes to plan a four-course meal. In the following 3 1/2 hours they were judged by a panel of professional chefs on utilization of product, culinary skills, sanitation, teamwork and final product appeal.

The OCC team's menu consisted of celery almond velouté; seared salmon with mixed greens, toasted sesame vinaigrette and crispy fried fennel; and roasted beef tenderloin with shiitake-peanut farce, caramelized onion and potato flan. The final course was a chocolate Bavarian duet with raspberry puree.

The competition was sponsored by the Michigan Chefs De Cuisine and Oakland Community College. Local organizations which supported the event included the Orchard Lake Country Club, The Golden Mushroom Restaurant, Vintage Wine Company and Superior Fish Company.



Fanale's finale: OCC's Larry Fanale works on dessert, a chocolate bavarian duet with raspberry puree.

STAFF PHOTOS BY ANN HEALD



Just desserts: Leon Korstjens, a certified master pastry chef, judges an apple dessert.



Testing, testing: Scott Blachura, an OCC student from Waterford, keeps careful watch over his creation.

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