

Alumni from hotel, restaurant, tourism management win awards

By UW-STOUT NEWS BUREAU | For THE NEWS | Posted: Saturday, April 2, 2011 5:44 pm

Two UW-Stout alumni from the hotel, restaurant and tourism management program recently won awards.

Chef Steffen

Abbey Steffen, a 2003 graduate, was named 2010 Mentor of the Year by the Wisconsin Restaurant Association. Steffen, a native of Glenwood City, is executive chef at the Republic Chop House in Green Bay.

Steffen was cited for her work with students at Pulaski High School in a culinary arts program called ProStart. She helped coach the school's culinary arts team to a state title in the Wisconsin ProStart Invitational and 10th place in the nation. She also coached the team in Wisconsin Restaurant Expo competitions.

"Chef Steffen has demonstrated amazing dedication to the food service industry," said Susan Quam, executive director of the WRA Education Foundation. "Her support of the ProStart program and her mentorship of high school students, in particular, really makes a difference."

Manager Dahlke

A hotel partially managed by Jay Dahlke, a 1984 graduate, received one of Marriott International's highest honors. The Grand Hotel Marriott Resort Golf and Spa in Point Clear, Ala., earned the Top Operation award within the Marriott brand for 2010.

The hotel also was named by Travel and Leisure magazine as one of the top 500 hotels in the world.

Dahlke, a native of the southern Wisconsin city of Walworth, is second in charge at the hotel. He has worked for Marriott for 27 years.

He recently was on campus for the Hospitality Career Conference and talked to students about internship opportunities. He also is scheduled to be on campus Thursday, March 10, for a Career Services Advisory Board meeting and to talk to a class.