

In the first of five charity events being held this fall, the 2011 senior class of The Culinary Institute of America (CIA) will be hosting a Venetian carnival and dinner. Proceeds benefit Abilities First, a local non-profit organization, and the CIA's Clarissa Porlier Memorial Scholarship Fund.

As part of their final project in Foodservice Management, the senior class will bring "A Masked Night in Venice" to the CIA's campus in Hyde Park, NY on Saturday, September 24. The festive evening will be filled with dancing, entertainment, and food prepared by the country's future chefs. The evening starts at 6:00 pm with a cocktail reception and silent auction on Anton Plaza overlooking the Hudson River, followed by dinner and dancing in Farquharson Hall. At the end of the evening, a "Best Mask" prize will be awarded.

The new scholarship fund to benefit CIA students was created in memory of talented young baking and pastry arts major Clarissa Porlier. Clarissa passed away unexpectedly on July 13 in a tragic accident. Although only 19 years old, Clarissa already began to leave her mark on the pastry world. She enrolled at The Culinary Institute of America with hopes of becoming a master pastry chef and owning her own bakery. She was just a special young lady. She touched many people's hearts within the community professionally, in the educational community, as well as her classmates, said Chef Charlie Jones, Clarissa's high school teacher.

Tickets are \$80 per person (taxes and gratuity included), and are on sale now. For general information and inquiries, call (845) 905-4673. For reservations visit: www.ciachef.edu/restaurants/studentevents