



RELEASE

WPSU CONNOISSEUR'S DINNER AND AUCTION RAISES MORE THAN \$42,000

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. (Jan. 29, 2007) – More than 300 guests came to The Nittany Lion Inn to sample Italian cuisine for the 15th Annual WPSU Connoisseurs Dinner and Auction Saturday. PBS guest chef for this year's fundraiser was Lidia Matticchio Bastianich, host of "Lidia's Family Table," seen at 1:30 p.m. on Saturdays on WPSU-TV.

Bastianich brought her hearty and heartwarming Italian fare to the fundraising event. The morning of the dinner, she presented a cooking demonstration for a crowd of WPSU supporters and at the evening reception and dinner at the inn.

More than 150 items were donated for the silent auction. Items auctioned live, included a Persian rug, a getaway to the Cree Village Ecolodge in Canada, and "Sunrise on Bonafaccio," artwork by Ken Hull. The auction raised more than \$42,000 for Penn State Public Broadcasting.

Bastianich designed the menu for the gala wine and food event, and introduced each course. College of Communications faculty member Robert Richards was the sommelier for the event.

Centre Medical and Surgical Associates, P.C. will serve as the primary underwriters for the dinner, with additional funding provided by the DeIGrosso family. Best Event will provide décor for the evening and floral arrangements will be by Avant Garden. The auction committee is co-chaired by Connie DiNunzio and Traci Capperella. The dinner committee is chaired by Jane Zimmerman.

WPSU serves central Pennsylvania with programming, educational services and community outreach. This public media service produces, acquires and distributes programs that address local interests and reflect the diverse cultural, political, geographic and demographic characteristics of an audience within central Pennsylvania.

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