

# **Students from The International Culinary School are crowned the "Best of the West"**

Students from The International Culinary School at The Art Institute of Vancouver were crowned "The Best of the West" at the British Columbia Hospitality Industry Conference and Exhibition (BCHICE) in November. The gold medal winning team of Ben Ludwig (team captain), Robin Cuning and Pieter J VanMeenen brought home the winning trophy, along with a \$500 scholarship for each member of the team.

Second place was awarded to The BC Chefs' Association Junior Chapter, consisting of Nicole Weerdenburg (team captain), Sung Il Oh and Daniel Ramon, all of whom are also students at The International Culinary School.

The competition is a new feature at the yearly industry event, run in partnership with the BC Chef's Association. The title was competed for by teams from four local Junior Programs, which included Vancouver Community College and The Pacific Institute of Culinary Arts.

The competition took place over two days and consisted of two heats, the first of these involving two teams of four students (three chefs and one server) preparing and serving three courses for the panel of esteemed judges from the BC Chef's Association, using "EAT BC" as their culinary theme. Using strict International Judging procedures, the judges determined two winning teams to progress to the second round of the contest, who each nominated an individual student chef to represent them in the "Black Box" cooking segment. This challenging second day heat required the two selected students to prepare a main course dish, using the ingredients found in the mystery Black Box.

The success of students at the competition comes after the International Culinary School was voted Best Cooking School in The Best of Vancouver 2008 by readers of the Georgia Straight magazine.