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KRA Restaurateur's Awards Gala Honors Industry's Best

Louisville, Kentucky - The Kentucky Restaurant Association and Heartland Payment Systems held the fourth annual KRA Restaurateur's Gala on January 26, 2009 at the Brown Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. This black tie affair honored the KRA Board of Directors and Kentucky's best. Award recipients were as follows:

Restaurateur of the Year

Winners – **Brian McCarty & Bruce Drake**
Bluegrass Hospitality Group
Lexington

Finalist – Dean Corbett
Corbett's, Equus & Jack's
Louisville

Finalist – Matt Higgins, Mike Higgins & Steve Pipkin
Tumbleweed
Louisville

Finalist – Charles Knieriem
60 West Bistro & Martini Bar
Louisville

Finalist – Stephanie Meeks
Jack Fry's, Louisville

Finalist – Tony Palombino
Tony Boombozz, Louisville

Finalist – Rob Ramsey
Ramsey's Diner, Lexington

Finalist – John Varanese
Varanese, Louisville

Employee of the Year

Winners – **Johnny Gossett & Brian Quisenberry**
Dudley's Restaurant, Lexington

Finalist – Chad McGuire
Buddy's Bar & Grill, Lexington

Supplier of the Year

Winner – **Universal Linen Co.**
Presented to: Kurt Rutkowski

Finalist – john conti Coffee Co.
Presented to: Steve Hudgens

Finalist – Republic National Beverage Company
Presented to: John Drury & Dawn Richardson

Manager of the Year

Winner – **Louise Riley**
Claudia Sanders Dinner House
Shelbyville

Finalist – Hap Cohan
Mitchell's Fish Market
Louisville

Finalist – Brandie Gartman
Amerigo, Louisville

Finalist – Shane Hall
Napa River Grill & Wild Eggs
Louisville

Finalist – Sarah Hayden & Ali Sermersheim
Centerplate, Louisville

Finalist – Libby Loeser
Jack Fry's, Louisville

Finalist – T. J. Oakley
Bristol Bar & Grille
downtown Louisville

Finalist – Troy Ritchie
Corbett's, Equus & Jack's
Louisville

Manager Finalist

– Jeff Smithson
Incredible Dave's, Louisville

The Bruce Cotton Lifetime Achievement Award
Mike Wong, Oriental Wok
Covington

Culinary Student of the Year

Winner – **Scott Bodkin**
Jefferson Community & Technical College

Finalist - Anne Lewis
Bowling Green Technical College

Chapter Members of the Year

Louisville Chapter –
John Breen
Heartland Payment Systems,
nationwide

Louisville Chapter Finalist –
Rory Wilson
Derby Pressure Wash

South Central Chapter –
Chef Mike Riggs
Bowling Green Technical
College, Bowling Green

Bluegrass Chapter –
Rob Ramsey
Ramsey's Diner, Lexington

Northern Chapter –
Chip Smith (posthumous
award)
Radisson Riverview, Covington