AMBRIDGE RESIDENT DISCOVERS CAREER SUCCESS IN GRAND CAYMAN

PITTSBURGH – January 24, 2012 --- Ambridge residents Suzanne and Derek Ivanchan keep warm hearts during the Pittsburgh winter thinking about their son Michael and his career success at the Sunshine Suites Resort in Grand Cayman.

Michael Ivanchan earned his associate degree in Hospitality Management Administration at Pittsburgh Technical Institute in Oakdale. He credits his practical, focused career preparation for the ability to realize a life-long dream of living and working near the shore.

Ivanchan is a guest services representative at the four-star boutique hotel on Grand Cayman’s famous Seven Mile Beach. His job duties include a mix of front desk services, concierge work and purchasing. “Because of our size, I am able to get a tremendous amount of in-depth experience here,” said Ivanchan. He describes the hotel as a one-of-a-kind property that distinguishes itself with five-star service, affordable accommodations and unique dining.

Trip Advisor rates the dining at the Sunshine Suites Resort in the number one position with its fish tacos and burgers lauded by the Taste of Cayman food competition.
For Ivanchan, the best part of the job is his work as the concierge. “I enjoy hearing stories from guests who have come back from one of the many great excursions that our beautiful island offers,” said Ivanchan. “If I’ve recommended a scuba trip, a boat charter to Stingray City, or an excursion swimming with the dolphins, and the guest returns to the resort thrilled after a great time, I am happy.”

Ivanchan considers his island career an extraordinary opportunity to meet and work with people from all over the world. “My best friends are from South Africa and Australia,” he said. “I enjoy the diversity, career growth and personal enrichment of working with people from Canada, France, India, Philippines, Cuba and many local Caymanians.”

According to his supervisor Trina Gordon of Sunshine Suites Resort Grand Cayman, Ivanchan is an asset to the hotel staff. “I contacted numerous colleges in the USA and Canada to find the right candidate to work at our resort here in the Cayman Islands. We were looking for someone who was outgoing, driven and excited to begin a new adventure in the Cayman Islands,” said Gordon.

“He arrived with knowledge of the hotel industry and has been learning more and more each day. In addition to his regular duties, Ivanchan also is in charge of researching pricing and products from off island and his knowledge and efficiency in that area are valuable to the resort.”

Though he worked at a local hotel while attending PTI, it wasn’t until a particular instructor pointed out his natural abilities after Ivanchan had turned in an exceptional project focused on a Pittsburgh hotel. “I really never even considered a hospitality major,” said Ivanchan. “It was Mr. Chiodo’s intervention that changed my career plans, and ultimately changed my life.”

According to Ivanchan, PTI’s class sizes make it possible for students and faculty to build relationships. “That makes all the difference in the world,” he said. Once he switched majors, opportunities began to unfold. While still in school, Ivanchan took a job with the Doubletree City Center in Pittsburgh and gained the experience that helped boost his resume and his skill set.

Ivanchan is a 2006 graduate of Ambridge Area High School and loves to welcome visitors from Pittsburgh. His parents have been to stay with him twice. “They were a bit concerned and nervous for me to move so far away but they know that my career allows me to live in amazing places,” he said. “Of course they’ve always got a reason to visit me…. especially to escape the winter in Pittsburgh!”

Students enrolled in PTI’s Hospitality Management Administration program can choose to specialize in a concentration of Hotel and Casino Management, Restaurant Management, or Travel and Tourism Management.
About Pittsburgh Technical Institute
Offering career-focused education since 1946, Pittsburgh Technical Institute is a two-year college with two locations in Western Pennsylvania: a 180-acre campus in North Fayette, west of Pittsburgh, and a center at the Regional Learning Alliance, north of the City in Cranberry. PTI offers degree and certificate programs in areas such as Building Technology, Business, Criminal Justice, Design, Healthcare, Nursing, and Information Technology.

PTI students can take advantage of online course offerings, on-campus residence halls, student activities, intramural programs and community service programs. PTI is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

For more information, call 1-800-784-9675, or visit [http://www.pti.edu/](http://www.pti.edu/).