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Reilly MEEHAN

You're standing in a vast kitchen in Istanbul. Someone hands you a basket of ingredients and gives you instructions to concoct a three-course gourmet meal for four of the culinary world's top judges. You have four hours, and the clock is ticking. What would you do? Twenty-year-old Santa Cruz native Reilly Meehan found himself in just that situation last September. Many would

People to Know

whither under the pressure, but Meehan thrives

on competition. His brilliant menu earned him a much-deserved gold medal at the *Chaîne des Rôtisseurs Jeunes Commis*, an accomplishment that will forever change his life.

Meehan grew up in the kitchen of his father's Seabright Restaurant and Brewpub in Santa Cruz. With a fascination for the culinary world and passion for fine ingredients, Meehan applied for and earned a



scholarship to culinary school, deferring his admission to UC Davis to seize the opportunity. In culinary school, he started entering competitions and winning. "I owe everything to my mentor, Randy Torres," he says. Torres helped coach him for the *Chaîne* competition and will be cheering him on at the 2012 *Internationale Kochkunst Ausstellung*, commonly referred to as the "Culinary Olympics," in Erfurt, Germany, in October. He hopes to work internationally some day, and we have no doubt you'll be hearing about this chef for years to come.



Karae LISLE

Menlo Park's Karae Lisle had to lobby hard for her current position as Executive Director of Shelter Network. Lisle's resume, which includes an MBA from Harvard, an undergraduate degree in information systems, an adjunct professorship at the University of San Francisco, and over 15 years in high-tech, didn't immediately scream "head of a nonprofit." But the value of volunteering and giving back has always been key to who Karae Lisle is. "When I was quite young, our family faced a devastating financial loss. I learned first-hand what organizations like Shelter Network can do for families and individuals facing the brink." Indeed, for families facing homelessness, the key services offered by Shelter Network can take a bad situation and turn it around—affording people the opportunity to get back on their feet with dignity.

While forging her corporate career, Lisle balanced her experiences with volunteering and community service by serving on the boards of Battered Women's Shelter, Special Olympics, the Center for Employment Training, and Mercado Global. Lisle honed her fundraising skills in her capacity as Chief Marketing Officer at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, and as a Board Member of the Harvard Business School Tech Alumni Association. Lisle is taking that combined experience, adding her passion and vision, and is poised to make a significant impact at Shelter Network. "Homelessness can happen to anyone," she stresses, "and it's our goal to make it temporary."

Allison VAN DIGGELEN

If you had told Glasgow-born Allison van Diggelen that she'd grow up to become one of the most respected interviewers on the web in the field of high-tech business and green technology, she would have thought you were joking. This formerly shy journalist, with a Masters from Cambridge and years in high finance in London and Paris, regularly speaks with successful people of all ilk on her web-based show "Fresh Dialogues." Her interviews are often revelatory and very personal.



"I'll never forget speaking with a 26-year-old entrepreneur about the companies he'd started, one at age 19. I asked him what impact his family had had on him. The young man had been working so hard, he'd never stopped to think about that—it was an epiphany for him." That interview convinced van Diggelen to continue her path and keep interviewing. "Whether it's green entrepreneurship or Silicon Valley trends, Alison knows what she's talking about and engages at a high level. I could have talked with her all day," quipped former Apple evangelist and author Guy Kawasaki.

When asked who she'd like to interview next, she rattles off, "Sheryl Sandberg, Chelsea Clinton, Arianna Huffington, Elon Musk . . ." It's clear that this dynamic mother of two has much more to accomplish—and we'll be tuning in. ♦