

LA NOTTE ITALIANA

Where can you go and get a plate of Vivace's pasta, pizza from Sortino's and breadsticks from Fazoli's? It must be the Sixth Annual La Notte Italian Night hosted by Maverick PR.

This year's event was held Oct. 4 at the Redeye Tavern located at 8437 W. Center Rd. The event featured both donated food from local Italian restaurants and homemade entrees, a mandolin player and a silent auction.

The 2009 event marked a significant change from past dinners. This year, past PRSSA president Amy and her husband Wayne Knight, owners of the Redeye, graciously let the UNO chapter use their restaurant to host the event.

"La Notte Italiana is a labor of love," says Karen Weber, PRSSA faculty adviser. "I don't think many people realize the logistics and effort that goes into making the dinner a success. I'm extremely proud of my core team of officers and volunteers who helped make this year's dinner so special."

With donations still coming in, more than \$5,000 has been raised to help benefit the chapter. Money raised helped send a handful of students to the National PRSSA Conference in San Diego.

Members roamed throughout Omaha in search of donations for the silent auction. Gifts included season basketball tickets from Creighton University, one free night stay at the Magnolia Hotel with dinner for two, gift certificates from local hair and nail salons, and free passes to the Henry Doorly Zoo.

"Italian night is an awesome opportunity for us as students to get hands on experience with event planning, logistics and promotions," President Cassie Prestia says. "All of our hard work pays off for a great fundraiser event, and gives some of our members the opportunity to attend PRSSA's National Conference this year in San Diego."



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