

PULSE

NOVEMBER 2016 ■ PULSE.EXPERIENCEISPA.COM



The Godmother
MEETS *"Superman"*
WHEN HEROES INSPIRE

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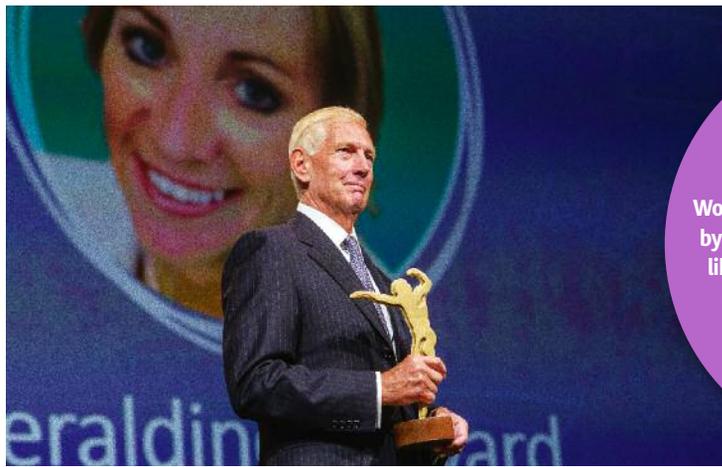


ABOUT THE COVER

What happens when two “heroes” meet? One inspiring moment takes place. The cover captures this moment as the Godmother of Spa Deborah Szekely presented General Session keynote speaker John Ondrasik the 2016 ISPA Alex Szekely Humanitarian Award.

COVER PHOTO © JACOB KEPLER PHOTOGRAPHY

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TRACEYWOODWARD:
 Wonderful to see Geraldine recognized by the industry she loved. They were like her family, so much emotion in the room. The honor focused on her legacy to deny no one the power of aromatherapy. Her husband did her proud. Thank you.

ISPA Visionary Award. Captain Peter Redman accepted the ISPA Visionary Award, which honored the life and legacy of his late wife, Aromatherapy Associates co-founder Geraldine Howard.

Godmother of Spa.

Deborah Szekely showed the audience that age is but a number. The Wellness Warrior founder, who remains young at heart, ignited the audience's passion to promote the spa lifestyle to guests and make an impact where it mattered most. She presented the ISPA Alex Szekely Humanitarian Award to singer-songwriter and General Session speaker John Ondrasik.




 @Wellness_Org:
 "The world is falling in love with wellness!"
 @DeborahSzekely




 TRACEY PHILLIPS HARPER:
 Yes...this just happened!
 Superman. ♥
 John Ondrasik.


 @jindilli:
 Look forward. Be grateful.
 What kind of world do YOU want?
 @johnondrasik


 HEALING LIFESTYLES & SPAS:
 We saw it and, wow, what a performance! Singer-songwriter John Ondrasik AKA #FiveforFighting was presented the ISPA Alex Szekely Humanitarian Award at #ISPA2016.



Piano Man. Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter John Ondrasik tugged hearts as he told tales about his journey as an artist, the lessons from the sudden fame that his hit song "Superman" has taught him as well as the personal challenges and experiences that inspire his music. Attendees later got the chance to meet the artist up close on Second Stage.

A Day in the Life!

BY MAE MAÑACAP-JOHNSON

What's it like to be an ISPA Foundation Mary Tabacchi Scholarship recipient? Margot Mangiarotti, one of this year's scholarship recipients, takes *Pulse* back to the journey she has taken which eventually culminated with her acceptance of the award on the General Session stage at this year's ISPA Conference & Expo.



MARGOT MANGIAROTTI
ISPA Foundation Mary Tabacchi
Scholarship Recipient

Margot Mangiarotti, along with Kelsey Brink, accepted her ISPA Foundation Mary Tabacchi Scholarship award from ISPA Foundation Chairman Frank Pitsikalis and Cornell University Professor Mary Tabacchi.

Margot Mangiarotti, will earn her degree in Hotel Administration at New York-based Cornell University in May next year. She was a freshman when she first heard about Cornell University Spa Association President Kendra Kobler being awarded the ISPA Foundation Mary Tabacchi Scholarship.

Spark of Inspiration

"I wanted to follow in Kendra's footsteps. Professor Mary Tabacchi also encouraged me to apply," Mangiarotti says. She recalled the application process to be detailed as there were numerous require-

ments to be compiled, including recommendation letters from professors, which is why she advises other hopeful applicants to start preparing early for their application.

"I wrote my essays and proofread them multiple times before submitting. For the interview process, I reviewed my work and school experiences to find key examples that represented who I am and showed my interests," she says.

Apart from receiving an academic financial assistance amounting to US\$5,000, Mangiarotti and her co-recipient, Kelsey Brink, were also given the opportunity to attend the 2016 ISPA Conference & Expo, a one-year ISPA

student membership, and a one-year mentorship to help and inspire them to achieve their professional goals.

She is grateful to have Director of Operations, Residences at the St. Regis Aspen Julie Oliff as her assigned mentor. "She has been so helpful and has so much experience. We are setting up regular calls so we will keep in touch throughout the year," she says.

Conference Experience

On the day she received the award, she recalled a deep sense of accomplishment. "It was so cool!" she says. "Backstage at the General Session, I was getting my makeup done next to the 'godmother of spa' Deborah Szekeley. Then, on stage, I was in front of all these admirable industry professionals. It was surreal."

While the financial reward is valuable in order to help offset her school expenses, Mangiarotti says being able to connect with different spa industry leaders at ISPA Conference was priceless. "Many of them gave me helpful advice," she says. "Everyone was incredibly kind and inspirational, but it was my first time to meet Szekeley who is such an inspiration. She spoke about the changes we need to make in our communities and for our environment. What she spoke about was moving and so true!"

If there's one takeaway that stood out for Mangiarotti, it's that one has to be fearless to innovate. "Innovate was the main theme of this year's Conference and it was exciting to see the direction ISPA and the spa industry as a whole is taking as it moves toward the future," she says. ■



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**We Rocked the ISPA Foundation
Auctions, Thanks to You!**

As your ISPA Foundation chairman, I can't thank you enough for the generous support you've extended to the ISPA Foundation Live & Silent Auctions through your donations and bids. If you had the pleasure of joining us at the ISPA Conference & Expo this year, you are well-aware of how spirited the Live Auction was (thanks to auctioneer Lawrence Biscontini!). You may even have seen my dance showdown with Mary Tabacchi at the Auction Area and my attempt to give Billy Joel a run for his money behind the piano during Wednesday's General Session.

If you weren't able to join us at the Auctions this year, let me be the first to say you've missed out on a lot of great moments, including a chance to bid and win great items. But don't take my word for it, let these high-bidders tell you why participating in the ISPA Foundation Live & Silent Auctions is worth it. I hope to see you at next year's ISPA Conference & Expo at Mandalay Bay!



—FRANK PITSIKALIS, ISPA FOUNDATION CHAIRMAN

Colin McIlheney • Global Research Director
PwC • New York, New York

**Items Won: Great Escapes to Four Seasons Maui,
Four Seasons Dubai and Shangri-La Hotel
Mongolia**

"My motivation for participating in the yearly ISPA Foundation Auctions is to help the Foundation as well as give my wife and I the chance to explore places off the beaten path. Last year, we were high-bidders on a stay at the Four Seasons Beirut and had the trip of a lifetime. This year, we won the bid to stay at the Shangri-La Hotel in Mongolia."

Noel Asmar • President, CEO • Noel Asmar Group,
Inc. • British Columbia, Canada

**Item Won: Two-Night Stay for Two at The Spa at
Terranea Resort**

"As an ISPA Board member, I have a deep appreciation for the way the ISPA Foundation funds are used to do important work for the spa industry. One of my most memorable moments at the Live Auction was when I won access to Fashion Week in New York with accommodations at Mandarin Oriental Hotel. As the bid went higher, Andrew Gibson, then group director

for Mandarin Oriental Hotels Group, kept throwing in more to sweeten the deal—I ended up bidding more than US\$8,500!"

Lynelle Lynch • President • Bellus Academy •
Poway, California

Item Won: Matrix Fitness Elliptical

"One of our core values at the Bellus Academy is humanitarian and we always love to support philanthropy that is making a difference. The Auction has a great cause—so I always look forward to supporting the ISPA Foundation. To meet [Mary Tabacchi] and the young ladies who won the scholarship was amazing as it illustrated the great work the Foundation is doing to change lives!"

Annette O'Banion • CEO • Scarlett's Retreat Day
Spa • McDonough, Georgia

Item Won: COOLA Bike

"We are avid COOLA lovers and couldn't imagine anything more fun than sharing this one-of-a-kind piece from COOLA with the staff and our guests. This is my second year to attend the ISPA Conference. Last year, I won a trip to Mii Amo and an Apple Watch."