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**Epicurean Group Founder Mary Clark Bartlett Describes Pathway to Success; Inaugurates 2012 James Durbin Entrepreneurship Speaker Series**

“Stay hungry,” sounds like strange advice, coming from someone who feeds more than 15,000 people everyday for a living. [Epicurean Group](#) founder and CEO Mary Clark Bartlett inaugurated the prestigious James Durbin Entrepreneurship Speaker Series at Holy Names University with “From the Ground Up: Pathways to Entrepreneurial Success,” on September 20, in Oakland, CA. Epicurean Group is an innovative food service management company based in Northern California.

The speaker series honors professor James Durbin, former director of the MBA program at Holy Names University. The fall lineup, “Passionate Leaders in Food and Wine,” includes Epicurean Group’s Bartlett; Paul Bertolli, founder & CEO, Fra’ Mani Handcrafted Foods; and Cathy Corison, winemaker and proprietor, Corison Winery.

Bartlett, a recognized thought leader in sustainable food service management, said that having an entrepreneurial mindset is not a choice, but a necessity. “You need to stay hungry for success and never be afraid to experiment or innovate.”

When she started Epicurean Group in 2003, Bartlett said that her biggest challenge was that she was years ahead of prospective clients in her thinking. While she could see the financial and health benefits of serving sustainable local food, most clients assumed that it would be prohibitively expensive. Over the past 10 years, she’s proven them wrong. “You need to identify your passion and then, create the demand for it.”

The 2012/13 James Durbin Entrepreneurship Speaker Series is open to the public. For more information about the series visit <http://www.hnu.edu/entrepreneurship/index.html>.

**About Epicurean Group**

Epicurean Group is an independent food service management company, providing restaurant and catering services to corporations, distinctive dining communities and educational institutions throughout Northern California. A values-based company, Epicurean Group is committed to socially responsible and environmentally sustainable business practices.

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