Alumni Profile: Patrick Thirion

Patrick Thirion has made a name for himself in the St. Louis culinary scene as both a chef and an entrepreneur. If you live in Metro area, you've probably enjoyed the fruits of Patrick's labors at one of the three locations of Peel Wood Fired Pizza, where he is co-founder and co-owner.

And Patrick said his time at Metro-East Lutheran High School played a role in helping him develop the tools he's needed for success.

"I always felt that MELHS was focused on preparing and inspiring their students to achieve their goals," said Patrick, who graduated from MELHS in 1998.

After high school, Patrick earned a degree in baking and pastry from Sullivan University in Louisville, Ky. He went on to become the pastry chef at the Adams Mark Hotel in St. Louis and then the executive chef at the Coronado Ballroom, where he helped open multiple Nadoz Bakery Cafes across the region. He teamed up with a longtime coworker and friend to open the first Peel location in Edwardsville in December 2009.

How did MELHS help prepare you for college and beyond?
The faculty at MELHS was always attentive and available to help in any way they could. I thought of most of my teachers as mentors who gave me the advice and tools I needed to be successful. I'm thankful I was able to attend school at MELHS.

What is your favorite MELHS memory?
I knew at an early age that I wanted to pursue a career in Culinary Arts. I spent most of my high school career working in the industry but still found time to take advantage of all the activities MELHS had to offer. I enjoyed golf, tennis, band and art. Band tours to Texas and Michigan were some of my fondest memories.

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