



We are so proud of our [Assistant Pastry Chef Briea Nathan](#) and her partner Santo Saitta of [Pasticceria Bruno](#) for the amazing dedication they showed in their preparations and performance during the first [Junior Pastry World Cup at SIGEP](#) in Rimini, Italy this week. Briea and Santo competed as Team USA against nine other teams from around the world. The competition was the first for both Briea and Santo, whom have been practicing for months for the competition. Team USA was coached by our own [Corporate Pastry Chef Andrew Logan](#) and managed by former AUI Assistant Pastry Chef and current [Willard InterContinental Hotel](#) Pastry Chef Courtney Goldian. The theme for this year's competition was "Emotions of Nature", which inspired Briea's aquatic sugar showpiece and Santo's earthy chocolate showpiece.

The overall winning team was Italy followed by South Korea in second, France in third, and Singapore in fourth. Team USA placed fifth overall, fourth for their gelato on a stick, and fifth for their bonbons and entremet. The bonbons and entremet had distinct notes of coffee, apricot, spiced cherry, and almond in addition to the flavors of milk and dark chocolate which were incorporated into each recipe. Besides creating three different candies, an entremet, and two

showpieces, the team also served the



judges a coffee gelato on a stick and “mystery dessert”. The competition was intense and dramatic; after several breakages with their chocolate and sugar showpieces the team was not able to completely finish the showpieces in the little time remaining. No matter how much time you spend training and planning you never know what will happen during the actual competition. Changes with the humidity, temperature, and work space at the competition location can greatly affect the process and result, as we unfortunately saw with Team USA. Even so, the team worked very hard and displayed their superb creativity and talent and we are proud to sponsor them. We are looking forward to Briea’s next competition and know she will continue as a force to be reckoned with.