

SPECIAL FOCUS

MEETINGS, EVENTS & CONVENTIONS

SCIPARTY

Cookie Coleman, Cookie Coleman Collaborative; Elly Carlson, Wildside Caterers; Char Mason, Char Mason & Associates; and Todd Pinzuti, Bungalow Six

**Category:
Best ISES Team Effort**

The team created a gala event for a science museum's 100th anniversary. The event had to raise money for the museum in addition to covering its costs. One-hundred-year-old seeds were used to grow heirloom Lakota squash especially to be served at the party.

A techy, science theme was agreed upon, and the planners chose red, white, and black as the basic decor colors. To create good sight lines to the stage, long rectangular tables were set in long rows in a radial pattern from the stage. Tabletops sported custom laser-cut table runners,

bubble-bowl centerpieces constructed to evoke molecules, and calla lilies lit from below. The entrée included a souffle made with the special squash. Salad toppings were served in test tubes, and staff wore lab coats and served dessert martinis with "galaxy rings." Dramatic lighting helped enliven the space.

National Public Radio's science reporter Ira Flatow served as master of ceremonies and jazz musician Dalfeayo Marsalis and comic juggler Passing Zone performed. A VIP area called the scilounge featured lounge-style seating, red lighting, signature cocktails, and a jazz band.

