

In the kitchen

Q&A with a local chef

Molly Cook, Chris Botterman of Norman Love

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The Olympics might be in Brazil, but the chocolate Olympics are in Atlanta.

Two chocolatiers from Norman Love Confections will test their sweet skills at the 2016 Chocolatier of the Year competition Aug. 20-22. Each chocolatier will craft two different chocolates sold in their shop as part of the contest.

Molly Cook has been part of Love's staff for five years and lives in Fort Myers with her husband. Fort Myers native Chris Botterman has worked at Norman Love Confections for seven years and lives in Fort Myers with his wife Audrey and their puppy, Toby.

Prior to setting off for Atlanta, Chris and Molly took time out of their busy schedules to chat about breakfast, burgers and dill pickles.

Inspirations:

Molly: My husband is my constant inspiration to see things artistically and push myself to create new things and try new techniques, and to be the best I can possibly be.

Favorite cuisine to eat:

Chris: My family comes from Holland so I would have to say homemade Dutch and German cuisines.

Molly: I guess if I had to categorize it, I'd say breakfast.

Favorite dish from your childhood:

Chris: Tuna noodle casserole on toast. My mother always made it when I was a kid.

Molly: Pennsylvania-style pork and sauerkraut on New Year's Day

What was the first dish you mastered?

Molly: Breakfast food! Anything with a perfectly poached egg

Celebrity (living or dead) you'd love to have dinner with:

Chris: Walt Disney, I would have to say. As a child I grew up watching all the films and going on vacation to the parks and was just blown away how someone could create something so small as a mouse and make it into something everyone loves today.

Molly: Judge Judy

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SPECIAL TO NEWS-PRESS

Chris Botterman and Molly Cook will participate in the 2016 Chocolatier of the Year competition in Atlanta this weekend.

Chris Botterman

Age: 29

Birthplace: Munster, Indiana

Current gig: Chocolatier at Norman Love Confections

Molly Cook

Age: 24

Birthplace: Palmyra, Pennsylvania

Culinary training: Pennsylvania

School for Culinary Arts at York Technical Institute; completed externship needed to earn the certificate at Norman Love Confections.

Former gigs: The Hotel Hershey, The Hershey Golf Collection, Trattoria Fratellis of Lebanon, The Hershey Pantry

Current gig: Chocolatier at Norman Love Confections

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