

For Immediate Release

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Courtesy Associates President Sheila Stampfli Assumes Leadership Roles With Destination DC and the World Gastroenterology Organisation Foundation

WASHINGTON, D.C. – July 21, 2008 – Sheila Stampfli, president of Courtesy Associates, a global meeting, conference and special event management firm, has been named Vice Chair of Destination DC and to the Board of Directors of the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) Foundation.

A leader in the hospitality industry for more than 35 years, Stampfli has been president of Courtesy Associates since 1997. Courtesy is celebrating more than 60 years in the global meetings industry.

As Vice Chair, Stampfli will support Destination DC and its staff in carrying out the mission of the organization. Formerly known as the Washington, D.C. Convention & Tourism Corporation, Destination DC focuses on managing and marketing Washington, D.C., as a premier global convention, tourism and special events destination, with a special emphasis on the arts and cultural and historical communities. Destination DC is a private, non-profit corporation with a membership of more than 1,000 businesses and organizations that support the DC travel and tourism sector.

“I am honored to serve Destination DC and our city,” Stampfli said. “I look forward to helping to further enhance Washington, D.C.’s reputation as a leading special events destination, while giving back to the industry and the community.”

As a board member of the WGO Foundation, Stampfli will focus on generating financial donations from corporations and foundations to support the work of the WGO. The organization’s mission is to promote the awareness of the worldwide prevalence of digestive disorders and their optimal care through high quality, accessible and independent education and training. The WGO is a federation of 103 national societies and four regional gastroenterology associations representing more than 50,000 individual members worldwide.

“Helping to improve the health and quality of life for people in the developing world is a long-term passion of mine and I am excited to be associated with a group like WGO that works to provide treatment to those with the greatest need,” Stampfli said. “Giving back truly dovetails with the philosophies of both Courtesy Associates and SmithBucklin and I intend to use this opportunity to help produce tangible results for the WGO Foundation.”

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About Courtesy Associates

Courtesy Associates is a recognized leader in the full-service conference and event management industry. Courtesy serves a wide range of clients in the government, medical, technical, association and corporate arenas, creating programs for audiences ranging from 50 to 15,000. Courtesy provides clients with a single point of contact and unparalleled expertise in vendor negotiation and management, logistics and planning (onsite, pre- and post-event), exhibit and sponsorship sales, budget development and oversight, theme development and event design, production, event marketing and fundraising, and site selection. Courtesy Associates is owned by SmithBucklin, the world's largest association management and professional services company with more than 750 employees. SmithBucklin is 100% employee owned. For more information, please visit www.courtesyassociates.com.

About SmithBucklin

SmithBucklin is the world's largest association management and professional services company providing flexible, tailored full-service management and function/project-specific services to more than 225 trade associations, professional societies, technology user groups, government institutes/agencies and corporations. SmithBucklin's mission is to drive growth and build sustained competitiveness for client organizations. Founded in 1949, the company employs 750 professionals specializing in all phases of association activity including executive management, member and chapter administration, convention and trade show management, marketing and branding, Web services, education and programs, government relations and financial management. SmithBucklin manages more than \$200 million in annual client budgets from offices in Chicago, Washington, DC, St. Louis and Durham, NC. SmithBucklin is 100% employee owned. For more information, please visit www.smithbucklin.com or call 1.800.539.9740.