

Food for thought

by Risa Dimond
Staff Writer

There are people who view food as much more than the commercial products we shove in our mouths everyday. There are those who see food as an art form, a medium that can be aesthetically pleasing to the eye but most importantly taste good. There are people who study food like a science only to transform it into entertainment for the taste buds and astonish the imagination. There are people who gawk at beautifully filleted fish, fresh peaches, radiant leafy green herbs, exotic spices, and buttery cheeses. And there are people who simply are fascinated with eating great food. These people who enjoy food to its fullest are called foodies.

Foodies can usually pinpoint the exact moment and meal that was the first food epiphany in the history of their

lives in which they saw food as an adventure.

In his book *Kitchen Confidential*, Anthony Bourdain writes of eating cold soup on a transatlantic cruise ship and being left in the car as a child while his parents ate at the culinary center of the world. He knew at that moment that food had secrets and perhaps it was important.

This moment changed everything for him. Bourdain began to eat every shocking food he could find in French cuisine including his first oyster, straight out of the sea. He dedicated his life to food by becoming a professional chef.

Even the rat in Disney's *Ratatouille* relives his moment by explaining that one flavor may taste great alone and another may taste great alone. But combining the two flavors together the taste can become incredible. (Contrasting flavors like fruit and cheese work best.)

As a self-proclaimed foodie, I'd like to share my food epiphany. I was never a picky eater growing up and would eat and like everything I tried. At a party a guest had brought Caesar salad. The combinations of the crunch of romaine and croutons with the mild Parmesan cheese, tangy lemon, the bite of the garlic, and the realization that I liked anchovies created frenzy for my taste buds. I finished the entire bowl to the disappointment of the rest of the guests. To their complaints, I simply replied 'I just realized that I really, really like Caesar salad.'

Just this past December, I traveled to Buenos Aires to spend the holidays with family. Christmas morning, while basking in the sun in the back yard sipping mate, Santiago fired up an outside open-fire grill called a *Parilla*. For lunch he grilled pork and beef topped with his own recipe of *chimichurri*, a

condiment made with basil, different herbs, and olive oil. Monika brought, from the kitchen and to the table, assorted *empenadas*, meat filled pastries that top my list of favorite Argentine food. I sat at this table surrounded by loved ones, eating authentically cultural food. I couldn't understand most of the conversations due to the language barriers that my broken elementary Spanish could not conquer. Instead I drifted into my mind and savored my food.

I felt so far away from everything that I had come accustomed to but comfortable because I was eating great food with energetic and sincere people and was enjoying it thoroughly. The world shrank and my second food epiphany occurred. All over the world food differs greatly but the love of good food and good company can override cultural boundaries.

Same place, different position for Jenna Bales Walker

by Joseph Chilton
Managing Editor

Just because she won't be seen around Green Hall this semester does not mean that Jenna Bales Walker won't still be active in the campus community.

Walker, who formerly served as Green's Residence Director has left that job and taken a job as an adjunct faculty member in the WLEE department.

Walker will now teach backpacking and will also be co-instructor for parts of the Immersion semester.

Walker, who has outdoor teaching experience at the University of Tennessee and

with the Outward Bound program, is excited about the possibilities that her new job presents.

"I think it's going to be a world of difference, but instructing better suits my talents than my former job did," Walker said.

Walker left her previous position in December after being married. "My new job will be nice because I can actually live with my husband now," Walker said.

The Green AD position, which will also include some duties co-coordinating outdoor recreation activities, is currently being interviewed for and will be filled during the

Security Report

01/14/08- Air pistol shooting; no one seriously hurt

01/20/08- Myers break-in; nothing vandalized

01/22/08- Theft of wallet; was later recovered

Security can be reached 24/7 at 828-884-5979