



## SGA sponsors Caf Appreciation Week

Christi Hallis  
*Pilot staff*

Hundreds of faculty and staff members and students walk silently by them multiple times every day.

They know students by the names on their ID cards and how many meals they have left for the week.

Arriving hours before the first meal starts and leaving long after the last meal is over, the cafeteria staff at GWU includes some of the hardest working people on campus.

SGA set aside October 8-12 to recognize and honor those whose tasks may seem mundane, but whose work is vital to our everyday lives in the second annual Cafeteria Appreciation Week.

SGA began by hanging up banners and posting signs on the tables in the caf, encouraging students to go out of their way to show their gratitude to the staff.

Throughout the week, students took moments out of their usual mealtime routines to hug staff members and thank them for their work and kindness.

"They serve us good food and brighten our days," said SGA President Andy Polk.



Photo by Joy Marinelli

Cafeteria employees enjoy food prepared by SGA during the second annual Caf Appreciation Week. The workers, who prepare and serve more than 10,000 meals a week, were served last Thursday night and presented "bags of appreciation" in recognition for their consistent, hard work.

"This is our opportunity to do something special and brighten theirs."

A trip to the GWU caf is incomplete without a greeting from the card-reader and a "What you want, baby?" from the smiling faces in the kitchen.

The highlight of the week was Thursday night's second annual banquet for the cafeteria staff, sponsored by SGA.

"Some of us cooked some

stuff and some of us bought some stuff—not all of us can cook, and we don't want to kill y'all!" Polk joked at the opening of the banquet.

He went on to thank the staff for their hard work and positive attitudes and encouraged them to eat all that they wanted because this was their night.

SGA officers and delegates representing all of the classes

attended the banquet, along with a majority of the cafeteria workers. Many appeared fresh from their work upstairs; others dressed up on their day off to make it to the banquet.

"I came out in the rain last year," said Anita Sims, a three-year veteran of the caf. "I told myself I couldn't miss this."

SGA sponsor Anne Henderson, professor of political science, explained why this

evening was so important.

"We're all part of a community and it's important to recognize that the cafeteria staff are part of that community. This is our opportunity to show our appreciation for all they do for us daily."

Senior class president, Hamal Strayhorn echoed Henderson, saying, "It's good to be served, but at times, it's good to be a servant."

Dale Ledbetter, a cafeteria employee for more than seven years mentioned the fact that the cafeteria is ran by Sodexo, an outside company not affiliated with GWU.

"Since we're not a part of the university, we miss out on the banquet at the end of the year for the staff," she said. "Until you started this last year, no one ever appreciated us. It really boosts our morale and makes us feel good."

As the workers left, they received bags of candy and cards signed by all of the SGA officers and delegates.

Lucille Reynolds, a caf employee for more than three years, seemed to express the sentiment of many when she said, "I love this and I wouldn't mind if there were more banquets like these! They really

## SGA and Red Cross host student blood drive

Erin Boyd  
*Pilot copy editor*

On Thursday, Oct. 25, SGA and the Cleveland County Red Cross will be hosting this semester's campus-wide blood drive. The drive will be held in the Bost Gym from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. All students, faculty and staff are encouraged to give.

Registered nurses from the Red Cross in Charlotte will be taking the blood during the drive.

Students and faculty alike

have begun signing up for the blood drive, and according to SGA secretary Rachel Hyde, the numbers are already higher than last year.

As of Monday, 110 participants had signed up. Last year only about 90 people gave.

"I think the increase in those giving is partly because of the New York tragedy," said Hyde. "It made people aware of a need and made people more willing to give."

Most students that are more than 17 years old and weigh a minimum of 110 lbs. can give. Several other restrictions apply,

and students should check their eligibility in the Blood Donor Eligibility Guide.

Students and faculty have different reasons for giving blood.

"I've never actually done it before," said senior Josh Stroup. "But, I signed up because I realize that it can save someone's life. It's a way of helping all the people that need blood, and it's something I should have done a long time ago."

A personal experience has convicted Drew Van Horn, vice president for University

Relations, of his need for giving blood.

"My father had heart surgery and was given blood," he said. "It is something I can do to help individuals that I may never see or know."

"People may never know the result of where their blood goes," said Hyde. "But it is saving lives—giving hope to someone who is in need of hope."

The blood collected from the GWU campus will go to anyone who needs it throughout the Carolina region, which serves 120 hospitals.

Cleveland County Red

Cross representative Sandy Bolick stated that the need for blood is high right now. She explained that there is a fear that many who rushed to give after the Sept. 11 attacks will not give any more this year.

"People need to give more than once a year in order to avoid a shortage," she said.

"What an amazing way to truly help someone in need," Bolick continued. "Blood isn't something you can manufacture—you can only roll up your sleeve and give."