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HURRICANE KATRINA | RELIEF AND RECOVERY

Katrina touches GWU

Change on the menu

Cafeteria sports new look, more food variety

Christie Barlow
Pilot copy editor

The cafeteria at Gardner-Webb University is different this semester.

Over the summer, GWU made changes to the dining hall by adding new fryers, coolers and carpet. The cafeteria also offers a revamped menu with more options this year.

"We were previously working on a three to four week menu cycle," said Suzanne Glasscock, general manager of the GWU cafeteria. "This year we're switching to a 16 week menu."

This means that with each week of school new items will be added to the menu, giving students more options at each meal and repeating fewer items.

"We've historically gone out and within the first two weeks served every kind of pizza we had," said Bryan Harriss, district manager of Sodexo. "We're introducing different varieties over time by introducing things later."

According to Glasscock cafeteria staff are attempting to follow national trends with what they are serving. They are basing their menu on a survey of college students in the Southeast and on meetings with SGA members.

"We would always prefer to get student feedback whenever they have a concern about the service and whether or not they have something good to say," said Harriss.

Yet another addition to the cafeteria is the presence of health awareness information. GWU is involved in a balance mind, body and soul program. This program provides information to students on how healthy they're eating.

"You can find the information at each serving area or on the table outside the door," said Glasscock. "We're also going to be placing the information on the tables for students."

Student reaction to the changes has been positive so far.

"I just had a great lunch for the first time in awhile," said Jamie Mecimore, a senior nursing major from Taylorsville. "It was a new dish, and it was very tasty."

Mecimore isn't the only one that has picked up on the changes. Senior biology major Jason Hoyle from Hickory is impressed with the variety of the meals.

"Freshmen year was chicken, beef, pork chops and chicken, beef and pork chops," said Hoyle. "This year there are a lot more choices."

The cafeteria is on the right track, according to Harriss. Things are heading in the right direction but there is still a long way to go, he said.

"It's the unknown that kills us," said Harriss. "Often the problem is easy to fix."



photo by Katie Bryant

Anna Jessup, daughter of University Minister Tracy Jessup, and the Bulldog mascot donate a can of food to the hurricane relief effort at the football game Sept. 3. Students in Free Enterprise held another food drive for hurricane victims in the cafeteria Sept. 5 to 8.

GWU waives tuition for hurricane victims; aid efforts under way on campus, in Miss.

Amanda Wood
Pilot editor-in-chief

On Sept. 3, Gardner-Webb University became the first university in North Carolina to waive tuition for students who attended college in the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.

"It's the right thing to do," said Jack Buchanan, vice president for admissions and enrollment. "These students have already paid to go to school this semester, so we're not going to charge them again."

According to Buchanan four students have already enrolled at GWU and are taking classes. Their names are not being released for privacy reasons.

Allowing the students to come to GWU helps the students themselves and sister institutions in the Gulf Coast region, Buchanan said.

"Really every one of you is a part of this," Buchanan said. "The students paying tuition make it possible for us to do it for other students. This is who we are. I've never been more proud of Gardner-Webb, faculty, staff, students."

GWU's division of university relations and development is receiving donations to help the students with expenses. Students can make a donation through campus ministries.

"I'm just very proud that we're reaching out in this manner," said Teresa Davis, campus ministries secretary.



photo by Josephy Fluty

Fans who brought donations for victims of Hurricane Katrina received free admission to the Gardner-Webb University football game Sept. 3.

pus ministries secretary.

The Professional Firefighters of Shelby are also taking food and cash donations to assist hurricane victims in Laurel, Miss.

"I've got a truck load right now," said Donnie Henderson, who is heading up the firefighters' drop-off point in Boiling Springs at McSwain's Store on College Avenue. "I've got another truck load sitting here, and I've already taken two truck loads [back to Shelby]."

Henderson said he's happy to see that people are willing to help out hurricane victims.

"I was amazed at how fast we filled up tow trucks with supplies," he said. "And, of course, without people's help

we could have never done that. It's kind of ballooned now."

Henderson said the firefighters will be collecting non-perishable items and monetary donations again Sept. 10 at Wal-mart in Shelby.

McSwain's Store will continue to be a drop-off point in Boiling Springs.

Students can also donate non-perishable food items on campus at the football game Sept. 10.

Plans are also under way at Campus Ministries for a fall break mission trip to the affected areas.

Students involved would help with recovery and cleanup efforts in the region.

Student: My family was lucky

Cherish Wilson
Pilot staff

Dane Geraci, a life-long resident of Kenner, La., a fifteen-minute drive from New Orleans, was the only Gardner-Webb student from the area directly affected by Hurricane Katrina.

"You'd hear rumors in the early stages of the hurricane that the levee had broke," Geraci said. "It was miserable not to now what to expect or what to believe."

Geraci said he feels his family was lucky. His family evacuated once before, but never for what Geraci called "something this extreme."

"My brother went back [to the house] for a day to check out everything," Geraci said. "He's been the only person back. All our fences were down, and there might have been some more damage, but he wasn't sure. We were pretty fortunate."

"My dad kept emphasizing the main thing was everyone was okay," Geraci said. "The house was just a material object. It was important we all were safe."

Geraci is impressed with the kindness and concern from his Gardner-Webb family.

"Tracy [Jessup] contacted me pretty quick, asking if there was anything they could do to help. Everyone has been more than willing to help."

Other citizens of coastal Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi were left reeling in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. As of September 7, ABC News estimated the hurricane, which peaked at Category 5, or 175mph winds, has caused 20 to 75 million dollars of damage and left 365 to 1,365 people dead, with numbers likely to rise.

According to Meteorologist Kermit Keeter, Science and Operations Officer for the National Weather Service in Raleigh, scientists who study tropical cyclones are doing all they can to prevent loss of life and property by predicting where hurricanes will make landfall.

Katrina, he says, made landfall 30 miles from the predicted location of landfall. On average the margin of error is closer to 90 miles.

"The United States has more severe weather than anywhere around the globe," Keeter said. "Just the fact we don't have a massive loss of life and property on a continual basis is indicative of the investments made to provide accurate forecasts and warnings."

On the Inside

Award-winning photographer visits GWU to share his story...page 2

New gas station offers alcohol-fuel...page 2

Students ask: Should we search for oil in Alaska...page 3

Football team enjoys big win...p. 4

Newspage 2
Op/Edpage 3
Sportspage 4