

News

Reinventing the cafeteria Upscale living coming to GWU one meal at a time

by Kevin Kassakatis
Pilot Staff Writer

Hope is on the horizon for the food at Gardner-Webb.

Eric Pearce was hired as Gardner-Webb's new Head Chef over the summer with hopes to improve the consistency and the quality of the food.

Pearce has been in food service for his entire life. He graduated from Culinary School in 1999 from Wake Tech Community College. After some training, Pearce realized that he was not ready to be a chef. He went back to school and received his degree in Food Service Management and Nutrition for the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Since graduating from UNCG, Pearce has worked for many different schools including UNCG, Elon, East Carolina, and Salem College.

When asked if he was aware of the overall view of the cafeteria food, Pearce understands that the Cafeteria does not have the best reputation for consistency and quality and he has plans to change that.

Pearce's number one goal is to have happy students.

"This is not my food service operation, it's the students'. And if they're not happy, I'm not happy," Pearce said.

In order to provide choices that the students prefer, Pearce tries to make himself as visible as possible and has plans to start a request-a-meal in the Cafeteria to make students feel more at home.

Another way Pearce feels will help him provide more of what the students want is to do some exhibition cooking. He feels that it would give him an opportunity to talk

to students and figure along with making the cooking process visible to students. A lot of places try to keep the cooking in the kitchen, Pearce does not. He stressed that he wants to remove the "its done behind closed doors" mentality.

"Cooking in front of the students allows them to see that we use fresh food and it allows me to get to know the students," Pearce said.

Pearce has also moved toward using 100% fresh fruits and vegetables.

"Probably 90% of the fruits and vegetables we use come from farms within 100 miles of here. Obviously we can't get pineapples or strawberries locally, but everything else comes from local farms," Pearce said.

Changes in the Kennel are also in the works. Pearce would not go into detail about these changes but would state that the plans are drastic changes to what the Kennel does now.

With the variety of food being a major disappointment among students, Pearce is working towards some changes within the lines. He wants to add more appetizer type foods along with new desserts and more healthy foods.

In order to create a more of a variety of food, Pearce has been using his training from UNCG, Elon, ECU, and Salem College. He mentioned that when he worked at Salem, the students wanted healthy foods. Pearce is now using that experience to help expand the vegetarian line.

"I continually have to learn the students and try to reinvent myself every day to create a variety of food that the students will like," Pearce said.

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-Eric Pearce

by Jordan Love
Pilot Staff Writer

The Reserve at Stonegate is a new set of apartment buildings being built just up the road from Gardner-Webb. If driving towards the coffee shop, the Reserve is exactly one mile away on the left.

"The first building is going to have twelve apartments and will be completed by August just in time for Gardner-Webb students to move in," said Dena Spangler-Stacy, one of the project's planners.

The apartments are targeted towards Gardner-Webb students due to their close proximity to campus. Each apartment will have four bedrooms, four bathrooms, four walk-in closets, a living room, and a full kitchen. They will also come with a washer and dryer unit per apartment, and the floors are all hardwood.

The kitchen will be complete with granite counter-tops with stainless steel appliances. Each person will have their own lease, meaning that if one roommate decides to move out, the other won't be stuck paying their part of the rent.

Rent is currently priced at \$400 per person per month. The Reserve will pay for water and sewage, but each apart-

ment will be responsible for their electrical and cable bills.

The vision for the entire 21 acres purchased is to one day have five total apartment buildings, a clubhouse with a pool, and the possibility of town houses. Included in the rent is also a membership to the Ruby-Hunt YMCA, providing students with complete access to a full gym.

While \$400 a month might seem expensive, the Spangler-Stacy urges students to consider the price to live in University Commons: \$695 a month. The price is so high because of the University's required meal plan for all on-campus students.

"We decided to build these apartments in Boiling Springs simply as an outreach for Gardner-Webb students. We know there is a need for alternate housing, and we're offering upscale living at a fraction of the cost," said Spangler-Stacy.

No pets are allowed and each unit is non-smoking. Student interested in living in these off campus apartments are encouraged to check out The Reserve on Facebook or by visiting their website at www.reserveatstonegate.com.

New visitation policy put into place

by Jordan Love
Pilot Staff Writer

After years of complaining and pleading for less-strict visitation policies in the dorms, the voice of the students has finally prevailed. A new policy states during visitation hours, residents are now allowed to close and lock their doors during visits from the opposite sex.

Previously, the rule has been that the door must be cracked and the RA or GRD must be able to open the door without having to turn the door knob.

"If the RA or GRD suspects anything from behind a closed door, they have the right to key in," said Residence Life's Sherry Ingram.

Some students see this new policy as a breath of fresh air while other students are appalled to see a Christian University bending to the ways of the world, if roommates have differing opinions on

the subject, they are encouraged to sit down together and find a compromise.

"RA's are not here to babysit and as college students, we should have enough responsibility to make the right decision knowing the expectations of the University," said Meghan Sipe, RA of Decker 2nd floor.

Although Sipe personally has no problem with the new rule, she said that some girls on her hall have expressed their distaste with guys and girls being allowed to lock dorm room doors.

Of course, students are still required to sign their guest's in and out and visitation hours. However, with this new policy Sipe feels that the University "is on the way to doing away with the visitation policy all together."

Because Gardner-Webb is still classified as a Christian University, having an open 24-7 visitation policy is highly unlikely.

Pueblito Express has strong review

by Diana Palka
Pilot Editor

At the very moment I stepped inside Pueblito Express, I was assured that the restaurant wouldn't follow the footsteps of its predecessors at 119 N. Main St., and that it would be there for more than two semesters.

The vibrant colored paint coupled with the lax atmosphere practically invited me through the doors and up

to the Qdoba-style bar to place my order.

The menu was far more extensive than I thought it would be for the size of the place. Anything from a burrito to a Mexican pizza to a quesadilla to nachos to tacos was no more than \$7. I decided to go with the Jumbo Bean Burrito, served on your choice of a white or wheat tortilla.

The burrito was filled with the option of chicken or steak, rice beans, lettuce, shredded cheese and tomato. For no additional fee, I added guacamole and sour cream. I got all of these things for six bucks (plus \$1.50 for a drink, with free refills).

Each meal is served with a basket of chips and salsa. And everyone's favorite cheese dip (with more chips, of course) is only \$3.75.

Wanting dessert? Try the Pastel Frito Funnel for \$3.75; a cinnamon and sugar churro-like treat topped with whipped cream.

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