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Cafeteria menu is healthier but many aren't happier

By Avon Thomas

One of the more noticeable changes on campus this year is in the cafeteria.

Students now have more healthy options such as fish tacos and vegetable casseroles. There's even a "Tofu Day" on Tuesdays and kale dishes on Thursdays.

The new menu is better for students, said Jane Bass, a manager for ABL Management Group, which operates the university's cafeteria.

"I've been here a few years, and every year, it seems like we have more overweight and obese stu-

dents in our institution," Ms. Bass said. "I feel as if our healthier menu, with more tofu and vegetable casseroles, will help the students have a broader choice of healthy foods to eat. I notice that a lot of our students have high blood pressure, asthma and other various deficiencies that can be prevented, or tamed, with a healthier selection of foods from us as a company."

As Dr. Damon Tweedy noted in a lecture and discussion last month at the Prezell Robinson Library, African Americans are more



Tofu is among the healthier choices at the cafeteria this year. Wikimedia Commons

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Dorm closings disrupt student life

By Charles Gilchrist and Jakeina Sutton

Traditionally, Saint Augustine's has had one moving day at the start of the semester, as students have turned rooms into new homes. Things have been different this year for some students as various issues have led the school to relocate them.

Boyer is the latest dormitory building to be shut down, causing another change in student living arrangements. The closing of the facility, which has maintenance issues, resulted in students being transferred to the Falk Crest Apartments.

Boyer is the fourth dorm that Saint Augustine's has shut down in the past year and half, joining Lynch, Baker and Atkinson. School officials attribute the closings to safety issues and declining enrollment. The only dorms currently in use are Latham and Weston in the front for freshmen and Falk Crest for upperclassmen. As a result of Boyer's closing, Falk Crest had been changed back to co-ed.

The dorm complex had been changed from co-ed late this summer, with Buildings D and B becoming the two female dorms while building A and C the male dorms. But the closing of Boyer has resulted in some males being placed into female dorms in Falk Crest.

This has caused unhappiness for some women who preferred single-sex dorms. Some students also grumbled because those initially assigned to Falk Crest had to pay higher fees for the privilege, while those transferred there did not. As a result, some feel that the

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Students listen (above) as Venessa Harrison, president of AT&T North Carolina, addresses the audience at the recent convocation. Story and more photos. Page 2
Jaquan Leary (top),
Office of Marketing and Communications (right).



Band members work hard to make it look fun

By Cianna Fisher

It's dinner time at the cafeteria and suddenly conversation is interrupted as the band marches by on their way to practice on the football field. The drum major, Genera Ervin, a senior engineering mathematics major, is in front leading the march as the students step to the beat of the drum line.

"Genera is so serious," remarks Tiffany Moses, a senior human performance and wellness major. "They look so militant."

As those who pay

close attention to the Superior Sound Marching Band know, the band members take their roles with the group seriously. To perfect the music and the steps, they practice, literally, day and night.

At Saint Augustine's University, as at many historically black colleges and universities, the band is a focal point of campus life. The band not only performs at football games; they also help boost school spirit by performing at pep rallies.

Many band members see themselves as ambassadors for the school.

"The band represents the school on and off campus," said Zechariah Jackson, a past member of the band who played the alto saxophone. "This helps recruit more students for the band and makes the school look good."

For band members, the hard work and sacrifice are worth it.

"There is a sense of accomplishment after the season is finished," Ervin said. "I look back at how much we did and I feel like an elite person."

For senior visual arts major Sara Collins, a

trombonist, participating in the band actually helps with academics. "It helps me stay focused and disciplined," she said.

Many students – like Tiffany Moses – appreciate how disciplined band members must be.

"I believe the band is so serious because marching bands have adopted a lot of military styles," Moses said. "They are militant in a sense of how they march, how they use direction commands, and even how they have a sense of hierarchy and a chain of command like the military does."



The drumline of Saint Augustine's University's Superior Sound Marching Band does its thing

Staff Spotlight:

A temporary job that she just could not leave

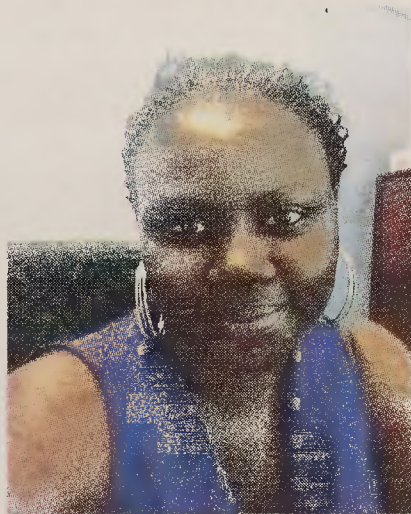
By Johnna Mitchell

Natasha F. Kent began at Saint Augustine's University as a temporary worker – that was six years ago. The Wilson, N.C., native has made Saint Augustine's her home. Today, she is administrative assistant for enrollment management & student services.

"I came here just as a place to work until I found something better, and I just stayed," Ms. Kent explained. "I love the kids. I have four of my own, but I guess you could say I have 850 kids."

Officially, Ms. Kent supports the administration in a variety of functions relating to student life, including student activities, testing, housing and judicial affairs. Unofficially, she plays a more important role.

"To some of us, she like our mother here on campus," said Atai Price, a senior sociology major. "She is a listening



Natasha F. Kent
ear that most of us need."

From her office on the second floor of the Hunter Building, Ms. Kent has a

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Student Spotlight:

Student leader uses his own setbacks to help others

By Adonica Stewart

Stephon McLeon has faced many obstacles and challenges to get to where he is today. The junior sociology major from Trenton, N.J. was a student at Shaw University until he was forced to withdraw in 2009.

In 2011, McLeon became a single father to a baby girl. That proved to be a turning point.

"Once I found out I was having a daughter, it was kind of my wakeup call, in a sense," McLeon said. "I'm not just living for myself now, I have to get a job and get an apartment in order to take care of my daughter myself." He did not have a father growing up, so he decided to take full custody of his daughter and be the father figure in her life.

By 2013, McLeon decided that he would go back to school and accomplish what he needed to in order to set



Stephon McLeon

an example for his daughter. To pursue that dream, he decided to enroll at Saint Augustine's University. "I want my daughter to know how a real man

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