



Ben Chilson

Director, Dining Services

CAFÉ RENOVATION PLAN SURPRISES:

We have moved much of the final food preparation to take place in front of the customers and we will be able to produce freshly baked pizzas, stir fries, pastas, omelets, sandwiches, and much more in the customer's view.

YEARS IN FOOD SERVICE:

I have worked in the food service industry for 50 years and for the past 26 years as director of food services here at Andrews.

IF THERE'S A "FOOD COURT," THAT MAKES HIM "FOOD JUDGE:"

Although I don't go by that title, it is a major part of my role to judge the overall quality of food and service being provided by our department. Actually, we are not designing a food court in the fullest sense of the name. I would rather refer to the new servery as a marketplace with a variety of food venues to choose from, including traditional comfort foods, hot sandwiches, pizza, pasta, cereal bar, waffle bar, Panini deli, salad bar, soup bar, woks, and more.

FAVORITE CAFÉ DISH:

I love the pad Thai. I guess my son got me started on that when he took me to a Thai restaurant in Boston. I came back and developed the recipe we now use in our display cooking station.

WILL THE RENOVATED CAFÉ STILL SERVE SAM'S CHICKEN?

We will always serve Sam's Chicken. I envision offering a variety of dipping sauces, rather than just tartar sauce, to enhance its desirability.

FAVORITE COMPLAINT FROM STUDENTS ABOUT CAFÉ FOOD:

The price is the biggest complaint, and it always has been. I know it was that way when I was in school too. It is hard for students to understand how the overhead of operating a food service operation affects the food pricing. Today's students eat out a lot, though, and I think they are much more familiar with usual pricing among food service operators.

BEST THING ABOUT WORKING IN AU FOOD SERVICE:

I love working with the students who staff our facility. It is fun and enlightening to interact with our international students, and to learn about their customs and the stories about how they ended up at Andrews. I love each of my nonstudent staff and depend on them greatly, but I am truly thankful for each of our student employees too.

MOST INTERESTING RESOURCE FOR A RECIPE:?

I depend on the web. I really don't know how we got along without it before. There is such a wealth of information on recipes from around the world on the web, and we use it often. We occasionally have staff or faculty share recipes as well, and we have developed some of those for the menu too. We really welcome recipes from anyone.



HOW TO CONNECT WITH ANDREWS:

One of the best ways to connect with a university and figure out if it's right for you is to check it out in person. We'd like to invite you to visit Andrews University.

GENERAL PREVIEW EVENTS

September 23 & 24, 2007

December 2 & 3, 2007

February 10 & 11, 2008

April 13 & 14, 2008

JUNIOR PREVIEW EVENT

March 9 & 10, 2008 (Lake Union Juniors)

STANDOUT Spiritual Retreat

Spring 2008. For more information, visit standout.andrews.edu

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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