Daly’s: A constantly changing establishment

By Melanie Tirpak
Staff Writer

As Daly’s new look has become commonplace, other aspects of the dining hall are still changing.

The dining hall has received many new additions, such as new types of food that have been added to the menu, as well as new equipment and staff members.

“We expanded the salad bar. We’re now featuring different cheeses, olives, different salads and fresh mozzarella,” said operations manager, Peter Ehlin.

“Individual castellares, comfort foods and calzones and strombolis are now featured as well.”

Another change took place with the baking facilities because they have been transferred from their previous basement abode to their new home on the main floor.

“There will be breads and desserts daily,” said Ehlin. “We want to create more action on the serving line by bringing the chefs out front; it’s one of our main goals this semester.”

Many of these changes were motivated by the comments and preferences of students and faculty at Rider.

“We basically reconstructed our cycle menu based on input from food committee meetings held bi-weekly,” said Ehlin.

The committee consists of a group of volunteers. Both students and faculty are welcome to come.

Meetings are held at 11:30 a.m. in the Bronc Diner every other Thursday starting Feb. 13 to April 10. The purpose of such meetings is to get student and staff input.

“We basically want to make the students happy and give students the best service and best food possible,” said Ehlin.

There is also a comment board in Daly’s if students want to make any additional remarks, and so far, the board has produced some new menu ideas such as penne vodka and chicken marsala.

“We’re only as good as the comments and feedback,” said Ehlin. “We welcome comments and concerns; we need communication to make it into the finest residential restaurant.”

Another change brought about by students and faculty can be found in the recently constructed Bronc Diner.

“We’re now serving wings, based on customer requests and by new equipment provided by the university,” said Ehlin. “We now also have ice cream.”

Tim Richards, the general manager of Aramark Dining Services agrees that the dining at Rider has improved.

“This semester, even more than last, a visit to Daly’s will be known as a place where your meal is prepared in an entertaining and individualized way, right before your eyes,” he said.

One such person who will be preparing these meals will be new chef, Andrew Bond.

“Is the district chef who provides support through nine other schools, but is stationed out of this location,” said Ehlin. “But, it depends when he’s here due to his schedule.”

Bond studied French cooking in England as well as earning the title of Certified Executive Chef from Westminster College in London. He has worked in French cuisine.

“It was when I saw something about it back up on the Rider television station one day,” said Smith. “I think the school has to make a better attempt of getting this out there. They should put letters in everyone’s mailbox clearly stating that the school is going to release the information.”

Under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), phone numbers and addresses, along with such facts as class rank and honors, are classified as “directory information.” Release of them is not considered harmful.

“A student who has the right to release such information as long as it gives the students the chance to opt-out or object to having their information made public,” said Jim Bradshaw, spokesman for the U.S. Department of Education.

Under the FERPA guidelines, Rider meets the requirement for notice, Bradshaw said. “It should be mentioned in a bulletin, catalog, or newsletter, anywhere that students will see it,” he added. “But we do not recommend a specific way to notify the students.”

Dr. Pamela Brown, faculty director of Rider’s law and justice program, also vouched for the opt-out policy Rider uses.

“The courts have said that the opt-out policy is perfectly logical,” said Brown. “This policy leaves the burden on the students to decline from having their information made public. If the students do not say no to having their information released then it will be placed in the directory.”

Dean of Students Anthony Campbell notes that students are informed about their directory status each semester and can change it at any time. Students’ choices are noted on their biographic and demographic records, which are mailed out for review and correction at the beginning of every semester.

“Any information the student requests to be excluded from the Student Directory. Exclusion from this directory means exclusion from lists made available to student organizations and agencies associated with Rider University.”

Senior Gautam Vohra feels this statement is misleading and could be taken the wrong way.

“From what I gather, it seems that if someone checks the box next to this statement then they will not be able to participate in any school organizations,” he said. “It implies a sense of exclusion.”

Brown said that the notice seemed clear to her, but it may not be clear to freshmen who have never dealt with this type of form. She also suspected that many students may have benefited because it “facilitates social interaction,” especially for freshmen.

Freshman Robyn Lefkowitz does not object to having her address and phone number in the directory but this is only because she is a resident student.

“If students wish to change their directory status, they must submit a written request to the director of Student Services.

“We set out to give students more locations on campus to access the Internet, besides in their dorm rooms and computer labs,” said Fairlie. “I’m excited to see students already taking advantage of the new technology, but I hope more students use it.”

“The web, students have a ‘head start’ on what they will face upon graduation, said Wygal.

The feedback students receive from completing homework is now possible instantaneously by having wireless internet access in the classroom, added Wygal.

“This type of ‘experiential learning’ is necessary to keep pace with the changing world,” said Wygal.

In order to use the new system, students must purchase a wireless Ethernet card, also called a Network PC card, which enables the computer to log onto Rider’s Local Area Network (LAN). Some newer models come equipped with these cards.

Students will be directed to use their Easypass accounts to log onto the internet when connecting wirelessly.

“Anyone who has a directory account will have an upgraded means of learning in the classroom. This technology has been somewhat costly, however. Every student who wishes to use wireless access, costs anywhere from $100 to $700, depending on the quality of service needed, i.e. the dependability of Internet access or the numbers of users that can log on at one time.”

“The new system is not only receiving praise from faculty but from students as well.”

“I enjoy accessing the Internet from wherever I choose,” said Junior Melissa Kanavel. “I am no longer confined to the overcrowded computer labs.”