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SBU campus gives ARAMARK high marks in fall survey

ARAMARK, St. Bonaventure's dining provider, earned high marks in its fall survey of campus customers. Every semester, ARAMARK conducts online surveys with customers at over 500 ARAMARK-managed college/university institutions across the country.

All customers are encouraged to voice their opinion on a number of topics, from quality of food, speed of service and staff performance to dining atmosphere. The fall survey was conducted from Sept. 28, 2009, through Oct. 9, 2009, and 311 participants at St. Bonaventure took the survey.

"We are happy to report that the overall score is above the national average in every category," said Amy Vleminckx, food service director at St. Bonaventure. "When we compare our scores in each category to all the regions in North America, St. Bonaventure Dining Services scored above other regions in 96 percent of the categories."

DiningStyles, ARAMARK's comprehensive and proprietary research methodology, is designed for understanding and satisfying customers' dining preferences — and implementing changes in response to those needs.

"The Dining Services team at St. Bonaventure is ecstatic that all their hard work is making a significant impact on the dining experience of SBU students," said Vleminckx.

DiningStyles surveys address dining topics on campus such as the overall experience, price/value, food variety, hours of operation, speed of service, cleanliness, food quality, convenience, comfortable and fun dining atmosphere, place to socialize, availability of combo meals, availability of nutritional information, availability of vegetarian options, availability of healthy options, and hospitality.

"Cleanliness, food variety and speed of service are the categories showing the most growth at St. Bonaventure since the previous survey," Vleminckx said.

She also noted that the spring online survey is under way and encourages faculty, staff and students to participate.

The survey will take 5 to 10 minutes and responses are confidential. The survey is accessible at <http://www.college->

survey.com/sbu through March 19. A \$250 Best Buy gift card is the grand prize with two \$25 Best Buy gift cards awarded for runner-up prizes.

In addition to the online surveys, customers are also able to share feedback about their dining experience by completing a Comment Card at all SBU dining locations.

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Black 47 to rock the Quick Center

Celtic-rock and St. Partick's Day cheer will be the scene when Black 47 rolls into the St. Bonaventure University community to rock the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts on March 19.

The free concert will be from 8 until 10:30 p.m. and is open to the public.

The newly established Fr. Mychal Judge Center is sponsoring the New York City band in honor of Fr. Mychal Judge, who perished during the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, and was a fan of the group.

"The band was a favorite of his," said Larry Sorokes, director of the Fr. Mychal Judge Center. "I thought it would be fitting to have them back to campus as we unveil the new center this semester." Black 47 played at St. Bonaventure a couple times in the 1990s, but has not been back since

. Black 47 has traveled the world over during the members 20 years together, paving the way for other Celtic-rock groups such as Dropkick Murphys and Flogging Molly. The band has released 14 albums; most-recently Black 47 released "Bankers and Gangsters" alongside front man Larry Kirwan's new novel "Rockin' the Bronx."

Kirwan was also a good friend of Fr. Mychal Judge, so it is fitting his band helps open the new center. Kirwan wrote a song about Judge and also talks about him in his book "Green Suede Shoes."

Kirwan will visit campus again for a "Rock and Read" acoustic session on April 21.

McCarthyizm, a Celtic-rock band from Buffalo, will join Black 47 in the Quick Center for the Arts March 19.

Check out each band's Web site: www.Black47.com and www.McCarthyizm.com

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SBU professor launches Web site on psychological well-being in higher education

Dr. Charles Walker, professor of psychology at St. Bonaventure University, believes that psychological well-being in higher education matters and he's spent more than a decade developing ways to measure it. He's now launched a Web site – www.wellbeingincollege.org – in order to share those results with others.

“If it is in the mission of some colleges and universities to improve the psychological well-being of their students and faculty, then this new Web site will help them achieve it,” said Walker. “Its purpose is to help faculty, students, staff and administrators become better agents of well-being.”

Recent research finds that colleges and universities that promote psychological well-being are more apt to have students and staff who are regularly cheerful and have a zest for life, who welcome challenges and opportunities for growth, and who embrace diversity and find meaning in social groups, said Walker.

Those individuals are also more likely to live longer, healthier lives, suffer less depression, be more creative, and have deeper, more stable relationships.

The Web site delivers and scores well-being inventories for faculty or students, then gives them immediate results. For those who take a well-being inventory, concise PDF documents are available to provide interpretive information and specific suggestions for strengthening psychological well-being. However, the site is also designed for use by development staff or institutional researchers.

“Institutional researchers will like the database functions it provides,” said Walker. “They can add useful respondent questions to an inventory then query their unique database online or download a copy of it after all the respondents have finished.”

The Web site also has a blog (under construction) that will give visitors updates on best-practices in the promotion of well-being and discussions of trends in higher education that may affect human well-being.

“I hope the site becomes a virtual meeting place for those interested in applying research and theory on positive psychology to higher education,” said Walker. Those interested in learning more about well-being in college are welcome to contact Walker at cwalker@sbu.edu.

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Service learning trips to state prisons offered at SBU

By Liz Wordelmann, '10

Students at St. Bonaventure University have the opportunity to participate in service learning trips to state prisons.

In the fall semester of 2005, Fr. Bob Struzynski, O.F.M., began this program to provide experiential learning through service to those in prison. As a result of a high-demand to go on past trips, this semester the program was able to double the amount of dates offered to students. The program offers trips to Gowanda Correctional Facility and Attica Correctional Facility.

“The service part is fulfilled by visiting men in prison, some of whom get no visits at all, and listening to them tell their stories helps in the healing process of the tragedy resulting from a bad decision,” Struzynski said. For this semester there will be trips to Attica Wednesday, April 7, and 28 and May 5, along with Friday, March 26, April 9 and 23.

For Gowanda there will be trips offered Wednesday, March 10, and 24 and April 14. The Gowanda trip will have 13 students each trip and the Attica trip will have three students each trip as well. Both trips fill up quickly and Attica has a waiting list because only students 21 or older may go.

To go to Gowanda a student only needs to request to go three weeks ahead of time to be approved by Albany, but for Attica there is more extensive paperwork because participants are considered a new volunteer for this one trip to prison.

For the Attica trip, entrance to the prison is part of a volunteer program called Cephas. This program runs group therapy sessions in prison and then gives men coming out of prison a place to live while they make the transition back into society. The students sit in the therapy group and after a regular volunteer begins the discussion, everyone participates in accordance with his or her level of comfort. Prisoners will discuss why they are in prison and seek to discover why they may have made bad decisions.

The student-volunteers sometimes relate to the prisoners and share their stories with them as well.

“The result is a group where very good things happen in terms of insights, support and sometimes confrontation that brings deeper honesty with oneself and awareness of what must be changed if someone is going to be successful in society,” Struzynski said. The Gowanda program is similar except there is a tour of the prison and the participants sit down with men who have been convicted of driving while intoxicated (DWI) felonies. After this, students hold a discussion with three of the inmates.

As a result of her trip to the Gowanda prison in Spring 2009, Jen Dempsey, '12, started helping Struzynski with the program this past fall. She enjoyed the trip and was offered the opportunity to work with the program, and thought it would be a great chance to grow.

“Going in and visiting the prisons and having discussions with inmates can be a very reflective experience,” Dempsey said.

This program can be used for University Forum Local Action Project (LAP) hours and many seniors take advantage of this opportunity. Students also visit the prison because they are looking to go into fields related to law or the justice system or they think it may be something interesting to do.

For more information on the Prison Ministry Program, contact Jen Dempsey at jdempsejc@sbu.edu or Fr. Bob Struzynski, O.F.M, at rstruzyn@sbu.edu.

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Friday Forum

Date: March 12

Time: 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Location: University Club

Speaker: Dr. John Vena

Title: "Pollution in the Great Lakes and its Effect Upon Health"

Summary: Dr. Vena, a St. Bonaventure graduate (Biology) and a native of Olean, is head of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of Georgia's College of Public Health. Dr. Vena is a fellow of the American College of Epidemiology and the American Epidemiological Society, and has published extensively in cancer epidemiology, especially on breast, lung and bladder cancer. Vena presently serves on the Scientific Advisory Board for the Environmental Protection Agency

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Newsmakers

Darwin L. King, professor of accounting, and Dr. Carl J. Case, professor of business information systems, presented their paper titled "The Evolving Mission Statement: An Essential Communication Tool" at the 17th Annual International Conference of the American Society of Business and Behavior Sciences (ASBBS). The conference was held in Las Vegas Feb. 18-21, 2010. The paper received a "Best Paper of a Track" award at the honor's banquet held Feb. 20, 2010. Less than 10 percent of the papers presented at this conference received this award. Articles winning the best paper award are published in the ASBBS e-Journal.

Dr. Kimberly Young, professor of management sciences, appeared on Foxnews.com. She was quoted in the story "World Bank's Online Game Isn't a Real-World Solution, Critics Say" that outlined the benefits and limitations of using online gaming to help promote service learning. Young was quoted as saying she believes online gaming to be one way to help teach young people service values.

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