

Updated menu and conveniences give JSC cafeterias fresh appeal

Online ordering, right-to-your-office delivery and a more diverse menu are just a few of the newest cafeteria features added in recent months. The JSC cafeteria staff and management team say they are committed to filling their customers needs and changing your perception of onsite dining.

"I am trying to change the cafeteria with the times," said Gary Novominsky, manager for the past year and a half. "The last thing I want is for people to look at the calendar and say, 'Oh, it's Tuesday - which means its fried chicken day.' I am striving for 'Hmm, I wonder what they are serving in the cafeteria today?'"

And these days, it could be anything. Although popular favorites, such as chicken fried steak and the catfish special, remain on the menu, more often than not, you'll find new, more upscale dishes you might not expect to see from an employee cafeteria - things like pan-grilled flounder, roast pork loin with spiced apples or blackened snapper with wine sauce.

"I want to change their attitude and perception of cafeteria food," adds

Novominsky. "I am trying more high-end entrees, such as stuffed cod, that you normally wouldn't find. I've got to eat here every day too, and it's important to me that it's good food and good quality."

Although the cafeterias have a loyal customer base, Novominsky noticed many customers pick up food to go, and patronize the cafeteria for convenience. He launched a pizza delivery service that has enjoyed strong success and expanded the delivery service to include box lunches.

"Picking up food to go is fairly convenient for those close to the cafeterias, and when you are in a rush or having a busy day, the delivery service can be really helpful," said Novominsky.

"But for people in the far-reaching buildings, it's a challenge. My goal is to feed everyone on site and get service out to as many people as possible."

Technology is helping. The cafeteria team recently unveiled a new,

improved Web site that enables employees to order delivery items from their desktop. Additionally, users can preview the upcoming menu, find out about



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Many of the cafeteria's popular menu items come from employee suggestions, such as the famed cinnamon rolls in Bldg. 11. "Baking is fun!" said Ilet Joseph, who begins each day at 6 a.m. to begin preparing the homemade kolaches and cinnamon rolls. "People line up for them!"



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JSC cafeteria cooks serve up popular favorites as well as new, flavorful delicacies. Shown here, left to right, Clara Thompson, Jeannette Siems, Delia Skinner, and Viola Conrad display their cooking pride.

special events and prices for catering office events. The Web site is www.hro.jsc.nasa.gov/cafe.

Each day, the cafeteria serves breakfast or lunch to more than 2,000 people, many of them regulars who've made eating at the cafeteria part of their routine.

"Some of our favorite customers come every day and eat the same thing, sit at the same table," said Novominsky. Frequently, it's the kitchen staff that bring them back.

Rudy Marenty, retired after 35 years as a JSC engineer, continues to come to the cafeteria each Wednesday.

"I've made a lot of friends here over

the years," said Marenty. "They are people I've gotten to know day in and day out. Plus I like the more relaxed environment and the variety. This gives me a chance to see visit with some of my friends and buddies."

Across from the table sits one of his former coworkers, Roy Bellard, who also regularly comes to the Bldg. 11 cafeteria for breakfast and lunch.

"I love it for the convenience," said Bellard. "And the staff is very nice."

Sumptuous meals combined with a friendly, service-oriented staff have given JSC's cafeterias a winning combination.

Take the taste test and see for yourself. ■



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Bldg. 11 Cafeteria - Shown left to right, back row: Lotfollah Sadeghian, Brian Plitt, Minnie Daniels, Thelma Felicien, Shirley Williams, Zlatuse Kertesz, Joyce Thomas, Muriel Bloir, Wai Ching Mui. Front row: Nhon Nguyen (Bldg. 11 supervisor), Ilet Joseph, Cindy Barnes, Hung Lam, Prisisima Agustin, and Hai Thi Nguyen.



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Bldg. 3 Cafeteria - Shown left to right, back row: Viola Conrad, Zella Crawley, Elizabeth Sarmiento, Irenie Louis, Yvette Burton, Clara Thompson, Jeanette Siems, Delia Skinner, Yolanda Gonzales. Middle row: Beverly Trivitt, Nga Giang, Debbie Trussell, Pamela Bryant, Cecelia Guzman, Mary Martin, Ngu nu Ton, Lee Moreland, Beatrice Fey. Bottom row: Marvin Coleman, Sandra Guzman, and Roy Trussell.