

Carleton College

One North College Street
Northfield, Minnesota 55057

April 2, 2008

To: Carleton Community
From: Dining Task Force
Subject: Dining Recommendation

Since September 2007, the Dining Task Force has been working toward a recommendation for the future of Carleton's dining program. The outcome of this recommendation will be a new five year contract with a food management company. During the process, the Task Force solicited qualifications from fourteen companies, invited four companies to respond to a request for proposals and deliberated at length over the proposals submitted by two finalists, Sodexo Campus Services and Bon Appétit Management Company. The research included visits by task force members to see these vendors at multiple campuses around the country and in-depth interviews on the Carleton campus with the finalists.

It is the unanimous recommendation of the Dining Task Force that Carleton contract with Bon Appétit Management Company to operate Carleton Dining Services, effective July 1, 2008. This recommendation has been reviewed by and has the full support of Carleton's Administrative Council. Bon Appétit will provide food in the two residential dining halls, Burton and East, the Snack Bar in Sayles-Hill Campus Center and all catering services. The final choice was made on the basis of Bon Appétit's commitment to fresh, locally grown, sustainable food sources, chef-driven menus and the sense of alignment and commitment between Carleton's values and Bon Appétit's approach to food selection, preparation and nutritional philosophy.

Bon Appétit was founded in 1987. In 2001, Bon Appétit became a wholly owned subsidiary of the Compass Group USA, headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina. This is a division of Compass Group, PLC, a global food service company headquartered in Great Britain. In Minnesota, Bon Appétit also provides Macalester College and St. Olaf College with residential dining programs, as well as corporate dining for Target and Best Buy corporate headquarters, and public dining at the Guthrie Theater among others. More information about Bon Appétit Management Company can be found at www.bamco.com.

During the next three months we ask that you extend thanks to all of the highly dedicated Sodexo management and culinary team members as they help the College prepare for the transition to a new team. Carleton's relationship with Sodexo has an almost 40 year history and the college has been well served by many individuals over that time, including current General Manager, Joe Winegardner, and his entire Sodexo team. We urge everyone on campus to be understanding of the necessary anxiety which individuals may be feeling, and to express their appreciation and support during the transition.

Bon Appétit expects to offer employment to all of the current Sodexo employees who are members of the Operating Engineers union. When they finalize their staffing plans and job assignments, they will provide the opportunity for union employees to bid on new positions. At the present time, Bon Appétit anticipates no reduction in work force as a result of this transition.

We anticipate only minor physical changes to the dining halls and Snack Bar this summer, in part because the time is too short to do more. During the next two years we expect that there will be more extensive renovations of Burton, the Snack Bar in Sayles Hill and East Dining Hall as Bon Appétit and the College develop experience with their new dining concepts and student response and Carleton opens two new residence halls. We do not anticipate adding a new dining venue during this period, other than the ongoing discussions of dining/café options at the proposed new Arts Union.

In closing, we want to thank the members of the campus community who have given so generously of their time and energy assisting the Task Force in this important work for the College. For those who have questions about this transition, please contact a member of the Task Force (shown below) or see a list of Frequently Asked Questions which are posted on the Dining Services website at <http://go.carleton.edu/dining>.

Dining Task Force:

Fred Rogers, Vice President and Treasurer; Co-Chair
Hudlin Wagner, Dean of Students; Co-Chair
Dan Bergeson, Auxiliary Services
Vera Chang '09
Chris Clark, Alumni Annual Fund
Leah Greenberg '08
Amanda Hess '08
Cedrina Knight, Admissions
Leon Lunder, Professor, PEAR
Brent Nystrom, Alumni Affairs
Kris Parker, Student Financial Services
Evan Rowe '09
Bucky Zietz, Associate Dean of Students