Serving It Up
Student Union cafeteria gets new look, new menu

The recently renovated Cane Break Cafeteria in UL Lafayette’s Student Union offers a taste of Louisiana hospitality.

A mural of a cypress bayou beckons, while an expanded menu includes regional comfort foods such as jambalaya, shrimp and crawfish étouffée.

Cane Break Cafeteria, which seats 312 people, serves three meals a day on weekdays. Diners can choose to eat meals there or get their food to go, tucked inside a Styrofoam® container. On the daily menu: a salad bar, burgers, grilled chicken, pizza, pasta and a variety of desserts. International cuisine choices include stir-fried teriyaki chicken, eggplant parmesan and grilled chicken fajitas.

Sodexo Dining Services operates other eateries on campus, including Café de Lafayette, a small dining room on the second floor of the Student Union that offers a lunch buffet.

Students who live on campus are
required to buy one of four meal plans. Those plans include a declining cash balance that can be used at dining locations across campus.

Sodexo’s Jazzman’s Coffee Shop and Bakery opened this fall in the atrium of Edith Garland Dupré Library. It offers specialty coffees, pastries, salads and sandwiches. Jazzman’s can seat 42 people; there are outlets for computer laptops as well as wireless Internet service.

Sodexo invested about $850,000 in the renovation of Cane Break Cafeteria and construction of Jazzman’s, according to its general manager, Patrick Pappion. Sodexo is the second largest company that operates university food service programs in the United States.

The addition of Jazzman’s Café and Bakery is just part of a plan to transform the first floor of Dupré Library into a “learning commons.”

Dr. Charles Triche, dean of Libraries and a professor of library science, says that term describes a trend in university libraries. The ultimate goal is to make the library as convenient and useful to students as possible.

For starters, the “learning commons” takes away the “Shhhhhh.” Triche says students will be encouraged to talk with each other and collaborate on projects, without worrying about making too much noise.

In addition to an existing reference desk, a tutoring center, the English Department’s writing lab and a state-of-the-art photocopy center will be located on the first floor.

Students will be able to check out laptop computers for use in the library and there will be a help desk if they need assistance with computer hardware or software.

What will happen to the books that are now on the first floor? They’ll “disappear” to the third floor, Triche says.