

SODEXO WORKERS RECEIVE SUPPORT



Submitted Photo

Sophomore Liz Marler, left, and junior Adam Manahan pose with the quilt they made for Sodexo employees at Ryle Hall. More than 250 students participated in the creation of the quilt, Marler said.

BY ANNA SELLE
Staff Reporter

Regular patrons of the Ryle Hall dining hall used February to celebrate the behind the scenes work of members of the dining hall staff.

During the past month, students showed their gratitude for the men and women who prepare students' food and keep the dining facility clean and running. From bringing flowers to staff members on Valentine's Day to organizing a paper quilt made of notes thanking the workers for coming in during the snow day, some students have demonstrated how much the work done by the Sodexo staff means to those who rely on them for food every day.

"We had to have a program on the snow day," said junior Adam Manahan, a student advisor who organized a program to thank the Sodexo staff.

He said they decided to put six-by-six inch scraps of paper sheets in front of the cafeteria, so that as people came to lunch they could just write a note of appreciation for the dining hall staff. He said students stapled

all the paper squares together and made a huge paper quilt and presented it to the Sodexo Manager.

Manahan and sophomore Liz Marler, the student advisors for the south side of the fourth floor in Ryle Hall, said they felt compelled to show their appreciation for the dedication of the Sodexo staff to come in to work even when the weather prevented students from having class.

"I think that probably over 250 students participated," Marler said. "We had 190 slips of paper, but multiple students signed each one."

Individual students also found ways to express their gratitude toward the staff. Sophomore Codi Caton brought flowers to all of the Sodexo staff working in Ryle on Valentine's Day, including the men, to show his gratitude.

"I woke up early and went and bought flowers for the Sodexo staff in Ryle cafeteria," Caton said.

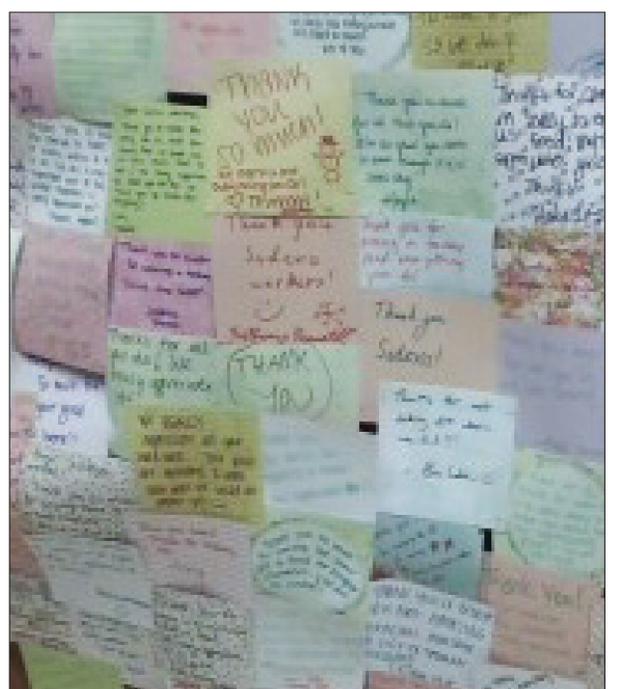
He said he went up to Janice, a staff member, and gave her the flowers for the people who work in the back and then

he personally delivered flowers to workers at the food stations. He said it was a little scary because he could tell that some of them were a little apprehensive to be getting flowers from a strange man who didn't really know them, but the next day they seemed pretty happy and asked if he was the one that had brought the flowers.

Caton said this act of appreciation stemmed from a place of deep gratitude and appreciation for the way the Sodexo staff becomes an embedded part of on-campus residence living.

"These women and men who work at Sodexo are more than workers," Caton said. "They become a part of our lifestyle. We associate our meals with our family and the people we love, and it's the same thing with Sodexo. We see these people every day."

Marler, Manahan and Caton all suggest striking up a simple conversation with the people who swipe students into the dining hall or that serve food, thanking each worker by name or even just smiling to demonstrate appreciation and gratitude.



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The paper quilt presented to Sodexo staff was comprised of six-by-six squares of paper thank yous. The paper quilt was one of the efforts to show gratitude to the staff.