The best of Birmingham food

The editors of The Samford Crimson have been all over the city and picked their favorite foods in town. From quick eats to main courses to desserts, this list is full of delicious dishes that keep these Crimson staff members coming back for more. As the semesters wrap up, take your taste buds to one of these restaurants and get the most out of the last weeks of classes. Happy eating!

Breakfast

Strawberry Crepes from the Original House of Pancakes Five Points South
“The sweetness of the crepes mixes perfectly with the fresh strawberries. Accented with the homemade whip cream, this breakfast dish is a fusion of flavors in your mouth.”
- Carol Anne Autry, Expressions Editor

Pastry from Klinger’s 621 Montgomery Hwy., Vestavia Hills
“This authentic German bakery and café offers delightful pastries for the perfect relaxing weekend morning. The owners recommended several pastries, and I decided on an apple strudel stick. It was sweet without being sugary or heavy, and it was just the right size. At only about $2 a pastry, I will definitely be trying every one Klinger’s offers.”
- Emily Leithauser, Expressions Editor

Lunch and Dinner

Quesadillas from La Paz Mountain Brook
“Every day Tria offers an array of sauces, meats, vegetables and types of noodles, sure to satisfy everyone’s taste buds. I believe the sauce makes the pasta, and the sauces at Tria do just that. All organic, each sauce contains the perfect amount of spice and garlic. Creamy pesto would have to be my top pick, but none have ever let me down.”
- Carol Anne Autry, Expressions Editor

Chicken Salad Torrado from Jackson’s Bar and Bistro Sotto Square
“I think I’m stuck in a rut because I order this every time I go to Jackson’s, but it’s so good I can’t help it. Their chicken salad has mandarin oranges in it, and it tastes like it has some sweet and sour dressing in it. It’s wrapped in a spinach tortilla and grilled so that the cheese inside melts. The price is very affordable too, so I don’t cringe when I have to pay.”
- Emily Leithauser, Expressions Editor

Pulu Pnumodora from Bettolo Warehouse District on 2nd Ave. S and 26th Street
“This is definitely my favorite thing in Birmingham! It might just be the most amazing chicken sandwich ever created and the atmosphere at Bettolo is comfortable with enough swank that you feel like you could be in New York City.”
- Bennett Sumner, Editor-in-Chief

Crawfish Boil joins music, food, crowds

SILAS SCHNEIDTZE
THE SAMFORD CRIMSON

What do you get when you combine 15,000 pounds of crawfish, one stage, 11 international performers, one Fer-galicious headliner, 40,000 people and two hot spring nights in downtown Birmingham? The 2008 Schaeffer Eye Center Crawfish Boil.

The Crawfish Boil officially began 14 years ago when Jack Schaeffer was looking for a sponsorship opportunity for his Birmingham-based company, the Schaeffer Eye Center.

The Crawfish tradition began in 1996 in the backyard of Birmingham residents Aaron and Phyllis Bean with 50 pounds of crawfish. As the story goes, the backyard party grew so popular through the years that the Beans discovered that their guests would get invitations “for free” and then sell them.

Aaron started charging admission into his crawfish boil and giving the proceeds to charity. The event eventually got too big for Aaron to handle by himself, so Schaeffer stepped in.

The first Schaeffer Eye Center Crawfish Boil in 1998 was in the Lakeside area of downtown Birmingham with five bands. 3,000 people showed up to the free event that still managed to raise $15,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Since then, the event has grown into a two-day affair that averages 30-40,000 people.

The artists have become bigger with time as well. Through the years, the event has attracted big names such as Sister Hazel, Cowboy Mouth, Jason Mraz, The Wallflowers, Huey and the Blowfish, Gin Blossoms, Blues Traveler and Lyle.

Schaeffer said the event has grown so big that it is known more as a community event than a charity fundraiser, although Camp Smith-A-Mile remains a major recipient of proceeds from the event.

The Crawfish Boil is Friday and Saturday night with some of the biggest names in the festival has ever featured including Seether, T-Pain, Flo Rida, Corey Smith, Gavin DeGraw, Fergie and others.

The event will be held at the BJC this year due to construction on the rooftop site.

Tickets are $20 in advance, and the price goes up at the door. To order tickets, visit www.ticketmaster.com.
Fifteen minutes of fame: John Cooley

Matthew Roberts
The Samford Crimson

While playing a young man in a mental institution, senior theatre major John Cooley inspired fellow students to plan up for themselves in “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest.”

Cooley then pr!ntly reflected on the 1ungen of creating the atomic bomb for the Allies by portraying a physicist in “Copenhagen.”

A Birmingham native, Cooley has always had a passion for acting. As a child he performed scenes from his family from Michael Keaton’s 1998 “Batman” movie with Jack Nicholson as the Joker. Instead of playing hokkies with his neighborhood kids, he played Star Wars with them and made up different characters, voices and habits.

At Samford, Cooley has been able to act in numerous plays, such as “Blithe Spirit,” “Boys Next Door,” “Shadowlands” and “Electra.”

During this year his passion for acting was put to the test. Cooley received lead roles in “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest,” “Twelfth Night,” “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” and “Copenhagen.”

Cooley said portraying these characters has challenged his acting skills and has further defined his way of thinking.

“You can’t help but walk away from these plays without thinking about it,” Cooley said.

“Those plays really hit you. With ‘Cuckoo’s Nest’ you play a character who saves other characters who can’t really save themselves. With ‘Copenhagen,’ you have these characters who talk about how mankind has created these things that could potentially destroy itself. We have the potential to destroy and save ourselves and others.

Cooley said the only thing that satisfies him more than hearing uncontrollable laughter from the audience after one of his lines is when he can leave the audience thinking about a play’s message. He said the reaction from the audience who saw “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” left him utterly gratified.

“I will never forget the response that ‘Cuckoo’s Nest’ got,” Cooley said. “That was the one I was most worried about. A lot of people really have high expectations. I feel like I did it at least enough justice. I feel like I did it at least enough justice.

Cooley admits that he struggled with the immense number of lines he had to memorize as Neil Bbor in “Copenhagen.” It was probably the hardest character he has ever done, he said.

Cooley said he was fascinated by the mindset of both, a World War II scientist who was instrumental in creating the technology neccessary for the production of the atomic bomb.

“The scientists who discovered the technology of the atomic bomb probably weren’t thinking about the consequences of what would happen,” Cooley said. “You become so overwhelmed by such a huge discovery that you don’t want to think. Should we do this? What is this going to yield?”

He said he believes too many people forget what he calls “trickiness curiously.”

“Life is kind of a chess game. What you don’t go in to affect just you. I feel like a lot of people have this destructive potential.

“A lot of people live by it, and it makes it really difficult for the people who don’t want to live that way,” Cooley said.

One particular line from “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” sticks with Cooley.

“Randle McMurphy, a mental patient who failed at pulling an electric box out of the wall even when his fellow patient told him it was impossible, said ‘At least I tried.’”

“That line really hits me because that way of thinking has really stuck with me for a long time,” Cooley said. “When I was growing up, I was always kind of a nerd and a bookworm. But I was always willing to give something a shot, willing to embarrass myself.”

Cooley said he determined to know his legacy in the acting world. He said he simply believes he can reach people and challenge them through understanding and portraying others.

After graduation Cooley is interested in either going to Hollywood. New York or even to do voice acting for the Atlanta-based Adult Swim, which appears late on a night on Cartoon Network.

“When that quark strikes is what I’ll go for,” he said.

Howard Showcase honors volunteer work

Lindsay Vaughan
The Samford Crimson

The second annual Howard Showcase, an event honoring students who have dedicated themselves to service, will be held this Saturday. While the Howard Showcase is a competition, it is most important an exhibition of specific charities and the work students have done with these organizations.

Sophomore admission major Sandra Warren, junior majoring in Camille Karat and freshman journalism and mass communication major unnamed Peoples are this year’s director of the event.

“The Howard Showcase is an amazing program that really should light on different opportunities to serve in the community,” Warren said. “It is meant to honor those who have provided and time into an organization.

Samford graduate Claire Kimbry started the Howard Showcase last year. The tradition continues this year and highlights the achievements of four students.

“Just like the contents we had last year, our contents this year are very passionate people who truly love to serve,” Warren said.

This year the showcase will feature sophomore Mary Beth Gilbert representing Student Go, junior biochemistry and classics major Kara Graves representing Camp ASCCA, senior journalism and mass communication major Danielle McDonald representing Habitat for Humanity and freshman international relations major Parker Bobson representing Standing with Hope.

“The Howard Showcase is a good vehicle to raise awareness for my cause within the Samford community. I am honored to be nominated by my professors and faculty,” Warren said.

At the event, each of the four students will give a presentation about the organization they work with and the type of work that they do with that organization. All proceeds will go to the organization that the winning student represents.

“The Howard Showcase is an awesome testament of how much one person can do and is really a motivation for all of us to serve,” Warren said.

Tickets are $5 for students and are being sold Wednesday through Friday in the Davis Center and at the Brock Recital Hall from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tickets will also be sold at the door Saturday starting at 7 p.m. The second annual Howard Showcase will take place Saturday, May 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Brock Recital Hall.

Students featured at the Howard Showcase have been working with Habitat for Humanity, Student Go, Children’s Hospital and Camp ASCCA. Presentations are on Saturday at 7:30 p.m.