

Hey, Good Lookin' . . . What's Cookin'?

I stumbled into the right place at the right time: Campus Center kitchen, just before lunch time on Thursday.

Kathy Finkenstadt's minions scurried about, carrying trays of hot-out-of-the-oven macaroons or Dutch Babies. One is making croissants from scratch. Another prepping lamb for the grill. Having cooked yakisoba and latkes earlier this week. All sauces made from scratch. No pre-packaged anything.

An apple strudel floats past me at eye level. Jeremy's rack of lamb is ready to eat. Emily shows me the matcha and strawberry Cheesecake she made, extracting it from the walk-in cooler as evidence.

Naveen's got a slab of pork loin he's marinated in an all-from-scratch sauce (think chili peppers, garlic, onions). He's got a whole beheaded pineapple bookending the pork on a metal skewer. Bakes it with some chemical magic happening between the pineapple juice and the marinade. He's excited about the results. It smells awesome.

Katie made turkey burgers with Worcestershire sauce and cheddar cheese mixed into the ground turkey patties. Something like ciabatta buns with avocado and caramelized onions on top. This I tasted and ascended to 3<sup>rd</sup> circle of culinary Valhalla.

Holly and Kail made tiramisu. Oh boy. Holly said, "I was nervous. Then I sort of winged it."

Transported to Rome in a 1960 Fiat, I landed just west of the Pantheon.

Stephen Ringo

Casual Observer