Making a Splash at the Palladium

NYU’s Palladium Residence Hall is well known for a number of things. Sunday brunch in the dining hall, which includes fantastic waffles with all kinds of delicious toppings. Part-time job and internship guidance at the Wasserman Center for Career Development. And one of the best indoor swimming pools in all of New York City!

Every weekday, NYU’s swimming and diving teams practice at the pool. College of Arts and Science student Molly Rippe notes the amount of effort that the teams put into their training programs: “While the 6 a.m. practices can be quite tough, it is exciting to know that our work will pay off in big ways at our upcoming meets.” And indeed it did; this year both the men’s and women’s teams landed in the national top-20 rankings for the first time ever.

You don’t have to be a varsity swimmer to take advantage of the natatorium with its L-shaped pool, diving well, and plenty of kickboards, fins, and aqua belts. During daily free swim time, students do laps or practice their diving. Students can also choose from a variety of swim classes geared to their ability level; not only do they get in better shape but they also become better swimmers.

Experience the World... with Your Roommates

Through many of the Explorations programs in the residence halls, students get to know their floormates and the international communities that surround NYU. Each of the Explorations Borns has a theme; some of the global themes include Takeoffs and Landings (building community between study away students), World Cultures (striving to respect and embody New York City’s “melting pot”), and French House floor (celebrating French culture). Torry McKillop, an RA on the Global Citizen floor of Founders Hall, has organized trips to the United Nations, Little Italy’s San Gennaro Festival, the Tenement Museum’s Lower East Side Food Tour, Ellis Island, and the Statue of Liberty. From her perspective, students become global citizens as they experience the viewpoints of other cultures right here in New York City. “Before we go on an outing, we prepare. We screened The Godfather to prompt a discussion about cultural stereotypes before the trip to Little Italy, and we’ve attended lectures at the NYUAD Institute and the Taub Center for Israel Studies. My main goal is for my residents to understand how history is playing an active role today—from what food we eat to how different countries interact.”

Alternative Spring Break from Georgia to Ghana

By the time spring break rolls around, most college students are thinking about two activities: going home to sleep or spending the week on a tropical beach. But every year at NYU, almost 300 ambitious students use their time off to take an Alternative Spring Break to serve communities and join social and environmental movements worldwide, often while earning credit through a service-learning course. This year, one group of students traveled to Nicaragua to advocate for women’s issues, while another went to Ghana as health educators. Closer to home, a third group helped build low-income housing in Tennessee.

According to Steinhardt student Stephanie Jung, wherever you go, the best part of taking an Alternative Break is the connections forged with fellow NYU students. “I owe the deep sense of community I share with my floormates to the time we spent together in Georgia working with inner-city youth,” says Stephanie, who was inspired to continue her commitment to service in the New York City community.

The “Best of” NYU Dining

Based on a student opinion poll, the best cookies are at Hayden Hall. Have a hankering for a hamburger? The Burger Studio at the University Hall Commons is the place to go. Want French fries? Try Chick-fil-A at Weinstein Hall, where the Passports feature station also wins for its authentic flavors from around the globe.

The overall “Best Location” is the MarketPlace at the Kimmel Center because of its popular food court options, which include the Italian Market, Habanero (Mexican), Halal, To-Go Sushi, and Yolato frozen yogurt. The MarketPlace was also voted best for its salad bar and deli sandwiches. Maybe most important, it wins hands-down for the best pizza on campus.

While the “Best of” competition was all about classic college student fare, NYU’s dining options are not all about junk food. Some of the Dining Consciousness options include Smart Choices, Just Vegan, Sustainable Seafood, and Smart Portions.