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1 Bursley dining advertised themed dinners in advance to heighten the popularity, through both flyers and online. Photo by Rivan Stinson.

2 Arthur Menor works at the Bursley dining hall. Students both appreciate the UM dining staff and the clever dishes created for Bursley's themed dinners. One of the most popular theme foods was Butterbeer, served on Harry Potter night. Photo by Rivan Stinson.

3 With exceptional desserts on a normal basis, Bursley dining uped it one more for themed dinners. Harry Potter's Cauldron Cakes and diverse desserts kept students interested in trying out new themes. Photo by Rivan Stinson.

4 For those who found some of the themes too adventurous, the reliable sandwich bar was always open and customizing sandwiches for students. Photo by Rivan Stinson.

A LITTLE BIT OF SOUL AND HARRY POTTER

WRITTEN BY KAITLIN SCHULER. DESIGNED BY CIERA CLAYBORNE.

Not many people would willingly venture to North Campus just for a meal. However, for the themed dinners at Bursley, a good number of students do just that. LSA junior Brianna Jackson, a former Bursley resident and staff member, commented on the increased popularity at Bursley on themed dinner nights. "There is definitely an increase in students when the meal is themed, particularly a theme that students and staff can relate to," she said. "It can get crowded and chaotic but I'm grateful to see people supporting the dinners because the dining staff works hard to make it a successful event." Jackson added that the themes she remembered the most were Harry Potter, desserts from around the world and soul food night. "Harry Potter was by far my favorite because the food represents another land and there's something exotic about eating food that 'doesn't exist,'" she said. "The decorations also transported us to Hogwarts and added to the authenticity."

A novelty to new students each year, themed dinners at Bursley occur two to three times a semester. LSA junior Timothy Smith, a student manager in Bursley dining, gave his views on the frequency of themed dinners. "Having themed dinners this frequently is good because it allows for the students to occasionally have a different experience in the dining hall. If we did themed dinners too often, they would not be as special and exciting." There were always new suggestions brought to Bursley dining for the themed dinners. Smith suggested dinners to align with movie premiers, such as "The Hobbit." Jackson suggested "Fancy Friday," where all students would dress in their best clothing and sit at tables with proper tablecloths, napkins and silverware. "Dressing up is fun and this theme would be a fun way to be fancy in the dorms for one night. Besides, wouldn't it be awesome to see the dining hall in a fancy light?" Whether it be fancy clothes or cloaks and wands, themed dinners brought some fun back into University dining, and gave students a break from reality.

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