

Feeding the Presidential Candidates

University of Mississippi

The University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) in University was the site for the first 2008 Presidential Debate between Sen. John McCain (R – Ariz.) and now-President Barack Obama on Sept. 26, 2008.



PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE
THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI
SEPTEMBER 26, 2008

During the course of the week-long preparation, there were 189 events, and Aramark, the food and catering provider at Ole Miss, and Ole Miss Dining and Catering served 21,046 guests related to the debate. To help with the week's endless tasks, 15 managers and three chefs from the Aramark Higher Education Southern Region came to assist the Ole Miss team.

In the debate location, the Gertrude C. Ford Center of Performing Arts, employees provided meals and snack service from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. daily during the week of the debate to Commission members, as well as crew and others. The Commission on Presidential Debates was impressed with the quality of service and provided two private box seats for two employees to see the historic debate in person.

Aramark served both McCain and Obama while they prepared for the debate in the on-campus Ole Miss hotel, Inn at Ole Miss. Students who work for Ole Miss Catering received a chance of a lifetime by delivering food to one of the future presidents of the United States.

Inside the debate compound, the company provided a 30-foot-by-20-foot air-conditioned commissary tent that served media and support staff on a retail basis. Customers could enjoy a variety of selections for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Hofstra University

Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y. was the host of the final 2008 Presidential Debate on Oct. 15.

Lackmann Culinary Services was proud to be the foodservice provider for the event. More than 120 managers and staff from Lackmann Culinary Services, the campus foodservice provider, were credentialed and corporate and regional support came from all over to make this a successful week.

The company worked closely with multiple Hofstra University departments on campus and Anheuser-Busch, one of the sponsors of the debates, to ensure all events and services were delivered and executed according to plan.

"We thank Hofstra University for the opportunity and value the partnership we have formed over the years," said Matthew Lackmann, co-chairman.

Events started on the Friday prior to the debates as the company catered to the Commission on Presidential Debates and set up a mobile dining venue in a central location for convenient access for the media staff on site. Months prior to the debate, a Presidential Catering Menu was tailored and designed for this event. It was available online to streamline the catering process and offer flexibility.

With six days of catering leading up to the debate, Lackmann catered a total of 224 catered events, 77 of which were



on Oct. 15. Food service was provided for 18 hours each day, feeding 3,000 media staff, 400 Hofstra staff, 1,000 debate attendees, politicians and the campaign staff and candidates. All food was prepared from scratch on campus utilizing six kitchens operating simultaneously. Upscale dining was provided at the University Club on campus for meetings, private dinners and functions.

On Oct. 15th, 18 dining locations on campus continued to operate normal hours and services, in addition to the two satellite locations and catering, for a total of 26,000 customers served in one day.

"Lackmann Culinary Services is honored to be part of something so historic right at Hofstra University, and providing the highest levels of service and customer care on a continuous basis is how we continue to be successful as a company," said Andrew Lackmann, co-chairman. "It is a great accomplishment of our team and our company, representing Hofstra University during the debates."

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