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Chili Cook-Off a Smash

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Ten USF St. Petersburg culinary enthusiasts competed in the annual campus Chili Cook-Off hosted by the Office of Multicultural Affairs on Jan. 23, but only some could earn placement and bragging rights for the year to come.

Interim Regional Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Steve Neilson took first place in the chili category with "Steve and Nancy’s Chili" and Jennifer Quinn-Taylor’s, student life coordinator, "Hearty Chili" won second place.

In the soup category, Greta Scheid-Wells, senior admissions and registrar officer, won first place with her "Yellow Pea and Garlic Soup" and Peter Rutledge, coordinator of tutoring services, took second place with his "Coconut Ginger Lime Chicken Soup."

"The event was fun," Rutledge said. "Last year I lost big time with my Healthy Turkey Chili, so I changed my strategy and opted for a more appetizing and less 'healthy' recipe. Although, I couldn’t abandon the health factor completely and used light coconut milk to reduce the fat content."

Matt Morrin, director of student life, won first place in the chowder category with his recipe "Kicken Chicken Chowder."

Brian Akins, residence life coordinator, Tom Hallock, Ph.D. assistant professor in the College of Arts and Sciences, Diane McKinstry, Ph.D., director of the Academic Success Center, Zac Oppenheim, watercraft coordinator, Teresa Przetocki, aquatic programs coordinator, Vernon Smith, USFSP recruiter, served as judges this year.

"We had a lot of good submissions this year," said La-Tarri Canty, multicultural affairs coordinator. "The campus community enjoys this event every year, I can’t wait to see what recipes people will bring next year."

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