



Co-owner Jerry Li stands next to his nephew Edison Lu in their family-owned restaurant LuLu's Seafood and Dim Sum Oct. 5. The two spent nearly every day together greeting customers, serving their famous Cantonese food and maintaining the restaurant. "The restaurant is a family business. The whole family is working together and contributing their skills to keep the restaurant alive," Lu said. (Photo by Vincent Hsiao)

Living Through

STORY BY MADELINE AWAD & MASON EASTMAN

LuLu's

Edison Lu describes balancing school and his family's business, LuLu's Seafood and Dim Sum

WE DON'T GET days off," Jerry Li, co-founder of LuLu's Seafood and Dim Sum restaurant, said. "Seven days a week. 80 hours."

The Li and Lu families expected nothing short of a challenge when arriving in the United States ready to begin their new life. Embodying the do-it-yourself mentality, the family wanted to create an environment reminiscent of their Eastern roots when they set out founding their own restaurant.

For Edison Lu (11) and his family, managing LuLu's Seafood and Dim Sum is not only a job to

pay the bills, but a lifestyle. The LuLu's that is now a staple for traditional Chinese cuisine in the St. Louis area started with the Li and Lu families and their laborious trek from China to the U.S.

Edison's two worlds, the restaurant and his home life, quickly integrated into one as his family developed the restaurant. Edison found himself utilizing virtual extracurricular

courses so he could lend a helping hand when needed. While Edison's activity schedule differed from his classmates, he had no problem spending those extra hours at LuLu's, which eventually became like a second home.

"During my childhood, I spent a lot more time at the restaurant," Lu said. "Since my parents are very busy managing, I have to be here phys-

“I'm very happy to see that this idea and dream of theirs has come true.**”**
EDISON LU

Edison's Eats

Edison Lu reveals his personal favorites from the LuLu's menu

CHICKEN FRIED RICE

The fragrant and flavorful chicken fried rice is a classic Chinese dish that never fails to satisfy one's taste buds. Each spoonful of the fluffy rice is perfectly complemented by the delightful combination of scrambled eggs, crunchy carrots and sweet peas. The juicy and tender chicken pieces add a burst of savory flavor to this amazing dish, making it an irresistible treat.



WALNUT SHRIMP

Imagine a plate of succulent jumbo shrimp that is cooked to perfection. The seafood flavor is perfectly balanced with a sweet honey sauce that coats every inch of the shrimp. The shrimp is then served on a bed of vibrant green broccoli. This delightful combination of walnut shrimp and broccoli is a popular Cantonese meal that is sure to tantalize your taste buds.



ically most of the time."

The highly coveted restaurant has earned an outstanding reputation by producing authentic dim sum, a food style that contains a collection of smaller dishes that are shared amongst a group of people. However, this isn't accomplished in a mere day's work. Li and his crew of chefs, waiters and other staff work overtime to produce the high-quality food the community knows and loves.

"Restaurant work is tedious and most people don't like it," Li said. "The restaurant needs to be cleaned, the food needs to be prepared and the dishes need to be washed. It's like taking care of a home."

LuLu's food has been beloved by the Ladue community for decades, so much so that it is now sold in local supermarkets such as Dierbergs and Schnucks. However, locals are not the only clientele. The restaurant has even

HOW TO:

LULU STYLE DUMPLINGS

- 1 make dough
- 2 prepare filling
- 3 shape and fill
- 4 boil or fry
- 5 share and enjoy

SCAN FOR

a review of Lulu's most popular dishes



become a popular destination for food enthusiasts who share a common quest for the experience of indulging in Cantonese cuisine.

"Every day is a different story," Li said. "We get all types of different customers, and you constantly meet new people."

Upon entering the restaurant, customers' eyes are inevitably drawn toward the large display of shimmering trophies lined neatly along a display case. One may assume that assets like these are the family's most prized possessions. However, the true value of their hard work is far less tangible than materialistic things, such as awards and reviews, but rather lies in the pride Edison feels for his family and what they have built over the years.

"[LuLu's is special] because my parents have put a lot of work into this," Lu said. "I'm very happy to see that this idea and dream of theirs has come true." IP

