

Keeping The Faith: Hinman Traditions

It takes an endless amount of history to make even a little tradition.

-Henry James

Prologue

Tradition: it is the force that binds nations, communities, and families together. Almost every community with a little bit of history has traditions, and Hinman College is no exception. From Dorm Wars and Hysteria to the annual Hinman Semi-Formal, one thing that makes Hinman unique among all the other residential colleges at Binghamton is its tireless devotion to tradition. Some might even say that tradition is perhaps the most sacred part of Hinman, that it is at the heart of Hinman's character. Anyone who ignores tradition will rouse the indignation of the majority of those involved in Hinman life. Even to think about breaking tradition is almost sacrilege. Yes, some might say that Hinman is so bound by tradition that it is unwilling to accept anything new, that it is not open to experimenting with new and novel ideas and concepts. Change comes to Hinman slowly, when it comes at all, but in many respects that is not a bad thing. In fact, Hinman's faithful devotion to its traditions is what makes this community so successful and so unique. It is the carrying out of traditions that date back almost to the very beginnings of its existence that make Hinman College so unique among the other residential colleges. More than that, the traditions bridge the generations of Hinmanites, each having participated in the same events over the years. Tradition contributes to the carrying on of a style and character that is uniquely Hinman.