

Student-Faculty Potluck Dinner

One fairly recent event that seems to be on its way to becoming a strong Hinman tradition is the Student-Faculty Potluck Dinner. In the Fall of 2004, it was announced that the month of October would be Student-Faculty Connect Month at Binghamton University. The idea was that during this month interaction between students and faculty outside of the classroom would be greatly encouraged. Each residential college was charged with hosting programs and events that would encourage this interaction. Many of the residential colleges, including Hinman, decided to host a potluck dinner where students would invite their favorite faculty or staff member to the dinner. Everyone was encouraged to cook a dish and share it with the group.

This event in Hinman quickly became popular and over the few short years of its existence it has grown rapidly. The first two years it was held in the Hinman Commons. It soon became apparent that this space was too small to hold the ever increasing numbers of students, faculty and their families who would attend the event. In Fall 2006 the event was moved into the Hinman Library where tables and chairs and a long buffet table was setup. Anyone who has been in the Hinman Library will remember that there is not a lot of open space to have this sort of event. Though being far from ideal, the setup was still better than the Hinman Commons, and the event was a huge success. If the event continues to grow as it has, perhaps in the coming years it may have to move to the Hinman Dining Hall. For now, though, the Hinman Student-Faculty Potluck Dinner continues in the tradition of Table Talk¹ and the Hinman Fellows program, where students in Hinman are encouraged to interact and get to know their professor outside of an academic setting and in a more personal, casual atmosphere.

¹ An event hosted by Faculty Master Pete Gruber which, like the potluck, encouraged student-faculty interaction outside of the classroom.