

Faculty Dinners

Why were you invited this evening?

(Since it is well-known that there is no such thing as a free lunch for the faculty..)

1. A fundraising effort?
2. Something out of an Agatha Christie novel?

Another reason entirely...

Michigan is a great University because

of the richness and diversity of its faculty.

Yet all too frequently the press of our

various responsibilities within our disciplines does not provide us with the opportunity to interact as a community...

to experience the rich intellectual and cultural diversity that makes Michigan the remarkable place it is!

There is another concern

Michigan is more than students and faculty and staff...

It is a community of families, spouses, children, friends...

Indeed, I am convinced that there are thousands of members of this extended Michigan family who are every bit as committed to the University as those we call faculty and staff.

For that reason, we are convinced that

we must look for experiences beyond the academic process to bring people together... to establish new bonds of friendship and understanding.

Hence Anne and I have been experimenting

with ways to create more of a sense of "community" within the "megaversity" we call the University of Michigan.

We are trying lots of things:

- i) spring reception for promoted faculty
- ii) reception for Senate Assembly
- iii) reception for senior faculty
- iv) even had an afternoon tea in the Museum of Art for the Football Team

You are the first phase of another

experiment...to bring together faculty and spouses and friends from a wide range of backgrounds and disciplines for an evening of dining and informal conversation...

Key: We want you to have the opportunity

to meet and get to know some of your colleagues in a somewhat different setting... perhaps even establish some new friendships...

Some introductions...