

To the Colgate Faculty:

Beginning Wednesday, September 13 we will again be opening Merrill House on Wednesday and Thursday evenings each week for faculty who would like to invite students to dinner there. The Merrill House dinner program has been an enormous success over the past four years. The restaurant menu will continue to be an augmentation of Merrill House lunches. Faculty can invite up to twenty-five students, as long as there is room for the group on the date. Reservations may be made, beginning today, for the Fall semester by e-mailing Davis Barnes at Dlbarnes@mail.colgate.edu. During the semester reservations may be made on or before Monday noon of the week in question by calling extension 7500. Dinner will begin at any time scheduled between 5:30 and 7:00 p.m.

We will also continue the Monday evening dinners at the Colgate Inn (beginning September 11) and Tuesday evening dinners at the Seven Oaks Clubhouse (beginning September 12). Reservations at the Colgate Inn can be made by e-mailing Jana Truett-Crouch (catering@colgateinn.com) or by calling 824-2875. Reservations at the Seven Oaks Clubhouse can be made by calling 824-4420 (note that there may be some flexibility in the schedule at the Clubhouse should Tuesday nights be filled). During the semester reservations may be made on or before Friday noon before the week in question. Dinner will begin at any time scheduled between 5:00 and 9:00 p.m. In order to contain costs for this popular program, the Colgate Inn and Seven Oaks Clubhouse have been asked to prepare modified menus. *Please note that alcoholic beverages will not be served.*

Because of the demand for this opportunity, we ask that faculty limit the participation of each particular class to one dinner each semester. We would also like to stress that reservations be made only for the number that is realistically expected to attend. There has been a significant number of no-shows, which is disheartening in light of the number of reservations that are turned away. Please be aware of this as plans are made and let the appropriate contact person know as soon as possible if the numbers in your party change. It may also be helpful to try and plan for smaller groups—when large reservations are made (more than 10), the group will most likely be seated at more than one table. Merrill House does have tables that will seat larger numbers, but large tables make conversation difficult, and can lead to a greater percentage of no-shows.

Faculty are encouraged to make special needs known as soon as possible to ensure that the staff at Merrill House, the Colgate Inn, and the Seven Oaks Clubhouse can accommodate them. We look forward to continued success this term, and in that vein we are trying some ideas to increase the ability of all faculty to take advantage of this opportunity.