

Dinner with Alumni “Frequently Asked Questions”

What is the "Dinner with Alumni" program?

The program is facilitated by the Office of Alumni Relations and Class Council, a GW student organization, and was created to provide a networking opportunity for undergraduate students and to engage alumni with the GW community. Alumni can host dinners at their homes or at a restaurant, but the location needs to be within in the DC Metro area. Transportation to and from the dinner is not provided for the students, so making the dinner site accessible is very important.

What are the goals of the program?

Students will make great connections with some of our brightest alumni in a collegial and relaxed setting. Perhaps these connections will lead to internships, jobs, good advice, or friendship. Ideally, we hope that students will draw inspiration from the professional, educational, philanthropic, and personal accomplishments of our alumni. We also hope the alumna/alumnus hosting the dinner will gain a meaningful connection with the student participants and become more involved in GW campus life. Mentoring has been shown to be a great tool in retaining college students and enhancing their college success. The connections made as a result of the dinner will not only help the students while enrolled at GW, but also show the importance of becoming active alumni after graduation.

When can alumni host dinners?

Dinners are held on pre-selected dates during the months of September, October, November, February, March, and April, also referred to as the fall and spring semesters. Alumni interested in hosting will receive a list of dinner dates from the Office of Alumni Relations. Dinners are held during the week, typically on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and not on weekends. Dinners are also not held during the fall, spring, or summer break periods

How are student participants selected?

Dinners are promoted by Class Council to undergraduate students via e-mail that includes the host's name, class, degree(s), and career information. Students then self select the dinner she or he wants to attend by completing an online request form. The Office of Alumni Relations reviews the applicants to seek out undergraduate students who have similar academic, career, or personal interests as the host; although, it is not guaranteed each student attendee will match the host's own interests.

The number of student participants attending the dinner is determined by the host.

What are the Office of Alumni Relations' responsibilities?

The Office of Alumni Relations will schedule the dinner date, promote and arrange student attendance, and help with coordinating the logistics of the dinner with the host.

What are the alumni hosts' responsibilities?

The host's only responsibilities, besides providing insight and guidance to student participants, would be to organize and provide financial support to enable the dinner. For example, if a host has a dinner at a restaurant, she will make the reservation and pay for the dinner expense.

Hosting a dinner can be considered an in-kind contribution to GW, if the alumna/us chooses, and this gift is tax-deductible.

After the dinner, hosts are encouraged to stay in contact with the student participants and serve as a resource and guide.

Can alumni team up with other alumni and co-host a dinner as a group?

Yes! Alumni are encouraged to co-host dinners together, especially for first-time hosts. Co-hosting a dinner creates additional networking opportunities for students.

Can alumni contact alumni who have already served as hosts?

Yes! What better way to learn about the program than through our experienced alumni hosts! References are available upon request.

How do I host a dinner?

If you live in or visit the DC Metro area and would like to volunteer to host a dinner for a group of undergraduate students, please contact Andy Hill, assistant director for Student-Alumni Programs, at ahill@gwu.edu or by phone at 202-994-5878. Thank you.