



Newsletter of the Gregory House Alumni Society

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Summer 2006

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INTRODUCTION

Distinguished Gregory Alumni:

Now that our little House has been in existence for eight full years, developing lasting traditions, colorful (or infamous) folklore, and its own very unique spirit, we thought it was time to find a way to embrace our most devoted alumni. From the start, this House has always been about the people—certainly not the buildings, as you all know!—and many of you have contributed to Gregory in ways that we still feel today and will continue to cherish in the future. The least we can do, for starters, is to send out this modest newsletter; but we certainly hope to do a better job than that of keeping in touch, if you are game. The Gregory Alumni Society will have its own listserve, used to offer invites to our old friends to join us at House activities ranging from our new student orientation barbecue to our inter-

national dinner to some end-of-year festivities.

In addition to listserve postings, members can order our annual BYOM mug, copies of *The Gregorian* newsletter, our *Gregory Yearbook*, and even the option to reserve our Guest Suite when you are in town; indeed, we hope to invite a few alumni every year to speak at a *Dinner with Gregory* talk with our residents.

If you would like to join the listserve, be sure to write Elena Ng at eng@pobox.upenn.edu. Bob and I are always thrilled to hear from our old friends, so feel free to write to us at cdonovan@pobox.upenn.edu and rlucid@english.upenn.edu. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Chris Donovan, House Dean

GREGORY GRADUATES

We'd like to offer our congratulations to our graduating class of 2006!

Naomi Adaniya
 Basil Allen
 Aimee Bailey
 Steven Barron
 Michael Campana
 Raluca-Ioana Ciocina
 Melissa Clapper
 George Cooper
 Daniel Cope
 Viara Gradevska
 Victoria Hertlein
 (*Graduate Associate*)
 Linda Huynh
 Christopher Jacob
 Irina Kalashnikova

Ronen Katz
 (*Graduate Associate*)
 Tara Krueger
 Tudor Neagu
 David Pollack
 Victoria Sakr
 Tao Xu

We'd also like to offer our congratulations to two former Gregory GAs who made a tremendous impact on the House, Paul Grant and Kyle Farley, who stunned us all by actually receiving their PhDs this year!



Tom Xu and Tara Krueger at the International Dinner. Tara, our 2005-2006 Humanities Fellow, will be returning to Gregory next year as a Van Pelt GA.

THE JOANNE T. LUCID MEMORIAL AWARD



Chris Donovan, Vicky Sakr and Bob Lucid

The Joanne T. Lucid Memorial Award, instituted in 2004, is bestowed on a Gregorian, usually a senior, who has greatly contributed to House community. Previous winners were Erin Douglas and Michael Wong; this year's winner was Vicky Sakr. The recipient's name is engraved on a plaque on display in the lobby of Van Pelt Manor.

DID YOU KNOW?

Both Gregory buildings were built in 1971, the same year Dean Chris Donovan was born. All three are in dire need of renovation. Van Pelt College House and Modern Languages College House were combined in 1998 as Gregory House, named for botanist Emily Gregory, the first woman to teach at Penn (1888). Before becoming part of Gregory, Modern Languages College House was known as mlch, pronounced "mulch" despite the comparison to rotting vegetable matter. It does roll off the tongue easier than MLP (milp?).

WHAT'S NEW IN GREGORY?

FACILITIES

As all Gregorians know, things don't change much around here from year to year... save the gradual deterioration, of course. However, this year has seen its share of improvements, including the mysterious construction on the right.

You all recognize the piano lounge of course, in the midst of one of our delightful/painful karaoke sessions. That snazzy, streamlined ductwork—as promised, it blends *right* in—is the long, long, long promised air conditioning for the lounge and lobby. Aesthetic abomination or no, it works. This summer will also see new sofa upholstery, tables and carpeting, as well as the replacement of the sofas in the C'25 greenhouse.

Of course, the year's most popular facilities addition was the GPA-wrecking X-Box 360 provided by our House Council.

COMMUNITY

Gregory continues to grow and develop as a close-knit community. We had our biggest retention ever this year—come Sep-



The Piano Lounge AC

tember, almost every resident who is not a freshman will be a *former* Gregory freshman returning for their second, third, or fourth go-around in the House.

Speaking of retention, Gregory, as usual, keeps its Graduate Associates around for awhile. Next year, eight of our GAs, Priya Dedhia (MD/PHD, first floor VP), Ela Jamiolkowski (Dental, third floor VP), Paolo Di Leo (Classics, Casa Italiana), Allison Glasmann (Education, Maison Francaise), Gunder Varinlioglu (Archeology, Maison Francaise), Matt Belcher (German, Deutsches Haus), Bartek Czech (Physics, Casa Hispanica) and Alex Ifill (Law, Casa Hispanica) will be returning, many for their third go-around in the House. Alex is working on a new record, enter-

ing his seventh year of residence at Gregory, four as an undergrad and three as a GA. Fellows Talid Sinno (Engineering), Heather Love (English) and Leslie Delauter (CHAS) are all back as well.

In addition to our traditional House leadership—our Manager Board, which now consists of 18 dedicated upperclassmen, and our newly constituted House Council, which accomplished a good deal in 05-06—we are introducing a mentor program next year. 35 of our returners have volunteered to provide advice for our incoming freshmen, whether in course selection, study skills, specific classes or majors, campus resources or even the city of Philadelphia.

We also have a new addition to our staff structure, full-time House Coordinator Elena Ng.

We are also piloting a new language house in MLP next year—Russian, or Russkij Dom, which none of us can pronounce. Maybe we shouldn't have painted over that mural of Lenin that used to be outside the Dean's apartment.

SUMMER AT GREGORY

For those of us still in residence over the summer, Gregory is a strange (i.e., stranger than normal) place. Quiet, except for the sound of creepy-crawly scurrying. Dirty, full of strange odors, and often wet, thanks to folks who move out with their toilet still running. But this summer has an interesting spectacle, to be sure; the decommissioning—or, rather, annihilation—of our across-Spruce neighbor, and often source of unending late-night racket, AEPi.

The building was apparently condemned; we thought some of you might take pleasure in the view from our window. (This also gives us an excuse to print photos Vicky Sakr doesn't appear in).



Graduates ('06), Staff, and one sneaky freshman at the Senior Breakfast Buffet.



AEPi demolition

THE GUEST SUITE

As you all no doubt remember, Gregory has a guest suite on the second floor of Van Pelt. The room is air-conditioned, with a kitchen, living room, and two bedrooms (one with a full-sized bed, one with two twins). We allow residents to book the room for their families at a nominal cost of \$25/night, and it is also used for college house speakers and other visitors.

We would like to allow members of the alumni society to use the guest suite as well, specifically as a means to facilitate contact between our current residents and those with some knowledge about the history and traditions of the House—and who also have insights to share on the working world, graduate study, etc.

To that end, there are several stipulations about the use of the guest suite for alumni, in addition to the usual rules found at <http://gregory.house.upenn.edu/guestsuite/calendar.asp>, which is also where one would make a request for a reservation:

1) There are “black out dates” for the room—times when the space is traditionally in high demand for current residents. These dates would include New Student Orientation and upperclassmen move-in, spring break, and graduation week. The hospitality managers could store alumni requests in case the room is not booked by residents by the time those

dates near.

2) The \$25/night charge is due in advance of arrival or before check-in.

3) Visitors must take part in at least one House event at which their presence can be advertised. This can be a specific event at which the alum speaks—like a *Dinner with Gregory*—but could simply be a regular House get-together at which residents might approach the visitor with questions about their field, the old days, or just to stop in and see an old friend. For example, at the end of an email announcing a study break, we might find “In attendance will be Dan Cope (Wharton '06), long-time Gregorian, ITA, and Communications Manager, who currently does consulting for Mercer Oliver Wyman in New York.” (Sorry, Dan!) The hospitality managers can help suggest events that might be going on while you plan to visit.

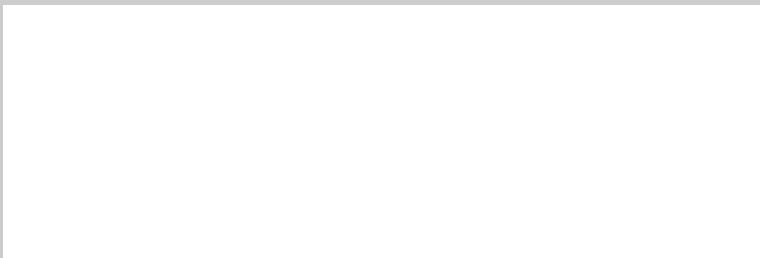
4) The maximum stay for alumni society members is five days.

For more questions about the Guest Suite, write to Hospitality Managers Jennifer Lee (jylee2@sas.upenn.edu) or Gail Gamab (ggamab@nursing.upenn.edu).

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A L U M N I S O C I E T Y O N T H E W E B

The Alumni Society will have its own page on the Gregory House site:

<http://gregory.house.upenn.edu/alumni>. Of course, while we're writing this, that page does not yet exist. On the plus side, that makes it better than 95% of what's on the internet. But at some point we'll have some-

thing. We promise. We also have our own Facebook group, *Gregory House Alumni Society*, because we know how the kids love their Facebook. We can use that to post pics and news, and so can you. Go to:

<http://upenn.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2204202906>.

**S A D A N D
N A M E L E S S**

Starting this alumni newsletter has drained our last reserves of already deficient imagination. Naming it is beyond us. If you have a clever turn of phrase or groaner pun that you feel would look great on our masthead, let us know. If it contains "Gregory" in it somewhere, we guarantee our winner will stay in place until someone pays to renovate the buildings. PS: Naming rights for the House are available for \$43.75 and a bottle of scotch, in case you have a hankering to see a "Minesh Patel Palace" or, of course, an "Al Ko Hall" at the corner of 40th and Spruce.

W H A T A R E Y O U D O I N G N O W ?

Drop us a line letting us know what you're up to. Conquering the world? Accumulating higher degrees to hang on your wall? Married with children? Single and loving it? Of course, our recent graduates already chimed in for May's final issue of *The Gregorian*, but isn't it important that all those prior grads who don't know who you are know

what you are doing? Think about it. Of course, there are also Penn alumni notices in the Gazette, but there are so many years and listings and depressing obituaries to sort through—who has that kind of time? In any case, to place a self-satisfied blurb, or a desperate plea for help and attention, in a future newsletter, write to Elena at eng@pobox.upenn.edu.

S U G G E S T I O N S ?

If you have any suggestions, please send them to Elena at eng@pobox.upenn.edu.