



the GREGORIAN



REMEMBERING DR. BOB LUCID, FACULTY MASTER OF GREGORY COLLEGE HOUSE

Since 1964, Dr. Bob Lucid has been teaching at Penn. For 32 years, he was a widely respected professor in the English department studying modern American literature among other topics. Dr. Lucid retired from that job in 1996, but that didn't keep him from teaching (in a less formal context) or end his association with Penn.

Having been the Faculty Master at Hill College House (the first of the College Houses), Dr. Lucid was instrumental in founding Penn's College House system. Upon the creation of Gregory College House, he became the faculty master here. Bob Lucid was the driving force behind shaping Gregory into what it is today—a diverse mix of students with a strong sense of community and a particular interest in languages.

Another institution that Bob helped build was the Kelly Writers House. He conceived of the idea and deftly facilitated its birth. With its open door for poets, journalists, and all writers in between the Writers House has become a Penn institution. In 2004, Dr. Lucid hosted a discussion there featuring renowned American writer Norman Mailer. Lucid was a close friend of Mailer's and was working on his authorized biography.

Much beloved for his kindness, enthusiasm, wit, and wisdom, Dr. Bob Lucid will be dearly missed. His presence in the halls of Van Pelt and Class of 1925 was a vibrant and reassuring one, which greatly delighted those he came in contact with. Though his influence extends far beyond Gregory, it was here that Bob shared his life with students. That is something the House will always remember him for.

Although my interaction with Dr. Lucid was limited to a Dinner with Gregory, a few passing conversations, and occasionally seeing him at Pottruck Fitness Center, Bob exuded a caring attitude that made being at college feel like being home. A few weeks into first semester of freshmen year, I had yet to find my footing. Dr. Lucid was the guest at a Dinner with Gregory and spoke of Penn being a good fit for some and not for others. Though his passion for Penn was clear, he assured us that if things weren't clicking for us, there was absolutely nothing wrong with investigating other options. While I

eventually discovered that Penn was a good fit for me, his words were comforting at a time when I was terribly unsure of what I was getting myself into. His frankness and empathy was much appreciated. He will be missed!
-- **Justin Sykes**

Bob was the leader of the Penn Reading Project my freshman year. I was intimidated that the faculty master of Gregory was my group's leader. My worries went away as soon as Bob started talking. He was extremely down to earth. Bob did not like the book so instead he asked our group to

explain to him about "hip hop music." He wanted to learn about the evolution of hip hop music and the popular artists and thought a room full of freshmen was the perfect opportunity to teach him. A few students tried to apply principles from the book to hip hop but Bob was just interested in learning about hip hop. At Bob's open house for the 3rd floor he asked us to look at his music collection to see if he had any music close to hip hop. Bob wanted to learn from the students of Gregory and his lifetime passion for

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Good Eats



lunch only
14. Mexican Food Truck

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- 15. Tang's Chinese
 - 16. Fruit Cart
 - 17. Hemo's Sandwich Truck
 - 18. Taco Pal—Mexican Food
 - 19. MexiCali – Lunch Only
 - 20. Casablanca—Middle Eastern Food
 - 21. LeAnh—Chinese Food
 - 22. The Real Le Anh—Chinese Food
 - 23. Khan's Hot Dog Stand
 - 24. CrepeWalk—French Food
 - 25. Magic Carpet—Middle Eastern Food – lunch only

- 0. Fruit & Vegetable Cart
- 1. Rami's—Middle Eastern Food **TRY**
Falafel, souvlaki
- 2. Mexi Cali – Lunch Only **TRY** Grilled burritos
- 3. House of Hanan—Middle Eastern Food **TRY** Combo platters, falafel – Call-in
- 4. Yue Kee—Chinese Food – Call-in & Pre-order
- 5. Steak Queen
- 6. Muchos Tacos—Mexican Food
- 7. Bui's – breakfast & lunch sandwiches
- 8. Kim's Oriental Food
- 9. Koja Korean Food
- 10. Ali Baba—Middle Eastern Food
- 11. Bento Box—Japanese Food
- 12. Fruit Cart
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- B**
- 26. Aladdin—Middle Eastern Food
- 27. B&J's Cart—American Food
- 28. Chris' Cart—American Food
- 29. Dinh's Fruit Salad
- 30. Do's Fruit Salad
- 31. Hong Kong Chinese Food
- 32. Nick & John's Cart—American Food

the office

let's meet winnie in the vp office:

Gregorian: From what land do you hail?

Winnie: Brooklyn, NYC

G: And what brings you to Penn?

W: Well, I knew I would like to stay in Philly after graduation because it's a nice, convenient city. It grew on me! I'm also a Grad student in GSE (Education, people!). I'm working on my masters and I want to teach overseas and then get a PhD.

G: What was college like for you?

W: I majored in East Asian Studies at Bryn Mawr College, and although it sounds corny, going to an all-female college was really empowering. I really miss Bryn Mawr dining – my Penn friends would come to visit me for the food.

G: So tell us about the Office.

W: Mostly financial stuff like monthly reconciliation forms, but I'm not going to complain about Penn bureaucracy on record! I am the Guarder of Films and I also decorate bulletin boards. It's my favorite spot in Gregory.

G: So how does your work environment resemble the TV show "The Office?"



W: It doesn't! [laughing and pointing next door to Chris] It's pleasant. I show up at 9 and Chris doesn't. No one bothers me. [laughing] I'm such a hermit!

G: What violent actions would you take if we didn't return DVDs?

W: Oh, send angry emails quoting Chris... no, no I'd wait patiently and just sigh to myself.

G: Some favorites?

W: Grey's Anatomy!! Snow Patrol, *Empire Records*, *Office Space* ... I traveled to Hong Kong this summer and to Cambridge during a backpacking trip two summers ago, and I can eat candy three meals a day. Actually I don't need food - I can just eat candy.

G: What did you do in high school?

W: I was the concertmistress in the orchestra.

G: Who is your favorite GA?

W: I would like to see more of all of them. But Alex must not exist. I haven't seen him yet.

G: Finally, can you describe the weirdest noise Chris makes when he's working in his office?

W: [scared face] I don't know, he's so quiet! We tend to have awkward conversations...

G: As do we all, Winnie, as do we all...

PING PONG & THANKSGIVING



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knowledge is inspiring. Once at a house event, I sat on a couch next to Bob and an apple fell from the top of the couch and landed on his shoulder. It startled me and I said, "Oh my gosh, Dr. Lucid, are okay?" He said, "Oh yes. I am fine. I feel like Newton." Bob had a great sense of humor and he will be greatly missed. -- **Erica Denhoff**

Not only did I get to know him, but my mom had him as a professor for two classes when she was at Penn. I took her to see him three years ago, and I remember they did a lot of talking about how people today don't read books the way they used to -- that is, as something that might provide knowledge or authority. It was kind of funny because I was basically stuck in the middle of my generation getting bashed. -- **Stephanie Craven, alum '06**

I have all these little images of him floating around in my head. Bob peering up at me over his glasses at the NSO barbecue...Bob in shorts and a waistcoat at the fire alarm in the middle of the night over the summer...Bob putting on great jazz at his get-togethers...Bob telling me about his days as a pilot...me almost falling asleep at the first DwG I heard him speak at - *laugh*... I keep thinking about the card he gave me with the Award in May - he wrote that he was honored to have served in the House with me. Shouldn't it be the other way around? -- **Vicky Sakr, alum '06, Joanne Lucid award recipient**

To a large extent, Bob was Gregory House. He was the first faculty master of Gregory, and this place took on much of his personality. Many of our residents, present and past, knew him very well, particularly those who returned to the House many times over. But even those who never had time to get to

know him on a personal level benefited enormously from what he brought to us. Everything about this place, from the types of events we do to the way we treat our students--as adults, as often as possible--came from Bob's philosophy, which he developed over decades of living and working in residence at Penn. He was committed to creating a welcoming, low-key atmosphere, in which residents would be encouraged to take an active role in the shaping and direction of the community. He was very particular about the staff he brought in, including me, making sure that they would do justice to this model, and he empowered all those interested in the House--GAs and Managers, House Council and ITAs, residential faculty and indeed any Gregorian with a trace of enthusiasm--to feel like they were destined to make a difference. The best way to honor him is to make sure Gregory continues to evolve the way he always envisioned. -- **Chris Donovan**

Finding the right words to succinctly remember Bob by turns out to be more difficult than I expected, perhaps because of Bob's multifaceted impact on his surroundings. It was always clear how strong his presence was around Gregory and how the whole House benefited from his quiet and vigilant leadership. But most importantly, Bob made Gregory a real home for me and for many of the students and staff -- no mean feat at a large, international institution such as Penn. I know now that I will never forget my interactions with him, many of which ended with a sharp, witty comment that left me laughing to myself for minutes, sometimes hours, afterwards. I will miss him dearly. -- **Talid Sinno**

I am at a lack of words to express how much Bob will be missed. I met Bob over 6 years ago. Through the years he was not only a mentor for

me, but also became a great friend. Among the many things that I truly enjoyed about Bob was his never-ending ability to listen and stimulate great conversation. As I myself prepare to leave Penn this upcoming year, I will truly regret not having the benefit of Bob's guidance and support. -- **Alex Ifill**

Although I only knew Professor Lucid for a year and a half, I will keep very fond memories of him. I found Bob to be an incredibly thoughtful person with a very keen memory. He always remembered to ask how I was doing if I had come down with a cold or had a thesis deadline. I will particularly miss his funny yet inquisitive emails asking me to translate a French phrase or word that he had come across in his reading. Bob truly cared deeply for Gregory House, and this was always apparent in his comments during our staff meetings. I will really miss seeing him every other Monday night. - **Allison Glasmann**

I first met Bob five years ago when I started to work in Gregory. Like most GAs, our relationship was based on biweekly meetings in his apartment, where we always enjoyed his hospitality. I like to think that I used this opportunity to learn from his advice and experiences. But it is a vice of youth not to realize fully at the moment, the importance of the company of wise people. So I believe that the memory of my professional and personal relation with Bob will get stronger and more precious as time goes by. Thank you Bob! -- **Gunder Varinlioglu**

The official University service for Professor Lucid, hosted by the Department of English, will be held on Friday, April 13th, from 5-7 PM, on the sixth floor of Van Pelt Library.