

# The Gregorian

## Dear Fellow Gregorians,

It has been...a while. We know. But you have all settled in nicely over the course of the semester, just as we all expected. (Well, except for you. Yeah, you know who you are, with the sealed door and the vicious attacks on the art of karaoke. We have no love for you.) And the times, dear Gregorians, they are a-changing. Why, the freshmen, once innocent to the seedy underbelly of student life at Penn, have learned to chain-caffeinate and cram their way through the first midterm season. The sophomores, perhaps feeling left-behind in the mass exodus of their peers from on-campus housing, have developed an even stronger appreciation of Gregory now that they hear the constant utilities and lease-woes of their off-campus colleagues. The juniors, perhaps braving life without a mealplan for the first time, have learned to masterfully exploit free food around Gregory rather than learn to cook on their own, as exemplified by some quite astounding Study Break and Sunday Brunch attendance records. And the seniors...well, rest assured that we caught a glimpse of these elusive creatures in a scramble from a thesis meeting to an OCR interview, or maybe on their way to Smoke's.

Therefore, housemates, while this *Gregorian* may have begun (you know, just a half-semester ago) as the “**Meet your House**” issue, it now serves to take our house community to the next level. What level, you ask? With strenuous finals just around the riverbend\* accompanied by the bi-annual struggle to jam as many end-of-the-semester social events (“We won’t see each other for 3 whole weeks! BFF!”) around review sessions (cue: Rocky Theme, or Flight of the Bumblebee, depending on your confidence-level), the *Gregorian* reminds you not to forget to take a little time for you. And by “you,” we mean, the *Gregorian*.

So, kick back, get comfortable, Gregory, and take a moment, for us. (Note: unlike Kings Court’s *Toilet Paper*, the *Gregorian* won’t suggest *where* you read our publication. But hey, we encourage you to follow your inclinations, whatever that may be.)

Best of luck with the rest of the semester, Gregory!

**Serena Stein and Justin Sykes**

\*Yes, this is an allusion to Disney’s *Pocahontas*, and yes, the editors can paint with all the colors of the wind. Furthermore, we don’t condone colonization of the Americas.

### Inside this issue:

Welcome Letter	1
Gregory Thanksgiving	1
Meet your new MLP GAs	2
Gregory Cribs Contest	3
Newsies	3
Meet Faculty Master Gwendolyn Dubois Shaw	4
Gregory House Shout-outs	4

## Gregory Thanksgiving



## Meet your new MLP GA's

You think you may know your warm and friendly GAs who bake you cookies and invite you to play ping pong, probably for pizza and prizes. What you may not know is that several of those individuals, particularly three fiends dwelling in Class of '25 are basically just as recently house-broken as this year's freshmen. What wily quirks are they still guarding? Between language house dinners, Herzog Mania films and *Grey's* obsession, we still managed to bring you this critical cross-GA comparative analysis...provided you analyze. And compare. Critically. We just did the asking.

**Gregorian: What is your name and what is your quest?**

*Maribel:* Maribel Kissack. And my quest is to get it done!

*Matt:* Lord of the Dance. (Note: Matt is apparently quest-less.)

*Cat:* My name is Cat and my quest is to follow that star.

**G: Your kryptonite is \_\_\_?**

*Maribel:* Flirtation.

*Matt:* Frijoles negros.

*Cat:* Rainy days.

**G: Your signature ice cream sundae consists of \_\_\_?**

*Maribel:* Caramel, and peanuts on vanilla ice cream.

*Matt:* Chocolate ice cream, sprinkles and syrup.

*Cat:* PinkBerry froyo with heath bar topping, whipped cream and a cherry (or two)

**G: Fill in the blank: "My favorite place to (blank) in Gregory is (blank)."**

*Maribel:* My favorite place to cook is the green house.

*Matt:* My favorite place to write is the basement.

*Cat:* Spoon. The Class of '25 Kitchen. Be there.

**G: The cause of your floor's aroma is (blank). (We know, you can only guess!)**

*Maribel:* Shanti's fault!

*Matt:* The weird mural on the wall with Mickey Mouse.

*Cat:* My Italian herb garden...I hope

**G: Who would play you in your biographical feature film?**

*Maribel:* Shakira on stilts.

*Matt:* Luke Wilson.

*Cat:* Helmetted Natalie Portman circa the filming of "Garden State"

**G: And what is the intro song on your soundtrack?**

*Maribel:* "Don't Stop Believing" by Journey.

*Matt:* The song would be "Eugene" by Greg Brown

*Cat:* Intro Song: "Carol of the Bells." (Note: At Cat's request, the editors were going to suggest "Colors of the Wind" from Disney's *Pocahantas*. But we think that "Carol of the Bells," in combination with a helmet and motorbike, is quite accurate. Quite accurate, indeed.)

**G: It is rumoured that Class of 25 and Van Pelt had some sort of rivalry in the less enlightened ages of its history. Rivals are best confronted with pie. So, while the rivalry is no longer extant, pie-throwing is eternally encouraged. (Reflects only the opinions of this publication's editors, and, quite obviously, not those of Chris Donovan.) What type of pie would suit Chris Donovan's face best?**

*Maribel:* Lemon meringue.

*Matt:* Apfelstrudel.

*Cat:* 3.1415926535... take that pi, Chris! In your FACE! Ha!

**Maribel**



**Matt**



**Cat**



## Gregory Cribs Contest

You say may say it's just a cramped dorm room with sheer carpeting and cinder block walls, but to these three Gregory residents their space is so much more than that. Working with a variety of different themes and mediums each has marvelously transformed his or her room into something quite spectacular. Each of the nominees has either entered or been entered in the Gregory Cribs Contest and now it's your turn to decide which one has the best groomed room. Below are some pics and a quick look at each master designer's inspiration. Please vote by emailing the name of who you think should win the contest to [Gregorian.Gregory@gmail.com](mailto:Gregorian.Gregory@gmail.com).

And the nominees are:

**Jennifer Carvajal:** Situated in Van Pelt 208, Jennifer Carvajal has, in the eyes of her roomies, done an "amazing job of decorating [their] room." In addition to creating



a plush, pink paradise full of fluffy pillows and thick, luxurious carpeting in her room, Jennifer took the time to adorn the quad's bathroom. In addition to a

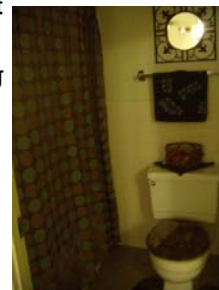


purple and green polka-dotted shower curtain and matching rug and toilet cover, she brightened the bathroom with an accented circular mirror and even a basket of scents. Smells good to us!

**Ben Chirlin:** In his own words, Ben was going for a "neo-Asian zen thingy." And from the looks of it, he certainly pulled it off. Strategically dividing the room into an



"entertainment zone" and "work area," Ben has maximized his use of space with one part dedicated towards frivolity (think big screen TV, video games, a stash of DVDs, and gigantic Corona bottle) and another towards seriousness (think desk, drafting table, and stacks of textbooks). Even in the serious space, however, Ben has tried to keep it light with a Lava Lamp and bass-thumping speakers. Completing the room's effect is a huge lantern dangling above the TV, accompanied by a strong of lanterns that runs across the room and gently diffuses light throughout the room.



**TJ Du:** It all started when TJ was inspired by a beach print he bought at the shore. Ever since that moment, the room's theme organically evolved into what it is now: "nautical bachelor's

pad." Beyond the watery beach prints and paintings, he's got a striped blue bedspread (perfect for any sleepy sailor) and a row of mirrors, which resemble portholes on a ship. But that's not all the supped up room has got to offer. To truly make the bachelor pad swing, TJ invested in a big screen TV and Nintendo Wii. According to TJ, "There's nothing better than plopping down on the futon with a couple of friends and playing a quick round of Mario Party!" Particularly in a room that looks like this.

## Returning to Gregory for the 2008-2009 academic year?

Apply for a room the week of January 28<sup>th</sup>. For more info, check out: <http://gregory.house.upenn.edu/housing.aspx>

Apply to be a Gregory RA. Rising juniors and seniors apply online now through January 21<sup>st</sup> at [www.collegehouses.upenn.edu](http://www.collegehouses.upenn.edu)

## Meet Faculty Master Gwendolyn Dubois Shaw

**DISCLAIMER:** Answers may or may not be verifiable

**1. What is your quest at Penn? What's your grail? And (to continue the spirit of Monty Python here) what is the best use of two halves of a coconut?** My quest at Penn is to help students and faculty live the life of the mind together in new and endlessly unfolding ways. If I were to have a grail it would probably be one of the champagne flutes used to toast new graduates at commencement. And the best use for two halves of a coconut is definitely a Halloween costume that involves a grass skirt and a flower lei.

**2. Why Gregory?** Well, I was interested in becoming a faculty master and there was an opening at Gregory due to the passing of Prof. Lucid. I was a little worried about trying to fill such beloved shoes, so to speak, but everyone was really warm and welcoming.

**3. The most spontaneous thing you've ever done...** was go bungee jumping from a 4-story stationary crane on a dare.

**4. A favorite moment of your undergraduate career was...** changing my major from studio art to art history - all those B's were a sign that I probably wouldn't be able to support myself as an artist - I was much better at talking about art than making it!

**5. Your literary doppelganger might be...** definitely the character Ronald Ann from Berkeley Breathed comic strips Bloom County and Outland (in newspapers during the 1980s and 90s). She was a little black girl who liked to write, and despite being the creation of a white male, she was far and away the closest thing to me that had ever shown up in the Sunday Funnies section of my hometown San Francisco Chronicle.

**6. The best Art (museum, gallery, event, person) in Philly...** that few people ever get to is the museum of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. Founded in 1804 it is the oldest art school in the country and has an incredible collection of American art. One of its founders, Charles Willson Peale, was one of the greatest artists of the colonial era and of the early Republic. Some of my research has focused on Peale and his family, including the work of his enslaved African American helper Moses Williams, who cut silhouettes in Peale's own museum during the first years of the 19th century.

**7. Your preferred cup of joe in West Philly is...** the first one of the day! Usually that one is made at home using *illy* espresso roast medium grind in the blue and silver canister and my Cuisinart machine.

**8. If we asked you 100 probing questions, we would probably still never uncover that...** during college I worked for a stripping telegram service - as a phone dispatcher!

**9. The most peevish thing about pets is:** that they want so much attention.

**The most petty thing about peeves is:** is that always attend so much want.

**10. The name of your private island would be called.... and its signature food/drink would be....**

My private island (the one formerly known as Bermuda) would be called St. Gwendolyn's. However, I would retain the old country's national drink, the Dark and Stormy, because nothing beats Black Seal Rum and ginger beer! Readers who are under 21 will have to wait to discover this great elixir of the gods?

## Gregory House Shout-outs

*\*\*For those of you who don't know what shout-outs are, they are anonymous statements from one human being to another. Many are facetious; some are not. The fun part is not knowing who they are from, although usually (if you're in the loop) you'll have a pretty good idea who they're for. Shout-outs have been reproduced exactly as they were sent in, bad punctuation, weird grammar and all. Enjoy, -The Editors.*

Liane Toohey you are an amazing woman. I wish I could tell you this in person but I'm too much of a coward.  
-John Stewart

Dear loud people in the computer lab, please shut up. I'm trying to work.

Dear ITAs, this is not your private social hour.

To the once well-dressed Christian: what's up?  
The dress code is slipping

Elsie and Summer rock my decade  
Love from the future,  
Veonix

Second floor GA, thanks for all the lube.....from your door.

Dear Gregory senior,  
I know you think you're cool, but you're actually not.  
Can you graduate at semester or something?  
xoxoxoxoxoxoxox

Elle, I'm sorry I laughed at you that time you got plastic surgery over the summer. And I'm sorry I told everyone about it. And I'm sorry for repeating it now. ~Oren <3

No, I don't want a friggin super cycle.

Gregory Publication Managers, please don't try to be 34<sup>th</sup> Street cuz you're not.

All I've got to say is I'd blow that bagpipe.

I really didn't think I'd like living in Gregory, but I do. That being said, two of my roommates are super lame. Sorry guys, but you are.

Genie, you were no Robin Williams, but that's a good thing. Grant me three wishes please!!!

Anyone up for a kegger in the piano lounge? Alpha Beta Gregory! Woot.

Roommate dearest, do you really have to play "Gimme More" 11 times a day with the base on? I'll kick in the base if you play it again, but letting everyone that you play Britney Spears 11 times a day should be enough to shame you into not playing it ever again.