



the GREGORIAN

FROM THE GREGORIAN TO GREGORIANS:

The Gregorian is Gregory's house newsletter, meant to better acquaint you with all that is Gregory College House. We apologize for the laxity of our publication schedule and hope you will forgive us. We will try to do better.

Our issues will include stories about the house, information about upcoming events, profiles of staff and students who reside and work here, and much, much more. If you have any comments, concerns or would like to contribute your ideas to *The Gregorian*, please don't hesitate to contact one of the publication managers: Neha Desai, Serena Stein, and Justin Sykes.

Thank you. We look forward to a great year.

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DÉCOR A LA GREGORY

Need a little Martha Stewart up in here? We didn't think so. But if you're finding your new room as heinous as MS's financial portfolio, this advice could get you out of jail in a flash!

The sheer thrill of finally (FINALLY!) arriving to campus races through your body. Triumphant, eager and bright-eyed you are, young Penn student. You survived the high school doldrums, IB curricula, incessant standardized tests, college tours, applications and acceptance, summer jobs, endless days of packing, saying goodbye to your family, best friends, home cooking, and that spacious bedroom... Then you walk into your first college dorm room...and somehow the experience feels a little more Shawshank Correctional Facility than Ivy League chic. Well, there is a Visine for that. Here we have a few friendly tips for transforming any cinderblock hole into a comfy place to kick back and live up the frosh experience:

Get Colorful |

Brighten up your space by making sure the basics you need to furnish your room are bursting with your favorites colors. Choose vibrant sheets or decorative pillows with fun patterns. You can bring a favorite blanket from home to drape over the Gregory beige reading chairs in each room and add a splash of life by hanging a colorful sheet over the walls instead of having wallpaper!

Lighten Up! |

A room with more light is easier to study in, and a room with funky lights is even more fun to hang out it! Make sure you have a desk lamp or perhaps a clip-on light for your bed frame if you like to read in bed. You can buy colorful or decorated lamp shades to give your room some extra pizzazz! Bring some holiday lights from home or buy outdoor decorations like chili peppers, butterflies or cacti to string through your hallway or wrap around the entrance to your door.

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MEET THE HOUSE: INTERVIEW WITH CHRIS DONOVAN

To foster community, one of our goals here at The Gregorian is to better acquaint you with the people of the House. What better place to start than with our very own House Dean (and resident expert on everything) Chris Donovan.



The Gregorian: Assume for a moment that an asteroid is careening towards earth. You have a single moment to spare before you hop into a spaceship and fly away to safety. Before you take off, you can grab one movie and one book to take along—all the rest will be lost forever. Which DVD and which book would you grab?

Chris Donovan: My favorite film is 2001. That said, if the earth were to be destroyed by an asteroid and I was destined to be alone on a spaceship, 2001 would probably hit too close to home, particularly if there was a computer aboard with a frosty British voice. So maybe something else. Assuming that even a curmudgeonly misanthrope such as myself might be mildly distraught by the annihilation of all humanity, I might take a season of the Simpsons, probably year four or five, to cheer me up. Of course, there are homages to 2001 about every other episode in those days, so I'm back to square one.

In terms of a book, you'd have to take something so complicated that you could pry into it for decades and still not fully grasp it. That said, I'm too lazy for Finnegan's Wake. So maybe Ulysses or Gravity's Rainbow. Of course, if you asked what book I would bring to a beach, it would be something more entertaining. But then, I don't go to the beach, so that would be an asinine question.

TG: Which Star Wars character would you most like to meet and why?

CD: If there was a cliff nearby, Jar Jar Binks. Otherwise, Han Solo of course. He made the Kessel run in less than 12 parsecs; what the heck have I ever accomplished?

TG: If Amy Gutmann becomes the next president of Harvard, who should replace her?

CD: Jodie Foster made a good graduation speaker last year. Ivy League president has to be more personally rewarding than starring in Flight Plan, right?

TG: What is your dream job (besides doing what you do now, of course)?

CD: About ten years ago, I was playing a few friends in basketball and they asked the same question. I said something like "you know what would be a cool job? Living in a dorm, teaching a few classes, running activities, stuff like that." The moral of this story: never wish for anything.

TG: Which cabinet level position would most prefer in a presidential administration?

CD: Um, is there a cabinet position for someone with no interest in politics whatsoever? Guy who stands in the back of the room and rolls his eyes while the president talks?

TG: Will Harry Potter die at the end of the seventh book?

CD: No. Unfortunately Snape will, even though I'm hoping he survives and gets his own spin-off series.

Note: Chris is teaching two courses next semester: Cinema Studies 009.306 The Allure of Black and White, (TR 1:30pm-3:00pm) and English 264.301 Civil War and Apocalypse (MWF 2pm-3pm). Both meet in Class of 1925 TV Lounge.

JOIN HOUSE COUNCIL

Last year, the Gregory House Council bought us our Xbox 360, coat of arms noteboards for the doors, and a photo yearbook in May. The Council is about to get rolling for this year, but we're still looking for a few new volunteers, particularly freshmen. Time commitment is minimal; mostly discussions via email, and meetings once and awhile. There is a budget waiting to be spent, and some new wrinkles in the works for this year, including a spring semester event to commemorate our namesake, Emily Gregory, so please think about coming onboard. If interested, drop Winnie a line at wtang@pobox.upenn.edu.

DÉCOR A LA GREGORY

A little more rugged... |

Area rugs can dress up that less-than-couture Gregory carpeting and make your room much cozier. Bring a crazy shaggy rug, throw some pillows around it, and make yourself a great place to read, chat or watch a movie. It's also a good idea to bring along or co-purchase some rugs for the bathroom with your roomies.

Be Personal |

With everything you had to remember to pack for college, it's easy to forget to bring along some favorite posters and pictures of family and friends. It's important to make your new room feel like you. Get comfortable and personalize – it's great to surround yourself with a few things that remind you of your past and it will help your roommates and friends get to know you as you share the stories behind it all. You can make a photo collage on your wall, put up a poster of your favorite film or TV show, and collect ticket stubs and flyers from events you attend at Penn and in Philly to keep track of all the fun you are having in college! Tack them up on some cork board or make your own French memo board using cardboard, fabric and ribbon.

Getting out the message |

Keep dry erase boards in your suite or on your door so that your roommates and friends can write you silly messages, keep track of ridiculous quotes or find out if you are playing soccer outside or taking a nap. If you have a micro-fridge, don't forget fun magnets or magnetic poetry. You can even make your own by buying some magnet strips at a craft store and then come up with your own unique Gregory vocabulary! Hmm, what would that be like?



Samantha Goldstein 113 Van Pelt

"I wanted to liven up my room, so I went kind of pink-crazy. I have pink EVERYTHING and combined with my pictures of friends, family and the oh-so-sexy Miles Davis, I think that my room turned out to be quite inviting and comfortable."



Shane Tepper, 209 Van Pelt

"I love music, so I selected that to be the main theme of my room. I schlepped up my record player this year - a decision that has proven to be one of the best of my short college career. There's something nostalgically endearing about having it here with me. I also have a poster of my hero, Eric Clapton, the greatest blues guitarist of our time."



Alba Tuninetti, 306 Class of 25

"I'm a huge fan of warm colors (i.e. red, orange, yellow) so I found the perfect bedspread at IKEA that lights up my room all by itself. I also love plants so I have a few, and I have cotton rugs since I like natural textures. To personalize my room I've hung diverse images from my travels, and that completes it!"

THE GREGORIAN'S GUIDE TO HISTORIC PHILADELPHIA

Welcome to Philadelphia! Philly was founded in 1652 by William Penn, who hoped his “City of Brotherly Love” would be the embodiment of tolerance and freedom, the principles upon which he founded his colony. Starting in 1790, it briefly served as the US capital. The Gregorian’s Guide to Historic Philadelphia covers some of the basics of the city. Unfortunately, it would be impossible to mention everything worth seeing so what follows are just a few highlights. Stay tuned for next month’s issue, which will look at some of the city’s cultural attractions.

Liberty Bell and Independence Hall – These two sights are best seen together—in fact, that’s the way the National Park Service has structured the tour of Independence Hall. First, pick up your free tickets at the Independence Hall Visitor’s Center near 6th and Market Streets. Then go through security and see the Liberty Bell in the Liberty Bell Center. Finally, wait for a ranger to escort you over to Independence Hall for a tour and history lesson. Warning: this is the city’s top tourist attraction and the free tickets go fast (especially on weekends). For guaranteed admission, go early in the morning.

Franklin Court – Ben Franklin’s Philadelphia residence burnt down almost two centuries ago. However, a skeletal framework has been erected to commemorate and give visitors a sense of the house. A floor plan is etched into the bricks, making it possible to trace where Franklin, napped, ate, and went to the bathroom. There’s also a museum and a gift shop where you can buy authentic looking copies of the Constitution and books written by and about Franklin. Franklin Court can be found on Chestnut St. between 3rd and 4th Streets. You will know it by a passageway with the small but quite profound sign noting the famous figure who passed through the walkway so many times.

Macy’s (the old Wanamaker’s department store) – If you’re a shoppaholic history geek, this is the department store for you. Located near along Market Street near City Hall, this historic building offers a chance to shop the finest designer brands and also see the first organ to be dedicated as a National Historic Landmark. Visit the Friends of the Wanamaker Organ website for a schedule of when the dusty pipes are transformed into an eerie concerto—this happens almost daily.

U.S. Mint – You don’t have to be in Wharton to learn how to make money at the US Mint. Located a block east of the Constitution Center, visitors are treated to tours between 9:00 and 3:00 on weekdays of the place where pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters are formed. Apologies if you’re only interested in the big bucks; dollar bills are not made at the mint, but rather at the Bureaus of Engraving and Printing. One is in Washington, DC and the other is in Fort Worth, TX.

Old City – This is the area southeast of Independence Hall. As the name suggests, it harkens back to a bygone era. Hedges and cobblestone streets lead history buffs to some lesser known national landmarks like the Mercantile Exchange, Second Bank of the United States, and City Tavern, where the founder’s kicked back after a long, arduous day of Constitution-framing. Old City is the perfect place to picnic or finish that 800-page tome for your freshman seminar. It’s more relaxing than the Independence Mall area as Old City is less frequented by tourists.

Elfreth’s Alley – The oldest continuously inhabited street in America (people have lived along this quaint route since 1713), makes you feel as if you’ve stepped back in time. Located just off 2nd St. between Arch and Race, it gives passersby a taste of what it would have been like to walk down a Philadelphia city street 200 years ago—that or what it would be like for Harry Potter to walk through Diagon Alley.

NSO, ETC. PHOTOS



D E A R A B B Y

A column of heartbreak, drama, and computer connections brought to you by Gregory's ITA's.

Dear ABby,
Okay, so I just bought this really tight computer and I want to make it real phat in order to impress the ladies and turn some heads, where can I get computer accessories around campus?
- Da Predator

Dear Da Predator,
 Try Computer Connections at the Penn Bookstore or Radio Shack just around the block. Honestly though, I don't know how much your gadgets will help you impress the ladies but it's your call. Maybe geeks are really the new sex symbols of today.

Best of luck! - Abby
Dear ABby,
I am, like a DJ and stuff, and well, you know, I have to keep up to date with the latest tracks and stuff, music videos, and the latest albums released ... so I was like wondering, with Penn's super fast internet connection, what program do you, like, recommend to download some music—you know, the newest tracks so I can make my parties real kicking and pumping?
- DJ Tavito

Dear DJ Tavito,

You can download music from Ruckus. It's free for Penn students. For more information, go to www.upenn.edu/computing/music. Or you can get a pretty good deal with iTunes at 99 cents a pop but whichever service you use, just make sure that it's legal. When's your next party?
 Let me know! - Abby

If you have a question for "Dear ABby" send an email to any of the Publications Managers. If you want a guaranteed, reliable and informed response from one of Gregory's expert ITAs, fill out a form at www.rescomp.upenn.edu and an ITA will assist you shortly.

G R E G O R Y W E E K L I E S

| Start time | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Sunday |
|------------|--|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| 12 or 1 PM | | | | | | Brunch |
| 3:00 PM | | | | | | Soccer |
| 6:30 PM | | | C'25 Greenhouse: Alternating weeks, Dinner with Gregory | | | |
| 7:30 PM | | C'25 Greenhouse or TV Lounge, Alternating weeks: Casa Hispanica Coffee Hour/Film and discussion | VP Piano Lounge: Math/Science Help with Bartek | | | |
| 8:00 PM | | 8-9 PM 316 VP, Writing help with Fellow Heather Love VP Film Lounge: Film Culture Screening | C'25 TV Lounge: Alternating weeks, Deutsches Haus and Maison Francaise Films | VP Film Lounge: Film Culture Screening C'25 TV Lounge, Alternating Weeks: Russkij Dom Films/Deutsches Haus Media Night | Evening, C'25 TV Lounge: Movie Nights | |
| 8:30 PM | | | C'25 Greenhouse: Casa Italiana Dinner | | | VP Film Lounge: International Cinema Sundays |
| 9:00 PM | C'25 2/f lounge Deutsches Haus Coffee Hour C'25 TV Lounge (Alternating Weeks): Casa Italiana Film | VP Piano Lounge: HOUSE C'25 2/F Lounge: Casa Italiana Coffee Hour C'25 Greenhouse: Maison Francaise Pause Café | VP Piano Lounge: LOST | VP Piano Lounge: Grey's Anatomy | | |
| 9:30 PM | C'25 Greenhouse: Russkij Dom Tea | | | | | |
| 10:00 PM | | VP Kitchen (305): BYOM | | | | |
| 10:30 PM | | | VP Piano Lounge: study Break | | | |