The Sporadic Newsletter of Gregory House

Dear Class of ‘12 and others,

By this time most of you are well acquainted with the Gregory ways of life, from the weekly BYOMs and the weekend Rock Band parties to the impulsive beach bonfires, but by this time of the year most of us are happy to head home and sink our teeth into some delicious turkey. There are some like me, to whom Gregory has become home and we shall be slumming Thanksgiving here. This is the official, albeit late, Welcome/Thanksgiving issue to all the newcomers. You have probably already discovered the mice, unreliable dumbwaiter, and money guzzling change machine in VP, but I’m sure that little things remain around Gregory still leave you scratching your head. In this issue we share some Gregory myths, give you a Gregory Weeklies schedule so you never miss a BYOM again, and discover random things about other Gregorians in the Pop Culture Grid. If you’re really lucky, you might see the answer to your miseries on our Aunti Shanti column. We also have information about upcoming events and information on how you can contribute to the Gregorian. This is YOUR newsletter. Personalize it! Welcome to the family!

Your favorite managers,
Mariam Naeem and Michael Field

IN THIS ISSUE:
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- Joining the House Council
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- Getting to know the New staff
- Information for Gregory Shoutouts and Cribs
- CONTRIBUTE to the Gregorian
- HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!

Not happy with something in the house? Are the carpets too rusty or does the DVD library not have your favorite movie? Always wanted to host a study break? Now you can. Join the House Council and be heard! Because at Gregory, you’re family, and family matters... To join, email Hilary at hpearson@upenn.edu
Dear Aunti Shanti, I have a problem with my roommate's hygiene habits. How do I tell her without being rude? thanks, anonymous.

Dear Anonymous,
When dealing with a troublesome roommate, always remember that tough love is the way to go. As I learned to do with the annoying lizards in my grandmother's Delhi apartment, you have to coexist peacefully but stand your ground. One of my fellow Gregorians had a roommate who did the exact same thing — knocking on the wall whenever she made so much as the slightest noise. At first, she let it go — but later on, when the roommate in question was making equally loud and impolite noises (the nature of which I will not discuss here), she started knocking back. Just make sure that you both develop a mutual understanding and don't let the retribution get too far — in the words of Gandhi, “An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind.” And if my advice doesn't help, I know an experienced professional in dealing with loud and obnoxious roommates — my roommate, Delphine.

Dear Aunti Shanti, My boss, teacher, and major advisor are all the same person. How do I tell her that I want to switch majors and quit my job?

Dear Anonymous,
Awkward situations have been the mainstay of my life since childhood. All you can do is embrace them. Manmohan Singh, India's current leader, once said that “Life is never free of contradictions.” The fact is, the only way you can move forward is by burning a couple of bridges. If you are forthright and honest, I think your major advisor/boss lady will respect your decision. But make sure to wait until there's nothing left for her to grade.

Dear Aunti Shanti, I have small boobs; what do I do? Socks are bulky and Wonderbras don't work... sincerely, Flattie.

Dear Flattie,
My experience on the subject is (not so) regrettably limited, as my people have a generally positive reputation in those areas (poets have compared them to mangoes, that's all I'm saying.) But what I would say is don't concentrate about stuffing your *bra* as much as stuffing your *brain*. In addition to our pectoral gifts, Indians have the highest millionaire ratio of any ethnicity in America, so trust me, we know! My cousins back in the homeland study through every holiday, which never ceases to amaze me. Let's say (just on a hunch) that you were a postgraduate nursing student who had a big exam coming up — focus on that! Because then, if it's really still bothering you, you can stuff your bra with all the hundred dollar bills you've been rolling in. Take it from our kickass, no nonsense former PM, Indira Gandhi: “There are two kinds of people, those who do the work and those who take the credit. Try to be in the first group; there is less competition there.”

Dear Aunti Shanti, I think I suffer from depression. I don't know what my major is and I'm not doing well in all my courses. I spend 2/3 of my time in my room. I hate socializing. My friends think I study all the time. I do so because I worry about my future. Can you help me?

Dear Depressed Maniac (and to all you newbies),
Everybody has a tough time sometimes (I quit a lot of things last year, so trust me, I know). Just keep working as hard as you can and remember: you go to Penn; none of us are average, or for that matter, normal. One of the great things about college is that you can never be alone (not even when you want to). Talk to someone; anyone. Some of my best friends here are people I met in the most unconventional of circumstances. And there's absolutely nothing wrong with seeing a therapist or a tutor or anyone if you have psychological or academic issues you'd rather sort out in private. Just remember what the Bengali poet and Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore said: “Clouds come floating into my life, no longer to carry rain or usher storm, but to add color to my sunset sky.”

Keep those questions coming!
At Gregory, there’s always something going on. Welcome at the Beach, Game Night, Toga Party, Convocation, Penitentiary Trip, Annual House BBQ, Bonfire, Progressive Dinner, House council meetings, Dinner with Gregory, Halloween Dance Party, Sex Quizzo, Birthday bowlings, White-water rafting, Karaoke Night, TV nights, Philly Cares. Don’t see your face? You’re not going to enough events! http://gregory.house.upenn.edu/media.aspx
UPPERCLASSMEN MENTORING PROGRAM:
Another example of how at Gregory we care about what you think. We have an excellent upperclassmen mentoring program for all the freshmen out there who need extra help. College can be hard and we are all here to make it as enjoyable and easy for you as possible. Gregory Mentors are returning upperclassmen who have volunteered their time and expertise to help their Housemates, whether with classes, majors, schools, study skills, or even Penn and Philadelphia life. To contact a mentor, use the Penn directory: https://medley.isc-seo.upenn.edu/directory/jsp/fast.do

**Gregory Myths**

- **The Dumbwaiter**: Ever wondered what caused the house admin to put up “do not try and ride the dumbwaiter” sign on the dumbwaiter? At Myths we did some sleuthing and found the surprising story of a lazy resident X of the Class of 19XX who decided to cram himself into the dumbwaiter while his friends pressed the button for the 4th floor. He was never heard from again. The next day his parent’s received a very hefty bill from Penn SFS for the damage to the dumbwaiter. We’ve all been tempted to take the dumbwaiter in this elevator-less house at some point of our college life but remember resident X. It is also thought that the pungent smell in the dumbwaiter is actually X’s soul trying to warn off other Gregorians from meeting a similar fate as his. Moral: no matter how much your legs ache, or how strongly the stairs reek of vomit, riding the dumbwaiter is just not worth it.

- **The Curse of the Gregory Diaspora**: Ever noticed how most Gregory residents can be heard complaining about everything regarding our lovely house and yet year after year you see the same faces floating in the halls. Such is the Curse of the Gregory diaspora. Once thou entereth the House, thou shalt not leaveth till thou graduate. The handful residents who leave are bound to return the year after. How did you think we managed to boast of the highest resident retention rates on campus? Did you guys really believe that amazing facilities, close-knit community, great staff, free movie passes, DVD library and an awesome newsletter were the only reason Gregory is ranked the #1 College House? ;)

Did you discover any Gregory myths of your own during your time in the House? Does Dean Donovan actually lead a dual life? Does your GA have an alcohol buying evil twin? Is there some scandalous romance on your floor that you think we should know about? Is your roommate cheating on her boyfriend with the boy down the hall who is also committed? For everything and anything YOU deem newsworthy, Write us: mariamn@sas.upenn.edu
### Gregory Weeklies

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<tr>
<th>Start Time</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td>12.00 pm</td>
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<td>SUNDAY BRUNCH Greenhouse</td>
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<td>1.30 pm</td>
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<td>SOCCER ON THE BEACH</td>
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<td>6.30 pm</td>
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<td>DwG</td>
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<td>7:00 pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Deutches Haus Coffee Hour</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.00 pm</td>
<td>I &lt;3 TV nights 4th floor film lounge; Chinese House Coffee Hour</td>
<td>STAT help in seminar room</td>
<td>Casa Italiana Coffee Hour</td>
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<td>8.30 pm</td>
<td>Casa Hispanica Coffee Hour</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 pm</td>
<td>Maison Francophone Coffee Hour</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30 pm</td>
<td>BYOM in 3rd floor kitchen</td>
<td>Study break in VP piano lounge</td>
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### The Pop Culture Grid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What do Gregory Residents think?</th>
<th>My favorite nap time is:</th>
<th>My advice to President Obama is:</th>
<th>If I could change one thing about Gregory it’d be:</th>
<th>I always _______ before I go to bed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michael VP - 117</td>
<td>I don’t nap</td>
<td>Choose good advisors</td>
<td>Add kitchens to the rooms</td>
<td>Take a shower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David VP - 218</td>
<td>2:00 - 4:00</td>
<td>FIX IT!</td>
<td>More pie</td>
<td>Think happy thoughts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sasha VP - 318</td>
<td>4:00 - 5:00</td>
<td>End the conflict in Darfur</td>
<td>The bathrooms</td>
<td>Listen to music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark VP - 402</td>
<td>I don’t nap</td>
<td>Economy first</td>
<td>Let residents control the heat</td>
<td>Brush my teeth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Keep your eyes peeled next issue for some answers from the Class of 1925!
So, there is new staff this year and we might think we know them, but who knows what thoughts cross Hilary’s mind behind that well-natured smile every time you go into the office chomping on your chewing gum, or what Maggie’s really looking at as she glances at your flip-flops while angelically crocheting away. The Gregorian went behind the scenes to provide you the scoop:

**Us:** What is your guilty pleasure?
**Hilary:** Eating ice cream for dinner

**Us:** What do you like most about Gregory so far?
**Hilary:** How friendly everyone has been

**Us:** Who would play you in your biographical feature film?
**Hilary:** Sarah Chalke

**Us:** What’s your biggest pet peeve?
**Hilary:** When I can hear someone chewing

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**Us:** What is your guilty pleasure?
**Maggie:** Definitely Lance's I Heart TV Mondays!

**Us:** What do you like most about Gregory so far?
**Maggie:** The swank living quarters. And my awesome 4th floor of C25!

**Us:** Who would play you in your biographical feature film?
**Maggie:** Claire Danes. Or Jenna Fisher (Pam from The Office).

**Us:** What's your biggest pet peeve?
**Maggie:** Long toenails—eww
Crib & Shoutouts

Are you proud of your crib?
This is your chance to enter the "Gregory Crib Contest," which will determine who has got the hottest room in the House. Nominations will be included in the next issue of "The Gregorian," with the winners to be decided by popular vote.

Please send photos of your room as well as a quick blurb on your inspiration and theme to mariam@sas.upenn.edu

Have something to say to someone, but are afraid to say it? Then turn to SHOUTOUTS.

Send an email with "SHOUTOUT" in the subject line. All SHOUTOUTS will remain anonymous, unless you're ok with it, but you can still say what you need to say.

Questions? Suggestions? Comments? Stories? Tell us: mariamn@sas.upenn.edu

Don’t forget to check online for the latest upcoming events, movies, language house meets and to see where else your face is posted: http://gregory.house.upenn.edu/default.aspx

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!