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## Welcome to the Rodin Arts Collective!

With the arrival of Ryan Keytack, Rodin College House's new Dean, comes an exciting new residential program for the 2011-2012 academic year. Building upon the strength of the existing Musical Engagement program, Keytack has created an arts community called *The Rodin Arts Collective (RAC)*. *RAC* will provide an artistic outlet for residents interested in music, visual arts and theater arts while serving as a larger umbrella organization to draw participants to House events from on and off campus. In addition, *RAC* allows for increased interaction between students and Rodin's faculty and senior staff.

The visual arts component, housed on the 9th floor, will be led by House Fellow Dr. Tanya Jung, who, besides serving as an Assistant Dean for academic advising in the College, has expertise in visual culture studies, especially religious cultures, and word and image studies. Dr. Jung is also a practicing visual artist involved in painting, printmaking, 3-D construction and design media.

The theater arts component on the 11th floor is under the purview of Dean Keytack. Among his many areas of expertise are performance studies, acting, directing, improvisation, and

musical theatre history. He also has extensive experience acting in drama and musicals in both collegiate and professional productions.

*Musical Engagement* is a well-established program that began in 2003 with oversight from Faculty Master and award-winning professor of music, Jay Reise. In past years, the program focused on composition and performance but all upperclass students interested in music appreciation may apply.

Located in the popular high-rise House, the program has a potential membership of 122. Dean Keytack will manage the assignments process for these floors. In addition, the House will seek to hire RA and GA applicants with specific background and/or training in the arts.

Applications for all College House Residential Programs (for upperclass students) will be accepted from December 1 through January 19. For more information on all Residential Programs see [www.collegehouses.upenn.edu/residentialprograms](http://www.collegehouses.upenn.edu/residentialprograms). Those interested in applying to be Residential Advisors (junior status with a minimal GPA of 2.50) may visit [www.collegehouses.upenn.edu/raga](http://www.collegehouses.upenn.edu/raga).



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# HOUSING INSIDER

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA . FALL 2010

**Homecoming:**  
October 30

**Thanksgiving Break:**  
November 25–28

**Winter Break begins:**  
December 23, 12 noon\*

**Spring Semester Move-In:**  
January 8, 9 am

**College House and Sansom Place  
Undergraduate Move-Out:**  
May 11

\*Note that all buildings **EXCEPT** Harnwell, Harrison and Rodin College Houses and Sansom Place East and West will be closed during winter break.

## Greetings from Penn

Believe it or not the buzz about housing for next year is already starting! Penn is in a neighborhood rich in student housing, and as a result many landlords begin the leasing process mid-way through the fall semester in order to get a jump in filling their apartments and houses. This creates a climate where students are forced to make early decisions about whether or not to stay on campus. For this reason we are devoting this newsletter to providing parents and families with information that will help you help your student navigate the choices and process.

Moving forward, have you signed up for the parent's listserv? If not, visit [www.surveymonkey.com/hdparent](http://www.surveymonkey.com/hdparent). We will be sending out occasional e-mails with key information and dates, so don't miss out!

For your students we will provide multiple opportunities this fall to learn about the housing process. They will also receive regular e-mails reminding them of critical deadlines.

Information regarding the room selection process is available beginning in early December at [www.upenn.edu/housing](http://www.upenn.edu/housing). This site is our primary source of information. Please encourage your student to become familiar with the information and refer to it throughout the process.

Sincerely,

Douglas Berger  
Executive Director, Business Services

## Housing Information Sessions for Students

Sponsored by Housing Services, College House and Academic Services, and Off Campus Services. These provide more opportunities for students to learn about the housing assignment processes and important considerations if they are thinking about the move off campus. Does your student have questions? Encourage them to attend and ask us!

**October 27, McClelland Hall, 6:00 PM • November 3, Hill College House, 6:00 PM  
November 9, Class of 1920, 6:00 PM • January 19, Kings Court/English College House, 6:00PM**

Residents of all College Houses and Sansom Place are invited and encouraged to attend! Information is pertinent to all academic years.

## Ten things to love about on campus housing:

- Location, location, location! Can't get any closer to campus, than ON campus!
- Furniture, utilities, internet and cable ALL included in one rent charge
- 24-hour staffed security, state of the art life safety systems
- No commitment to a 12-month lease, and flexibility with study abroad
- Free local phone calls and discounted long distance plans
- No fee laundry
- In-house academic advising and credit courses available
- Penn faculty are some of your hall neighbors
- Supportive community with great activities and programs
- It's all part of the Penn experience!

Need more reasons?  
Call us! 215-898-8271

It's **HOME**. It's **PENN**.



## Penn's Room Selection Process

On-campus room selection for Fall 2010 begins soon after students return from semester break in January. Penn's process has 4 phases and in order to promote House community, favors those students who return to their College House. Those students returning to their House apply and are assigned first. Those who apply to change Houses are assigned after House residents. Below is a general outline of the schedule:

**December 1– January 19:** Residential Program applications accepted. Students interested in applying to live in a smaller, theme-based community can apply to the House Dean of the program. See [www.collegehouses.upenn.edu/resprog/](http://www.collegehouses.upenn.edu/resprog/) for more information.

**January 21:** In House begins. Each House conducts their own customized process and sets their application dates for residents to request rooms for next year.

**February 11 – 15:** Community Living applications accepted. Community Living allows small groups of students to apply to live near one another in specific room types. Typically more students apply than can be accommodated because of the limited opportunities for clustering rooms.

**February 25 – March 1:** Inter-House Room Change applications accepted. Students who want to change Houses apply. It is not uncommon to have 50 – 200 students who are not assigned after this process. Often, there are still beds available; however, they may not match a student's room preferences. Students who decide to place themselves on a waiting list can usually be accommodated through vacancies that become available because of cancellations. However, they must be flexible in their room choices.

Please refer to our web site [www.upenn.edu/housing](http://www.upenn.edu/housing) to learn specific details. The information will be posted in early December. If you have any questions about the room selection process, please contact the Assignments Office, 215-898-8271, at any time.

## Room Selection Tips

We offer these tips to your son or daughter to increase their chances of securing on campus housing:

- Be informed of the process and do not miss deadlines. Refer to the room selection website [www.upenn.edu/housing](http://www.upenn.edu/housing) for this information.
- Consider returning to the same College House. All Houses encourage students to return and current House residents are placed first.
- Be realistic with housing preferences. There are certain room types that are extremely popular and limited in number. These are filled by students returning to their same House and who have the most seniority within their House. Examples include apartments that offer private bedrooms, kitchen and bath such as single apartments, two-bedroom double apartments, three-bedroom triple apartments, and four-bedroom quad apartments.
- Apply for a wide range of choices; however, students should not list any type they will not live in. We do not accept room change requests at this time, and cancellation fees apply from the moment a space is assigned.
- Do not apply for sheer speculation. Cancellation fees will be applied, but more importantly, another student may be waitlisted.

# HOUSES

## Commonly Asked Questions

### How many students live on campus?

Almost 6000 undergraduates live on campus and this represents approximately 56% of Penn's undergraduates. Another 400 live in fraternities and sororities.

### Do you recommend that my son/daughter live on campus?

We feel that freshmen and sophomores can significantly benefit from the resources, support, and community that the on campus experience offers and highly encourage them to live on campus. We also have a good number of junior and senior students in the college houses and Sansom place, who continue to stay on campus for a wide range of reasons, including both the sense of community as well as convenience and safety. Many upperclass students do migrate to off campus properties. As students move through their development, it is natural and desirable for them to want to experience more autonomy. An off campus experience can provide them with the opportunity to experience new freedoms as well as new responsibilities while remaining within the relative comfort of a college environment.

### Is there enough housing to accommodate students?

No, but typically we can accommodate those students who want to live on campus provided they are flexible in their housing preferences.

### When is fraternity and sorority rush?

Rush occurs spring semester. Students thinking about participating in rush should be aware that some fraternities and sororities may require or prefer that students live in their houses. Students should be cautious about signing a lease off campus in the fall if they are interested in rushing.

### When do students sign leases for off-campus properties?

The majority of rooming houses and some apartments (particularly those which have more than 3 bedrooms) are leased before the students leave for winter break.

## Signing on the dotted line

Whether your student lives on or off campus they will be required to sign a legally binding commitment for housing. On campus, all students must sign an occupancy agreement in order to secure a room on campus. Once signed, the student is financially obligated to pay rent for the entire academic year. Students are able to cancel their agreements **before occupancy, but they will incur a cancellation fee which significantly increases over time.** The fee schedule is listed on the agreement.

Off-campus students will be required to sign a lease and will be legally bound to the terms and conditions. Students should carefully review leases prior to signing. Most leases are for 12 months and students are not easily released despite the many circumstances that may invite a change of plans. Students should ensure all roommates have signed the lease because only the "signers" will be held liable.

For studios, one and two bedroom apartments, the busiest leasing period is typically mid-January through mid-April. There are exceptions, so students should check if they have a particular location in mind. Though more limited, options for September continue to come up through the end of July.

### Why doesn't Penn hold room sign-up sooner?

We believe that it is too early to expect students, especially freshmen, to make commitments about housing in October or November. Preferences, roommate situations, study abroad plans, and other factors such as fraternity/sorority involvement, may not be certain. We do understand the pressure that off campus landlords create by pushing a early off campus leasing process. In response we have tried to provide more and earlier information on the housing search process so that students can make informed choices.

### What if my son/daughter is planning to study abroad? Are they committed to a full year agreement on campus?

Students participating in a Penn approved study abroad program for the spring semester will be released from their housing contracts for spring provided they follow the appropriate early termination/cancellation procedures.

Students studying abroad during the fall semester can apply for housing beginning in October for the spring semester. Plenty of space is available if the student is flexible in their room preferences.

Off campus, most students are committed to 12 month leases. They must pay rent during their time away or review their lease to determine if subletting is possible.



## Moving Off...

The Off Campus Living office can guide students in planning their off campus move. Information is available on the rental process, available properties, lease signing, move-in/out tips, subletting, how to get repairs done, and living in the community. Students are encouraged to visit their office at Stouffer Commons, 3702 Spruce Street.

# INSIDER