Welcome Home, Class of 2023!

The Riepe Review
Summer 2019
Volume 13
Inside This Issue

Meet the Faculty and Staff
- Faculty Director Dr. Ralph Rosen and Ellen Rosen
- House Dean Dr. Marilyne Diggs-Thompson
- House Fellows Dr. Amy Stornaüolo and Vincenzo Stornaüolo
- House Fellows Dr. Sebastián Gil-Riaño, Adriann Moss, and Arturo

House Residential Programs
- Mentors
- Living Cultures
- Digital Humanities Opportunities
- Eco-Reps
- Information Technology Assistants
- 11th Hour Grotto

Fall House Events
Move-In Tips

What’s in a Name?

Riepe College House (pronounced “ree-pee”) is named after James S. Riepe W’65 and Gail Riepe CW’68, two prominent Penn alumni. Mr. Riepe recently served as the chairman of Penn’s Board of Trustees (he remains a Trustee) and Mrs. Riepe serves on the School of Veterinary Medicine’s Board of Overseers. Their connection to Penn is particularly strong when it comes to the Quad—three generations of the Riepe family have called it home.
Greetings from Faculty Director Dr. Ralph Rosen

Congratulations on joining the Penn community! We’re all very excited to greet you in person when you arrive on campus. Riepe College House is a fantastic place to live and we’re looking forward to showing you why.

I’m the Faculty Director of the house, and you’ll be able to find me in Ward 205, where I live with my wife Ellen. I teach in the Department of Classical Studies. As a classicist, I spend much of my time thinking about the ancient world, and am fascinated by pretty much any aspect of pre-modernity. But it’s the connections with our own world that especially excite me, whether it’s comparing ancient and modern comedians or political theorists. Ellen worked for several decades in the banking world as both a lawyer and businessperson, and currently serves on the boards of the Presser Foundation, The Musical Fund Society and the Alliance Française. She also volunteers in the library of the Lea School for the West Philadelphia Alliance for Children.

Ellen and I have many interests that go well beyond the academic, and are eager to share them with you—music, theater, art, and cooking. Anyone who wants to become initiated into the mysteries of pulling the perfect shot of espresso will definitely want to stop by our Sunday Open Houses. And while you’re over enjoying an espresso or cappuccino, fresh squeezed orange juice and treats, you can listen to music on my vacuum tube stereo equipment. We still have a turntable, and lots of LPs. The specialty of the house is jazz, but we have lots of classical music, rock, hip-hop and indie pop as well. We hope you’ll share your favorites with us, too.

During the year we also host a monthly ‘Dinners for Ten’ series, in which small groups of you can have dinner and conversation in our apartment with a special guest from Penn’s faculty or someone in the community. We hope you’ll all have a chance to attend some of these.

Throughout Penn’s College House system, each house has several faculty members in residence, and Riepe is no exception. Three of my colleagues also reside in Riepe:

**Dr. Amy Stornaiuolo** lives with her husband Vincenzo in McIlhenny (first floor). She leads the Riepe Mentors Program and reaches out to undergraduates interested in education, digital literacies, urban issues, and cross-cultural dialogue online. She is also director of the Education Minor in Urban Education and can advise people interested in learning about education at Penn. Amy and Vincenzo are former restaurateurs, and they use their cooking expertise to provide amazing pasta dinners for the whole Riepe house each month. These are not to be missed! Stay tuned for other regular events at the Stornaiuolo house that include cooking lessons, Italian language and culture events, and writing support.

**Dr. Sebastián Gil-Riaño** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of the History and Sociology of Science, with particular research interests in race and globalization in the history of science. Sebastián, his wife Adriann and their adorable young son Arturo can be found in their apartment located in Magee on the second floor. Sebastián and Adriann host Planet Sundaes in their apartment, with lots of fun fruit and nature documentaries! Be on the lookout for the monthly Riepe Writing Retreats, hosted by Sebastián and Amy.

And of course **House Dean Dr. Marilyne Diggs-Thompson** (or Dean Diggs, as you’ll learn to call her) completes the Riepe faculty team. Besides making Riepe hum along like a well-oiled machine and cooking up impressive amounts of terrific homemade food for everyone, she teaches in the Anthropology department as an Adjunct Assistant Professor, with special interests in the anthropology of consumerism and markets. She is assisted in the Riepe House office by Alaina (Lainie) Bailey, who is the Riepe House Coordinator. As a recent UPenn graduate, Lainie can be a great resource regarding all things Penn.

Last, we have a wonderful staff of RAs and GAs. They are incredibly helpful and a lot of fun! Among many other things, they will help you to settle in to Penn, and to explore the great city of Philadelphia!

All of us are looking forward to another great year at Riepe, in the Quad, and at Penn.

We look forward to meeting all of you soon and to welcoming you as part of our Riepe House family! See you in late August!
Welcome to Riepe College House, the second largest community in the Quad and home to an extended family of over 450 smart, creative, innovative, and passionate students, faculty, and staff. Comprised of 12 residential buildings clustered around the “Baby Quad” and Lower Quad, Riepe College House is both historically important and architecturally beautiful. Indoors and out, it is a great setting for your freshman year experience.

You may have already heard that Riepe is frequently referred to as Penn’s best home away from home. Our event calendar always features a nice mixture of home-cooked and catered comfort food dinners, study breaks, Sunday brunches, pancake breakfasts, and outdoor picnics and barbecues. It is important to us that we offer residents a good mix of on-campus and off-campus academic, cultural and social events. For example, the House and the faculty host dinners designed to provide you with information about the major and minor options available to you at Penn, as well as information workshops about graduate, medical and law school. Our social calendar features regularly scheduled trips into Center City where you may choose to sample some of the regional and international food options offered at Reading Terminal Market or at Philadelphia’s impressive array of restaurants, cafes and bistro, and food trucks. The House sponsors first-run movie nights, museum and concert outings and trips to local theme parks. We have already reserved tickets for the opening night concert of the Philadelphia Orchestra at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, for a Phillies baseball at Citizen’s Bank Park, and for a Philadelphia 76ers basketball game at the Wells Fargo Center later in the fall.

Although the House offers a full schedule of on- and off-campus events, Riepe residents can always find plenty of quiet spaces where they can study or simply kick back and enjoy a good book. The staff tries to offer residents a nice balance of fun, food, and intellectual stimulation within a supportive yet laid back lifestyle. In short, Riepe is an all-around great House and I look forward to welcoming you into our wonderful family.

Thank you!

Dr. Diggs-Thompson (aka Dean Diggs)
Hola todos! We are one of the faculty families joining Riepe this year. Sebastián teaches in the History and Sociology of Science Department. He studies the history of scientific ideas about race as well as the history of science and medicine in Latin America and the global South. He is originally from Colombia and grew up in Vancouver, Canada. Adriann has worked for several years in the fields of immigration settlement and student counselling and has recently become an avid grave gardener at the Woodlands cemetery in West Philadelphia. You’ll definitely see signs of her green thumb when you visit our home. She hails from southern Ontario in Canada and can skate circles around Sebastián on the ice rink. Arturo is a lively soon-to-be-three year old who was born in Sydney, Australia (where we all lived for two years before coming to Philadelphia) and has a passion for construction vehicles of all sorts and Prince (who doesn’t love Prince though, right?). You will likely see him zooming around on his scooter and you may even get a high-five. Our household is multi-lingual with a healthy dose of Spanish, English, Spanglish, occasionally a bit of French and a toddler version of “robot”. This will be our fourth year in Philadelphia and we’re still exploring all of the fascinating nooks and crannies of this city so we are very much looking forward to meeting all of you and learning more about you and your adventures…

Meet your Faculty Fellows!

Dr. Sebastián Gil-Riaño, Adriann Moss, and Arturo | 209 Magee

Hello everyone! We are one of the faculty families in Riepe. I (Amy) am an Associate Professor of Literacy in the Literacy, Culture, and International Education division at the Graduate School of Education. I am also directing the Urban Education Minor, so if you have any questions about that minor, please come see me. My research is about how to use digital technologies for learning, and I work mostly with adolescents and teachers (particularly in studying how new communication technologies online can connect people globally). In Riepe, I direct the Mentors program, which brings together 24 Riepe students who will tutor in Philadelphia public schools. We will have a couple of open events in case you are interested in hearing more about what the Mentors do in the schools. My husband Vincenzo is a chef from Italy (Sicily, to be precise, which you will immediately know when you talk to him). He is excited to cook Italian dishes for everyone and will hold a few cooking lessons for those who want to brush up on culinary skills through the year. As a former semi-pro basketball player in his native Italy, he is keen on watching basketball games or throwing a ball around on occasion with interested folks. We have two grown boys who will visit occasionally. VJ is a yoga teacher in Northern California and Frankie is an actor in Los Angeles. We are looking forward to hosting regular pasta dinners and to sharing our enthusiasm for all things fantasy and sci fi with other like-minded people. Amy is a former college writing teacher and will help people with essays and writing assignments at drop in sessions. And of course, we look forward to seeing you all at our famous Italian Table/ Pasta Nights! We are looking forward to meeting you soon!
Members of the Mentors Program form a unique team dedicated to serving children in West Philadelphia public schools. Directed by Riepe House Fellow Dr. Amy Stornaiuolo, the Mentors program aims to familiarize its residents with West Philadelphia by connecting them with children who live and attend West Philadelphia schools. Under the direction of senior faculty at Penn’s Graduate School of Education, participants mentor children in nearby elementary, middle, and high schools, devoting at least two hours a week to such activities, as well as attending monthly dinners with faculty to discuss their experiences. In the process, mentors learn about the challenges facing kids in Philadelphia’s educational system, while also learning about the talents and great potential of these students. Throughout the year, mentors have the opportunity to develop their own leadership skills, gain exceptional pre-career experience, and discover the rewards of community service.

Riepe Mentors come from cities all across the country and around the world, but are linked by their shared commitment to community service. They bring this commitment to the children at these schools who benefit from their weekly encouragement and support. By joining the Riepe Mentors community with the local school communities, Riepe Mentors support the learning and growth of both Penn and Philadelphia public school students. Mentors become a significant part of the life of the school and through their service and care they create important connections between Penn and the Philadelphia schools. Mentors also serve Riepe College House by organizing house-wide community service projects. These involve improving playground areas, painting classrooms and halls, planting bulbs, and generally beautifying the school campus. All Riepe residents are encouraged to join in community service opportunities and fundraising events sponsored by Mentors.

**Program Communities**

**Riepe Mentors**

**Digital Humanities**

Riepe’s Digital Humanities Residential Community will be home for students who are excited by the varied and exciting intersections between arts and culture (including literature, manuscripts, visual arts, linguistics, music, history, and archaeology) and continually evolving digital technologies. These technologies are rapidly opening entirely new sets of questions about humanistic materials, from texts to artifacts and beyond—and continually suggesting new methodologies for approaching them. Whether recovering erased medieval texts via spectral imaging, digitally reconstructing architectural or archaeological history, confronting large cultural questions by analyzing large sets of digitized data, students will be introduced to a vast array of skill-sets and potential research projects in all areas traditionally (and sometimes, non-traditionally) associated with the Humanities. This community will offer a perfect, authentic, cutting-edge blend of disciplines and intellectual realms!
Fall Semester Highlights

Freshman House Meeting & First Hall Meeting
August 21

House Picnic
September 1

Philadelphia Orchestra Free College Night
October 9

International Dinner

Family Weekend
November 1 – 3

Oktoberfest

Homecoming, Penn vs. Cornell
November 9

House Holiday Dinner

First Friday Trips

And More!

Faculty Events:

Alternating Sundays:
Coffee Hour with the Rosens
Planet Sundae with Sebastián and Adriann

Alternating Thursdays:
Italian Table with Amy and Vincenzo

Each Month:
Comfort Food Dinner with Dean Diggs

And more!

Help Wanted!

Work-Study Jobs
@ 11th Hour Grotto

Work Comfortably, Work in Riepe!
More information on how to apply at the BIG HOUSE MEETING August 21st!
For more info, email House Coordinator, Lainie Bailey: albailey@upenn.edu

Information Technology Assistants

Information Technology Assistants (ITAs) are your solution for computer support. ITA Managers oversee the highly competent ITA staff who are here to help at the fully-equipped Nussdorfer Computer Lab.
ITAs will also help get your computer running as well as answer any technical questions about computing in the House and at Penn as soon as you arrive.
Information on applying to become an ITA can be found at: http://rescomp.house.upenn.edu/students/ITA_Information
Move-In Tips

Housing and Room-Related FAQs

Can I visit my room over the summer? What does my room have?
Sorry, you cannot. Our buildings are occupied by Summer Conference participants and guests of the University. However, floor plans and amenities are listed on the CampusExpress housing portal.

How early can I move in?
Official move-in dates are listed online in Campus Express. Please check to see your assigned move-in date and time. Most Riepe residents will move in on either August 20 or 21. Please note: once a resident has been given room access, they are officially taking occupancy of the room, and will be billed accordingly. For more info: Residential Services Move-In

What should I bring?
Follow this link to find a list of items to bring: Move-In Tips

Can I change to another room in the Quad before Move-In?
No, room changes are made only during scheduled periods throughout the year. More information about this will be made available on the Housing Services website at that time. During room change periods, we cannot guarantee another Quad room.

Can I ship stuff to my room?
Your mailing address is indicated in your assignment information. Given the high volume of mail and packages around move-in, we ask that you time your shipping to coincide with your arrival and not too many days earlier than that date. Please add 1-2 days to shipping company’s delivery time estimates for campus processing. Please be advised, Riepe does not have a storage room for belongings that you ship but cannot fit in your room.

For additional information, visit:
http://cms.business-services.upenn.edu/residential-services/services-a-support/move-inout.html

Computing Tips

Before coming to Penn, there are few steps you can take to make your computing experience hassle-free.

PCs
◊ If you have an antivirus, make sure to turn it on (if you don’t have one, you’ll get Symantec antivirus for free)
◊ Turn on your firewall
◊ Make sure you have a password for your computer

Macs
◊ Turn your firewall on
◊ Set up a password
◊ Get the latest updates from Apple

If you are unsure how to take any of these steps, that’s not a problem. When you arrive on campus, an ITA will assist you with setting up your system and connecting you to the Penn network.
See you soon!

Riepe College House