

# The Thinker

Issue 1

62nd Session

June 10, 2022

## GPGC Traditions Return to New Generation

By Meredith G.

After GPGC was out for two years, there is a large difference in numbers, and that means fewer Grads to come back and share all of the old traditions and slang.

For example, the word 'Giftie'. According to Mary-Helen Giles, who was a Giftie in the 1980s, it started out as an insult that the other groups on campus would call program participants, but they adopted the nickname and still use it today. If there was no one who came back, that nickname would have died out.

Some of the weekend traditions are the Friday movie, Soccer Friday, and Saturday dance, said Abbie Fruge, a program alum who is in her second year as a counselor.

There are several traditional songs that play at the dances, such as Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen. Traditional movies include The Princess Bride and Dead Poets Society.

Every summer, Gifties pass around The Hobbit, by J.R.R Tolkien. The tradition started one summer when everyone decided to break the world record for "Longest Bedtime Story," Fruge said.



Another summer tradition is the Grad fruit drop, in which Grads take a watermelon, hollow it out, fill it with whatever they want, and drop it off of the roof of Gayle Hall onto a tarp to watch it explode.



**Photos clockwise from top:** Giftie dance traditions. Reading The Hobbit. Traditional songs at Saturday night dances. Giftie Olympics. All photos courtesy of GPGC 2017.



## GPGC Legacy Continues with Smaller Numbers

By Julien V.

With two summers in between the current and last GPGC, most of this year's class is freshmen, with only two returning students.

As this new era of GPGC starts, students may have questions about the history of the program.

As it turns out, this year's

session, which has 19 students, is not the smallest on record. That title belongs to the first GPGC session of 1959, according to Josh Brown, director of the GPGC.

The program's largest summer was 179 students in 1982, Mr. Brown said. That class included six students gifted in visual arts, a category the program no longer

includes. The summer of 1981 was also a large one, with three freshman classes of about 20 students each.

He said the small number of students in this summer's program makes the experience less stressful for everyone. The staff can get to know the students better and in a much shorter amount of time.

The program is currently in its 62nd session (but its 64th year), and the small number of students means different processes and procedures for this year.

The government is another element that will change, reverting to a more Athenian-style democracy because of the smaller numbers, Mr. Brown said.

# Werewolf: A Fun Game To Play!

By Elizabeth B.

The game Werewolf is somewhat of a card game but is more talkative.

The players will receive one card from the game-master. There is no right or wrong way to make the cards, but they should be either thick enough or discreet enough so you can't see other's cards.

The people playing, when they get their cards, should look at them discreetly. Make sure the other people do not see your card, it will ruin the secretive aspect of the game!

The game moderator will tell everyone to "go to sleep" which means close your eyes.

The game moderator will then say "werewolves wake up," and the people who got the werewolf card will open their eyes and choose someone to "kill." That person will then die unless they are protected by the priest/bodyguard.

The bodyguard can choose a new person to protect each night but the priest can protect one person only for the entirety of the game.

Each night is a round, and the rounds last long enough so all the night roles can do

their ability.

You can make your own roles, but mandatory cards are werewolf cards and villager cards.

Some cards that make the game more fun (just from the actual game) are the seer, spellcaster and cupid.

The seer can choose one person per night to see so they know that person's role.

The spellcaster can choose one person every night to silence during the talking and voting period.

The cupid wakes up only once, on the first night, and chooses two people to be lovers. If one of those two dies the other dies of a broken heart.

After all of the night roles have done their job, they will return to sleep and then the moderator will tell everyone to wake up.

They must then describe the murder scene with extreme detail. Something preferably along the lines of "The werewolves took his/her blood and made a picture of Pepe the frog and they wrote 'Werewolves Wuz Here' on the wall."

The players will then state their suspicions about who is the werewolf, and

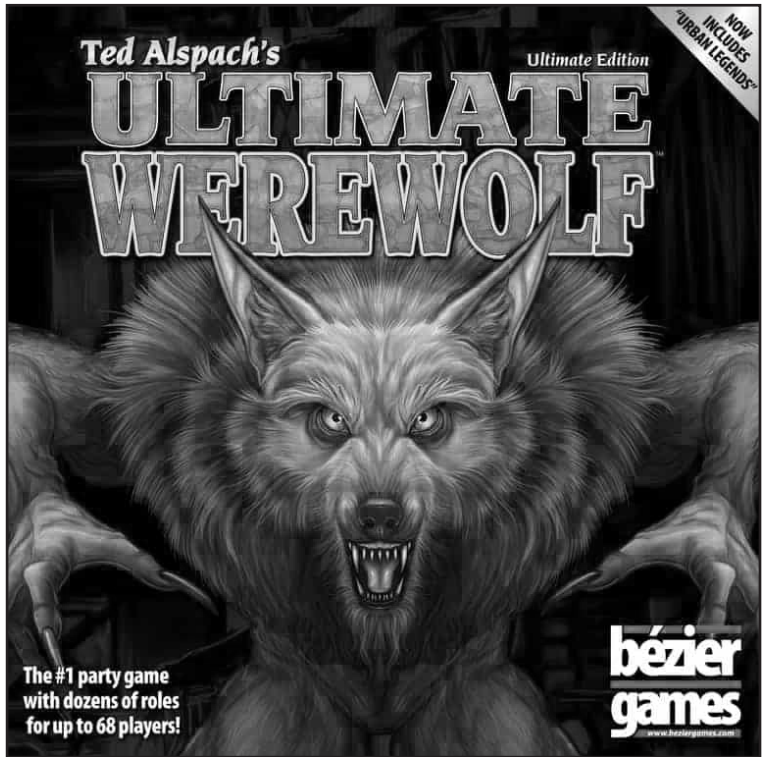


Image courtesy of bezier games.

then when everything is all said and done the players will vote on who should go out. They will say the name of or point to the person they wish to vote for.

When you are voted you will hold up a finger to show how many votes you have. The person with the most votes will show their card and then die/leave the game.

The werewolves win if

they kill enough people so that the number of werewolves is equal to the number of villagers. The villagers win if they vote out all the werewolves.

Werewolf is a very fun game, and I would recommend you play it. You can buy a box of cards or make your own. Either way just enjoy the game, and I hope this article helped.

## Dog of the Week

By Elizabeth B. and Lydee F.

Some Giftees have requested a dog of the week. This week we are featuring dogs that have a traditional reputation of being fierce. That is not always the case.

The dog of the week this week is:

### THE GREAT DANE!

Great danes are large, but they have a reputation as a breed for being friendly, dependable, and patient, according to the American Kennel Club. They are working dogs who are protective and high-energy. They have short coats and are about 32 inches tall at the shoulder.

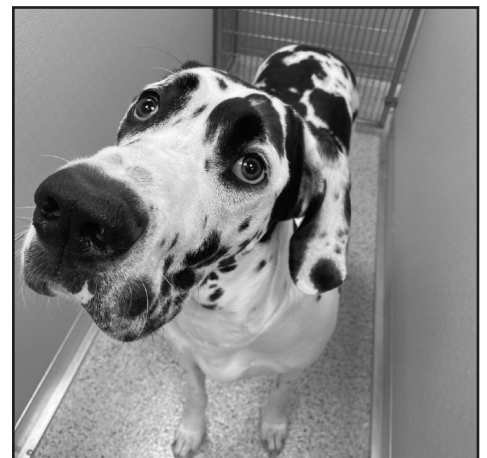


Image from Insight-Egypt.com



# Meet the Freshmen

By Lydee F. and Julien V.

During the next few weeks, short articles about fellow Gifties will help you get to know your classmates.

This week we're featuring our first seven, in no particular order.

## Lydee F.

Lydee is from Kinder, Louisiana, where she has two siblings waiting for her.

Her favorite color is yellow, her favorite meal of the day is breakfast, and her favorite movie is Five Feet Apart.

Since she has gotten to GPGC, her roommate is Meredith G. and her favorite activity to do with her peers is SET.

Her favorite morning classes are humanities/composition, and her favorite afternoon class is musical.

One fun fact about Lydee is that she is an author.

## Elizabeth B.

Elizabeth, who also goes by Lizzie, is from "here in Lake Charles."

She has one sibling, and her favorite movie is Arthur Christmas, her favorite color is "the cyan that's in Mine-craft," and her favorite meal of the day is dinner.

Her roommate has been Amelia since she got to the program, and her favorite activity to do with her peers so far is Werewolf.

Her favorite morning classes are science/composition, while her favorite afternoon classes are publishing/critical thinking.

In her words, a fun fact about Lizzie is her "bird

named Twilight."

## Julien V.

Julien is originally from California, however he moved to New Zealand when he was 3 and moved to Lake Charles in November of 2021.

Much to his disappointment he is an only child.

Julien's favorite color is Dark Ultramarine blue, his favorite meal of the day is lunch, and his favorite movie is How To Train Your Dragon.

Since arriving at GPGC, Julien's roommate has been Samson. Julien's favorite activity is Werewolf.

His favorite morning class is composition, and his favorite afternoon class is publishing.

A fun fact about Julien is he enjoys ALL books whether they be dark or not.

## Sarang J.

Sara, who prefers to be called Gloria, is from Shreveport, Louisiana, and she has three siblings, one of which is here at GPGC with her.

Her favorite color is green, her favorite movie is specifically Pirates of the Caribbean, Dead Man's Chest, and her favorite meal of the day is anything she can eat in her dorm.

Her roommate is her sister, Grace, and her favorite activity she's done at the program so far is being in her dorm, which she says is the most fun.

Her favorite morning class is science and her favorite afternoon class is critical thinking. A fun fact about Gloria is that she "played the violin... yeah."

## Grace J.

Grace is from Shreveport, Louisiana, and has three siblings, one of whom is, of course, at GPGC with her.

Her favorite movie is Lord of the Rings, although The Hobbit is a close runner up, her favorite color is any of the neutrals plus blue, and her favorite meal of the day is any food here, since it's better than school food.

Her roommate has been her sister, Gloria, since she got here, and her favorite activity to do here is "chit-chat" to develop friendships.

She "abstains" from naming her favorite morning class. But her favorite afternoon class is drawing.

A fun fact about Grace, in her opinion, is that she's "Not fun," \*winky face.

## Azula T.

Azula is from Sulphur, Louisiana, and has three siblings.

Their favorite movie is Mrs. Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children, their favorite color is dark green, and their favorite meal of the day is breakfast, preferably the breakfast that was served on Monday.

Since they got to GPGC,

their roommate has been Maddy, and their favorite activity they've done is SET.

Their favorite morning class is humanities, but composition comes close, and their favorite afternoon class is currently critical thinking.

A fun fact about Azula is that they wear a size 8½ shoe.

## Madelyn W.

Madelyn is from Sulphur, Louisiana, and has one sibling.

Her favorite color is pink, and every shade of it, her favorite meal of the day is lunch, and her favorite movie is Bad Guys, because of its "silly wolf guy and other silly animals."

Her roommate has been Brooklyn since she got to the program, and her favorite activity she's done here so far is Werewolf.

Her favorite morning class is humanities, because she likes to "talk about stuff," and her favorite afternoon class is drawing.

A fun fact about Madelyn is that she enjoys making characters, outfits, and stories and drawing them out.

Come back next week for more freshmen profiles.

## Word of the Week ichthyofauna

[ ik-thee-uh-faw-nuh ]

noun

the indigenous fish of a region.

"Hairless animals" - Abe M.

"Category of plant" - Amelia L.

"Subspecies of animal" - Abbie F.

# Seen and Heard

"I'm glad I'm not that funny. It would be a bit awkward if I was." - Brooklyn M.

"I have a brush marker." - Amelia L.

"Drinking gum." - Brooklyn M., Azula T., Calvin R.

"We are making peace. We finished our cheese argument." - Azula T.

"Is it a murder book? You said you don't know how to execute it." - Brooklyn M.

"My closet was open the entire time?" - Lydee F.

"Ok, Ok, I'll put my Crocs in four-wheel-drive." - Maddie W.

"Oh, I'm out of land." - Alex H.

"We listened to you being quiet." - Brooklyn M.

"I'm sunburnt and my skin is falling off. What do you expect me to do?" - Brooklyn M.

"You wouldn't want to waste your time killing me." - Julien V.

"Abe! Why are you in the no-Abe zone?" - Abby Fruge

"I'm allergic to everything. I'm allergic to air!... probably." - Meredith G.

\*screams\* "She's got a pencil! She's gonna pull a John Wick!" - Gabe G.

\*Stitch noises\* - Gabe G.

"What is this concoction?" - Gloria J.

"Cheddar News?" - Christine Bertrand

"Cheese your mom." - Amelia L.

"Julien STOP talking to the Bushes!" - Azula T.

"Are those your ears? Dang those are some nice ears." - Ryan B.

"Meredith, that's not a dog, it's a tree." - Abe M.

"I bet Gabe can't stop talking for five minutes" \*five minutes later\* "Wow I'm impressed!" - Robert Markstrom

"I don't understand the world anymore. Actually, I never understood the world!" - Meredith G.

"I found a new way to write G! Nevermind. I like my old way." - Brooklyn M.

"AN-AR-CHY! AN-AR-CHY! AN-AR-CHY!" - Gabe G., Elizabeth B., Meredith G.

"And then came wheat thins... and my life changed." - Meredith G.

\*Walks up with a tiny piece of spinach\* "Rate my meal out of ten." - Jace S.

# For Funsies Art Prompts

By Elizabeth B.

These art prompts are meant for people who love drawing but have no ideas on what to do! Remember to save these so you can submit them to Miles To Go at the end of the summer! Have fun!

**Day one:** Amphibian  
**Day two:** Dark Sign  
**Day three:** Internship  
**Day four:** Toxic Area  
**Day five:** Finality

## Have a joke!

1: Wanna hear a joke?

2: What's it about?

1: An airplane!... Nah it'd probably go right over your head!

## Random Fact

By Meredith G.

The Louisiana State Meat Pie is The Natchitoches Meat Pie.

### Editorial Staff:

Elizabeth B.  
Lydee F.  
Merideth G.  
Julien V.  
Victoria T.

