

**KYLA BALKAN** hails from sunny Miami, so she spent a majority of freshman year complaining about the "arctic tundra" this Philadelphia. In her spare time, she enjoys impersonating Sophia Vergara (in voice only, unfortunately), sweet-talking DJs into playing "The Wobble," so she can show off her skills. She can teach you how to doogie (but has yet to master a wall twerk) and to cook a mean pot of rice on a camp stove. She considers herself a French toast connoisseur... talk to her about it! Things not to talk to her about: sprinkles (why don't they taste like anything?), Teagan and Sara (just bad), and Iguanas (zero knowledge on the subject).



JR had such an incredible freshman PennQuest experience in the fall of 2011 that she has not come out of her sleeping bag since. When she finally does, she hopes she will emerge as a beautiful butterfly.

**CARY** is a male. He is a junior philosophy major in the college. He loves to be outside and when it's nice out, watching the clouds is one of his favorite past times. Sources say that he cannot wait to meet the freshman Penn Questers in the fall, but these sources have not been confirmed by FDA approved human trials.

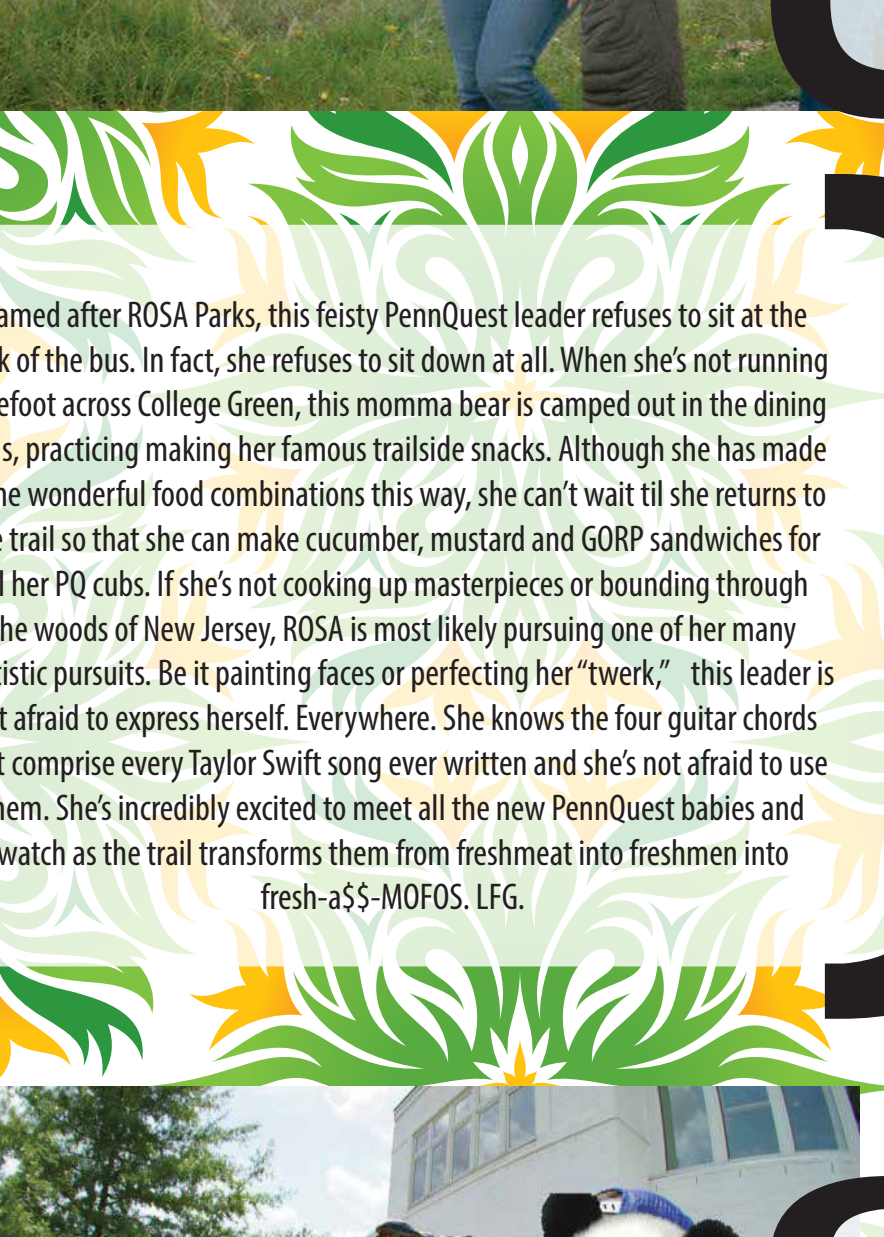


**ALLI HYTHA** is known to live on the wild side. Where the Wild Things Are is actually a true story based upon her life. When her room turned into a magic jungle, she traveled to faraway lands and successfully intimidated the wild creatures, becoming the Queen of the Wild Things. She still holds that title today.

**ARIELLE** lives on the flip side of life. She is known by many names such as Foges and El but also answers to Oprah Winfrey and sassy stud muffin (blueberry). She is obsessed with dimples beyond reason and has been known to poke people's dimples whenever she feels dimple deprived (hide yo dimples, hide yo wife). She also can't dance and she doesn't deny it. Oh no no no. Instead, she just breaks out her one signature dance move which involves a backwards Sivers hat, a taser, and a Wawa slushee. Beware. It is scaring. Although she can't dance, she is DTF. Down to Fogel. Are you?



"Whether riding the EAG with the cast of finding Nemo, chasing sharks for a new cover photo, or playing with dolphins for her senior thesis, **CLAIRE** has spent more hours underwater than she did sleeping last semester. The only thing that gets her to leave the ocean? PENNQUEST."



Hailing from the Great State of TEXAS, **HUNTER** is thoroughly dissatisfied with the current going rate of oats: riding his horse to and around campus is becoming economically unfeasible. In his free time he enjoys wearing eccentric clothing and pretending to be other people. Other favorite hobbies include using acronyms IRL, staring rapidly into the distance, and leaving cakes out in the rain.

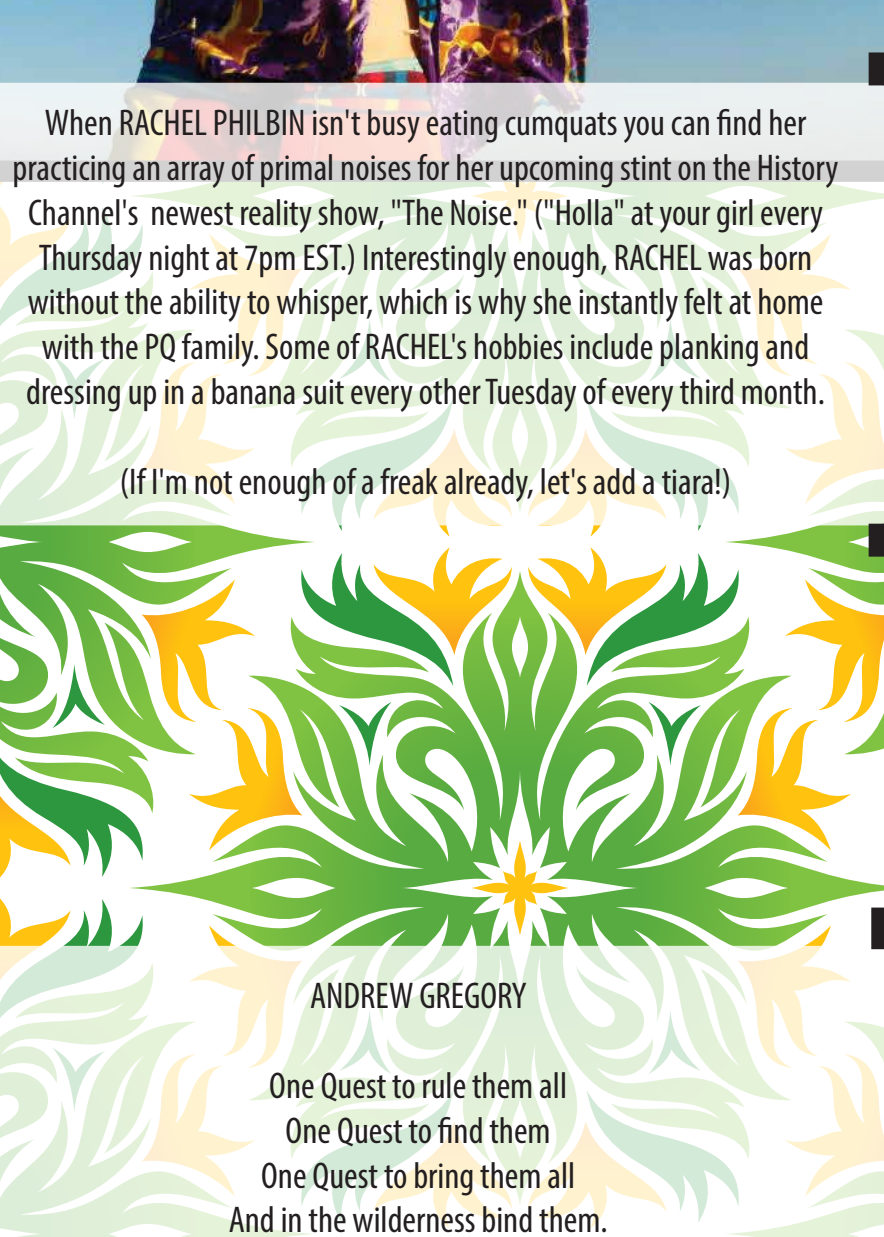
**MARK BAI**, AKA Marco Bai, was born in the wild coal country of Shanxi province. After hiking his way out from underneath the smog and pollution of his motherland, MARK has developed a keen sense of direction. Extremely chill and a lover of clouds, Mr. Bai rarely reveals his fiery inner spirit, but when he does, watch out! Self-proclaimed "The Chairman", MARK has spent the last two summers slinging knives. Yes, knives. He spends the rest of his free time outside the Poconos posing for art projects and listening to the croons of his J artists. Oh, and barn parties! ;)



**NICK MONCY**, dubbed "Slick Nick", doesn't have a middle name like everyone else, but to that he says "I'm different, yeah I'm different." When he busted to Houston Hall on the first day of PennQuest, he was so blinded by the light coming from the leader's shiny whites that he now has to wear those huge hipstery glasses for the rest of his life. Along with the amazing KYLA he brings some serious Miami heat to the team, so traveling to Philly and seeing snow for the first time after 18 years totally messed with his head. Like what is this, God's dandruff? As you can guess, mountains are a foreign concept. Well, when he's NOT completely confused, NICK likes to get his hands dirty painting, run long distances, and synergize with EDM tracks like there's no tomorrow. He is indeed addicted to apple juice, the nectar of the gods, but he'll settle for iodine water on the trail. Mmm, nature.

## laissez les bons temps rouler!

ethan / m / dj skeggett / louisiana



Though **SARA DIAZ** was born and raised in Los Angeles, she has an inexplicable penchant for country music, peeing in the woods, and an alligator based television programming, leading many to believe that she was an outlaw moonshiner hiding away in the Appalachian Mountains in a past life. She has a deep seeded fear of the ocean and squirrels, and has seen "Gladiator" 18 times.

Hello everybody, my name is **BENJAMIN SLOCIM** and I would like for you to get to know me. I was a cubscout so that's pretty chill I guess. I enjoy ornithology and getting to know new friends (:). Did you know that a group of owls is officially called a parliament? Ha ha what a hoot that is! Soooo as you can probably tell I am pretty funny and very well spoken. Bye!

Love always,  
Benjamin (Benjy for short)



**GABBY KIRK** is terrible at writing biographies. However, her deep love of PennQuest has motivated her to jot a few words down on paper... metaphorically of course because this is all being typed. She hails from the north, where the water is always just a little bit colder. She enjoys watching movies, hanging out, sitting, laughing and the occasional three day hike on the Appalachian Trail. After hitting the trail and screaming at the top of her lungs on the bus for the first time as a freshman, she knew she was destined to join the ranks of this motley crew of leaders. She has an insatiable love for freshman of all kinds and all types of freshman activities. Luckily, she is one of the shortest of the current PennQuest leaders which will hopefully allow her to pass for a freshman for years to come. Let the craziness begin.

p.s. she thinks you're awesome.

Named after **ROSA Parks**, this feisty PennQuest leader refuses to sit at the back of the bus. In fact, she refuses to sit down at all. When she's not running barefoot across College Green, this momma bear is camped out in the dining halls, practicing making her famous trailside snacks. Although she has made some wonderful food combinations this way, she can't wait til she returns to the trail so that she can make cucumber, mustard and GORP sandwiches for all her PQ cubs. If she's not cooking up masterpieces or bounding through the woods of New Jersey, ROSA is most likely pursuing one of her many artistic pursuits. Be it painting faces or perfecting her "twerk," this leader is not afraid to express herself. Everywhere. She knows her four guitar chords that comprise every Taylor Swift song ever written and she's not afraid to use them. She's incredibly excited to meet all the new PennQuest babies and watch as she transforms them from freshman into freshmen into fresh-a\$\$-MOTOS. LFG.



**DORON ROBERTS-KEDES** may or may not be joining PQers on the trail this year after being put on probation for exiting a poo-choo train in Amy Gutmann's backyard with Rataat and Tim Geitner (he wasn't truly upset until he was awarded a mere two points despite the clear strategic diffi-culty of the maneuver). If, how-ever, you are fortunate enough to hike with him this year you can expect a lot of shenanigans, tomfoolery, knavery, hanky-panky, buffoonery, crocheting... you know, the usual.



**JEREMY** is from Chicago and always represents the "Mid-Best." He loves beards, the woods, and singing... and all things Chicago-related. As the highest member of PennQuest, you might mistake him for Chewbacca, a Yeti, or Bigfoot while on the trail. But don't be afraid, he just wants to be your friend!



Born with a Nalgene in her hand, **MADELINE WATTENBARGER** is the fun-loving, water-guzzling space alien you've been missing your whole life. Despite her innate inclination toward lugging around immense amounts of H<sub>2</sub>O, she went through the first 18 years of her life (aka the Pre-PennQuest Era aka The Dark Ages) without backpacking through the forests and mountains of Earth. After those three painful days in August 2012, however, she sees no turning back. She just KNOWS you'll feel the same way. In her spare time, MADELINE enjoys frolicking in this planet's grass, curating her extensive collection of water bottles and dreaming about the day she'll meet the new PQ B@B@SS. She has been known to sweat craft glitter, which occasionally makes LNT (Leave No Trace, as you'll soon learn, freshmen) kind of awkward. And yes, you can have a sip from her Nalgene.



A Midwestern girl at heart, **HADAY** hails from the illustrious city of Milwaukee. But don't let this gal's country-esque roots fool you - she loves to rage... to anything but dubstep. Since 2012, HADAY and her fellow PQ leads SKAGGS have revolutionized dance music through their DJ duo entitled DJ SKEGGERT. They just recently released their critically acclaimed debut album entitled "Whaddup PQ!" during Radio 1's essential new tunes including "Love" and "Don't You Worry Child" (with Target-circus track, "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together"). Other than her musical talents, HADAY enjoys popping bubble wrap, studying the history of mangoes, memorizing the OED, and mastering the unique accents of every Game of Thrones character.

¡Estoy de fiesta!



When **RACHEL PHILBIN** isn't busy eating cucumbers you can find her practicing an array of primal noises for her upcoming stint on the History Channel's newest reality show, "The Noise." ("Holla" at your girl every Thursday night at 7pm EST). Interestingly enough, RACHEL was born without the ability to whisper, which is why she instantly felt at home with the PQ family. Some of RACHEL's hobbies include planking and dressing up in a banana suit every other Tuesday of every third month.

(If I'm not enough of a freak already, let's add a tiara!)



**ANDREW GREGORY**

One Quest to rule them all  
One Quest to find them  
One Quest to bring them all  
And in the wilderness bind them.

If you haven't figured it out, I'm talking about PennQuest (shout out to my fantasy/scifi nerds) If I had to describe myself in one word, it would probably be Andrew. I am generally irritated when asked to describe myself in one word. I'm usually not irritated though, due to the fact that I like most things/people. You might be thinking I don't have very high standards. You might be WRONG.



Straight Outta Newton, **JOE HABER** was wrongly incarcerated by haters for an excess of swag, but quickly became friends with Morgan Freeman in prison, who turned out to be God and built Joe a Batmobile to aid him in escaping. In his free time, Joe enjoys playing guitar and peaking athletically in middle school, but most importantly crafting exquisite sandwiches on the Wawa touch screens. An Outward Bound alum, Joe is super stoked to get weird in the woods.



**AMANDA MAURI** voyaged miles and miles, slaying crocodiles with her bare hands and surviving on solely tree moss, to arrive in foreign West Philadelphia from her native South Philadelphia. Since the Journey left her unable to communicate with other humans, she now uses interpretive dance and monkey grunts to express her feelings. You may ask why would she put herself through such peril? There is only one answer to that question: PENNQUESTTTTT



Born on the Alaskan tundra, the wild **OLIVIA-CHILD** was an animal only witnessed by the most intrepid explorers. She spent her formative years riding moose, currently with belugas, and watching marathons of Law and Order: SVU. Currently, her hobbies include jumping up and down, photo-bombing, and PennQuest. If you're lucky, you might be able to spot her combining all three.



Though nocturnal by nature, **TREVOR CASSIYO** comes from the sunshine-filled Mile-High City where he spent 18 years attaining fluency in body language. He is known for his summertime nuptials in which he was espoused to the love of his life, Big Ang. (But I think they swing!) It was a lovely ceremony which took place in a mysterious cabin in the woods. Trevor loves subtlety, hates cyclists on Locust walk, and is ultra loyal to his home state Colorado. A good scare makes him weak in the knees in all the right ways, and "rabidity" is his mantra. I think I see him over there eyeing you from across the dance floor. But be careful, he belongs to a nature worshipping religion led by thick priestesses who can shake it.



In the ice ages, **KARA GIBSON** developed the art of twerking and singlehandedly warmed the earth with her lightning fast rhythmic gyrations. She remains an undefeated twerk champion, annihilating all competitors within seconds. She is often found daggering in Jamaican dancehalls to stay in touch with her caribbean roots. Kara is beyond excited to meet the new baliezzz and teach the next generation of PQ the art of twerking!!!!