

# THE DIPLOMAT

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SPRING 2019 || ISSUE 2 || DELTA PHI EPSILON, EPSILON CHAPTER



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# A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Delta Phi Epsilon,

We did it! Welcome to not only the end of the semester, but the end of my dictatorship. Although I couldn't pass as many executive orders as I wanted to (you can thank excomm for that), I am nothing but grateful to hold a position held by so many of my admirers such as Mahshad, Sasha, and Oliver. Although I only pledged Fall 2017, it felt as if I did so 20 years ago, and the fact that I am graduating now is inconceivable.

I would like to say my thanks to everyone who made this semester as amazing as it was. Thank you Jean, for bringing in the amazing speakers you invited and for all the behind the scenes support you gave us. Thank you Tooba, for continuing the legacy of IR games and for bringing this fraternity closer together through compliments box and bonding. Thank you Abi and Jess, for mentoring the future of DPhiE and blessing us with your hard work and humor. Thank you Cassidy, for being so on top of it with attendance and guiding the Excomm boat. Thank you Farah, for proving that you don't have to be a math major to be good with numbers. Thank you Alexa, for providing us professional development opportunities from a different perspective and the knowledge we all needed.



As I reflect back on my entire college career, I began to experience an epiphany - No matter where I go DPhiE will always be around. Whether it was my first college class with Nicole in Global 10B, or running into Summer in the Castro, my pitstop in London with Victoria, or my Disneyland road trip with Tooba and Katherine, it never fails to amaze me that once you're in this community, you will never leave it.

To the pledges, I hope that the process allowed you to develop your passions not only in IR, but the ability to forge new friendships as you endured the terror of Abi and Jess. After your crossing ceremony, you will be able to take on new passions and begin forming the community you hope to see in DPhiE. Remember, you were all chosen for what you can add, and I am confident that DPhiE is in good hands.

Although I am dreading this final banquet, I am excited to see what the future of Excomm will hold. To be transparent, I took the presidency with hesitation, thinking that I could be no match to my predecessors. However, I am so grateful to serve a community who is as knowledgeable, cohesive, and family-oriented as this one. It is the brothers and sisters of this chapter, that transcends the mission of our fraternity from not only being a profession foreign service one, but a close-knit community. And with that, may we never forget each other!

Your dutiful former President,  
Tyler Swartout





# A LETTER FROM THE MVPs



Dear pledge padawans,

Being MVP comes with excitement, stress, and most of all, hope that the pledges get something out of it. Hope that you all grow in your knowledge and as people. Hope that you found that community you have been looking for and that this whole process was worth it. We have seen every single one of you grow and succeed in your own way despite the struggles of getting your assignments done or preparing for debates on top of other commitments. You have all demonstrated what it means to be part of Delta Phi Epsilon and have also shifted the dynamic of this community. Every single one of you have brought something, whether that's your impressive carrying capacity or your ability to passionately discuss your opinions. You all continue to push boundaries and we, as your MVPs, can't be any more proud of all that you are and have become. We are excited to see what you all have in store for us next here at DPhiE.

Love always,

Abi and Jess <3



# INTRODUCING THE PLEDGES



**MAYA BASHA**  
POLITICAL ECONOMY  
**AREA OF INTEREST:**  
Middle East and North  
Africa  
**FUN FACT:** I don't know  
how to ride a bike :/



**S. KASERGODE  
SHANKAR**  
ECONOMICS  
**AREA OF INTEREST:**  
Freedom of the Press  
**FUN FACT:** I used to host  
a radio show



**DUAA KHAN**  
POLITICAL SCIENCE  
**AREA OF INTEREST:**  
Human Rights and the  
Middle East / South Asia  
**FUN FACT:** I got lost in  
the Vatican once



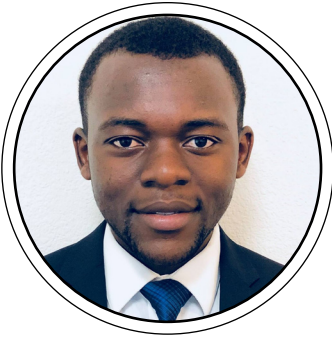
**WILL BOGDAN**  
GLOBAL STUDIES  
**AREA OF INTEREST:**  
East Asia  
**FUN FACT:** I can do  
backflips while speaking  
mandarin



**JOHNNY HUANG**  
COMPUTER SCIENCE,  
POLITICAL SCIENCE  
AND DATA SCIENCE  
**AREA OF INTEREST:**  
Cybersecurity  
**FUN FACT:** I got ran over  
by a car on my first day of  
college



**AYESHA OMARALI**  
DATA SCIENCE AND CS  
**AREA OF INTEREST:**  
Atrocious Crimes &  
Human Rights Violations  
**FUN FACT:** I have a 2nd  
black belt in tae kwon-do  
like my big Johnny! And I  
also have a yellow belt in  
judo :)



### BRIAN MAROMBEDZA

POLITICAL ECONOMY

AREA OF INTEREST:

Sub-Saharan Africa

FUN FACT: I have a very unsuccessful YouTube channel (but its been growing slowly)



### YESICA MARTINEZ

POLITICAL ECONOMY

AREA OF INTEREST:

Latin America

FUN FACT: I love to bake



### DYLAN GERVASIO

GLOBAL STUDIES AND PORTUGUESE

AREA OF INTEREST:

Latin America

FUN FACT: I can speak four languages: English, Spanish, French, and Portuguese



### KUNG CHEN

POLITICAL SCIENCE:

ENVIRONMENTAL

ECONOMICS & POLICY

AREA OF INTEREST:

Political and Economic Development in Southeast Asia

FUN FACT: Will sometimes talk in third person without realizing it.



### AMAN DOSANJH

GLOBAL STUDIES

AREA OF INTEREST:

South Asia

FUN FACT: I really like hot cheetos



### COLE MCDANIEL

POLITICAL SCIENCE

AREA OF INTEREST:

Insurgencies, nuclear policy, political economy of East Asia

FUN FACT: I was born with a tooth





## MEHER WADHAWAN

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND  
POLITICAL ECONOMY

### AREA OF INTEREST:

Political Economy in the  
Asian Region

**FUN FACT:** I am an Indian  
citizen but I've never lived  
in India



## JACK SMITH

POLITICAL ECONOMY  
AND GLOBAL STUDIES

### AREA OF INTEREST:

Peace and Conflict in  
South Asia

**FUN FACT:** I've really  
gotten into photography in  
the past year, and recent-  
ly have even published my  
own photo book!



## DANIELLE TYUKODY

POLITICAL SCIENCE

### AREA OF INTEREST:

Comparative Politics

**FUN FACT:** I met Jason Mo-  
moa (Khal Drogo from GOT /  
Aquaman actor) and I called  
him Jason MIMOSA and I died  
of embarrassment while he  
laughed at me :)





# EXCERPTS FROM THE PLEDGE BLOGS

## AN INTRODUCTION TO VISION 2030 AND THE IMPACT OF FIDEISM

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has historically been the epicentre of oil production and has consequently dominated the global economic market for oil. In recent years however, the Kingdom's position as a global economic superpower has been questioned following record levels of oil price volatility from 2014 to the present, which have significantly lowered the selling price of Saudi oil in addition to increased competition and a decrease in demand for oil from China. In response to these trends, Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed Bin Salman ( colloquially known as MbS) announced in April of 2016 his plan to diversify and revolutionize the Saudi Arabian economy to become less reliant on oil production and shift economic focus towards other sectors of the economy through a litany of government programs. MbS's plan entitled the "Vision of 2030" has received both support and criticisms from economic analysts, many of whom see the economy's current emphasis on Islamic values as either a barrier or pathway to accomplishing the endeavors of Vision 2030. By analyzing the pros and cons of the current Islamic economic framework of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the foreseeable efficiency and implications of MbS's Vision 2030 can be determined.

BY MAYA BASHA

# EXCERPTS FROM THE PLEDGE BLOGS

## A TWO-FACED CHALLENGE TO THE FREEDOM OF THE MEXICAN MEDIA

While the federal government and the Catholic Church were strong influences on the Mexican press throughout the 20th century, the 1980s brought a new player to the table, one who effectively pushed aside other influences in a hybridized system of historical autocratic methods and modern capital-manipulative methods: the cartels. Endemic Mexican narcotics-trafficking cartels originally emerged up in 1980s as cocaine transport routes shifted from Florida to Mexico. Originally, the cartels had de facto autonomy in exchange for bribes, but since 2000 they've encountered more resistance from a newer political party (the PAN). After years of conflict and corruption, the cartels are now more powerful than the state in places such as Sinaloa, with an argument to be made that they are switching from simply criminal organizations to administrative and militaristic insurgencies (Bunker 2013). In that sense, the hybrid system appears to be one where the cartels use militaristic power to physically intimidate and punish outlets and professionals who dissent against their control while at the same time using corrupt means to control the government's well-worn machinery of public funding directing the coverage of the press.

BY S. KASERGODE SHANKAR

# REFLECTIONS FROM A PLEDGE



## MEHER WADHAWAN

My first impression of my pledge class was that we were an awkwardly curated group of vastly different people. At that time, I would not have been able to foresee the experiences of growth and joy I was soon to share with my pledge

siblings. Through countless nights of rushing to meet deadlines, listening to Brian's rants, engaging in age-old debates and bonding over a commitment to diversity- we have emerged more critical, more sensitive and with greater carrying capacities to take on our worlds at and beyond Berkeley. At the heart of this experience are, of course, our beautiful, caring, intelligent and fiercely strong MVPs. The value they have added to our experience at DPhiE is immeasurable and irreplaceable. Finally- to everyone in the Spring 2019 class- thank you for being your authentic, quirky and passionate selves.



# REFLECTIONS FROM ABROAD

## JORDAN BENZAKEN GENEVA

At the center of the international relations (IR) world, studying at the University of Geneva grants me direct access to hundreds of international organizations and NGOs, and most importantly, the United Nations. As the world leader in human rights and humanitarian law, Geneva is filled with experts in a variety of IR fields



and is home to a multitude of languages. With French as the official language, I am able to practice my French language skills and use them in everyday situations. Finally, located smack in the center of Europe, Switzerland is the perfect launching point to travel around the continent. In just two months I have already explored the Netherlands, France, Ireland,

Great Britain, and Austria. Due to the travel bug that seems to run through DPE, many times I was able to meet up with my DPE family in these places, creating memories of a lifetime.



# NICOLE TIMOFEEVSKI

## PRAGUE

At the Crossroads Between East and West  
This past semester I had the unique opportunity to study abroad in the Czech Republic. And while Prague is one of the world's most visited cities, most people barely ever scratch the surface of all that Czechia has to offer. There is simply so much more to this place than cheap beer, unpronounceable letters, frowning strangers, and pretty castles. If this land could talk it would speak of the rise and fall of empires, of Bohemian artists and thinkers, of the unspeakable human suffering it has borne witness to over the years... Situated at the frontier between east and west, the Czech Republic has done all it can to hold its own, despite having perpetually been "caught in the middle" of history. This is apparent even in its post-Soviet legacy. After 41 years of Communist "occupation", the European Union flag now proudly flies overhead government buildings of a now cosmopolitan capital. Yet alongside its peripheries vestiges of the not-so-recent past remain. From the brightly repainted communist-era buildings to widespread corruption, the country's record high levels of distrust suggest that "transition" here is still a work in progress, and this fascinating dichotomy is precisely what drew me here. Throughout my study abroad experience I had the opportunity to research European populism and post-communist economies, learn a new language, intern with a pioneering media firm, and venture out into the heart of Czech lands as an American only to meet some of the kindest, most welcoming people. It seems that at crossroads like these you find the best of both worlds.



# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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## SPRING 2019



**TYLER SWARTOUT**  
PRESIDENT



**JEAN LI**  
EXTERNAL VP



**TOOBA WASI**  
INTERNAL VP



**JESS R. PARRY**  
MEMBERSHIP VP



**ABI MAGAT**  
MEMBERSHIP VP



**FARAH NANJI**  
FINANCIAL VP



**ALEXA JANE**  
PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT VP



**CASSIDY CHILDS**  
ADMINISTRATIVE VP

