

the dpe diplomat

A Letter from
the Fall 2008
President

**AARON
ORDOWER**



Brothers and Sisters,

It is hard to believe that the semester is already over! Though it is sad to say goodbye to Delta Phi Epsilon after three and a half years, I can also admit I am so pleased to see the progress this organization has made over the last semester.

This semester presented many new challenges, all of which I believe you met superbly. Rush was a great success and I am so glad to welcome our twelve new active members, who put on a fantastic event on water scarcity and whom I know will contribute to DPE in a number of ways.

Our Santa Cruz retreat was a blast! It was a great way to bond with new and old friends. We had numerous social events this semester and in dancing Bhangra and celebrating Novemberfest, I have gotten to know the Epsilon chapter better than I had ever before.

In addition to our excellent speakers and internal programming, I loved our new Philanthropy and Active Events. I was impressed by the quality of the speakers at the Active panel on Obama's Foreign Policy Challenges and laughed my butt off at the Philanthropy dinner-comedy. These new events are a testament to your hard work this semester and I hope they will continue in the future.

Lastly, kudos to the newsletter staff for putting out three fantastic publications this semester! You have set the bar high for future, regular newsletters.

It has been an honor working with all of you this semester, and I look forward to seeing what new heights you bring this organization to next semester.

With much DPE love,

Aaron Ordower

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Rudy Wagner Memorial Scholarship: The Winning Essay
by CINDY CHENG

The current round of **globalization** and **trade liberalization** has been underway for around 25 years. How do you assess the impact of globalization on **developing countries**?
Is Globalization good or bad for the global poor?

To frame globalization as a good or bad influence on developing countries is to set up a false dichotomy in which globalization is either friend or enemy to the global poor. Globalization has certainly been instrumental in lifting many of the global poor out of poverty. However, it has also exacerbated the income gap, leading to increased social and political unrest. Finally, aside from its economic and political dimensions, it is also seen as a homogenizing social force, increasing understanding between people but also softening the differences between them that make them unique. Thus, evaluating the effects of globalization is much more complicated than a simple pro and con checklist. It is also more multifaceted than just an economic issue, encompassing the political and

social spheres as well.

According to studies done by prominent economists, the percentage of the population living on less than a dollar a day has fallen from 40 to 22 percent while developing countries have increased their trade shares and reduced their tariffs. China serves as a prominent example of this. Following the opening up the Chinese economy in 1978, China has lifted 123 million people out of poverty. For the world at large, no longer limited to the burden of manual labor and bare subsistence as a standard of living, globalization introduces new, more efficient modes of technology for people to take advantages of, creating new jobs and businesses to improve the global quality of life. The flip side of this is that especially in the developing world, income inequality in has shot up signifi-

cantly. This is perhaps a predictable outcome of trade liberalization and is in fact inherent to capitalism itself, as it provides incentives and rewards for those who work harder and longer to deserve them. The problem lies in the fact that many abuse their economic leverage to make social mobility harder for those left behind, turning it into economic power into political power. It provides opportunity for the newly rich to exploit the still poor in a vicious cycle that limits social mobilization. Globalization as it is practiced now then, is not without its imperfections. But this does not mean that it cannot be improved. Rather countries should work together and work with their people to ameliorate its distortions, namely by improving economic and political institutions to limit corruption and in-

stitute health and safety standards to provide for the welfare of the people.

Perhaps the most poignant claim about the detriment of globalization has been the seemingly homogenizing effects it has wrought on human diversity and culture. In terms of developing countries, the problem has been framed to put developing countries in an especially pitious light, as the pernicious commercialism of Western culture seems to bombard them relentlessly, to the detriment of their own. Certainly globalization comes at a high price; societies cannot accommodate influences from other cultures and new technologies without shedding a part of their own national heritage as well. But to look at the issue from this perspective is to see culture as static and eternal, which it certainly is not.

Culture develops through the exchange of human interaction, ideas and beliefs, and is continually evolving. What makes the current evolution in human culture so unique has been the extent and rapidity in which it has taken place. Thus while people should be sensitive to their own national identities, clinging to a non-existent nostalgic past serves to stunt their potential growth. Glo-

balization in providing developing countries an opportunity to grow and evolve should certainly not be embraced blindly; instead a more thoughtful evaluation on how it can work within a culture without domineering it should be undertaken.

In evaluating the impact that globalization has had on the world, it would perhaps be helpful to examine its counterfactual, that is, what the

world would look like if globalization had never happened. As nations would exist in isolation from each other, people of differing nationalities would have little opportunity to interact, breeding ignorance and mistrust and making conflict much more likely. The exchange of ideas and technology would be severely limited, putting restraints on human potential to spur economic

growth. Globalization is thus an undeniably positive source for spurring the progress and advancement for not only developing countries but the world at large as well. However, as the current experience with globalization has shown, it must be handled in a responsible manner, in order to reduce its detrimental effects to the global poor and enhancing its benefits.

Stuff to Know: *Animal Sounds in Foreign Languages!*

by Selina MacLaren
Editor-in-Chief

Dog

Japanese: kian kian or wan wan
Danish: vov vov
Italian: bau bau
Turkish: hauv hauv
Greek: gav gav
German: wau wau
Russian: hav hav
Spanish: guau guau

Cat

Japanese: nyan nyan
Danish: miav
Italian: miau
Turkish: miyav
Greek: miaou
German: miau
Russian: miyau
Spanish: miao

Cow

Japanese: mau mau
Danish: mer mer
Italian: muu
Turkish: meuh
Greek: moo
German: mmuuh
Russian: mu-u-u
Spanish: muuu or meee

Duck

Japanese: ga ga
Danish: rap-rap
Italian: qua qua
Turkish: vak vak
Greek: pa-pa-pa
German: schnatter schnatter
Russian: krya krya
Spanish: cua cua



Bird

Japanese: pee pee
Danish: pip pip
Italian: chip or pio
Turkish: jiyk jiyk
Greek: tsiou tsiou
German: piep piep
Russian: ouh ouh
Spanish: pío pío

OFF THE WIRE

by Devon Peterson
Publications Committee

In Wake of Attacks,
India-Pakistan Tensions
Grow (NYTimes)

Thai airport blast kills
activist (BBC)

Canada opposition signs
deal to defeat govern-
ment (Reuters)

South Korea set to begin
pulling out of Iraq (IHT)

Zimbabwe police skir-
mish with angry soldiers
(Washington Post)

Libyan aid ship blocked
from Gaza (Al-Jazeera)

Highest tide in 20 years
floods historic Venice
(AP)

Chavez launches new
bid for reelection
(Reuters)

Asian markets plunge
on US recession news
(CNN)

Greenland votes for
more autonomy (BBC)

Mediator Says Ransom
Deal Has Been Reached
for Pirated Ukrainian
Freighter
(NYTimes)

China fears reverse mi-
gration (WSJ)

European governments
will be long-term bank
investors (IHT)

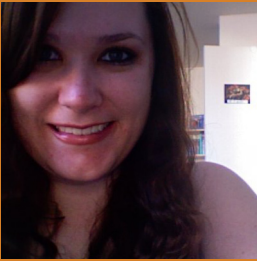
Brazil flooding death toll
rises (CNN)

Welcoming the Fall 2008 **PLEDGE CLASS**



David Berrios

Year/Major: Jr. Transfer/PACS and Spanish minor
Hobbies: Playing soccer and tennis, watching Entourage
Region of Interest: All of Latin America
Dream Job: Working for Search for Common Ground, a conflict resolution and prevention NGO
Pledge Presentation Topic: Reggaeton
Favorite DPE memory: Retreat and y'all in general.



Mary Chesus

Year/Major: Sophomore/PEIS and Global Poverty minor
Hobbies: Cooking, traveling, hiking
Region of Interest: Middle East, North and West Africa
Dream Job: Grameen Bank, micro-credit for all
Pledge Presentation Topic: Bidets
Favorite DPE memory: My pledge class



Marie Collins

Year/Major: Sophomore/PEIS and Global Poverty minor
Hobbies: Running, biking, swimming
Region of Interest: Middle East
Dream Job: Photographer for National Geographic
Pledge Presentation Topic: Coffee
Favorite DPE memory: Meeting all you fabulous people



Terri Harel

Year/Major: Junior/PEIS maybe
Hobbies: Horseback riding, photography, eating
Region of Interest: Middle East and North Africa
Dream Job: Grand Prix horseback rider
Pledge Presentation Topic: Jewish food
Favorite DPE memory: Getting to know everyone and retreat



Tiffany Hsieh

Year/Major: Junior/Political Science and Public Policy minor
Hobbies: Swimming, eating, cooking
Region of Interest: Domestic and Africa
Dream Job: Working for an NGO to improve the quality of primary and secondary education for individuals in developing countries
Pledge Presentation Topic: History of water polo
Favorite DPE memory: Retreat



Sophia Lane

Year/Major: Sophomore/PEIS and Italian Studies
Hobbies: Sailing, ice-skating, learning everything about the Regency period, museum-hopping
Region of Interest: Italy and the Balkans
Dream Job: International art dealer
Pledge Presentation Topic: Theater of the Oppressed
Favorite DPE memory: Learning from and forming friendships with all the wonderful members



Krystal Lin

Year/Major: Sophomore/Environmental Economics and Policy
 Hobbies: Exploring, reading different dictionaries, freezing fruits
 Region of Interest: Northern India and Michael Ballack's land
 Dream Job: UNEP outreach program officer or bakery owner
 Pledge Presentation Topic: Nudity
 Favorite DPE memory: Hiding Derrick's shirt at Aaron's house and bhangra



Ning Ma

Year/Major: Freshman/Intended Economics and Molecular Cellular Biology
 Hobbies: Playing basketball, traveling, being in DPE
 Region of Interest: Kenya and Middle East
 Dream Job: A job where I have the power to make the world a better place through cooperation and innovation
 Pledge Presentation Topic: International hand signs and etiquette
 Favorite DPE memory: Learning about people in DPE



Meghan Mize

Year/Major: Freshman/Development Studies
 Hobbies: Watching the Office, practicing photography, reading Jane Austen novels
 Region of Interest: Sub-Saharan Africa
 Dream Job: Working on environmental or economic development issues with the UNDP
 Pledge Presentation Topic: Foreign films
 Favorite DPE memory: Bhangra



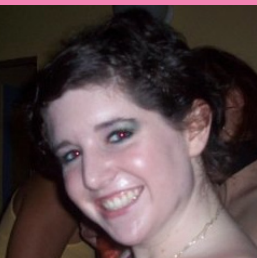
Tram Pham

Year/Major: Sophomore/Political Science and Geography
 Hobbies: Playing the flute, writing, hanging out, sleeping
 Region of Interest: SE Asia and Eastern Europe
 Dream Job: Working somewhere in foreign service
 Pledge Presentation Topic: Gummi Bears
 Favorite DPE memory: the speakers and cupcakes



Miki Sankary

Year/Major: Freshman/PEIS
 Hobbies: Playing basketball and volleyball, traveling
 Region of Interest: France and Italy
 Dream Job: International Olympic Committee
 Pledge Presentation Topic: Candy Bombers during the barricade of Berlin after WWII
 Favorite DPE memory: Group socials, speakers, and Bhangra night



Sinead Toolis Byrd

Year/Major: Sophomore/Art and Political Science (International Relations focus)
 Hobbies: Reading comic books, drawing my online comic, playing video games
 Region of Interest: Middle East and Japan
 Dream Job: Artistic Director of Disney
 Pledge Presentation Topic: Comic books as an international meme generator
 Favorite DPE memory: Meeting new friends and family

Pledges present the **Blue Gold Rush:** Water Scarcity in the Next 50 Years

by Briant Carcamo
Publications Committee

The Fall 2008 pledge class hosted their pledge event titled "The Blue Gold Rush: Water Scarcity in the Next 50 Years" on November 18th.

The roundtable discussion featured Professor William Berry, of the Earth and Planetary Science Department, Professor John Hayes, of the Middle Eastern Studies department, and Carolyn

Remick, the Executive Director of the Berkeley Water Center explicating the complicated issue of water rights and water scarcity in California and around the world.

Delta Phi Epsilon received a moderate turnout with many students actively participating in the discussion. DPE's own Anela Chan commented on the quality of the presentation, "The pledge event was really interesting, I learned so

much about water." The discussion, however, didn't cause all students to have a conclusive opinion. "The problem with water scarcity is that there are so many views on how to solve it and it's hard to lean on one side or the other" said Terri Harel, a 3rd year transfer student from Santa Cruz.

International issues like global warming, and state boundaries, were thoroughly discussed. "Global warming is such

a big issue these days, it's consequences are so immediate," said one of the participants. Scientific terms and definitions did not hinder an educated response from the students who attended and the pledge event stayed true to its purpose of creating dialogue and bringing some light to an international issue that is often not discussed in the press and academia despite its importance. Great job pledge class!

Op-Ed: Water Crisis Could Make or Break Middle East Peace

By Kate Lewis
Publications Committee

When Barack Obama takes office this January, his well-vetted team of foreign policy experts will no doubt be all too aware of the problems many countries in the Middle East are having with secessionist movements and human rights issues. They will know about civil wars, of military coups, of nuclear programs, and of popular unrest. But with all of this going on, will they pay attention what potentially could be the greatest and most perilous crisis that Middle Eastern governments will ever face: how to provide water to their ever-expanding populations?

The challenge is a sleeping giant of sorts. The Middle East has 6.3 percent of the world's population, and 1.4 percent of its renewable fresh water. People in the region already have among the lowest daily water consumption rates in the world. But it is about to get a lot more crowded;

by 2050, the Middle East will be home to an estimated 321 people, compared to today's 140 million and 1950's 30 million. More people also necessitate more agriculture that requires irrigation and more industry that uses water for manufacturing processes.

The environmental consequences of too little water for too many people can already be seen in dried up aquifers all over the region, as well as in the Jordan River, the single most important water source for people in Israel, Syria, and Jordan, which is now said to resemble more of a creek. Add this to pollution problems that can permanently destroy water systems, and you have an actual decrease in natural sources of fresh water, while demand is dramatically increasing.

So far, Middle Eastern nations have been able to mostly avoid conflict over water, which is not to say it isn't a contentious issue. In the Israel-Jordan Peace Treaty of 1994, rights to Jordan River, which rep-

resents the border between the two countries, were among the most fiercely contested, and remain so today. Both countries continue to divert water from the Jordan or its tributaries, with those downstream left thirsty and frustrated.

Politicians have so far been able to provide at least a minimum amount of water to their citizens by allocating less to agriculture, which, in the hot and desert-covered Middle East, requires 80% of the region's fresh water. In its place, they have relied on importing agricultural goods. But recently, food prices hit sky-high levels.

Governments are looking rapidly for solutions to the water crisis. In a region filled with religious and ethnic strife, one thing that almost everyone can agree on is that the fates of countries in the Middle East having access to sufficient water are intertwined: either everyone gets water, or no one does. Anything other way would be hugely unstable, and devastating.

The United Nations has advocated for massive regional infrastructure projects, as well as campaigns to educate consumers on how to more efficiently use water. Other suggestions include the expensive and energy-costly process of desalination, or that water should be pumped in from afar.

Whatever the solution, however, there can be no doubt that the United States has a crucial foreign policy stake in preventing water wars in the Middle East. After all, this is the same area that provides the world with most of its petroleum, and has been at the top of the State Department agenda for years. It would be an enormous step towards peace and security in the Middle East if negotiations over water could be conducted between conflicting countries without bloodshed or major political strife. The Obama team should sit up and pay attention.

ACTIVE EVENT:

What will OBAMA do about For- eign Policy?

By Lorenz Noe
Internal VP

The Active Event is one of many new events this semester. The goal was to spread awareness of DPE, learn something, and get the actives to use their experience to put on an event. Working only as a team of four, Naomi, Breanna, Ingrid and I worked very well together to contact speakers, set up the program and come up with questions. The day of, we had professors Nicolas Ziegler, Peter Bartu and Ron Hassner as our panelists to talk about the most crucial foreign

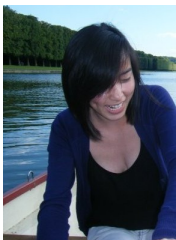
policy challenge facing the Obama administration. The answers ranged from dirty bomb attacks to de-emphasizing relations with Europe. It was a lively debate, with our moderator GSI Jason Purcell directing the conversation elegantly and keeping the discussion on topic. Putting on the event was definitely a learning experience but once we had found our bearings, the event planning and the event itself ran smoothly. It showed once more what amazing people we have in DPE and what we are capable of.



DPE ROUNDTABLE Foreign Language Phrases



Name: Lily Tam
Phrase: As-sabr hua fadīla.
Language: Arabic
Translation: Patience is a virtue.



Name: Tram Pham
Phrase: Tôi không có tiền.
Language: Vietnamese
Translation: I don't have money.



Name: Lorenz Noe
Phrase: Ich bin Amerikaner und habe fuer Obama gewaehlt.
Language: German
Translation: I'm American and voted for Obama



Name: David Reder
Phrase: Kol beseder.
Language: Hebrew
Translation: Everything's a-ok!



Name: Briant Carcamo
Phrase: Dame más tequila.
Language: Spanish
Translation: Give me more tequila.

Letter from Abroad: SARAH IN GENEVA

Dear DPE,

Though I miss all of you over here in Geneva, there are certainly a lot of exciting events going here right now, not the least of which is a potential ministerial meeting at the WTO to end modalities in the Doha Round. As an intern in the International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development, a lot of the work I'm doing will be directly affected by this event since we attempt to bridge the gap between free trade advocates and environmentalists in global development. For example, I'm helping to organize a conference that ICTSD is hosting in cooperation with the World Bank for this Monday on the Special Safeguard Mechanisms, which is one of the issues that has been a sticking point for negotiations. The conference will bring together agricultural negotiators from over fifty missions here, but this will be complicated if a ministerial is called, as many negotiators might be called away to working groups. At the same time, it would be more important than ever to resolve this issue.

Though taking part in this conference promises to be an exciting experience, the majority of my work is actually on our publication called the Bridges Weekly Trade Digest. It's been a bit of an accelerated learning course for me, as each week we produce articles

ented editor who's made it much easier for me to settle in and contribute. Of course, as the youngest person at the office, I did need to go through some initial training, and was sent to an introductory session at the WTO where they prepare new delegates, interns, and

sues I learned about there are now about to be headlining in our Weekly.

The most interesting experience I've had working for the Weekly was covering the meeting of the trade finance experts and subsequent briefing of delegates earlier this month. I attended a press conference open only to NGOs where one of the secretariat gave us his off-the-record analysis of the event. The article I wrote for that was not only my first feature, but also the first time I got to use the phrase "an anonymous source said," which pretty much made my week. If the ministerial is called before I leave though, this may become a common occurrence, as we'll all be covering the progress around the clock. Meetings start early in the morning, go late into the night, and then we get to spend the rest of the night writing articles on it. Despite the haunted look in my editors eyes as she remembers the last ministerial, I'm ridiculously excited.

Sincerely yours,
Sarah Van Vliet



on global trade issues that are sent out to over 10,000 professionals working in the trade and development sector. There's definitely a lot of pressure to produce high quality articles, but I've been fortunate enough to work with an extremely tal-

reporters to deal with the current issues there. It was an eye-opening experience to say the least, especially the Q&A session we had with Keith Rockwell, the spokesman for the WTO. This training has definitely come in handy as a lot of the is-

superlatives

Most likely to work for the State Department
Aaron Ordower

Manliest Pledge
David Berrios

Most German
Lorenz Noe

Best Dancer
Derrick Metriyakool

Most Likely to Translate the Lord of the Rings into Arabic
Devon Peterson

Most likely to join the Peace Corps
Rachel Whyte



The DPE Diplomat

Editor-in-Chief
Selina MacLaren

Committee Members
Briant Carcamo
Anela Chan
Kate Lewis
Devon Peterson

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selinam@berkeley.edu*