

the dpe diplomat

New Traditions and Friendships Begin at Santa Cruz Retreat

by Lorenz Noe
Internal Vice President

One week on from the start of the retreat, I think it is fitting to write a bit of a reflection of the retreat. We had always known that nothing brings people together like cramped living conditions and lack of sleep but had never gotten around to actually facilitating these great conditions.

Upon arriving at the house on Friday afternoon after slugging through the nightmare that is the 880 south and the entrance to Santa Cruz, we were immediately struck by how lucky we were in the location of our house right on the beach. Inside, a banner invited us to celebrate someone's birthday, wishing them a "Happy Birthday" and in a display of liberalism gone amok, a "Happy Everything". Looking past

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Pledges Miki Sankary and Krystal Lin alongside Internal VP Lorenz Noe at this fall's DPE retreat in Santa Cruz.

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the cuteness of the house, we found that it was perfectly suited to our needs. The layout was perfect for those devious student organizations who wanted to fit 29 people into an 8 person house. In light of these plans, the early car set out to get some more supplies and ended up dining at the most veganest (yes that is an apt description) place in Santa Cruz, appropriately named "Staff of Life", a name that is easily the coolest name for a health store ever.

By the time all cars had arrived and parked illegally, the house was ready for action and we proceeded in our merriment. Thanks to the hookah, the front porch was a welcome alternative to the inside, a fact that would come back to haunt us the next night. The night proceeded according to plan, meaning that Excomm proceeded to further invalidate any respect earned during the interview and left over from Inductions and that the night ended at around 2:30 after a dance party with the help of some ghetto speakers.

Bleary-eyed and with three bathrooms aching under our demand, we set upon breakfast and then proceeded to the beach, upon which the sun had decided to smile that day, in spite of gusty winds. Several of us figured out that the best way to really wake up was not a cup of tea or coffee but rather a dip into the freezing water. We then found out that we have quite the array of soccer talents in our fraternity, playing soccer deserving of "the beautiful game". Meanwhile, some of us played some volleyball in an attempt to save the cliché, while others

brought their homework or a book and tanned, although this was a failed enterprise for some of us, looking instead like crabs at the end of the night. Back at the house, we decided to take a break and a large part of us settled in to watch Pearl Harbor, a movie with seemingly no end and the best Airbase hangar parachute love scene ever.

At night, we grilled outside but warily decided to keep mostly indoors, a caution that was well warranted since we were soon visited by the owner of the house who was not at all amused that there were 29 people in his house. Also, according to the universal law of renting a house, we had a crabby neighbor, who threatened to call the cops on us which would have been hard to spin into a pledge event.

Some of the pledges said they loved the big and little activity more than anything that weekend. When asked what his favorite part of the night was, David Berrios said, "Definitely for me it was when I got assigned my big bro. Never really experienced something like that before so the new-ness of it was a big factor."

During the activity, the littles were guided down to the beach, where the bigs waited for them. Then the littles were blindfolded and silently led by their mysterious big around the beach, in circles, dodging other beach visitors, and finally to an ending point, where the blindfolds were removed and the littles saw their bigs.

"My favorite part was the blind walk, because it made me feel like I can really rely on DPE to help me in the future," said Sinead Toolis, a pledge.



Left to Right: Aaron Ordower, Kate Lewis, Lily Tam, and David Reder bond on the porch of the Santa Cruz house at the fall retreat.

"I felt completely safe during the event, which is more than I can say for most frats."

We then proceeded to stay inside for the rest of the night, learning things we never wanted to know about each other in games of Hot Seat and Ten Fingers.

No matter how much we loved our sleeping space on the floor, we had to leave the next day and after packing everything headed home to Berkeley.

Everyone seemed pleased with the event, which is essential for starting off the semester with a fraternal spirit.

"I thought the retreat was a smashing success," said Aaron Ordower, DPE president. "People had a lot of fun and both pledges and actives got to know one another much

better, and I think it's important because it helps build community, which is essential."

In retrospect, it was a fantastic weekend and I'm glad that it did bring so many people together, most of all our pledges to whom we all feel very connected now. I do want to take this opportunity to thank the drivers and the rest of Excomm for a great retreat. However, thanks also goes to each and every one of you for being part of this great community that is DPE.



Letter from the Editor

by Selina MacLaren
Secretary and Publications Editor-in-Chief

The colorful and satirical Renaissance man of the 18th century—Benjamin Franklin—once said, “Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing.” When the members of Delta Phi Epsilon learn professional skills, listen to our many notable speakers, participate in planning DPE events, and bond with their brothers and sisters, they are doing something worth writing about. It is our hope, as members of the newsletter committee, that we will write something worth reading, which shouldn’t be hard since our members are always giving us something to write.

Delta Phi Epsilon has a number of new projects and goals this semester,

one of them being a more frequent newsletter. This monthly newsletter is organized, written, and designed by Devon Peterson, Anela Chan, Briant Carcamo, Kate Lewis and me, and we fervently hope that you will enjoy this literary connection with your fraternal brothers and sisters.

Our newsletter is multi-purposed. We hope to connect with our alumni and fellow DPE members across the nation and let you know the exciting events happening in our busy lives. We also hope to learn about international events by sharing our perspectives and opinions, and we invite you to participate by writing pieces about your interests and emailing them to us. We also



hope to create a stronger bond within our chapter by profiling our members and reflecting on the times we share.

Delta Phi Epsilon is facing a new and exciting semester.

“We’re trying to do a lot this semester, from newsletters, to alumni outreach to philanthropy and active events, in addition to the solid programming which defined us in the past,” said Aaron Ordower, DPE president.

Follow along in these activities by reading our newsletter, and participate in our unique fraternal community by sharing your opinions, offering suggestions, and sending your donations. Thank you for reading.

Off the Wire

Tropical Storm Marco lashes Mexico’s Gulf coast (Reuters)

Hamas says Abbas must step aside (Al Jazeera English)

136 villagers poisoned by water in southern China (AP)

Thousands march against Garcia, corruption in Peru (Reuters)

Iceland teeters on the brink of bankruptcy (AP)

Deadly earthquake hits Kyrgyzstan (BBC)

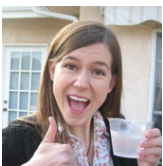
EU ministers approve broad measures to combat evolving [financial] crisis (IHT)

Zimbabwean bank issues new notes (BBC)

Oil-hit Pakistan facing bankruptcy (Times of India)

DPE Roundtable:

What is the most important foreign policy issue the next president will have to address?



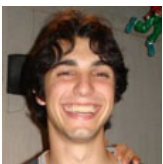
“Unending entanglement with the Middle East, and the money crisis relating to it.”

-Ingrid Budrovich (‘09)

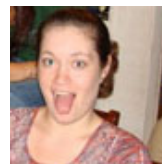


“Damage control on all fronts. Namely the economy and wars abroad.”

Rachel Whyte (‘11)



“Climate Change.”
Aaron Ordower(‘08)



“Repairing past mistakes and shifting U.S. involvement in other countries’ affairs from a negative to positive influence.”

Marie Collins (‘11)



“Stabilizing the economy.”
Lorenz Noe (‘11)

To the Fall 2008 Pledge Class

by Melissa Ng
Membership VP

I cannot begin to tell you how proud I am of everyone for making this class, this rush, and this semester possible. Actives, thank you so much for all the work, enthusiasm, and effort you've shown throughout the whole rush process. Ex-comm, thank you for all of the time, suggestions, and overall love and support you have all offered and given. And finally, pledges, thank you so much for being the wonderful people that you are. This rush and selection was particularly difficult because there were so many qualified applicants, and we could not accept them all. The ones that we did accept however, my twelve shining stars, have definitely been worth the work and weeks of planning. Not only are they bright and motivated individuals but they are also very good-hearted and fun. They have gone into the flow of DPE and mesh well with our smörgåsbord of personalities.

To my dear kiddies, remember that you are still showing us all your capabilities. Remember that as your pledge mom, I'm always here to offer any advice or support that you may need. I know that you all are talented and bright people and I want you to show the rest of us what you're made of. Do your best, try your hardest, and don't ever be afraid to ask for help. We are here as your family and we support you. We always will, so go ahead and make us more proud of you than we already are.

Fall 08 President Aaron Ordower Takes DPE to New Heights

by Anela Chan
Publications Committee

After growing up in Santa Monica, CA, Aaron came to UC Berkeley to study Political Science and Spanish/Portuguese, particularly enjoying his courses on International Relations and International Political Economy. Even early in his college career, he was interested in someday working in the international arena, noting, "It's always been a calling to me." This career interest led him to pledge Delta Phi Epsilon in Fall 2005, where he saw both a professional resource and a chance to meet other globally minded students. Now a seasoned member, he was elected as president last spring and has big plans for the organization.

First, Aaron seeks to reconnect with the DPE alumni network and national chapter, as he sees them as vital to the organization's strength today and in the future. Second, he wants to "stress

the community and social aspect, making us feel more like a brotherhood than a club." And finally, he hopes to build DPE's image on campus by involving the student community with more events.

Aaron serves as a shining example of a DPE member who has proactively sought career development and found success. After his first internship with Global Gaming League, where he served to connect gamers around the world, he was selected in Summer 2007 for the prestigious internship with the U.S. Dept. of State. Exercising his Portuguese skills in Maputo, Mozambique, he learned about event planning, procurement, community outreach, and worked with representatives from the White House, press corps, and other government departments.

In Summer 2008, Aaron interned with a think tank in Washington D.C. called The Inter-American Dialogue, studying

Latin American issues. He is adamant that anyone can find such experiences. "If it has to do with politics, development, or international business, anyone can find opportunities," he said.

Having spent a semester in Santiago, Chile, he also encourages DPE members to develop their language skills by studying abroad.

About to graduate this December, Aaron is unsure about his plans, and is deciding between a career in international business (specifically corporate social responsibility), development, or Washington for the House or Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Aaron feels strongly about young Americans' ability to help guide the world towards positive change. He believes the biggest challenges the world faces right now revolve around resource scarcity and the environment, such as global warming and food crises. Aaron explained, "These
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This semester's DPE president, Aaron Ordower (second from right) with members (left to right) Selina MacLaren, Rachel Whyte, Cindy Cheng, and Briant Carcamo.

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problems require a more multilateral approach than any problems we've ever had in the world... Our generation can play a role in coming up with good strategies to address them." He also believes that the U.S. must be the leader in approaching global problems and setting a positive example. He hopes that the next administration will "find a global consensus and be the negotiator."

Yet, Aaron knows

these global problems are complicated. Asked about his ideal strategies for alleviating global poverty, he responded, "That's tough. I'm taking Ananya Roy's course right now on Global Poverty, and I think you should come back and ask me that in November." Currently he is a believer in Jeffrey Sachs and his book *The End of Poverty*. In fact, one of his most admired leaders is former World Bank President Jim Wolfensohn, as

"he really looked at the people's problems and saw what they needed, rather than just seeing the Bank's clients as governments."

Even when Aaron isn't planning DPE events or developing his remedies for world problems, his interests are still international. He is an avid downloader of music from around the world, especially from Brazilian artists. He laughed, "People hate my iPod."

Letter from Abroad: Glory in London

by Glory Liu
at King's College London

Hello, DPE!

First of all, I miss you all very much! I'm thrilled to be writing—from London—for the newsletter and can't wait to meet the new pledges, see pictures of events, and hear stories about social events!

For those of you who might not know me, I'm a third year in Classics and Political Economy of Industrial Societies. I'm currently abroad at King's College, London studying Classics and History. I'm taking a Greek class on Homer, a course on Alexander the Great (with the scariest professor I've ever met), and a class on the British Empire and Commonwealth. The Greek class is very straightforward since it's just translation, but I do have a few comments about the so-called "Cambridge system" with regards to my Alexander the Great and British Empire class: it's quite intimidating; not necessarily hard, but different. I've been given reading lists that are over

20 pages long—not all of which I'm expected to read—but from which I must prepare my own studies before seminar. We have the standard lecture/seminar format, but for seminar we have to prepare both set readings and do independent readings on topics decided ahead of time. In my Alexander class, I'm being graded only on one small text analysis, and a brief essay at the end of the term. In my British Empire class, I'll be graded on 6 long essays, but I have to write one every week of the term. I have a tutor and we (me, the tutor, and four other students) decide on various topics to research and prepare essays for the next week. I'm really excited to be reading and writing this much, even though it is a bit scary having an open reading list and undecided topics. I'm SO excited for school to get into full swing!

People here are actually quite different. Despite what people think, there really IS a language barrier, they have a new Whole Foods on High

Street Kensington, and teeth are fine. But on to more serious talk, people here are very interested in the American political and economic situation. I hear people talking about the debates and the Wall Street crisis on the tube all the time. My peers have a mix of political views ranging from very liberal to very conservative, even by American standards. I find the most different aspect of life here is the education system. Students enter at age 18, and they are on a set track. They all have tutors that help them select courses within the same module, so they don't take anything else outside their track. I've been introduced to freshers who are doing medicine, dentistry, law, bioengineering, and countless other courses that I thought only existed for grad students! Also, the drinking age is 18 here, so it took me a while to get used to the fact that we have our own bar in my hall!

Other than academics...not much as you probably can imagine- I



Glory Liu at the British Museum, enjoying the lovely London weather.

haven't had a drink yet or run into Danny Boome (cross your fingers, everyone). But London is absolutely wonderful! It's my fourth time in my favorite city, but definitely a different experience living and studying here. I love my baked beans (too bad they don't serve them at lunch or dinner, though!), M&S, digestives, shopping (expensive!), the British Museum, and tea time. And everybody is so fashionable it's intimidating! And dance, dance, dance of course! I wake up sore almost everyday from doing something too much in ballet, jazz, or salsa... We are going to go salsa dancing as a group again, right?

I miss you all (possibly even more than I miss my kitchen gadgets- just ask Naomi). It shan't be too long before I see you all again. Until then, shoot me an email (glory.liu@kcl.ac.uk) or snail mail (care packages welcome!) to my name at King's College Hall, King's College London, 10 Champion Hill, London SE5 8AN. Have a great semester!

Venezuela: Charismatic Populism and Petroleum Diplomacy

by Devon Peterson
Publications Committee

The founding point of Spain's South American colonial empire in 1522, Venezuela has emerged as a major political player on the continent and in the world, due in large part to its extensive petroleum reserves – it is currently the 5th largest oil exporter – and the charisma and political acumen of its populist president, Hugo Chávez, in power since 1999. Known for his fiery anti-American and anti-imperialist rhetoric, Chávez has forged strong and controversial ties with states such as Cuba and Iran in efforts to undermine US-led isolation of these countries.

Elected president six years after orchestrating a failed coup, Chávez has since pursued his goal of fostering South American unity, as well as attempting to develop a multi-polar world order by establishing relations between developing nations. Through the Bolivarian Alternative Agreement for the Americas (ALBA) – a counter to the US-sponsored Free Trade Area of the Americas – along with bilateral trade agreements, Venezuela has offered subsidized petroleum to Caribbean and South American states, and initiated barter-type programs with Argentina (meat and dairy) and Cuba (Cuban doctors), among others.

Hugo Chávez is known to be feisty and controversial internationally. He

has criticized the United Nations, particularly the Security Council, as being non-representative and directed by US interests. He maintains a strong personal relationship with Fidel Castro, considering the former communist leader his mentor. Relations are also warm between Venezuela and Iran, with Chávez and Iran's Mahmoud Ahmadinejad referring to each other as "brothers."

The Chávez government has also leveraged its petrodollars domestically in its push to reduce inequality and improve standards of living for its poor population. This has garnered impressive internal support, though a referendum in December 2007 – which would have moved Venezuela towards state socialism, as well as expanding presidential powers and eliminating term limits – was narrowly defeated, suggesting to some an erosion of support from the lower classes. There is controversy in academic circles about the actual impact of the Chávez government's initiatives. In a March/April 2008 article in *Foreign Affairs*, Francisco Rodriguez, former Chief Economist of the Venezuelan National Assembly, asserts that "Chávez's government has not done any more to fight poverty than past Venezuelan governments, and his much-heralded social programs have had little effect." Cited is an increase in the



GINI coefficient of economic inequality, and a lack of evidence for the success of his literacy campaign, among others factors.

Recent months have seen a strengthening of the opposition in Venezuela. Student activism, galvanized by the wildly unpopular May 2007 closure of Radio Caracas Televisión, has reemerged on the political scene, and opposition parties, heartened by a strong showing in the December 2006 presidential election, stand prepared to run competitive candidates in the upcoming November regional and local elections – despite the disqualification of some 400 individuals, including many opposition candidates, from holding political office by the comptroller general, utilizing a broad and vague law regarding administrative irregularities. Additionally, Chávez's influence on the world stage has waned somewhat of late, with the assumption of power in Cuba of Raúl Castro and Chávez's mismanagement of recent issues with neighboring Colombia. The expulsion of the US ambassador last month – performed along with ally Bolivia – is classic showmanship on Chávez's part, but it remains to be seen if his power, domestically and internationally, will be able to be maintained, regardless of the state of Venezuelan oil reserves.

Poor Joe

A simplified version of the current financial crisis, based on The New York Times and Economics 1 with Professor Olney.

by Selina MacLaren
Editor-in-Chief

Joe is your average American who has a hard time paying off his credit card bills. It didn't seem to matter a few years ago, though, because his lender gave him money to buy a house anyway. The lender said it didn't matter to him whether Joe could pay or not, since the lender got paid anyway—he was paid on commission. The loan started out at a low interest rate, but after about three years, that interest rate shot through the roof. "Holy cow!" Joe thought. "Oh well, I'll just take out equity on my house, since it must be worth so much—afterall, housing values have risen almost 50% in real terms over the last eight years—I can just take out some of that extra value..."

However, the oversupply of houses created by speculators the past years stopped, and people weren't buying the empty houses, so Joe's house was worth less than he was paying for it! He couldn't pay off his mortgage, so the bank foreclosed his house and said, "Get out."

So Joe moved in with his 90-year-old mom, who didn't even have TiVo because she lived during "frugal times".

When Joe thought it couldn't get any worse, his mom sat down with him at dinner and said, "Joe, my retirement money seems to have disappeared. It appears that
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 the financial security I put my money in has evaporated since people like you never paid back the banks. Get out.”

Joe wanted to go to the bank to beg for a loan, because there was no way he could survive now. He worked as a construction worker, and no one wanted houses anymore. It was only a matter of time before he got laid off, but the banks wouldn't give him anything because they said they were in a credit crunch. “We're not giving out loans today sir,” said the bank. “In fact, our vaults are empty. We're about to shut down. Get out.”

Then President Bush signed the \$700 billion bailout bill that allowed Congress to buy up the bad loans in order to restore their prices and save the banks, so that the risks decreased and confidence was restored. Hopefully the banks would be more willing to give loans to people like Joe and businesses like his construction company. The Fed said there would be a total of about \$900 billion in credit for the banks to borrow before the year was up. But it also involved giving money to the stinky lender who had given Joe that awful loan that fooled him, and the world was saying it was a temporary plug in the leaky money faucet—it wasn't foolproof. It was a tricky situation.

As Joe was sitting sadly on the sidewalk, he got a



Fed Chief Ben Bernanke and Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson, controllers of Joe American's economic fate.

call on his iPhone from his cousin in France.

“Oh no!” said Joe's cousin. “I can't get a loan either! Apparently our banks and investors are very intertwined—who would've known? The governments here in Europe said they would safeguard bank deposits, and countries like Germany, Austria, and Denmark have already promised that all bank deposits are safe, but our governments haven't come forth with concrete plans yet and investors aren't feeling confident...the European Central Bank might just need to help out by cutting interest rates so companies will want to buy machines and hire workers instead of put money in the bank. Then people will have jobs and buy more stuff.”

Joe sighed.

“Yeah, I heard your stock market is doing as bad as ours too,” Joe said. “We just fell below the 9,000 mark for the first time in five years, and only six companies of the 500 companies on the S&P had rising stocks that same day. One of those six companies was Monster, the job-seeking website...probably went up because I was searching for a job all day.”

Joe hung up because he felt tears spring up in his eyes, and he thought about how another Great Depression was coming and he would have to sell his iPhone so he could eat. But then he remembered something from the dusty corners of his old brain—during the Great Depression, the government sat around, refusing to touch

the economy and waiting for the free market to correct itself.

Things were different this time. The American government was sticking its fingers into the mess, and even though Europe would have difficulty coordinating collective action, they had plans to get their fingers in there too. Then again, now the entire world was hurting with the slower flow of money—from Russia to Brazil to Indonesia—because of globalization. Maybe it would be worse, but maybe it would be better. Either way, Joe felt a little relieved and very hungry, so he went to buy something from the dollar menu at McDonalds, happy to know his dollar would be someone's paycheck.

DPE Calendar: Save the Dates

General meetings
Thursdays at 7pm

Pledge meetings
Wednesdays at 8pm

Excomm meetings
Tuesdays at 7pm

International Career
Symposium
October 22

Football Fundraiser
October 25

Active Event
October 28

Philanthropy Event
November 1

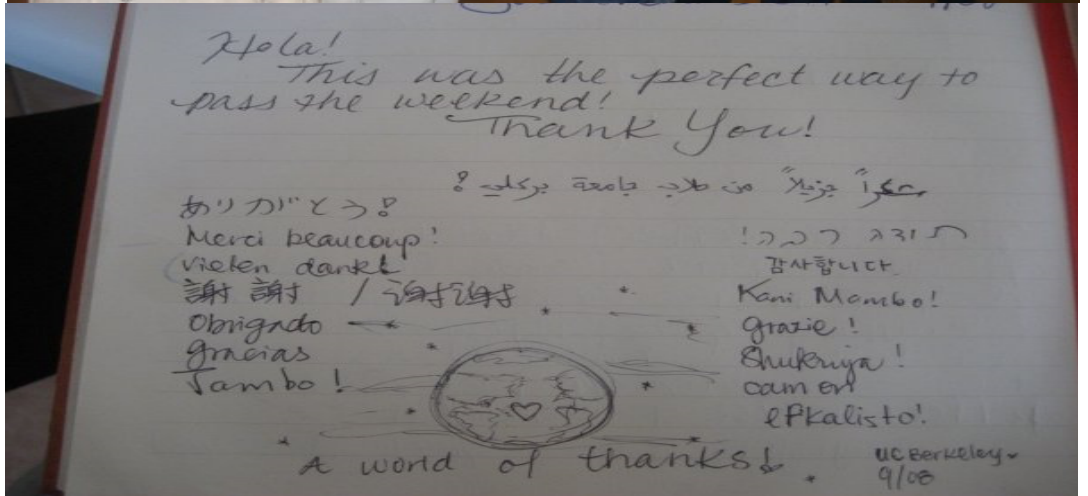
Pledge Event
November 18

Fall Banquet
December 3

Donations Needed!

by Rachel Whyte
Treasurer

Every year Delta Phi Epsilon chooses one deserving member to receive the Rudy Wagner Memorial Scholarship, an award whose namesake was one of the integral forces in Epsilon chapter's re-chartering in 2003. Past recipients of this award have included presidents of DPE, current Peace Corps volunteers, and others now abroad working on projects with focuses ranging from disease control to agriculture. This award, however, would not be possible without your support. The Rudy Wagner Memorial Scholarship consists only of Alumni and friends' donations. Your support will enable us to continue to honor Rudy with future generations of DPE. If you wish to donate, please see the attached form.



Top: Pledges and actives play an icebreaker game together at the "Get to Know the Chapter" rush event. Middle: DPE leaves its international mark on the guestbook on the way out of the retreat in a Santa Cruz beach house. Bottom left: An animated discussion during fall rush. Bottom right: Pledge mom Melissa Ng with one of the new pledges, Terri Harel.

The DPE Diplomat

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We appreciate your feedback, and also content contributions!

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