

# PI SIGMA ALPHA

## NATIONAL STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE



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FEBRUARY 16, 2019

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC

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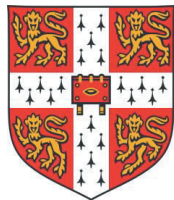
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# The Graduate School of Political Management

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THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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**8:00 - 8:45am | Grand Ballroom, Marvin Center**

**Breakfast and Welcome**

Sean Twombly, Pi Sigma Alpha Executive Director  
Rosalee Clawson, Pi Sigma Alpha National President

**8:45am - 10:15am | MC 301**

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/COMPARATIVE SESSION 1**

Chair/Discussant: Qi Zhang, Georgetown University

Keeping Your Enemies Closer: Do Economic Sanctions Help Baltic States Contain its Neighbor's Aggression?

*Nerija Vietaite, DePaul University*

An Analysis of International Policy Regarding the Denuclearization of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

*Jarrod C. Colley, University of Southern Mississippi*

From Cold War to Code War

*Kelsey McCaffrey, California State University, Chico*

**8:45am - 10:15am | MC 302**

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/COMPARATIVE SESSION 2**

Chair/Discussant: Mark Berlin, George Washington University

The Role of The Media and Public Opinion in Past and Present US Foreign Policy

*Nathalie Bessette, Temple University*

Examining Barriers to Sustainable Development and the Intersectionality of the Global Drug Problem

*Nikolas Aiello, Sonoma State University*

National Leaders, International Repercussions: The Effects of Leadership Change on Interstate Relations

*Kyla Smith, Eckerd College*



What Causes Wars

*Alexandrea Talsky, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee*

**8:45am - 10:15am | MC 307**  
**AMERICAN POLITICS SESSION 1**

Chair/Discussant: Alexander Podkul, Georgetown University

Oklahoma Indigent Defense: Successes and Shortcomings in  
Securing Civil Rights

*Wil Crawford, East Central University*

Does the Competency Evaluation Process Serve Defendants?

*Raissa Lima, University of New Hampshire*

Negotiated Coercion: An Examination into the Controversial  
Nature of Plea Bargaining

*Moataz Abdelrasoul, Youngstown State University*

Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement and Immigrant  
Scapegoating

*Warisha Aslam, Purdue University*

**8:45am - 10:15am | MC 308**  
**AMERICAN POLITICS SESSION 2**

Chair/Discussant: Colin Emrich, George Washington University

Changing the Standard of an American Two Party System: Practicality,  
Voter Turnout, and Party Affiliation

*Steven Henley, Grand Valley State University*

Extremity in Campaign Discourse: Examining the Role of Partisan  
Gerrymandering

*Mykhe Nguyen, St. Olaf College*

*Caroline Pippert, St. Olaf College*

*Addison Tryon, St. Olaf College*





Rationalism and the Future of American Conservatism  
*Andrew Ehler, University of Vermont*

Analyzing Democratic Presidential Primary Elections Through the Lens  
of Daniel Elazar's Political Culture Typology  
*Caleb S. Pittman, Central Connecticut State University*

**8:45am - 10:30am | MC 310**  
**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/COMPARATIVE SESSION 3**

Chair/Discussant: EB Pertner, George Washington University

Domestic Violence and Gender Inequality: An Empirical Analysis  
by Country  
*Haley VanOverbeck, Brigham Young University*

How Do Education Levels Affect Public Perception of Corruption?  
*Sami Gul, University of Missouri, Kansas City*

Islam, France, and Women: How the Human Security Paradigm  
Can Be a Solution  
*Tamia Wallace, Virginia Commonwealth University*

On Displacement and Social Vulnerability: Shifts in Perception and  
Equity of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon  
*Alexandra Fognani, Tufts University*

**8:45am - 10:30am | MC 311**  
**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/COMPARATIVE SESSION 4**

Chair/Discussant: Siobhan Kirkland, George Washington University

The Effect of Energy Trade Dependency on Foreign Policy  
*Joshua Bradley, Wilkes University*

Fracturing From Within: An Analysis of Economic Inequality as the  
End of International Liberalism  
*Emily Leibley, Lebanon Valley College*



Southern Laggards or Misfits? A Comparative Case-study of  
Energy Policy Europeanization  
*Georgios Anagnostopoulos, George Washington University*

Global Anti-Corruption Efforts: An Empirical Analysis of the  
Foreign Corrupt Practices Act  
*Jack Briggs, Boise State University*

**10:45am - 12:15pm | MC 301**  
**POLITICAL THEORY SESSION 1**

Chair/Discussant: Kristen Collins, Georgetown University

Does Iraq's Democratic Features Make Up for Its Corruption?:  
Analysis of the Iraqi Constitution Post 2003  
*Destinee Rule, Oakland University*

Political Obligation and Lockean Contract Theory  
*Samantha Fritz, Youngstown State University*

A Rawlsian Case for Contacting "Uncontacted" Tribes  
*Jacob Tomory, Youngstown State University*

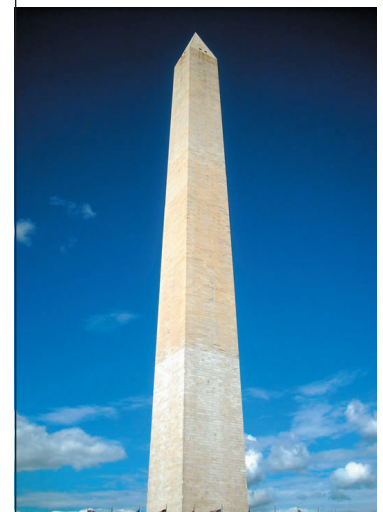
Celebrity Influence on Social Movements: Race and Black Lives  
Matter  
*Paige Raines, Slippery Rock University*

**10:45am - 12:15pm | MC 302**  
**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/COMPARATIVE SESSION 5**

Chair/Discussant: EB Pertner, George Washington University

Political Stability in Contemporary Monarchies: The Case of  
Oman  
*Jordan Gemilere, College of Saint Benedict, Saint John's University*

A Democratic Uzbekistan: Globalization and the Rise of Liberal  
Reforms in Central Asia  
*Alexander Will, University of St. Thomas*



Regime Linkages, Mimicry and Modular Institutional Change: A Framework for a Qualitative Analysis of Authoritarian Diffusion  
*Kristian A. Perez, Virginia Military Institute*

Devolution, Nationalism, and Good Governance in Spain  
*Chichezum Adibe, DePaul University*

**10:45am - 12:15pm | MC 307**  
**AMERICAN POLITICS SESSION 3**

Chair/Discussant: Colin Emrich, George Washington University

Utilization of Social Media in Political Campaigns  
*Jordan Young, University of Missouri, Columbia*

Trust in Michigan's State Government  
*Jacob Gorton, Oakland University*

The 2016 Election in Michigan  
*Brennan Collins, Valdosta State University*

Taking an L: Super Bowl Outcomes and Leadership Tenure  
*Morgan Smith, Brigham Young University, Hawaii*  
*Jenny Young, Brigham Young University, Hawaii*

**10:45am - 12:15pm | MC 308**  
**AMERICAN POLITICS SESSION 4**

Chair/Discussant: Jessica James, George Washington University

Undocumented Undergraduates: A Comparative Study of the Accessibility of Higher Education for Undocumented Youth in Indiana and Arizona  
*Daniella Gonzalez, Purdue University*  
*Meron Tamene, Purdue University*

Home Is Where the Heart Is: Homelessness and Housing Policy in Los Angeles  
*Levi C. Bevis, University of Mississippi*



Shooting Blanks: A Commentary on the Modern Gun Debate  
*Christopher Cassella, University of Richmond*

Bias Crime Legislation in Indiana: Hoosier Hospitality or Hoosier Hate  
*Alexander Mullenix, Purdue University*

**10:45am - 12:15pm | MC 310**  
**AMERICAN POLITICS SESSION 5**

Chair/Discussant: Alexander Podkul, Georgetown University

Under Pressure: Measuring Constituent Attitudes on Immigration and its Effects on Legislative Behavior  
*Isaiah Johnson, University of Houston*

Putting Money Where Your Mouth Is: A Media Analysis of Betting Markets  
*Seth Ferguson, Ohio Northern University*

Is Social Media Compatible with American Democracy?  
"The Distracted Generation"  
*Jason Goldfarb, University of Vermont*

The Effectiveness of the Satirical News Desk  
*August Dichter, Eckerd College*

How Anxiety About Donald Trump Influences News Reporting  
*Pablo Balcazar, Purdue University*

**10:45am - 12:15pm | MC 311**  
**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/COMPARATIVE SESSION 6**

Chair/Discussant: Josiah Augustine, George Washington University

Governance in Myanmar's Transitioning Democracy  
*Marc Unger, Elizabethtown College*





Why Regimes Repress: The Factors that Lead to Censorship of Social Media

*Ezhan S. Hasan, Texas Christian University*

Why Does Debt Behavior Vary Between Governments? Evidence from Mexico

*Daniel Herrera, College of William & Mary*

**12:15 - 1:45pm | Grand Ballroom  
Lunch & Speaker**

**Major Garrett**

Major Garrett is Chief Washington Correspondent for CBS News and host of the podcast, "The Takeout." A veteran journalist, he joined CBS in 2012 taking on the role of Chief White House Correspondent. Before the move to CBS, Garrett worked as a Washington-based correspondent for CNN, Fox News and National Journal. Earlier in his career, he worked as a reporter and editor for U.S. News & World Report, Washington Times and other publications. Garrett is the author of four books, with the most recent, "Mr. Trump's Wild Ride," released in 2018. He graduated from the University of Missouri, Columbia with degrees in journalism and political science.



**Lunch sponsored by the American Political Science Association**

**2:00 - 3:30pm | MC 301  
PUBLIC POLICY SESSION 1**

Chair/Discussant: Jessica James, George Washington University

Can and Should the Grizzly Bear be Reintroduced to California?

*Andrew Gleaton, Boise State University*

Between the Lines: How the Dakota Access Pipeline Protests Impacted Line 5 Discourse

*Alex Bertges, Oakland University*



The Private and Public Sector Unite to Solve Social Issues:  
A Quantitative Approach to Social Innovation Policy Adoption at  
the State Level

*Victoria Fix, John Jay College of Criminal Justice*

Why Science Isn't Enough: The Importance of Conservation  
Communication

*Deborah Kornblut, College of William & Mary*

Wind Turbine Construction Projects and Their Effects on Tourism

*Matthew Finnegan, Wilkes University*

**2:00 - 3:30pm | MC 302**

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/COMPARATIVE SESSION 7**

Chair/Discussant: Josiah Augustine, George Washington University

The Effects of Land Reform Policies in Zimbabwe

*Daisha Goff, Bowie State University*

Conditional Cash Transfers: The Global Key to Closing the  
Income Inequality Gap

*Krystle DeCasas, California State University, San Bernardino*

Chinese Influence in Africa: Zimbabwe in Flux

*William Walker, California State University, Chico*

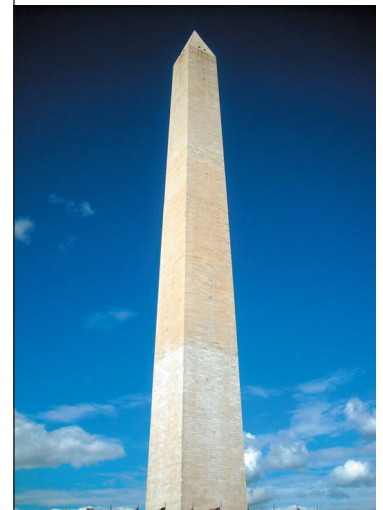
A Plan to Develop Sustainable Political, Economic, and Social Insti-  
tutions within the Middle Eastern North African Region

*Dylan McClain, University of Arkansas at Monticello*

**2:00 - 3:30pm | MC 307**

**PUBLIC POLICY SESSION 2**

Chair/Discussant: Kelly Rolfes-Haase, Georgetown University



Black Women and Maternal Mortality: Exploring Section 1557 of the Patient Protection Act and Physicians' Implicit Bias in the United States Healthcare System?

*Bisoye Oyelola, Temple University*

Can Women Compete? The US Military Divide on Combat Roles

*Theodora Ocken, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee*

Where are the Women? An Intersectional Analysis of Female Representation in State Legislatures

*Mary Ellen Kempf, Elon University*

The Occurrence of American Feminism in Waves: Does the Third-Wave of Feminism Care About Older Women?

*Emily Lane, DePaul University*

The Inadvertent Feminist: Implications of Hannah Arendt

*Jessica NeJame, University of Vermont*

**2:00 - 3:30pm | MC 308**

**AMERICAN POLITICS SESSION 6**

Chair/Discussant: Liza Gordon, West Virginia University

Democratic Socialism: The Millennial Generation Joining the Voting Population

*Sean Seelmann, Oakland University*

Voter Perception of Ideological Distance between Candidates and the Effect on Voter Turnout

*Ryan Mash, Bentley University*

Reluctance to Express Vote Choice among Ohioans during the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election

*Andrew Henthorn, Baldwin Wallace University*

What Drives the American Voter? A Closer Look at Voter Choice in the 2016 Presidential Election

*Allyson Thorson, University of Redlands*



**2:00 - 3:30pm | MC 311**

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/COMPARATIVE SESSION 8**

Chair/Discussant: Samer Anabtawi, George Washington University

It's not about religion: Dissecting the Crisis in Yemen through Foreign Actors and their Motivations

*Syeda Soughat, DePaul University*

Israel as Both a Jewish and Democratic State: An Analysis of the Effectiveness of Israel's Democratic Institutions at Ensuring Arab Minority Representation in the National Government

*Abigail Tubin, Wake Forest University*

The Development Deficit: Examining the Difference Quotient between Economic and Social Development as Causal Indicators for the Arab Spring

*Meagan B. Carmack, Drury University*

Syria's Diaspora in the Making: An Analysis of the Variation in Middle Eastern Responses to the Syrian Refugee Crisis

*Abigail Konig, Saint Anselm College*

**2:00 - 3:30pm | MC 310**

**POLITICAL THEORY SESSION 2**

Chair/Discussant: Kristen Collins, Georgetown University

Honor Killings: A Global Epidemic

*Hanya Malik, Purdue University*

An Arendtian Interpretation of the Anfal Campaign

*Ghazi Ghazi, Oakland University*

Defining Terrorism and The Motivations Surrounding It

*Belle Tan, University of Arkansas, Monticello*

Antifa: The Rationalization of Radicalization

*Gabrielle Etzel, Grove City College*





**3:45 - 5:30pm | MC 301**

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/COMPARATIVE SESSION 9**

Chair/Discussant: Ahmed Khattab, Georgetown University

The Taliban, the Enemy We Created

*R. Michael Kolwitz, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee*

No Victory Without Movement: The Crimean Crisis in the Context of Russian Military Strategy

*Daniel Eggert, College of Saint Benedict, Saint John's University*

U.S. Military Interventions and Middle East and North Africa Stability

*Joshua Reed, Slippery Rock University*

The Balancing Act: Egypt's Enduring Authoritarianism

*Brett J. Duffek, University of St. Thomas*

**3:45 - 5:30pm | MC 302**

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/COMPARATIVE SESSION 10**

Chair/Discussant: Siobhan Kirkland, George Washington University

What Influences the Effectiveness of a Peacekeeping Mission

*Aleksander Henson, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee*

Evaluating the Implementation of R2P: Promises, Conditions, and Guiding Imperatives

*Felipe Cabello, California State University, Northridge*

When does the United Nations Security Council Get Involved in International Crises Including Non-State Actors?

*Lance Lindsay, DePaul University*

Pride or Progress? The 1989 United States Invasion of Panama

*Marco Micheletta, Oakland University*



**3:45 - 5:30pm | MC 307**  
**AMERICAN POLITICS SESSION 7**

Chair/Discussant: Liza Gordon, West Virginia University

'I've a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore': The Critical 2018  
Election in Kansas's 3rd Congressional District  
*Ajayp Gill, Oakland University*

I Can See Gender Parity From My House: An Analysis of Women, Con-  
servatives, and the Republican Party  
*Rose Rastbaf, San Diego State University*

To Vote or Not to Vote: The Demobilizing Role of Scandal in the 2016  
Presidential Election  
*Lydia J. Glen, College of Saint Benedict, Saint John's University*

Guns, Guts, and Satire: An Analysis of Satirical Representation and  
Public Opinion  
*Tate Volbrecht, Boise State University*

**3:45 - 5:30pm | MC 308**  
**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/COMPARATIVE SESSION 11**

Chair/Discussant: Andrew Szarejko, Georgetown University

Hitler's Hand in the 21st Century: How Holocaust Collaboration in  
the 1940's Shapes Modern Anti-Semitism  
*Jenna Kate Bisbee, Saint Anselm College*

The Evolution of International Prosecution: An Analysis of the Office  
of the Prosecutor for the International Criminal Court and the  
European Public Prosecutors Office  
*Maria Barriga, California State University, Chico*

Turmoil in Africa: An Analysis of Sexual Violence in the Democratic  
Republic of the Congo  
*Anna Andrews, University of South Dakota*



"Not in a Thousand Years": Rhodesia in International Society  
*Christina Walker, Oakland University*

**3:45 - 5:30pm | MC 311**

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/COMPARATIVE SESSION 12**

Chair/Discussant: Samer Anabtawi, George Washington University

Does Being a Woman Increase Your Chances of Living in Poverty?:  
An Empirical Analysis of Malawi and Uganda  
*Haley VanOverbeck, Brigham Young University*

Female Secondary School Stipend Programs in Bangladesh and  
Pakistan  
*Julia Gibbons, University of Mary Washington*

Women's Movements in West Africa:  
What We Should Learn From Them  
*Anna Adamsson, Purdue University*

Human Rights Violations in Absolute Monarchies: Gender  
Development, Equality, and Insight from Saudi Arabia  
and Swaziland  
*Olivia Komanduri, University of Nevada, Reno*  
*Katie Worrall, University of Nevada, Reno*



## STUDENT BIOS

**Moataz Abdelrasoul** is a junior at Youngstown State University, where he is studying political science, with a focus on legal studies. He is the president of the Alpha Alpha Rho chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus. He has recently completed an internship with Community Legal Aid of Northeast Ohio, and is planning on attending law school after he graduates.

**Anna Adamsson** is a sophomore at Purdue University. She is majoring in global studies, with a concentration in sustainability and environmental politics. She especially enjoys the study of climate refugees. Anna has previously worked on a congressional campaign and is currently interning with a non-profit, REvolv, to bring solar energy to her local community.

**Niko Aiello** is a senior at Sonoma State University, where he is studying political science and economics. He is the president of the newly rechartered Kappa Rho chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, as well as the president of Sonoma State's Model United Nations team.

**Anna Andrews** is a senior at the University of South Dakota, where she studies political science and international relations, with a focus on human rights. She is the president of the Gamma Nu chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus. She will be spending a month studying in Peru this summer and will begin graduate school in the fall.

**Warisha Aslam** is a sophomore at Purdue University, where she is majoring in political science and minoring in psychology. Among her other extracurricular involvements, she is on the speaker's committee of TEDx and an editor for the Purdue Journal of Undergraduate Research. She is also currently researching modernist transhumanism and its political, as well as bioethical, implications under her supervising research professor. Warisha aspires to attend law school after graduation.

**Pablo Balcazar** is a junior at Purdue University, where he is studying sociology and political science. He is the president of Purdue Immigrant Allies and Delta Pi Rho Fraternity. He is planning on studying in Colombia this summer and hopes to enter law school after he graduates.

**Maria Barriga** is a senior at the California State University, Chico, where she is majoring in international relations and political science. She hopes to intern in Washington, DC over this summer and someday enter law school. Upon graduating, she plans to enter a career in international law.

**Alex Bertges** is an Oakland University senior studying political science and Spanish, with a focus on environmental policy. She is the president of the Model United Nations team and the Campus Health Director for the school's Student Congress. She will be working on a variety of projects related to homelessness and environmental justice in the Detroit area following graduation.

**Nathalie Bessette** is a third-year student of political science, with a minor in communication studies, at Temple University. Her academic interests include political communication, foreign policy, and diplomacy. In addition to being a recent inductee into the Delta Rho chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus, Nathalie is events coordinator for Temple's Political Science Society and is currently working as a project intern at Rittenhouse Political Partners, a nationally-recognized progressive campaign fundraising firm stationed in Philadelphia.

**Levi Bevis** is a senior at the University of Mississippi, where he is majoring in public policy leadership and minoring in political science. He is a member of the Alpha Rho chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. Following graduation, he plans to work in Washington, D.C. for a year before attending law school to pursue a career as an immigration or civil rights attorney.

**Jenna Bisbee** is a senior at Saint Anselm College, where she studies international relations, history, and French

language and literature. She spent a semester studying language and history in Aix-en-Provence, France. After graduation, she hopes to move abroad to work with Holocaust remembrance organizations conducting research on genocide, protecting at-risk Jewish communities, and monitoring anti-semitism.

**Felipe Cabello** is a senior at California State University, Northridge, where he is studying political science, with a focus in government and society. He is the Pi Sigma Alpha Representative in CSUN's Political Science Student Association. Felipe is the student advisor on CSUN's Model United Nations team and will be pursuing a Master's degree in international relations after graduating.

**Meagan Carmack** is a junior at Drury University where she studies international political science, with a focus on Middle Eastern studies, mathematics, and Spanish. She is on the executive committee of the Omega Eta chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus, and Vice President of the Honors Student Association. Meagan plans to pursue a PhD in political methodology and/or international relations and security after she graduates in 2020.

**Chris Cassella** is a junior at University of Richmond. He is pursuing a double major in P.P.E.L, with a concentration in philosophy, and political science. He is interested in research areas such as the Second Amendment and gender rights, and plans to attend law school or graduate school after graduation. When he's not researching, Chris enjoys improv comedy and ultimate frisbee.

**Jarrold C. Colley** is a senior at the University of Southern Mississippi, where he is studying saxophone performance and political science, with an emphasis on statistical research. He is the president of the Chi Delta chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus. He has served as an intern with former Congressman Jeff Miller and as an intern with the McKeon Group in Alexandria, Virginia. Jarrold hopes to attend law school upon graduation.



**Brennan Collins** is a senior at Valdosta State University, where he studies political science, with a focus in American government. He is the vice president of the Alpha Beta Mu chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus. He will attend Mercer Law School after graduation.

**Wil Crawford** is a senior at East Central University, where he double-majors in political science and legal studies. He serves as the President Pro Tempore of the Senate in the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature, and as the Chief Justice of the Honor Court at ECU. He is a legal intern with Oklahoma's 22nd Judicial District, and will enter law school in the Fall of 2019.

**Krystle DeCasas** is a senior at California State University, San Bernardino where she is majoring in political science and minoring in pre-law. She is the vice president of the Theta Iota chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus. She hopes to attend law school in Fall 2020.

**August Dichter** is a senior at Eckerd College, where he is studying political science, with concentrations in journalism and comedy. Last year, he completed an internship at Full Frontal with Samantha Bee, where he got his first joke on national television. He hopes to one day revolutionize the once-groundbreaking "Weekend Update" on Saturday Night Live, and then enter the world of politics, where he will pretend to be a little more serious.

**Brett Duffek** is a senior at the University of St. Thomas where he is studying history and political science. A member of the Chi Theta chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, Brett intends to enter law school in the fall after graduation.

**Andrew Ehler** is a junior at the University of Vermont, where he is studying political science and history. He is a research assistant with the Vermont Legislative Research Service in Burlington, Vermont. Andrew hopes to enter law school after he graduates.

**Daniel Eggert** is a senior at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University, where he is majoring in political science with a minor in history. He spent the previous spring studying in London, and he also completed a term as a research assistant for The Co-operative Party. He worked at Global Minnesota this past summer as a Professional Exchanges Coordinator for the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. Daniel is contemplating a career in the military after graduation before pursuing a position in the defense and intelligence community.

**Gabrielle M. Etzel** is a graduating junior at Grove City College studying political science and economics. She is interested in the intersection of political philosophy and public policy, and intends to pursue graduate study in this field. Gabrielle enjoys her position as a research fellow for the Center for Vision and Values, a growing conservative think tank associated with her college. Her work can be read in *The American Spectator*, *The Pittsburgh Catholic*, and *The Center for Vision and Values* among other publications. She also hosts her own political commentary blog, *The Unvarnished Blog* (<https://theunvarnishedblog.wordpress.com/>).

**Seth Ferguson** is a senior at Ohio Northern University studying history and political science, with minors in statistics and public policy. He is the president of ONU's Student Senate and has been active in the Pi Iota chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus. His efforts have allowed ONU to attain national Voter Friendly Campus status. He hopes to attend graduate school for public administration after he graduates.

**Matthew Finnegan** is a junior at Wilkes University, where he is studying both political science and international studies. After graduating, he hopes to continue his education by moving onto law school.

**Samantha Fritz** is a junior at Youngstown State University. She is studying philosophy, with a focus on social and political philosophy, and political science. She will be applying to philosophy master's programs in the fall and hopes to go on to achieve her JD or PhD in philosophy after a master's program.

**Ghazi Ghazi** is a junior at Oakland University, where he is studying international relations with a focus on the Middle East, particularly human rights, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and Iraqi politics. He is the vice president of the Nu Omega chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus. He has studied abroad in the Middle East, being apart of an archaeological dig taking place in Israel. He hopes to enter graduate school to study Middle Eastern languages and politics after he completes his undergraduate career.

**Andrew Gleaton** is a senior at Boise State University, where he is studying political science, with an emphasis on American government. He is a member of Pi Sigma Alpha, the Boise State Political Science Association, and the ultimate frisbee club. He hopes to find a job after he graduates and eventually attend law school.

**Victoria Fix** is a senior at CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice where she studies political science and criminology. Victoria just recently concluded fall internships with U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and the Manhattan District Attorney. Victoria is a part of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creativity and Residential Life at John Jay College. Victoria currently works as a legal clerk at the New York County Public Defender's Office. She hopes to use her passion for social justice to and the law to represent underserved and misrepresented people in the criminal justice system.

**Alexandra Fognani** is a senior at Tufts University where she is a double major in international relations with a concentration in the Middle East and Peace and Justice studies with a concentration on education and civic engagement. She is currently an intern at the the Women and Public Policy

Program at the Harvard Kennedy School and has previously interned at the State Office of Senator Elizabeth Warren. Alexandra Hopes to pursue a masters in Public Policy after she graduates.

**Jordan Gemilere** is a senior at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University where he is studying political science and is an All College Thesis candidate. He focuses on the Middle East and Africa regions. He recently moderated a discussion on South Sudan with Zach Vertin, hosted by the Eugene McCarthy Center. After graduation, he is hoping to find work that relates to U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East and Africa and plans to eventually pursue a graduate degree.

**Julia Gibbons** is a senior at the University of Mary Washington, where she is studying international relations. She is the president of the Kappa Upsilon chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha and the president of the International Relations Organization on campus. After graduation, she is planning on teaching English in South Korea.

**Ajay Gill** is a junior at Oakland University where he is studying political science, economics, and history. His focus is on domestic affairs involving political campaigns, elections, and congressional legislative processes. He is the president of the Nu Omega chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus, and plans on attending law school after he graduates.

**Daisha Goff** is a senior at Bowie State University where she is studying history and government with a minor in philosophy. She is a member of the Phi Upsilon chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, and upon graduation, she hopes to pursue a master's in Teaching.

**Jason Goldfarb** is a junior at the University of Vermont studying history and political science. Outside of the classroom, he is a lead tour guide, an intern with Student Legal Services, and an editor for the UVM History Review. His academic focus lies in understanding the relationship between new technologies, like social media,

and American democracy. He plans to attend law school after graduation.

**Daniella Gonzalez** is a junior at Purdue University whose passion for social justice has led her to major in both political science and law and society, and pursue minors in history, human rights, and Spanish. During her time at Purdue, she has participated in a research group on the 2017 Presidential Inauguration, conducted research on the experience of dependent visa holders in the U.S. with a faculty member through the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP), and presented in Purdue's Pi Sigma Alpha Regional Conference Spring 2018. Her primary goal after graduation is to have a career that will make a direct and positive impact on people who are oppressed, either through a career in law or public policy.

**Jacob Gorton** is a fifth year senior attending Oakland University where he is studying political science with a interest in political philosophy. Jacob is a member of the Nu Omega chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha at Oakland. Upon graduation, he intends to get involved in local municipalities and help his community.

**Sami Gul** is a senior at the University of Missouri, Kansas City. He is double majoring in political science and mathematics and statistics. He is the president of the Eta Zeta chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha and the Intercultural Dialogue Student Association on campus. He wants to pursue a doctoral degree in political science with an emphasis on methodology.

**Ezhan Hasan** is a junior political science major at Texas Christian University. He hopes to pursue a joint JD/PhD after graduation.

**Steven Henley** is seeking a degree in political science and economics at Grand Valley State University. Steven is a co-chair of the Kappa Phi chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha at GVSU and member of Alpha Sigma Lambda honors and volunteer fraternity. He is the current financial officer within the GVSU Law Society and former presi-

dent of the organization. He volunteers with the Legal Assistance Center, located in the Kent County Courthouse. In the past, Steven has served on the GVSU Student Senate body for three semesters. After graduation he will attend law school.

**Alek Henson** is a senior at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee where he is studying political science with a focus on political theory and international relations. After graduation he hopes to enter graduate school where he can pursue these interests even further.

**Andrew Henthorn** is a senior at Baldwin Wallace University where he is studying political science with minors in history and political communication. He is a member of the Pi Sigma Alpha chapter on his campus. He will be graduating in May and hopes to move to Washington, DC.

**Daniel Herrera** is a junior at The College of William & Mary where he is studying government and finance. He has interned in public finance and the energy sector, and will work for Freddie Mac Multifamily after graduation. His research focus includes democratization and inequality.

**Isaiah Johnson** is a senior at the University of Houston, where he is studying political science with a focus on American institutions. He is the president of the Rho Zeta chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus. After graduating he hopes to enter graduate school.

**Mary Ellen Kempf** is a senior at Elon University where she is studying political science and Spanish. She has conducted research through the Elon Honors Fellows Program as well as the 2018 Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) on campus. Mary Ellen is finishing her honors thesis and will be attending law school in the Fall of 2019.

**R. Michael Kolwitz** is a senior at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. As a veteran of the Afghanistan War, an alumni of the Critical Language Scholarship, and as a student he has

traveled extensively in pursuit of his studies of political science, global studies, and Arabic with a focus on Middle Eastern Studies. After graduation he intends to return to the military and a commission in the U.S Navy.

**Olivia Komanduri** is a senior at the University of Nevada, Reno studying philosophy, political science, and international affairs with a focus on diplomacy. She is the secretary of the Delta Xi chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus. She is also involved in student government and her United Nations Association college chapter. She hopes to attend law school in the future.

**Abigail Konig** is a senior at Saint Anselm College, where she is studying English and politics. She is a Kevin B. Harrington Student Ambassador at the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, where she has had the privilege to work with ABC and The Today Show during the 2016 election and work on Kelly Ayote's senate campaign. Abigail interned at a local ESL center, which inspired her to pursue immigration and refugee studies. She hopes to get a M.S. in Refugee and Forced Migration studies post-grad as well as work with IOs and NGOs in refugee camps in the Middle East.

**Deborah Kornblut** is a senior at The College of William & Mary. She is double majoring in Government and environmental policy, her interest is in science communication for conservation. She is the Vice President of the Eta Rho chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus.

**Emily Lane** is a junior at DePaul University. She is majoring in political science with a concentration in political theory and a minor in international relations. On campus, she is president of the Xi Iota chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. Currently, she is interning with the Department of Communications for the Daley for Mayor campaign. After graduation, she hopes to enter law school.

**Emily Leibley** is a junior at Lebanon Valley College where she is studying politics and history. Her interests within these disciplines include political economy, labor studies, and economic history. On campus, she serves as class secretary in Student Government and is a member of both Pi Sigma Alpha and Pi Alpha Theta.

**Raissa Lima** is a senior at the University of New Hampshire where she is dual majoring in political science and justice studies with minors in forensics and security studies. She is a member of the UNH chapters of Phi Beta Kappa, Pi Sigma Alpha, and Alpha Phi Sigma. She has worked as an investigative intern at both the District of Columbia and Dover Public Defender offices. She plans to enter law school in the future.

**Lance Lindsay** just recently received his BA in political science with a minor in philosophy. He is currently applying to graduate school for programs focused on international relations, he intends to specialize in counter terrorism and intelligence analysis with the hope of working for InterPortPolice and one day teach best practices of CT in the academy.

**Hanya Malik** is a junior at Purdue University where she is pursuing a double major in political science and women's, gender and sexuality studies with a minor in philosophy. She hopes to enroll in a PhD program in gender politics after graduation while also working with women empowerment in Pakistan.

**Ryan Mash** is a senior at Bentley University where he is studying public policy with a business studies double major. He is the owner of Nocturnal Cookies, a company he started on Bentley University's campus. He hopes to secure a job in the field of health policy or health policy consulting after he graduates in 2019.

**Kelsey McCaffrey** is a senior at California State University, Chico where she is studying international relations. She is a member of Upsilon Delta chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus. Kelsey is also a debater on Chico's speech and debate team as well as

secretary general of the Model United Nations team. She will graduate this spring and hopes to be accepted into Teach for America before pursuing her masters.

**Dylan McClain** is a senior political science and history double major at the University of Arkansas, Monticello where he is studying more practical ways to develop the Middle East North Africa region. He is the president of the Alpha Chi and Phi Alpha Theta honor societies on campus along with the vice president of his Pi Sigma Alpha chapter. Dylan hopes to continue his studies of the Middle East as he continues his education in the hopes of working for the CIA.

**Marco Micheletta** is a senior at Oakland University where he is majoring in international relations and minoring in history. He is a member of the editorial board of the Pi Sigma Alpha undergraduate journal on campus. His aim is to graduate this year and take the foreign service officer exam for the U.S. State Department.

**Alexander Mullenix** is a senior at Purdue University studying political science with minors in human rights and history. He is an undergraduate fellow with the Purdue Public Policy institute and a Peer Educator with the Center for Advocacy, Response, and Education. He aims to attend a graduate program in urban planning after he graduated.

**Jessica NeJame** is a senior at the University of Vermont where she is pursuing degrees in political science and environmental studies. She is an editor for Headwaters Magazine, a student-run environmental publication at UVM. After graduation, she hopes to spend time abroad somewhere in Latin America before entering law school.

**Mykhe Nguyen** is a senior at Saint Olaf College where she is studying mathematics, statistics and political methodology. She currently holds data analyst and survey analyst positions in multiple projects at her college. She will be a statistical consultant at Analysis Group in Denver, CO after

graduation and hopes to enter graduate school in political methodology later.

**Theodora Ocken** is a senior at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee graduating this spring with a double major in history and political science and an emphasis in law studies. She is the treasurer of the Epsilon Xi chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha and the First Generation Advocacy Senator for the Student Association on campus. After graduation, she plans take a year to work, study for the LSAT, and travel, and hopes to enter law school in Fall 2020.

**Bisi Oyelola** is a senior at Temple University where she studies political science with a minor in history. She president of an on-campus organization promoting dialogue and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Temple University's Honors Program. She has studied and completed research abroad in Accra, Ghana through the Vira I. Heinz Women in Global Leadership Scholarship Program. She will be presenting her research on Ghana's Abortion Law at Temple University Global Conference and is completing an internship with Philadelphia VIP. Upon graduation, Bisi aspires to pursue a career in social entrepreneurship and law.

**Kristian Perez** is a senior at the Virginia Military Institute where he is majoring in international studies with minors in national security, Middle Eastern studies and history. He is a member of VMI's Pi Sigma Alpha chapter. He recently completed a summer abroad in Tbilisi, Georgia where he studied peace and conflict in the Caucasus. Kristian hopes to have a career in the field of human rights or international organizations after he graduates VMI.

**Caroline Pippert** is a senior at St. Olaf College where she is studying biology and political science. She enjoys learning about American politics, elections, and political behavior and hopes to pursue these interests in graduate school in the future.

**Caleb Pittman** is a senior at Central Connecticut State University where he is majoring in political science and minoring in Arabic. He works as a research assistant at the Center for Public Policy and Social Research on campus. His research interests are in American political behavior and political identity. He hopes to pursue a PhD in political science after graduating.

**Paige Raines** is a senior at Slippery Rock University where she is studying political science and philosophy. She is planning on attending law school following her graduation.

**Rose Rastbaf** is a third-year at San Diego State University double majoring in political science and history, and is involved with student government both on campus and within the California State Student Association. She hopes to attend law school upon graduation and to pursue a career in litigation, with an interest in constitutional, human rights, and national security law.

**Joshua Reed** is a student at Slippery Rock University who will graduate in May 2019 with a BA degree in political science and a minor in international affairs. Upon graduation, he will be leaving for Comoror as a TEFL Teacher with the Peace Corps.

**Destinee' Rule** is a junior at Oakland University where she is studying political science with double minors in Middle Eastern studies and Islamic studies. She is a winter 2019 inductee of the Nu Omega chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. Destinee' has worked for various Student Affairs offices on campus and is currently the Diversity and Inclusion Director for OU Student Congress. After graduating, Destinee' hopes to continue her education at Georgetown University in their MAAS program.

**Sean Seelmann** is a senior at Oakland University where he is studying political science with a minor in international relations and criminal justice. He plans to attend law school after he graduates in April.

**Kyla Smith** is a senior at Eckerd College where she is studying international relations and Spanish, with a minor in Latin American studies. She is the vice president of the Alpha Eta Alpha chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus. Kyla completed an internship with Enterprising Latinas, inc. where she worked on the Youth Listening Project, conducting interviews and data to better understand the barriers to success that both immigrant youth and children of immigrants face in their communities in order to develop programs that better respond to these concerns. Her long-term goal is to obtain a PhD in public policy and complete her dissertation on immigration issues.

**Morgan Smith** is a senior at Brigham Young University, Hawaii where she is studying political science and pre-law. She is the president of the Chi Zeta chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus. Following graduation, Morgan hopes to attend graduate school focusing on a PhD in political science where she will have an emphasis in international relations, methodology, and American politics.

**Syeda Soughat** is a junior at DePaul University where she is studying international studies and political science. She is a member of the Xi Iota chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha and is on the board for the Chicago area peace action committee at DePaul University. She is currently an intern at a non-profit organization called RefugeeOne and hopes to enter law school once she graduates.

**Alexandrea Talsky** is a senior at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee majoring in international studies with a focus on political science. Alex is the office manager of the University Legal Clinic.

**Meron Tamene** is a junior at Purdue University where she is studying political science with minors in Spanish, human rights, and global studies. In spring of 2017, Meron had the privilege of experiencing her research interests first-hand while on a class trip to Tucson, Arizona, where she studied migrant flows across the U.S.-



Mexico border and the experiences of undocumented immigrants in the U.S. The experience helped catalyze her interest in exploring the complex barriers that exist between undocumented youth in the U.S. and their access to higher education. After graduation, Meron hopes to attend law school and study international human rights law

**Belle Tan** is a junior at the University of Arkansas, Monticello and is double majoring in political science and accounting. She is the president of the Alpha Eta Omicron chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus, a member of the UAM Women's Golf Team, the Institute of Management Accountants, Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, Alpha Chi and the International Club. She looks forward to many future academic conferences for political science to present and further better her research.

**Allyson Thorson** is a senior at the University of Redlands where she is studying political science and public policy with a minor in Spanish and emphasis in law, policy, and research methods. She is the president of the Alpha Delta Psi chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus.

**Jacob Tomory** is a junior at Youngstown State University where he is studying philosophy and political science. He is vice president of the Alpha Alpha Rho Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus. He is also a member of Youngstown State University's nationally ranked moot court team and two time national runner up ethics bowl team. He hopes to enter law school and/or graduate school in philosophy after he graduates.

**Addison Tryon** is a senior at St. Olaf College majoring in political science and American studies. She concentrates on American politics in her work, with a focus on vote choice as her primary interest. This project is the result of a research position she held this past summer. She graduates this May and hopes to work in the field of public policy for her career.

**Abigail Tubin** is a senior at Wake Forest University majoring in politics and international affairs with minors in economics and statistics. She has completed internships in both the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Parliament of the United Kingdom as a policy analyst. After graduation, she will begin a teaching fellowship before pursuing law school the following fall.

**Haley VanOverbeck** is a senior at Brigham Young University where she is studying international relations with an emphasis in political and economic development. During her undergraduate career, she completed an internship in rural Malawi doing a program evaluation for an NGO and is currently evaluating another organization and will continue her research in Uganda in May. Following graduation in April, Haley will start a graduate program focused on international development policy analysis and program evaluation.

**Nerija Vietaite** is a senior at DePaul University where she is double-majoring in political science and economics. She is one of the student representatives at the political science department at her university and is heavily involved with a variety of organizations on campus. After graduation, Nerija hopes to work in the area of transparency and anti-corruption, although, she is unsure of the location. She has her eye on Brussels, Washington D.C., or her hometown Vilnius.

**Tate Volbrecht** is a junior at Boise State University where is studying both communication and political science with an emphasis in political philosophy. He is Treasurer of the Xi Chi chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha and clerks for an estate planning firm based in Boise. He hopes to enter law school after graduation.

**Christina Walker** is a second-year student at Oakland University where she is studying international relations and French. She is treasurer of the Nu Omega chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus and co-content editor of the undergraduate research journal. She hopes to pursue work in policy in the Middle East and North Africa in the future.

**William Walker** is a recent graduate from California State University, Chico in international relations. He is working on multiple research projects concerning state relations in Africa, and has been to South Africa doing fieldwork with one of his professors. Focusing his background on conducive government for economic development in low income countries, he plans to volunteer in the Peace Corps before applying to masters school.

**Tamia Wallace** is a senior at Virginia Commonwealth University where she is studying political science with a dual concentration in human security and international relations. She served on the executive board of VCU Chapter of the NAACP for 2 years, acting in the both role of political action chair and president, before studying abroad in the United Arab Emirates during the fall 2018 semester. Tamia is currently serving as an intern in the School of Language Studies within the Foreign Service Institute under the United States Department of State. After she completes her undergraduate studies, Tamia will be attending Seton Hall University where she will be pursuing an M.A in the School of International Relations and Diplomacy with a dual specialization in global conflict and negotiation and Middle Eastern Studies.

**Alexander Will** is a senior at the University of St. Thomas, studying political science with an emphasis in international relations. Alexander is also working to complete a major study in history with a focus on early modern England and Tudor politics. At St. Thomas, Alexander is a member of both Pi Sigma Alpha and Phi Alpha Theta, the history honor society, as well as a member of the young democrats. Currently, Alexander works in congressional politics, interning with his federal representative. Following graduation in May, Alexander intends to go to law school to study international law.

**Katie Worrall** is a senior at the University of Nevada, Reno studying political science and international affairs and minoring in geography. She is the director of legislative affairs in student government, the president

and founder of the United Nations Association/Model UN club on her campus, and treasurer of the Delta Xi Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. She plans to go to graduate school after taking a gap year to work on campaigns and study Arabic and Spanish.

**Marc Unger** is a senior of political science and international studies at Elizabethtown College. He is currently a VSFS intern for Fulbright Alumni Engagement at the U.S. Department of State with former professional and academic experience in South Asia. Marc intends to begin a career in South Asian policy research following graduation with plans for a Master's down the road.

**Jenny Young** is a senior at Brigham Young University, Hawaii where she is studying political science and economics. She is the vice president of the Chi Zeta chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on campus. Following graduation, Jenny will assume an internship focusing on statistical analysis, following which she will apply for a master's program in political science focusing on methodology.

**Jordan Young** is a senior at the University of Missouri, Columbia studying journalism and political science. During her junior year, she had tremendous opportunities to work with public policy with her internship in U.S. Senator Roy Blunt's office in Washington D.C. and her internship lobbying legislation in the Missouri State Capitol. Jordan was also recently inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa—a national leadership secret honors society and plans to attend law school in the fall.

# NOTES



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