

# ORIENTATION CO-CHAIRS

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## DRU BRENNER

Hello incoming first years! All of Pritzker is brimming with delightful anticipation as we eagerly await your arrival to campus. We cannot wait to meet you! And the most excited person, I dare say, is none other than Dru Brenner. You might remember Dru as the opening act for Say Ahh's illustrious a cappella performance at Revisit. Or perhaps you'll recognize Dru from the time she starred as a dancer in the 2014 Super Bowl halftime show with Beyoncé (true story, this actually happened). That little gig was just child's play though, compared to Dru's *real* debut this year with the campus-renowned Pritzker Dance Crew at the M1 talent show. When not singing and dancing, Dru can be found waking up at 6:15am on weekdays to attend cardio-kickboxing classes at the gym. Dru is an avid fan of cardio-kickboxing. She is SO hardcore, in fact, that when the instructor calls in sick, other students ask Dru to lead the class in her place.



Dru is all about wellness, and she keeps our class quite well. As part of Pritzker's Wellness Committee, Dru organizes fun events like "friend crush" dates and cozy evening heart-to-heart sessions where all are invited to share their feelings over yummy Trader Joe's snacks and tea.

Throughout this year at Pritzker, Dru has found a passion in advocating for universal healthcare. This winter, Dru met with Illinois senator Tammy Duckworth's office to urge for congressional support for Medicare-for-All. Dru also represented Pritzker at a national Medicare-for-All conference in New York this past January. Back home at Pritzker, Dru inspires classmates to join the cause through leading open forums for civil discourse, where we discuss the pros and cons of a national health program. Under Dru's lead, several of us even called our Congressional representatives to seek support for single-payer legislation.

To end, here are a few high yield facts about Dru. Her hometown is Pontiac, Michigan. She loves musicals. Her natural habitat is in the third floor student lounge, toasting a bagel with cream cheese. She loves board games, especially one called Set. She studied Human Biology at Stanford. Her legal name is Louisa. There is a 30 percent chance that her breakfast includes a mushy banana.

- Jennifer Deng, MS22

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## DAR NWAUDO



Dear incoming class of 2019,

Let me introduce you all to Dar Nwaudo. Growing up with two older sisters molded him into a tough and resilient man. Meanwhile, his experiences with his younger sister have molded him into the protective advocate that you will come to appreciate having on your team. An alumnus of Eastview High School located south of the Twin Cities in the great state of 10,000 lakes, he was inspired as a child by the poison ivy of the great northern forests to chase more ivy and “go to school in Boston.” Here, he walked-on to the Crimson football team, developed his love for IPA’s, and majored in Molecular and Cellular Biology. From there, he went straight to Pritzker and now lives with one of his classmates from Eastview who happens to also be his girlfriend of 7 years. They are considering getting a dog and you should all encourage this.

Though he was raised in the cold, harsh, brutal, ‘worse than Chicago’ winters of Minnesota, make no mistake of his warm influence on the Pritzker community and his red hot good looks. During his first year, he was a leader with Chicago Youth Programs, Washington Park Free Clinic, SNMA, BLS (Basic Life Support), HPREP (Health Professions Recruitment and Exposure Program), as well as both the trauma and orthopedic surgery interest groups. Though he’s your only orientation chair who isn’t also a wellness chair for the MS22’s, he still finds time for Knitzker and a plethora of intramural sports, including a gritty performance through a knee injury to push the Pritzker first-years to an intramural championship. He notably did not lead the team to glory in floor hockey; I guess not everyone in Minnesota is good at that. He further satiates his appetite for friendly competitions on the weekends as a board game extraordinaire and connoisseur. Ask him about his favorite games: Settlers of Catan and Five Straight.

This summer, in addition to preparing for orientation, Dar will be doing research through the SRP program studying the care that was received at the trauma center during its first year. After orientation, you can look forward to his presence in the anatomy lab as a peer educator for both the abdomen and pelvis units. He’s very excited to guide you all through orientation (read: won’t stop talking about it) and is excited to get to know each of you.

- Bradley Carlson, MS22

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## HELEN WEI

Hello incoming MS1s! We are thrilled to have you join our happy and loving Pritzker family and are so eager to meet you. We wanted to take a brief moment of your time to introduce you to one of your Orientation Co-Chairs: the best and brightest, Pritzker's very own, Helen Wei. A Naperville, IL native (go Huskies!), Helen went on to college at Rice University where she was an Orientation team leader (something she clearly loves), Sociology major, and a Beer Bike champion (ask her about Beer Bike anytime). She came into M1 fresh off surgery on her ACL, and before we knew it, Helen was back into intramural sports, helping Pritzker to another strong Phoenix Cup performance through her amazing water polo and swimming skills.

When Helen isn't blowing our minds with her athletic prowess, she can be found playing many roles in maintaining the wellness of Pritzker students. As both a Wellness Committee and i2i Steering Committee affinity group representative, she is always working hard behind the scenes to build community. Helen is also extremely passionate about healthcare disparities and advocating for her community and allying with other communities. As Volunteer Coordinator, Helen is heavily involved in ensuring that the Bridgeport Free Clinic runs smoothly. She's also on the board of Pritzker's chapter of Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association (APAMSA), and she was part of the team that organized Pritzker's first annual Asians in Medicine conference this past May.

Finally, here are just a couple of fun facts about Helen: she is impressive at making her face look like a thumb, she is an avid Game of Thrones watcher and has even been spotted watching all of Season 6 backwards, and she is a pre-professional card maker (her calligraphy soothes the soul). In sum, Helen is a kind, fun-loving friend, one that everyone needs in their life - we can't wait for you to meet her!



- Juhi Gupta and Adi Naik, MS22