

WELCOME TO PSA !!!



Board members top row (L) : Ahmed Zaidi, Hamza Waqar, Faarya Niaz, Emad Ansari, Afrah Raza, Saad Sawar
 Nominated members second row (L) : Abu Bakar Shamsi, Nikhil Phandis, Khurram Siddiqi, Ahsanuddin, Waleed Nasir

MEET THE BOARD

PSA in its short lived history has achieved a lot, however for some reason it has always fallen short of expectations. All that changes this year as a select group of individuals have taken it upon themselves to unleash the true potential of Pakistani's. These individuals hail from different parts of the world and major in fields as diverse as public policy, engineering and even psychology. However it is their differences which make them a unique team with a perfect blend of youth and experience. Ladies and gentleman, I present to you the group of most talented Pakistani's ever assembled, I give you the PSA Board 2008-09.

- President:** Ahmed Zaidi
- Internal Chair:** Hamza Waqar
- External Chairs:** Saad Sawar & Faarya Niaz
- Admin Chair:** Emad Ansari
- Finance Chair:** Afrah Raza
- Nominated Members:** Abu Bakar(editor), Nikhil & Khurram(webmasters)
 Ahsan(radio), Waleed(grad students liaison)

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President's Message

By Ahmed Zaidi

Dear PSAers,

I welcome all our members to an exciting new year with PSA. There were a few hiccups in the initial formation of the board, as some of our original members could not be a part of PSA for personal reasons. However, the new and existing board members rose to the occasion and took these challenges head on.

This year PSA has set out many goals. We have pledged to take PSA to new heights and make it one of the most prominent student organizations on campus. I believe that this goal can be achieved by the board's commitment to PSA and your constant feedback. I would like to thank the boards of previous years for leaving us with an organized framework for PSA. We plan to not only build upon this structure but also to provide you with innovative events that promote Pakistan in the UM community and beyond.

I wish you best of luck for the rest of the year!

Regards,

Ahmed Zaidi

PSA President

FRESHMAN DIARY

By Fahad Sajid

I knew I was to be a Wolverine the day Cornell replied.

In that single unforgiving moment when all things become painfully apparent, I found myself consciously threading through fairytale images of what I believed my 'A squared' experience was going to be like. I felt I was part of the Michigan tradition already, the pride of going blue building up exponentially within me, to the point that I realized I hadn't yet not going to be in New York after all.



Yet in retrospect, I about college covered my ideas and notions that been here a little over a been a bitter-sweet probably thinking I'm a opinion of an experience I wouldn't quite put it that way. Let me tell you why.

think my highly romanticized thoughts expectations with a brilliant coat of couldn't be farther from the truth. I've month now, and I'd like to submit it's relationship. At this point in time you're thankless freshman with a negative most others would kill for, but frankly,

Orientation was the perfect welcome under the most perfect circumstances. I was doing a personal best in enthusiasm and self efficacy, and the weather was absolutely gorgeous. When I wasn't involved in one of the countless programs designed for us incoming freshmen, I was out and about, exploring the campus on my own, marveling at the distinct architectural characters of the structures whose names would soon be part of my lexicon. The orientation leaders radiated a pride so infectious it was hard not to feel part of something big, and justifiably so too. With the fifth largest library system in the country and a business school consistently ranked among the very best in the world, a football program widely considered a force to reckon with and a diverse student population that makes the Ann Arbor campus so much more, the University of Michigan offers nothing short of a million reasons to feel proud of having made it to an institution this prestigious.

And then we lost to Utah.

I remember taking the bus back to North Campus a little after two in the morning that day (never really a good idea), thinking to myself things would get better eventually. At that point, I think I wasn't just thinking about what the scoreboard said at the Big House; I had been on campus for more than a week and I found that I was still struggling...and just a wee bit unhappy. Don't get me wrong - I was so grateful that I was here, I thanked my lucky stars every day because I knew I wouldn't be this satisfied anywhere else. And yet that didn't make so much sense when I would go back to my room at the end of each day. Within a few days it turned into a bad rollercoaster ride that stops being amusing in its twentieth loop. Ramadan and classes kicked off around the same time, and immediately I was plunged into a schedule that would leave me with no time for myself. I didn't have enough time to do my

laundry, or to go to Kroger's to get supplies, or even just to kick back and read a good book. It was as if I was doing too much, and at the same time doing too little. I was stalling.

So I thought about my predicament (as much as I could between classes and mass meetings, South Quad iftars and interviews), and said Eureka only just a few days ago. And the answer is beautiful as it is simple - It's just too overwhelming at times! I know that sounds like one-size-fits-all explanation for the abstract (and at times absurd) thoughts that were running through my head, but it's true. Back in Pakistan, we were used to a completely different way of life. Take the system of education for instance. A' Levels, and I never thought I would say this, was part of the reason why I couldn't get a grip on my college workload early on. It seems to foster a trend whereby studying for merely a few days before the exams should do the trick. A month into the semester here in the college of LS&A I found myself weeks behind the rest of my class (and not just in one course), trying to catch up on readings I knew I had no hope of getting through in time. So I tried harder, putting in more hours every day than I would in an entire week back at The Lyceum School, to no effect really. I was overworking myself, without achieving much. I was burning out.

Truth is, the transition from high school to college is a steep learning curve that cares not for those who aren't used to working hard. It is even more difficult when one has to move away from home and take a crash course in grocery shopping and laundry. More so still when the individual in question has to move continents and adapt to a completely new way of life. So to summarize, someone who has had to do all of the above and hopes to be involved in a million student organizations and participate in undergraduate research is someone whose dead reckoning will lead them to a complete and inevitable mental shutdown. The answer, therefore, lies in moderation.

If I may then humbly opine, freshman year is not a competition that you win by being the first to break down and snap. It's about making every moment count without going overboard, because you know this will probably be the only time you'll get to prove to yourself that you belong here, and live it up at the same time. It's about finding the right people so that your on-campus support system never lets you down. It's about evolving as a person to discover categorically varied avenues that you were previously blind to. It's about staying on top of your game in academics and throwing back with your friends on the weekends.

Most importantly, it's about taking the time to build a home away from home.

PSA EVENTS

PSA MASS MEETING 09/18



This year's mass meeting started off with a bit of a hiccup, due to circumstances beyond our control PSA was forced to postpone the event by a day. This caused many people to miss out on the event and we sincerely apologize for the mishap. The mass meeting held at Palmer Commons was a very enjoyable event with Pizza and beverages served keeping in mind that the timing coincided with that of Iftar. After a short recess for Namaz, the proceedings began with a short speech by the President followed by the introduction of the board. Then came the ice breaker in the form of musical chairs won by our very own Aadil Khan.



PSA CHAI TIME 09/30

This year's Chai Time was special on two accounts. Firstly it kicked off one of many fun chai time's to be held throughout the year and secondly it just happened to be on the eve of EID. I think I speak for everyone when I say this Chai time was a welcome relief for all the PSAers from the endless pressures of exams and classes. Most importantly this Chai time gave the new PSA inductees a chance to meet everyone in the organization on a casual level. Props must be given to Hamza and Usman for hosting a memorable event with chips, mehndi, hookah and my personal favorite Chai.

MOVIE NIGHT 10/08



PSA in its effort to create better understanding of Pakistani's on campus screened the famous and controversial Pakistani Movie "KHUDA KAY LIYE" by Shoab Mansoor at the Michigan Union. This movie is one of the best movies ever made in Pakistan and covers topics which plague Pakistan today in the post 9/11 era. The screening of this movie was a huge success as a variety of students and professors belonging to different nationalities and races showed up and emails of appreciation were received by the PSA board.



SOCCER TOURNAMENT 10/01

The PSA Annual Soccer Tournament was won by the PSA Grad Students this year. The Grads taught all the Michigan undergrads a thing or two about soccer. They won all their games and demolished the Intramural Hall Champions of this year. All in all it was great fun and some time away from the worries of exams.

PSA LIVE

Rock for a cause

*All proceeds go to the
Pakistan Earthquake
Relief Effort*

Location:
*University Club, Michigan
Union*

Date & Time: 3rd Dec,
6:30 pm

Tickets: \$5
*available at venue or call
734-478-0614 or 571-315-0912*



PSA MICHIGAN

PAKISTANI STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN - ANN ARBOR

SEND IN YOUR COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS AND ARTICLES TO
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