



# COLUMNS

The Honors Program Newsletter at Bentley University ■ Spring 2019



**BENTLEY**  
UNIVERSITY

Chief Editor:  
Alyssa Kastner '20

## STUDENT VOICES

### How SGA Makes An Impact On Bentley's Campus *By Abby Hill '20*

Junior Abby Hill shares her experience as a member of SGA and recounts a proud moment where her hard work turned a dream into a reality.

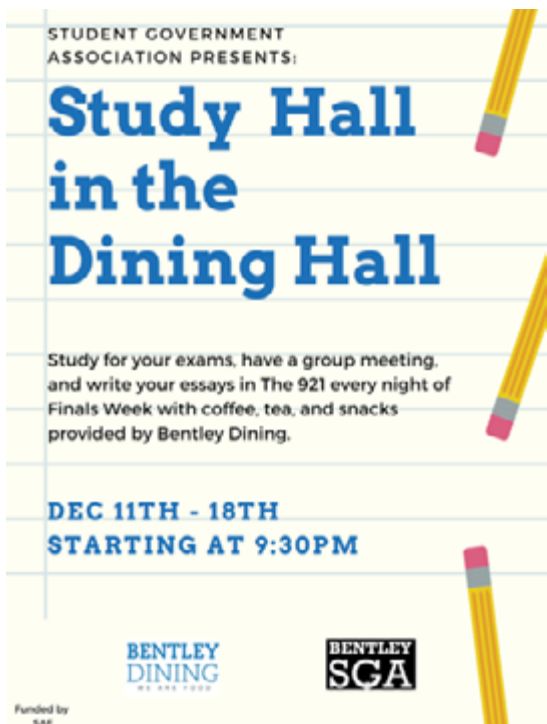
As I neared the end of my sophomore year, I began to think about my involvement on campus and reflect on what I wanted to get out of my last two years at Bentley. I had a bit of a crisis upon realizing that I was already halfway through my college career and I found myself wishing I was taking more action to make the Bentley community a better place. After

researching various clubs and organizations on campus, I felt like I could be learning more about the structures and policies that shape student experiences, so I decided to get more involved. Student Government Association (SGA) offered the opportunity to advise on campus policy and act on student feedback that I was looking for, so I decided to run for a position. After obtaining the necessary signatures to get on the ballot and receiving enough votes from the student body, I was a Student Senator.

As a member of SGA, I was assigned to be part of the Marketing Committee. In this role, my job was to promote the work that SGA Senators accomplished throughout the semester and maintain channels of communication between SGA and the student body. As much as I love social media and designing pots, what I enjoyed most was working on projects like our 'open forum' and 'Text SGA,' a campaign to have

students send messages to the SGA social media accounts, which were initiatives that gave students the chance to talk to representatives, ask questions, share comments, and voice concerns. When people reached out to me to get clarification on things such as changes to the new organization, recognition process, or an explanation of what exactly all the emails about the shuttle service meant, I felt like I was actually a helpful resource to my peers, which was exciting. My goal was to make people more comfortable reaching out to their senators and find ways for SGA to better support students.

A project I spearheaded that I am particularly proud of is Study Hall in the Dining Hall. For a few semesters, I had been thinking about the missed opportunity of using the tables and booths in the 921, our dining hall in the student center, as additional workspace. Now that I was part of SGA, I felt like I had more of an ability to try to do something about it. I was unsure how exactly to go about it, but I decided to just start telling people my idea and asking for input about the



THE FLYER POSTED AROUND CAMPUS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE EVENT.

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# THE LIBRARY

## A (Not-So) Secret Resource *By Alexander McWilliams '21*

Sophomore Alexander McWilliams shines a spotlight on the Bentley Library, a resource that he claims is not being used to its full potential.



As a tour guide, I have to know many random things about Bentley. Did you know that there are 112 steps on the Smith Stairs? What about the fact that our women's basketball coach, Barbara Stevens, has the fifth most wins of all time among NCAA women's basketball coaches (1026)? Or that Bentley breeds falcons in the observatory in Adamian? That last one is a lie, but you get my point. There are many hidden things that make Bentley great, but what I love talking about most on my tours is Bentley's library, which is, in my eyes, the most underappreciated and underutilized resource on campus.

What I'm saying might sound ridiculous. I would wager that every student has been to the library at least once or twice in their time at Bentley, even if it is just to sit upstairs in one of those chairs that look like they came straight from a magazine called "ERGONOMICS!" and check Snapchat

while having Blackboard open in the background. Everyone uses the library, so how can I say it's underutilized? Let me put it this way; if 100 people each have a glass of water and those at the bottom of the curve drink 1% of their water while those at the top drink 25%, would it make any sense to say that the water is being used to its fullest potential? Barely any of the water available is being consumed. The same is true for the library. It has countless untapped resources, and I'm willing to bet that only a small percentage of the students here use a reasonable portion of them.

I've made the claim that there are countless resources, and so I should back up what I say. I'll start with the obvious: the Library has books. Duh. It also has movies, journals, and computers. The study rooms are another nice touch. All of that is readily available at a quick glance, but there's so much more going on behind the

scenes that the average student doesn't see. A personal favorite of mine is the interlibrary loan system (ILL). I'll admit, among college students, reading books may be considered passé, and if you start talking about how awesome your syllabus readings are for the semester, you'll probably get a few eyerolls (not that many people actually rave about their required readings). But knowledge is valuable, and the two best places to find it are on the internet and in books. Fortunately, the library can help you find nearly any book on the planet thanks to the ILL system. Want a pleasure read to kill time on the bus to Harvard Square, but it's not in the library catalog? Click the big green "Log into ILL Account" button on Bentley's Library website, fill out the information, and in a few days, you'll have the book of your choice. What about a supplemental reading for a class that a professor recommends reading for extra credit that Bentley's Library doesn't directly carry? Click the button. A steamy romance novel for... uh... whatever? Button. Fortunately, the ILL is just the start.

The library has over 140 online research databases, more than 600 audiobooks, free and reduced-price museum passes, day use lockers (who knew? Not me!), access to 55,000 full-text online journals, more than 7,000 DVDs, and over 46,000 educational videos. Wow. There's also the Writing Center in the basement, where fantastic writers can take a look at any kind of writing assignment you need help with, and give you some pointers! For international students, the English as a Second Language (ESOL) lab, where you can get tutoring in English, is also in the basement. There's also the IT help desk, which

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# UNVEILING THE UNSPOKEN

A Call To Action *By Alyssa Kastner '20*

Alyssa Kastner reflects on an inspiring trip to the South, bringing up the significance of social awareness and the importance of social justice classes at Bentley.

Eye-opening. Impactful. Unforgettable. Those are the three words that come to mind when I think of the Social Justice Law (LA107) embedded travel course led by Professor Pierre-Louis. Bentley is not commonly referred to as a place where people go to learn about the social issues that cloud our society — as a business school, most of us are financially motivated and are planning to pursue business careers. This 'typical' Bentley path gives the false impression that business people don't need to care about social justice and it is evident in our culture despite some valiant efforts to eradicate discrimination and fight for equity on our campus.

To illustrate, I would like to share a personal experience. Sometimes, when I bring up a social issue among peers, I am lightheartedly mocked for being an "SJW" (Social Justice Warrior). According to Urban Dictionary, the term "Social Justice Warrior" is a pejorative phrase used to

refer to someone who annoys others by engaging in arguments when people say offensive things. I originally didn't understand why this word was used to make fun of me. However, I could tell by people's tone that it was not said with the best of intentions. When I found the multiple harsh definitions online, I was disheartened. To be met with mockery when bringing light to inappropriate comments is problematic for me. What people don't realize is that the meaning behind the offensive words they use and jokes they tell can be loaded with hate. To some, it may seem insignificant to use the terms 'n\*\*\*\*', 'retarded,' or 'f\*g' because they're just words, right? Well, if you agree with this statement, please consider taking LA107. I used to say some words of this type — I won't deny it. However, learning about what they really mean for people who have suffered through years of discrimination and oppression in a way that makes you appalled can work wonders in changing this mindset.

Even if you don't use these words and are already aware of their complex connotations, consider taking this class. Not only is Professor Pierre-Louis one of the most amazing professors that we are fortunate enough to have on this campus, but the course content reveals shocking truths of this country's history in the most honest and blatant way. People like to tip-toe around such issues, but Professor Pierre-Louis is not one of these people. She tells it how it is and I am so glad that I finally had the chance to hear non-sugarcoated, blunt realities. This class is like no other. It is one of the only classes that I've ever taken where I've been left in tears, filled with passion, and genuinely excited about learning all at the same time. The only other class that has prompted a similar reaction was Professor Pierre-Louis' Race and the Law class. I do not say this to discount other important and impactful classes at Bentley — I am simply speaking from experience.

While I constantly advocate for the content of this class (and that of Race and the Law), it is the embedded trip to Georgia and Alabama that really make Social Justice Law the incredible experience that it is. Seeing Civil Rights and Human Rights monuments and museums and hearing about the social justice issues that still take place in the South is an experience that really can't be put into words. Throughout the trip, I legitimately left each site thinking to myself, "That was definitely my favorite experience so far." It kept getting better and better and now, when people ask me for my favorite part of the trip, I cannot come up with answer. Every single minute of that trip was an immensely valuable experience. You may think that this is



THE GROUP OF US STAND IN FRONT OF A MARTIN LUTHER KING EXHIBIT AT THE CENTER FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA. (PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: JUSTIN WOODARD, PROFESSOR PIERRE-LOUIS, JORDAN ELLERBE, FRED DONG, ISABEL PORTER, ALYSSA KASTNER, ASHLEY RODRIGUEZ, AYAN AHMED, SHANAYA THEODORE.)

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# READY, SET, WRITE

How Lit Classes Will Take You to the Top *By Mark Ku '22*

Mark Ku explains to students why taking certain non-business classes is just as important as taking STEM classes, signaling that writing classes may be more valuable than technical classes for students seeking to succeed in the post-graduation business environment.



If the employers want it, then Bentley's got it. Whether it's Sustainable, Responsible, and Impact (SRI) Investing or Data Analytics, Bentley University is always up-to-date with the latest demands of the job market. Perhaps it is this proactive attitude that attracts like-minded students who are constantly on the lookout to make themselves more attractive to current employers. As expected, students are flocking towards Computer Science classes and crafting their curriculum to revolve heavily around other STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) courses to follow employment trends around the globe. Although this focus on keeping updated with external demands is what constitutes Bentley's success in the job market, it comes with a cost. Aggressively tilting your education

towards STEM subjects may help you put a foot in the door of the job market, but what happens after you get in? A Forbes article highlights the most common complaints employers have of recent graduates today. The article claims that 44% of the surveyed managers expressed dissatisfaction with the writing proficiency of newly-hired graduates. Another glaring statistic is that 46% of managers stated that recent grads would benefit from honing their communication skills.

What a surprise! Who would have thought that choosing Calculus III over Shakespeare II would later bite you in the heel? Now, most college students tend to mitigate the "practicality" of literature courses compared to the "multifaceted" STEM courses. However, what are students giving up when they decide not to take any

writing courses? Though it may seem obvious, most students don't specifically understand what they are sacrificing when they choose a STEM course over a literature course. Professor Crane, currently working in the English and Media Studies department, teaches an Expository Writing class for the first-year honors students and brilliantly explains the purpose of literature courses. He says that they are designed "to give the students the skills to represent themselves and their ideas."

Although some may argue that STEM classes are much more practical for our future careers, Professor Crane provides valuable insight on the practicality of taking literature courses because it "involves approaching a particular text or artifact, extracting meaning from it, articulating one's own argument about it, and understanding where it may fit in larger, overarching cultural or professional narratives." During the course of our business career, we will constantly be attempting to persuade our clients, superiors, and coworkers with the visions that we have and the initiatives that we design. Literature courses provide the skills necessary to craft the million-dollar proposals and to provide concrete evidence to one's arguments. With more and more business being done online, it is also worthy to note that the majority of your business partners may only know you through your writing. Employees are now bombarded with hundreds of emails every day and it would be a shame if you weren't able to reply eloquently to their problems or questions.

An essential trait of being a skilled writer is to be persuasive. Writers often

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# EMPOWERING OUR WOMEN LEADERS

## The Women's Leadership Program *By Natasha Bajaj '20*

Natasha Bajaj explores her experience as a woman leader on Bentley's campus and the gender biases that encumber our female students.

I chose to come to Bentley University for three main reasons: its prestige as a Northeast business school, the opportunity to be a part of the Women's Leadership Program (WLP), and the Honors Program. My experience in both has opened a multitude of avenues that I will always be grateful for, and my perspective has grown in regard to the culture at Bentley University because of the opportunities that these programs have given me.

Even with a 60:40 ratio of males to females, Bentley University has certainly progressed from a heavily male-dominated business school to a college that has, in my short time here, had two powerful and successful

female presidents. Our previous president, Gloria Larson, truly led the path for female empowerment by founding the Center for Women and Business, which then created the WLP.

My experience thus far in the Women's Leadership Program has opened my eyes to the unconscious biases and hidden barriers that are unfortunately still a setback for women in the workplace. I had always been a confident student in high school, taking major leadership roles in business organizations such as DECA, an organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. I encouraged my friends to get involved in them as well, as there were only a handful of female members. Even though I came into Bentley ready to dive into the Women's Leadership Program, I did not expect to learn as

much as I have in two years. Through workshops such as Powerful Presence, the Confidence Gap, and Intergroup Dialogue, members of the WLP learn about various identities, gender inequities, the power of negotiation, and necessary leadership skills to put us on the path to success. The program also has corporate visits and mentorship circles where female alumni share how they have persevered in their careers. I truly value all the women involved and the many insights they have shared with me and with all of the members.

Most of the students in the WLP have already proven themselves as leaders with their past experiences and are involved in a plethora of other organizations on campus. This is a community for Bentley women from diverse backgrounds and interests to come together and discuss some of the gender inequities they see in their daily live and, specifically, on campus.



CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

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## STUDENT VOICES (Continued from page 1)

next steps. I was able to partner up with the chair of the Food Advisory Committee, Katie Menard, and we got to work. We talked with staff in the Student Center and Student Programs & Engagement (SP&E) about logistics and found everyone very supportive of our event. We realized that we could even expand it beyond our initial plans because the Student Center was going to be open 24 hours during Finals Week. We worked with Bentley Dining to coordinate availability of the space, and from there, Study Hall in the Dining Hall grew again. Jonathan Deleon, Director of Resident Dining Operations, offered to provide study snacks, so we worked out a menu of brain food. With all of the details sorted, we just needed a catchy name and a flyer to help spread the word about this new study spot.

Our posts were immediately met with positive feedback from students looking forward to taking advantage of the project, but we were unsure of how many of these students would actually come to the event. The first night, I stopped by shortly after the space opened and saw that most of the tables were already occupied by students with their textbooks and notes spread out around them, working away on essays and study guides — in this moment, I realized it was going to be a success. The free snacks were particularly popular and were usually snatched up early. It was great to be able to make students' Finals Week a little bit easier and less stressful. The last thing students want is to be worrying about where to sit when they are already stressed about all of their work and I hope to see

Study Hall in the Dining Hall become a tradition that students can partake in during every Finals Week.

Looking forward, I hope to be a part of more projects like this that improve students' Bentley experience. It was fulfilling to see all of our planning come together and one of my ideas become a reality. Joining SGA gave me a new perspective on how decisions are made and policy is shaped on campus. I also learned a lot by talking more with my peers about their perspectives and needs related to student life. I hope not only to continue working in SGA and helping represent students' interests, but I also hope to encourage everyone to explore the opportunities SGA has to offer.

-Abby Hill '20 is a Marketing major

## THE LIBRARY (Continued from page 2)

can fix any problem you have with your computer, even something like accidentally popping several keys off your laptop with your pencil (not that I would know).

My point in writing this article is partially to raise awareness of the resources we have available to us at the library, but it's also a call to action. Please, go check out a book, or a movie, or even a CD for goodness sake. Maybe some recommendations might help: B.J. Novak (a head writer

of *The Office!*) wrote a book called *One More Thing*, and it's hilarious, and *Memento* is a fantastic movie. Anyway, do yourself a favor and check out the educational videos or read one of the journals on a subject you love. For the finance heads out there, check out the *Journal of Finance* or the *Journal of Banking and Finance* — who knows, maybe if you're in an interview and bring up that you love reading the stuff, your interviewer's ears might perk up! Remember, if you need help with any essay, just go to the writing center! It

will never hurt, and if you tell your professor you went, they'll probably be so impressed that they may even boost your grade. Maybe not. Who knows. The point is, go try at least one or two of these things. I promise you won't regret it. Besides, maybe if you're lucky, you'll get to see one of the top secret cult meetings that go on in the basement after the library closes at 6 P.M. on Fridays. Oops, I've said too much!

-Alexander McWilliams '21 is a Data Analytics major

## UNVEILING THE UNSPOKEN (Continued from page 3)

an exaggeration, but ask anyone who has been on the trip before and I would be surprised if they didn't agree with this statement.

No matter what your career path may be, social justice is something that everyone should take the time to

become educated about. It may be more pleasant to live in a bubble where these issues are swept under the rug, but it feels good to be knowledgeable about issues that truly matter. In my opinion, Social Justice Law should be a requirement in Bentley's and all other schools' curriculum, but since it isn't, I

strongly urge everyone on this campus to seriously consider taking this class or any other classes that address the complex social justice issues that plague our society.

-Alyssa Kastner '20 is a Creative Industries major

## READY, SET, WRITE *(Continued from page 4)*

use their texts to try to persuade their readers into believing certain ideals and to provide value to our society. The social skills of being persuasive, clear, and intuitive are immensely valued in the corporate world, which thrives on the exchange of ideas, and information. However, as Professor Crane noted, being a good writer is important to the life outside of your career as well. Be it in your barbershop where you argue which basketball player is the greatest of all time or in

your personal life writing heartfelt letters to your loved ones, being a good writer is critically important to our lives, yet the skill is taken for granted.

According to Professor Crane, “part of what we do in college involves preparing students not just to be consumers of culture, but also participants in it.” In effect, college is not only a place of learning how to be a better employee, but it is also a place to equip you with the skills necessary

to be proactive in the ever-changing landscape of our society. Now think twice before dropping that Literature class and try to hold your tongue before you complain about having to take a writing course. It’s not just for you, but it’s also for everyone around you. And if you’re still not convinced to take a course on Literature, maybe start small: go grab a book and start reading.

*-Mark Ku '22 is a Finance major*

## EMPOWERING OUR WOMEN LEADERS *(Continued from page 5)*

Common instances include male-dominated classes where some students feel they cannot speak up in the classroom, or even male-dominated group projects, where a student may feel as if their opinion is not being considered. Additionally, some majors are certainly dominated either by male or female students, and this can be intimidating for *any* student. Stella Njoroge, a member of the class of 2021, is an Honors student in the Women’s Leadership Program who provides insight on the gender biases she has encountered. She states, “I have become increasingly aware of

bias incidents around me and have been in several academic and professional situations where I felt I was intentionally assigned ‘office housework’ or that I was the victim of ‘mansplaining.’” These are some of the topics that members of the WLP discuss, and my peers have provided valuable insight on Bentley’s gender dynamics.

As business students, we are the future leaders of the world and we have the power to create change. It all starts by having these essential conversations, as they introduce new perspectives

and create awareness. In a results-driven culture where everyone wants to succeed, it is important to take a step back and talk about these pertinent social issues, as they are prevalent in all students’ lives. I encourage all students to get involved on campus and take advantage of Bentley’s opportunities to learn more and raise awareness about social issues on campus and in society.

*-Natasha Bajaj '20 is a CIS major*

## CURRENT EVENTS

# THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

*Senior Luca Guevara reveals the devastation that his country is facing under a terrifying dictatorship, urging students to tune in to this international crisis.*

72 hours and counting. As I write this article, my home country is enveloped in darkness. Not just the darkness of the massive blackout that has struck the nation over these past few days, but the darkness that has loomed over the past two decades as the result of a corrupt and tyrannical dictatorship.



GOVERNMENT FORCES RETALIATING AGAINST PROTESTERS



In the wake of these troubled times, Venezuelans have been shut out from the rest of the world. No power, no water, and no telephone connection or internet. The little food available in fridges across the nation is rotting and the medicines that are supposed to be kept cold are ruined. Hospitals that could barely afford to run are now in dire need of aid, with their doctors and nurses working overtime, trying to keep patients alive. As I write this, 18 deaths have been confirmed because of the blackout. And yet, somehow the government remains in power.

Born and raised in Caracas, Venezuela, I was unfortunate enough to only know one government. One who took the reins of a once prosperous country and drove it into the ground. What began as poor governance has transformed into a full-scale humanitarian crisis.

### 3.4 million.

That is the number of people who have fled Venezuela in search of a new beginning, as reported by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). What started as “mismanagement” has caused hyperinflation, lack of food and medicine, massive riots, and far too many deaths all at the blood-stained hands of the despotic government.

Caracas, the capital, has the highest murder rate per capita in the world. Government funded gangs, known as “*colectivos*,” roam the streets at night, participating in express kidnappings and scaring citizens off during our rightfully-earned protests. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), hyperinflation is set to reach 10,000,000% in 2019. When I wrote my previous article, “A Falsified Democracy” (Fall 2017), this figure was

at 1,600%, which I thought to be a staggering figure, unable to worsen. However, since then, inflation has increased dramatically. Venezuela has become a country stricken by famine, disease, poverty, and an economic crisis beyond fathomable means. It can all be traced back to the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV), which, over the past few months, has had their foundation vehemently and justifiably shaken by the Venezuelan political opposition and their incredible figurehead: Juan Guaidó.

In effect, on January 23rd, the opposition, which gained control of National Assembly in the last legitimate elections in 2015, appointed Guaidó as interim president of Venezuela. This was possible because in 2018, Maduro was unconstitutionally and undemocratically elected through a sham election that had no opposition, coerced citizens to vote for him, had manipulated voting ballots, and disallowed international oversight. Therefore, under Article 233 of the Constitution, the President of the National Assembly legally takes



JUAN GUAIDÓ AT A RALLY

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## CURRENT EVENTS

# THE BREAKDOWN OF DETERRENCE

Matías Andrade discusses the deterrence strategy, its impact on current U.S. politics, and a controversial decision made by President Trump.

Since the end of World War II, deterrence became a crucial strategy after the nuclearization of the United States and the USSR during the 1950s. In an incalculably lucky feat of diplomacy, the two powers, which at the time engaged in vicious ideological disputes, somehow found a way to avoid war and total destruction. They competed in other ways (e.g. proxy wars, the Space Race, propaganda), but the use of deterrence strategies is the main reason that the conflict reached an equilibrium.

Deterrence is a strategy founded on principles of game theory. It instructs strategic players how to coerce their opponent when engaged in zero-sum competition and in the absence of perfect information. To coerce is to convince another power — through negotiation, promises or threats — to accommodate your interests. As threats and strategic objectives are progressively matched, an equilibrium emerges where no player can earn new profits by taking from another player [1]. Thus, the balance of deterrence. To achieve it, nations did their best to signal readiness to retaliate and armed themselves to ensure the credibility of their threat.

To achieve credibility, both powers sought the means to reliably issue a counterattack. This was achieved in the form of the nuclear triad<sup>†</sup>. Signaling readiness was much easier — since the threat of nuclear war was concentrated on their respective territories, any attack would merit at least an equal attack, if not total obliteration, but this was stated in their strategic doctrines for the world to see. The attacker knew that the cost of any strike was equal or greater losses, which was the “twisted logic” behind the doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) during the Cold War. And although the threat of accidental attacks and errors in threat-detection

still jeopardize the stability of the equilibrium, we were fortunate by the fact of our very existence, and now 74 years have passed since the last nuclear attack.

Nuclear weapons of the Cold War era were largely strategic. Designed to be used against reinforced targets, they have greater yields and take longer to deploy — 30-45 minutes. Although the U.S. and Russia are matched in their strategic weapons and have around 1,550 deployed and in high alert, the balance is no longer just predicated on strategic weapons [2].

Tactical weapons were originally developed during the Cold War, but their destructive potential soon led to their withdrawal following the Cuban Missile Crisis. These are often smaller and less destructive, but can be deployed in as little as 1-3 minutes [2]. Russia has modernized their arsenal by adding 500 of these tactical weapons, threatening to upset a delicate balance. In addition, in Russian war

games, its army has been seen developing a strategy known as *escalate to de-escalate*. This consists of threatening to use nuclear bombs to settle small disputes that would not provoke an opponent sufficiently for them to risk using their nuclear weapons. Take the case of the Crimean Annexation. Because US interests are not such that they would risk all-out war with Russia over the territory, they cannot issue a *credible threat*. Thus, deterrence breaks down, leaving a gap for Russia to pursue territorial expansion and quickly put an end to any resistance with small, tactical nuclear strikes. The US would have had little chance to act, even if they had known.

US nuclear doctrine is not suited against this threat because the US



RUSSIA'S ISKANDER NUCLEAR-CAPABLE SHORT-RANGE MISSILE SYSTEM

<sup>†</sup> A nuclear triad is a three-pronged military force structure that consists of land-launched nuclear missiles, nuclear-missile-armed submarines and strategic aircraft with nuclear bombs and missiles [3]. Armament is distributed so that no preemptive strike could render it all inoperable, such that a first strike can be followed by a counterattack.

## THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL *(Continued from page 8)*



JUAN GUIDÓ WITH UNITED STATES VP MIKE PENCE

charge of the presidency and this man happened to be Guaidó.

Since then, not only has the public been responsive, but they also have rallied behind new leadership. People who were defeated by years of oppression and disappointed in the efforts of a fragmented opposition now had someone to look up to and rally behind. Suddenly, this young politician was able to lay the foundation for massive protests, mobilize the millions of Venezuelans angry with the government, and begin to use his new power alongside that of the legislative branch of government, the National Assembly, to enact change.

Guaidó has been swift and relentless. He has appointed new ambassadors around the world and representatives to international organizations, such as the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Development Bank. He has begun to restructure the board of PDVSA, the largest oil company in the country, to encourage foreign investment and revive the much-needed oil industry. He has called, and continues to call for massive protests to garner more

international support and aid.

Additionally, Guaidó has put Venezuela on the international spotlight, gaining support from not only the majority of South America and the European Union, but also the United States. All this support has proved invaluable in continuing to drive the effort for a Venezuela free of the dictatorial regime of the PSUV.

Now, the entire world is well aware that Maduro is a crooked dictator, and the only barrier standing between the end of his despotic rule and the bright future of Venezuela is his military branch. In a smart strategy, Guaidó has continued to negotiate with the military and has made it clear that he does not want a coup. Instead, he wants a peaceful transition into power.

The crisis affecting my country has an impact not only on the people living there, but also on every Venezuelan in the world. I know that the least I can do being so far from home is to inform

others about what is happening in Venezuela. Please continue reading the news or ask me or other Venezuelans about their story, because what has happened and is currently going on is extremely important. More importantly, what is yet to come will make history because no matter how much Maduro and his gang of criminals try to repress the hard working people of Venezuela, they no longer can. Even though they may keep us in the dark now, the light at the end of the tunnel is already far too bright to be extinguished.

*-Luis (Luca) Guevara Zamora '19 is a CIS major*



## THE BREAKDOWN OF DETERRENCE *(Continued from page 9)*

cannot deter such attacks without tactical weapons of their own. It is obvious to Russia that the US is unwilling to risk all-out war over anything other than a direct threat. As said by Henry Kissinger, “great powers do not commit suicide for their allies.” The beauty of deterrence is that it works without ever having to draw blood, but to do so powers must match each other so that no threat is unmatched. Otherwise, nuclear conflicts are once more on the table.

It is in the interest of all that nuclear war should be averted, but what is not obvious is that for deterrence to render nuclear war strategically unsound, non-proliferation agreements between the US and Russia will have to be renegotiated, particularly the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. On first of February, President Trump withdrew from the treaty, citing

Russian non-compliance as the reason, and soon thereafter President Putin followed suit. Although the decision was by no means popular, the choice is backed by the logic of deterrence. Following Russian development of these weapons, the US could no longer effectively deter without developing weapons of their own.

To this end, the US should match capabilities and signal readiness to retaliate against Russian forces in the case that they use their short-range armament. This involves the creation and deployment of these weapons and declaring the conditions for their use in US nuclear doctrine. Twisted or not, it is necessary so that nuclear conflict remains a thing of the past.

*-Matías Andrade Cabieses '19 is a Finance major*

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