

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS



We are delighted to present to you the new issue of SPICE, the undergraduate journal for the Philosophy, Politics, and Economics program at the University of Pennsylvania. A student-run publication that represents student perspectives on institutions, choices and ethics, SPICE celebrates the exceptional academic achievements of PPE students and aims to reflect on the core intellectual value this major offers: an integrated, cross-disciplinary scholarship with broad and rigorous training.

This year's paper selections span the spectrum of political, economic and social issues. **Supreme Court Decision Making** closely examines 2013 certiorari-granting and aims to answer the question of what the Court views as a salient judicial concern on the federal level. **Teacher Attitudes Towards Performances Based Compensation Reform** makes policy recommendations to compensation reform in American public education based on surveys conducted on the teaching force. **An Analysis of the Effect of Airline Mergers on Airfares** conducted rigorous economic analysis comparing the predicted and actual fares before and after mergers between two major airlines. **Why Should We Care About the Gender Difference in Classroom Participation** investigates the indication of female students' class participation on their personal and professional development. Together, these papers represent the five themes of study offered to PPE students: Choice & Behavior, Ethics & the Professions, Distributive Justice, Public Policy & Governance, and Globalization.

This year, SPICE Editorial Board had the privilege of reviewing many outstanding papers and we would like to thank all those who submitted their work for consideration. This journal would not be possible without the exemplary effort of its contributors, authors, advisors and editors. We commend their enthusiasm as well as their commitment to help advance research and scholarship in the PPE discipline.

On behalf of the Editorial Board, we are extremely appreciative of Dr. Sumantra Sen for his invaluable guidance throughout this process. Dr. Sen's avid encouragement of the interdisciplinary studies has been paramount in the establishment and success of this journal. We would also like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the mentorship and support he has extended to all undergraduates in the PPE department.

Keeping in mind the quality of work produced this year, we are confident that this journal will inspire thought, reflection, and healthy debate. While scholarship for its own sake has abundant epistemic value, it should be our goal, as scholars, to apply our knowledge and tackle real world problems. The PPE major provides us with the unique ability to combine deep philosophical ideas with policy decisions, institutional challenges and economic applications. We urge students of PPE to use their panoramic perspective as they step into the real world with its many challenges and color it with a rich and positive impact.

To the students, parents, faculty, alumni, and friends of the PPE Program at Penn, the Editorial Board and I hope that you enjoy this year's issue.

Sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Stuti Periwal' and the signature on the right is 'Jing Ran'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stuti Periwal & Jing Ran
Editors-In-Chief