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Letter from the Editor

Esteemed Reader,

I wish you a warm welcome to the inaugural issue of Ex-Patt: The Patterson School's Magazine of International Affairs! I am proud and honored to release for your enjoyment this product of nine months of planning, writing, editing, fundraising, webpage building, and designing.

Ex-Patt is a student-led magazine that employs the Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce's exceptional pool of intellect to enrich our many associated intellectual communities by providing a local perspective on global issues. Each issue is based around a particular theme and contains three sections. "Features" contains in-depth analysis of important issues related to the theme; "Theme" consists of shorter, equally insightful, theme-related pieces; and "Compass" consists of non-theme reports on areas of scholarship at University of Kentucky.

Why Ex-Patt? Throughout my undergraduate experience at Yale University, I became accustomed to a constant supply of inviting student publications; tables and counters at the entry of every important building boasted stack upon stack of magazines, pamphlets, and newspapers. My education benefited enormously both from contributing to them, and through the window they provided into the insightful perspectives of the wider community.

Though University of Kentucky also has excellent student publications, they are fewer in number. At the same time, the Patterson School has been ranked one of America's "Top 25" programs. Our students represent an invaluable asset to the University of Kentucky and Lexington communities. In founding Ex-Patt, I sought to enrich the student publication scene and the contribute to the local discourse while providing Patterson students a direct outlet to share their work, to dialogue, and to integrate with its host community as well as the UK and Patterson School diasporas across the globe.

This magazine began a one-man show, but has become the product of a dynamic team of Patterson students, faculty and alumni worldwide, and small businesses dedicated to enhancing the rich cultural life of Lexington. That diverse and growing team demonstrates strong recognition of the value Ex-Patt brings to our university and city life.

Dr. Stacy Closson provided vital assistance, helping sherpa this project through the approval process. There is no executive board with greater dedication and team spirit; Jessica Kyle, Katherine Holmes, Edward Stein, Emily Cedargren, James Bohland, and Cassidy Henry are exceptional in their perspicacity and discipline. Our premier sponsor, PBI Inc. is a wonderful institution engaging in community development in the Commonwealth, without whose support this publication would not have been possible. La Petite Crêperie has generously provided sponsorship support – and their crêpes are divine. Indeed, all of our advertisers are crucial to our success. A generous spirit of community support is truly exemplified by all these individuals and institutions which took a risk on a fledgling endeavor. To them I am truly grateful.

In this issue, we address "Downfall." The last five years have been marked by extraordinary churning and change in the global system. Yet the reader will find that downfall need not be exclusively negative. To be sure, food insecurity in Haiti and the nuclear stand-off between Iran and the West are storm clouds with little silver lining, but the downfall of HIV in Malawi as seen through the eyes of a doctor who has played an integral role in its decline is nothing short of joyous. Meanwhile, other issues addressed here are not so clear-cut: will the Brazilian giant stride confidently onto the world stage or stumble and fall yet again? Does a strong regional electoral showing among Sri Lankan Tamils bode well for Sri Lanka's post-civil war democracy? These questions are necessarily left open, points of departure from which the reader may draw his or her own conclusions. Meanwhile, in "Compass," this issue offers insights based on this year's Patterson School Fall Conference on "Water."

The Ex-Patt executive board and I hope you find reading this magazine as entertaining and educational as it has been for us to craft it. To support the magazine, or to address any comments or concerns, email us at submissions.expatt@gmail.com.

All best wishes,
William G. Stroupe II
Editor-in-chief & Publisher