

Orientation Co-Chairs

MAGGIE SHOPE

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 Maggie Shope (she/her/hers).

If Maggie Shope was a test question, the answer would probably be “all of the above”. Her dad was in the Navy, so even accurately pinning down the answer to “where are you from” would be a thesis-level endeavor. She’s lived in San Diego, Maryland, Virginia, and Pittsburgh at various points in her childhood but landed in Ann Arbor to attend undergrad at the University of Michigan. Living in so many places (and, if we’re honest, being the middle child) has given Maggie the gift for contextual understanding and voracious curiosity, which is perfect because her Libra personality is already really big on balance.

In her gap year, Maggie taught young children to ski. She’s a fantastic instructor in part because she plans like it’s an extreme sport, so she’s always prepared. She has a penchant for bringing shinguards, Ibuprofen, and snacks from her days playing soccer as a kid. If you ask, she’ll freely give the fruits of her planning labor in the form of recommendations tailored to your specific preferences (recent topics include optimization of exercise apps, coffee shops, and psychological tips and tricks).

After graduation, Maggie found a natural fit for her talents working in healthcare policy for several years. She’s always down to talk about policy or attend events on this topic, as well as many others (ob/gyn, infectious disease, and pediatrics to name a few). At Pritzker, she continues to work in health systems through her work in managing our free clinics on the board of the Community Health Clinic (CHC) and Chicagoland Free Clinics Consortium (CFCC).

In between bouts of studying, spending time with her family, drinking beer in a garage during a thunderstorm, crying over really cute puppy videos, or speculating on the current mood of Lake Michigan, Maggie is probably coming up with 10 new ideas a day for Orientation (we have the receipts, it’s real). So get as excited as an 8-year-old skiing for the first time, because you’re in great hands!

—*Olivier & Manizha*



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OLIVIER JOSEPH

Hello, incoming Pritzkerites! 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: Pritzker's very own Olivier Joseph (he/him/his).

He learned ample humility growing up as the youngest of 4, so he'll never be the one to tell you this, but Olivier is Pritzker's resident Renaissance Man. Olivier attended Williams where he studied a triple threat of Chemistry, Africana Studies, and Spanish. He put his Spanish to use after graduation as a Fullbright scholar in Spain, where he mentored students and grew his passion for teaching. At Pritzker, he continues to build a passion for mentorship and education with the Chicago Youth Program and the Health Professional Recruitment and Exposure Program (HPREP).

In addition to teaching our nation's future doctors, Olivier is an accomplished artist in the realms of dance, poetry, and the culinary arts (your fav could never). He leads Pritzker's prestigious Step Team: Sinus Rhythm, and performed some vivid poetry at our M1 Talent Show this winter. When he cooks (which is often), Olivier has done it all from Caribbean food to vegan fare. If you need Hyde Park recommendations, he won't lead you astray (spoiler: he loves Roti Mediterranean and Nando's, but staunchly maintains that the only redeeming part of Chipotle is the chips).

When he's not manifesting beauty through art, he's powerlifting at the gym, kicking some ass in Mortal Kombat and Call of Duty, or watching TV (anime, Black Sitcoms, foreign language and horror films, and stand-up are some favorites if you have too much time on your hands).

Someday he'll return to Seville or Cadiz, but for now we're lucky he's chosen to hole up in Chicago with us to study medicine. We're very excited that he's here to lead you through Orientation - almost as excited as he is!
—Maggie & Manizha



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MANIZHA KHOLMATOV

Welcome to Pritzker, incoming Class of 2020! We are frantically getting our affairs in order so that we can spend every second of orientation getting to know you. And when we say getting affairs in order, we are referring to Manizha Kholmatov (she/her/hers) collecting spicy memes to drop when you least expect it.

You can catch Manizha validating you into the late hours of the night-- as the middle child in an immigrant family from Tajikistan, she has internalized her mother's frequent phone calls to ask if she's remembered to eat and become a doting caretaker herself. Halfway through high school, Manizha left her Lincoln, Nebraska home to spend a gap year in Taichung, Taiwan, where she blossomed into the Mandarin-speaking, Asian food-loving, the socially competent human she is today. She then headed to the Northeast to attend Harvard, studying Human Evolutionary Biology and Behavioral Economics. She would love to discuss evolutionary theories of human endurance running with you and expertly applied these when she ran a marathon in college.

Don't let Manizha's worldliness fool you; she can usually be found sitting in the back of the lecture hall holding a lollipop and misspelling all of her notes, or trying desperately to make her room look cute and never quite hitting the mark. Despite these setbacks, she is a skilled spiralizer and new plant mom, and can hold a handstand for 1 millisecond.

She spent the summer after college teaching in Taiwan, then moved to the great city of Chicago where she worked at a mental health startup and then a startup in cancer genetics. At Pritzker, Manizha is the co-founder of MENA (Middle Eastern/North African student group), on the board of the NLVS free clinic and the Chicagoland Free Clinics Consortium (CFCC), and leads the internal medicine, oncology, and diabetes prevention interest groups.

When Manizha isn't studying, memeing, or doing a handstand, you can find her playing simple games that do not require much emotional bandwidth (think: Animal Crossing & scrabble), thinking about pug bellies and Baby Smell™, or painting. Get ready, incoming Class of 2020: Manizha is here to guide you with endless energy, love, and spiralized vegetables.

—Maggie & Olivier

