The Changing Face of Pritzker: Highlight on Scholarship and Discovery

In the coming months and years, prospective, incoming, and current students at the Pritzker School of Medicine will notice some exciting changes taking place throughout our curriculum. It is our hope that these changes will enhance our students’ experience at the University of Chicago and build upon Pritzker’s rich tradition as a medical school rooted in scholarship and discovery.

One key aspect of the Pritzker Initiative: A Curriculum for the 21st Century is to make participation in research and discovery a requirement. At present, it is something that the great majority of our students choose to do already. For example, I am thrilled to learn that more than 80 members of the first-year class have chosen to participate in the Pritzker Summer Research Program this year. This is the largest percentage of the class to participate in recent history! Many of these positions are funded through our existing training grants from the National Institutes of Health, which speaks to the success of our faculty in securing funding for support of student scholarship. This spring, we are lucky enough to have a third NIH-funded training grant—this one from the National Institute on Aging—added to our existing two (see page 12 for details).

Beginning with the Class of 2013, all Pritzker students will participate in a four-year experience in scholarship and discovery, with opportunities ranging from basic and clinical research to scholarship in teaching or quality improvement or community-based service learning. Our goal is to provide all of our medical students—both current and future—with the best possible experiences and opportunities to help them become the next generation of leaders across the spectrum of medicine. As medicine is an ever-evolving, ever-growing discipline, elements of scholarship and discovery can go through transformations in order to be most relevant to the nature of the times. And in keeping with the spirit of progress joined with scholarship, we believe the encouragement—through faculty mentorship, funding support, and ample opportunity—of collaborative scholarly student projects will be an exciting and vital part of the Pritzker curriculum.

Throughout the pages of this issue of the Pritzker Pulse, you will learn more about some of the changes taking place here on campus, and I hope you will share in my excitement as Pritzker ventures forward. In concert, these changes will ensure that the Pritzker School of Medicine encourages and supports the best and brightest medical students who have achieved the competencies and tools to be world class physicians in a progressive medical field.

Sincerely,
Holly J. Humphrey, MD ’83
Dean for Medical Education
In order to better serve students, residents, and fellows at the University of Chicago, the Office of Graduate Medical Education and the Pritzker School of Medicine now have a collective presence in a singular location within the Medical Center in room J-141. The Pritzker School of Medicine and the Office of Graduate Medical Education strive to help make the transition from medical school to residency seamless for those who continue with their education at the University of Chicago. The residency application process for fourth-year students will be aided in great part by the staff within the office. If a fourth-year student matches at the University of Chicago, staff members are readily available as a resource to assist with licensure and countless other administrative matters throughout the residency and fellowship years. Though the respective program coordinators work closely with their residents and fellows, the hope is that residents from all programs will feel at home in the combined offices of the Pritzker School of Medicine and Graduate Medical Education, as well.

With the spirit of progress in mind, the Pritzker School of Medicine has set into motion changes that will take effect beginning this summer. The Class of 2010 will experience a change upon entering their core clerkships. Beginning in the summer quarter of 2008, a new four-week clerkship in Neurology will be instituted, and rotations in Obstetrics and Gynecology as well as Psychiatry will be four weeks long.

The Pritzker Class of 2012 will start their classes in August, rather than September. First-year students begin with a comprehensive two-month study of Human Morphology (Anatomy), which will offer time to focus on this intense subject before the fall quarter begins on September 29th.

Further advancements will be put into practice in the coming years as Pritzker strives to create the most engaging and useful curriculum possible for its students.
Dr. Richard J. Cote: Setting the Foundation for Tomorrow’s Discoverers

By Colin Walsh, MS 4

Dr. Richard J. Cote, a Pritzker graduate of 1980, is a Professor of Pathology and Urology and the Director of the Biomedical Nanosciences Initiative at the University of Southern California, Keck School of Medicine. He was recently selected by the AOA Class of 2008 for induction into the University of Chicago Chapter of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society. Prior to his return to campus in February, I had the opportunity to speak with Dr. Cote about his path to success.

Colin Walsh (CW): Dr. Cote, would you recount some of the steps that led you to establish the career that you have today?

Richard J. Cote (RJC): I was interested in going into medicine and did research in chemistry with Professor Hal Moore at UC Irvine. This motivated me to pursue a research-oriented career. In fact, I considered temporarily not going to medical school and just pursuing a PhD, but Dr. Moore told me, “If I could do it over again, I would definitely go into medicine. It leaves you a lot of options.”

CW: What factors motivated you in your application to medical school?

RJC: I applied to medical schools that would give me an advantage for a career in research and was very much aware that the University of Chicago had produced more physician-scientists who were doing research and teaching in medical schools than any other university.

As for the University of Chicago itself, it was a great medical school, a great graduate school, and a great undergraduate school, and they were “all” there in one location. That’s not usual, and that’s something I didn’t fully appreciate until I was well into my experience in Chicago.

CW: What aspects of your education at Pritzker were most influential for you?

RJC: The environment was very intellectually rich. I arrived at Pritzker in 1976, the bicentennial. Every Nobel Prize that year went to American citizens, and a number of them were at the University of Chicago: Saul Bellow in Literature, Milton Friedman in Economics. The quality of my fellow students was extraordinarily high. The professors were very good physicians who were advancing their fields of medicine. It was exciting and motivating to be with people who had made an impact about things we could understand as medical students.

CW: What do you enjoy the most about being an academic physician?

RJC: I enjoy interacting with students, residents, and fellows. I love working with people who are interested and fascinated by whatever they’re doing at that time. I also enjoy my practice in surgical pathology. I like the art and the craft of medical practice; it’s very different than doing research.

As at Pritzker, the interaction with my colleagues today is exciting. I’m involved with technology development and biomedical nanoscience work; I work with physicists and chemical engineers, many who have never been to a medical school. It’s extremely stimulating and keeps me motivated day-to-day. In academics, there’s always something new. While progress can often be incremental, every once in a while you see something so exciting that you can’t imagine doing anything else.

CW: In a career marked by so many successes, what achievements have been most meaningful to you?

RJC: At an individual level, the scientific achievements have been very motivating,
“Success is not an End”
Perspectives from Dr. Rex Haydon

By Jun Matsui, MS 4

Rex Haydon, MD ’96, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Associate Director of the Molecular Oncology Laboratory at the University of Chicago. After completing degrees in anthropology and medicine, doing residency at the University of Chicago, and completing fellowships in musculoskeletal oncology and orthopaedic research, Dr. Haydon balances a busy clinical practice, successful research career, and teaches medical students and residents. I first met Dr. Haydon in the Orthopaedic Surgery Clinic when I was a first-year medical student, and I was struck by how engaged he was with his patients, his empathy, and his willingness to teach. This year Dr. Haydon received the Laros Teaching Award from residents and was inducted into Pritzker’s AOA chapter, recognizing his dedication, excellence, and humanism.

Jun Matsui (JM): Thank you for taking the time to meet with me, Dr. Haydon. I thought we’d start with your thoughts on your path from Pritzker to where you are now.

Rex Haydon (RH): My background isn’t typical of most premeds, but it was my work in anthropology that led me to medicine and allows me to see different aspects of medicine and view medical problems differently. Anthropology examines people’s culture and values, which play a significant role in all interactions, including patient-physician interactions. I enjoy understanding that the cultural values that people bring, and being respectful and responsive to them can give you a great window into learning about people and their responses to illness. In my practice, I see a huge variety in patients’ responses to a diagnosis of cancer—seeing the role of culture, the role of family, and trying to understand their views adds a different dimension and personal aspect to my interaction.

JM: What influenced your decision to stay at the University of Chicago for residency, fellowship, and practice?

RH: Something that is truly remarkable about the University of Chicago is its emphasis on cross-disciplinary work. I started out in anthropology and met and worked with physicians and became fascinated by the direct relevance of medicine. Within medicine, we use research to improve our clinical skills and what we can offer patients, and we use our clinical work to focus our research. A unique characteristic of the medical school is that it encourages people to incorporate their other interests into medicine, and it attracts people who love that intersection. And finally, there’s a focus on teaching—we place resident and medical student education and interaction above financial or other interests. The best mentors will help you evaluate your career and focus on maximizing your potential—they may recognize things in you that you yourself don’t.

JM: What do you enjoy the most about being an academic physician?

RH: Diversity. In my clinical work, field research in Peru, teaching, research, and maintaining ties to anthropology, I gain a lot of different satisfactions. In clinical work, there are immediate rewards from the interaction with patients who appreciate what you do for them. In research, there are overwhelming moments of recognition and gratification with some down time in between, and in anthropology there’s a different mindset that refreshes my perspective. The key is to maintain balance and organization. Fortunately, this environment really fosters that.

JM: What’s important to remember in maintaining a balance in life and work? What helps keep you balanced?

RH: Listen to the people you work with, the people you

(HAYDON continued on page 5)
but at the end of the day, the most meaningful achievements have been setting the foundation of further advances by training those people who will go on and make the next discoveries.

The single most important thing I’ve done is having children who will go off and make their own contributions to the world. The foundation that I lay through them will be my most enduring success.

CW: Is there any good advice you’ve received from your own mentors that has helped you?

RJC: The most consistent theme for me is this: it is not enough to simply want to do something. You have to actually do it. The best advice, that I often received, was “Quit complaining.” Regarding mentors, it’s important to identify and seek out individuals you admire, and that can serve as models, and let them know you’re seeking them out. Mentors for me have been people like my father who went to law school in his mid-forties while raising a family and working full-time, as well as doctors at the University of Chicago like Frank Fitch, George Block, Harry Schoenberg, David Skinner, and Gerald Laros. These were individuals who epitomized excellence, and a willingness to share their skills and knowledge.

CW: What does it mean to you to be a great physician?

RJC: I wouldn’t characterize myself in that way. But I am still learning and striving. I haven’t given up. I’m still trying.
The national honor society Alpha Omega Alpha recognizes those students, residents, faculty, and alumni who demonstrate academic excellence, outstanding leadership, dedication to service, and a great capacity for fairness and compassion. Once chosen to receive the honor, AOA students from the Class of 2008 choose faculty members, residents and fellows, and alumni to also receive recognition at the induction ceremony.

The Pritzker School of Medicine and the AOA Class of 2008 welcomed the following University of Chicago members to the Illinois Beta Chapter of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society on February 26, 2008.

**Faculty Membership**

- Nora Jaskowiak, MD  
  *Department of Surgery*
- John H. Schumann, MD  
  *Department of Medicine*

**Resident and Fellow Membership**

- Laron Johnson, MD ’04  
  *Department of Anesthesia and Critical Care*
- Megan Tarr, MD  
  *Department Obstetrics and Gynecology*
- Nathan Stitzel, MD  
  *Department of Medicine*

**Alumni Membership**

- Richard Cote, MD ’80  
  *Professor of Pathology and Urology*  
  *University of Southern California*  
  *Keck School of Medicine*
- Rex Haydon, MD ’96, PhD  
  *Department of Surgery*

**Volunteer Clinical Faculty Award**

- Clement Rose, MD  
  *Department of Medicine*  
  *President, Medical Staff*  
  *Weiss Memorial Hospital*

**Class of 2008 AOA Medical Student Members**

- Katherine Bekeny  
- Amanda Britt  
- Jessica Buck  
- Nicole Cipriani  
- Daniel Clayburgh, PhD  
- Jill Huber  
- Matthew Kalscheur  
- Rohan Lall  
- Jun Matsui  
- Jennifer McDonnell  
- Itai Pashtan  
- Jennifer Pogoriler, PhD  
- Katie Sharff  
- Erik Stoltenberg  
- Elizabeth Sullivan  
- Alan Thong  
- Colin Walsh

**Michael J. Collins, MD**  
*AOA Visiting Professor, 2008*

“For too long I neglected this journey. It was an obstacle to be overcome, an ordeal to be endured; for I had never chosen the journey, I had chosen the destination…. I have discovered that here isn’t so important after all. I find myself looking back with particular fondness for how I got here.” —Jun Matsui, reading from Dr. Michael Collins’s book *Hot Lights, Cold Steel: Life, Death and Sleepless Nights in a Surgeon’s First Years*, at the AOA Induction Ceremony.
Medical students are chosen by their peers to receive induction into the Gold Humanism Honor Society, which honors a “demonstrated excellence in clinical care, leadership, compassion, and dedication to service.” The Class of 2008, along with faculty and residents, were recognized on March 4, 2008.

Class of 2008 GHHS Medical Student Members

David Beckmann   Jonathan Hron
Audrey Brewer    Comfort Ibe
Amanda Britt     Ricardo Indacochea
Jessica Buck     Martha Johnson
Lisabeth Carlisle Mia Lozada
Kellene Eagen    Jennifer McDonnell
David Fitter     Eleanor Smith
Richard Gil      Allison Stark
Andrew Hong      Colin Walsh

Leonard Tow
Humanism in Medicine Award

Kevin Roggin, MD
Department of Surgery

David Beckmann, MS 4

Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award

Joseph Cooper, MD ’06
Department of Psychiatry

John Hyngstrom, MD ’03
Department of Surgery

Jeffrey Lewis, MD ’07
Department of Medicine

Amit Mahajan, MD
Department of Medicine

Nonyem Onujiogu, MD ’05
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Megan Tarr, MD
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

The Gold Humanism Honor Society
A Force for Humanism in Medicine

Integrity • Excellence • Compassion • Altruism
Respect • Empathy • Service

“Your selection tonight signifies the esteem you hold with your colleagues, but also the responsibility you have to uphold those values as future physicians. You are and will be leaders in your respective fields. As leaders, we have an opportunity and duty to protect—if not further define—humanism in medicine. We strive to be humanistic physicians, to promote humanism as educators, to conduct ethical research, and to properly leverage our role in society for the greater good.” —Michael Mendoza, AB ’96, MD ’01, MPH

GHHS Induction Ceremony Keynote Speaker
Remedy UChicago Wins National Award

By Cameron Nienaber, MS 2 and Sahil Mehta, MS 2

For most medical students, the desire to make a difference in other people’s lives served as a major motivator for entering the medical profession. Soon after starting first year, however, students realize it will be a year or so before they interact with real patients and still a few more before they can actually help them! When this reality sets in, it is easy to lose focus on the purpose of medical school—to become great physicians, helping those around us live healthier lives.

Fortunately, there are many ways medical students can serve others. From free clinics to mentoring to international volunteering, many are able to take part in activities that remind them of why they decided to attend medical school. REMEDY—Recovered Medical Supplies for the Developing World—is a student organization that works to alleviate international health care disparities and fulfills this need for many first-year students at Pritzker. Last June, members of the Class of 2010, three undergrads, and Pritzker alumna Dr. Minal Giri traveled to the Dominican Republic on the 2007 REMEDY trip. Our group raised more than $35,000, collected two tons of medicines and medical supplies, and distributed these supplies to the people of the Dominican Republic.

Buoyed by the success of the 2006 REMEDY trip to the Dominican Republic, our group set out to make REMEDY UChicago’s impact bigger than ever. We partnered with several non-governmental agencies (NGOs) that serve the people of the Dominican Republic. Physicians for Peace/Fundacion Sol Naciente, a medical education organization dedicated to building friendships in developing nations, worked with REMEDY to set up a two-week community health clinic in Moca. Dr. Giri and a group of REMEDY students saw more than one hundred sick children with bacterial infections, scabies, worms, and even a case of scleroderma. The entire clinic operated with medicines donated by REMEDY and was staffed by REMEDY members.

Other group members worked with the Health Justice Collaborative in Batey 1, outside Barahona. In Batey 1, students were able to work with the members of the community, largely a Haitian immigrant population, participating in health related activities as well as general community building.

REMEDY UChicago also worked with Misiones Pax, a volunteer organization that runs medical mission trips in Latin America. Students visited La Vega and Monte Plata and helped run health clinics with the help of local doctors and Dr. Marisela Jaquez from the University of Miami. By visiting several urban hospitals in Santo Domingo, students gained a sense of the disparities that exist within the health care system of the Dominican Republic.

This year, REMEDY UChicago was awarded the first Outstanding REMEDY Program Award from REMEDY
National for service in medicine. The group was picked out of more than 600 chapters—a testament to the hard work of all University of Chicago REMEDY groups since 1999, dating back to its chapter founder, Dr. Giri. The award will be presented in April at the inaugural REMEDY Global Impact Awards ceremony. §

More information can be found at www.remedyuchicago.org

“You have been selected out of more than 600 REMEDY programs nationwide to receive this inaugural honor due to the excellence of your program, the strength of your membership and your continued dedication to helping those in the developing world by recovering medical supplies in your community...We are so proud of what you have accomplished and we use your shining example everyday as we recruit new REMEDY programs throughout the country.”

—Tammy L. Young, Executive Director, REMEDY, Inc.
(in an e-mail letter to REMEDY UChicago)

Tips for Working with NGOs Abroad
—Sahil Mehta, MS 2
REMEDY UChicago Member

Be patient—NGOs in third world countries often don’t have internet, the staff, or the sense of urgency to respond to your emails/phone calls right away.

Plan ahead—Know what you’re going to do when you get down there.

Be flexible—Once you know what you’re going to be doing, don’t expect to be able to do it! Things simply don’t work out a lot of the time. Simple tasks that take seconds here can take weeks in a developing country.

Get to know the people you are helping—Don’t just sit in an office all day writing grants. Get out and meet the people you are there to help. This is easily the most rewarding and enjoyable thing that you can do.

Take time to explore the surroundings—Getting to know the local culture and area while infusing money into the local economy will make your work much more rewarding and enjoyable.

It’s ok to think that the trip is for you, too—While you are there to help others, the trip will be even more meaningful if you take time for yourself and enjoy the experience.

Expect failures—You aren’t going to solve all the world’s problems in a few weeks. You’ll be lucky if you even get one thing fully accomplished that you set out to do.

Keep up the work back home—Raise money for the NGO, raise awareness, do anything that keeps you connected and involved.

For additional information about international opportunities in medicine visit http://pritzker.bsd.uchicago.edu/current/students/international.shtml
Ed Gometz, a third-year medical student at the Pritzker School of Medicine, has been named a recipient of the American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation's 2008 Leadership Award. This award provides its winners with special training to develop their skills as future leaders in organized medicine. Recipients of the award are recognized for demonstrating outstanding non-clinical leadership skills in advocacy, community service, and education. As a medical student, Ed has been an active leader in the AMA. He served as a Pritzker Delegate to the AMA, and, along with fourth-year student and Alternate Delegate Joe Novak, wrote a resolution to the AMA that acknowledges NASA’s role in the advancement of health care technologies (see following article). Ed was recently elected by fellow student delegates from other medical schools to be a regional delegate from the medical student section of the AMA. In that position, Ed is 1 of 20 medical students nationwide who vote in the AMA's Physician House of Delegates, the body that creates AMA policy.

Of Ed’s contributions to the AMA, Pritzker, and beyond, fellow classmate Joe Novak notes, “Ed is the archetype of the ardent student who recognizes needs, gets involved, and works within the system to enact change. Recognizing his leadership is a testament to the work we can accomplish and the difference we can make as medical student leaders in organized medicine and beyond.”

Pritzker Students Pass New Resolution Within the AMA

At the most recent annual convention of the American Medical Association, a resolution written, researched, and campaigned for by Pritzker’s AMA Chapter was unanimously accepted by the AMA’s House of Delegates. Third-year student Ed Gometz and fourth-year student Joe Novak co-authored the new national policy, which acknowledges NASA's role in the advancement of healthcare technologies through human space exploration and supports NASA’s continued work for the future benefits to medicine and patient care. This year-long effort began with Ed and Joe winning support for the resolution from the Illinois Medical Student Section of the AMA. The resolution was brought to the Interim Convention where, following debates and testimony, they received regional backing and National Medical Student Section support. The resolution then moved to the annual convention of the AMA. Ed and Joe put together an informational sheet, holographic cards, and pins in favor of their resolution. They were told by many that they have never seen such passion or such an impressive package put together for a resolution. Ed was thrilled that the resolution passed and said, “With hard work and determination, any Pritzker student can affect policy and make a difference in what they believe in.”

—details provided by Joe Novak, MS 4
Members of the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine and the Harris School of Public Policy communities welcomed Dr. Ronald M. Davis, President of the American Medical Association and alumnus of both Pritzker (MD ‘83) and Harris (AM ‘81) on January 30, 2008 as part of a combined Deans’ Distinguished Lecture.

In his presentation, “Healthcare Reform: How to Cover Everyone and Keep Them Healthy,” Dr. Davis addressed the ways in which policymakers and those in the medical field can do their part to ensure a healthy community.

Expanding medical coverage for the uninsured is one of five priorities of the AMA’s health care advocacy agenda. “Our simple plan is to give people money to buy health insurance,” explained Davis. The plan includes providing individuals and families with tax credits, which would be available at the start of the year and would be inversely related to income.

The AMA is in the second year of its three-year campaign to make this plan a reality. In 2009, which will give our country a new president and new Congress, Davis said, “There will be no excuse for not dealing effectively with this problem once and for all.” In his closing comments, he stressed the words of transportation pioneer Henry Ford and their relevance to those in the audience: “Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.”

Prior to his presentation, Dr. Davis met with the Pritzker School of Medicine’s student chapter of the American Medical Association. Dr. Davis continued the discussion with student attendees after the lecture during a reception in the Goldblatt lobby.

—With assistance from Elizabeth Jenkins, Communications Associate, Harris School of Public Policy Studies

At the University of Chicago, in an atmosphere of interdisciplinary scholarship and discovery, the Pritzker School of Medicine is dedicated to inspiring diverse students of exceptional promise to become leaders and innovators in science and medicine for the betterment of humanity.
Faculty Achievements

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently selected the members of the Secretary’s Advisory Committee on National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives for 2020. David Meltzer, MD ’93, PhD ’92, Director of the Center for Health and the Social Sciences (CHESS), was chosen to serve on this committee whose responsibility is to make recommendations for developing and implementing national health promotion and disease prevention objectives for Healthy People 2020. The HHS website notes, “Since 1979, Healthy People has set and monitored national health objectives to meet a broad range of health needs, engage people across the nation to work together, guide individuals toward making informed health decisions, and measure the impact of prevention activity.” §

Faculty Members Awarded NIH Training Grant for the Pritzker Summer Research Program

Dr. Meltzer, along with colleagues William Dale, MD, PhD (Geriatrics), Sam Sisodia, PhD (Neurosciences), and Vineet Arora, MD, MPH (Medicine), have been approved to receive funding from the National Institute on Aging (a subsidiary of the National Institutes of Health) through a T-35 training grant. Their grant joins that of Dr. Eugene B. Chang and Dr. William A. McDade who already have established training grants from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disorders (NIDDK) and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), respectively. These NIH grants provide funding for the Pritzker Summer Research Program, allowing students to pursue research that supports the investigation of topics under the broad spectrum of their funding source. The new NIA grant will support nine students conducting aging-related research; collectively these grants bring our number of NIH-funded student positions to 54.

The continued success of the Pritzker faculty in securing such grants speaks both to their innovative research and the abundance of opportunities for scholarship and discovery available to our students. §
Student Research Makes Headlines Worldwide

Major news media followed the research of fourth-year student Rachel Sherman earlier this year in one of the most broadly covered Pritzker student projects in recent years. Rachel was first author on the article “Academic Physicians Use Placebos in Clinical Practice and Believe in the Mind–Body Connection,” which appeared in the January 2008 issue of *Journal of General Internal Medicine* and concludes that doctors believe placebos can have a therapeutic effect.

Rachel’s research, which emanated from a Pritzker Summer Research Project in which she investigated “Placebos in Health Care Practice,” was conducted with Dr. John Hickner, Professor of Family Medicine, and investigated the frequency of doctors prescribing placebos, or “sugar pills,” to patients. Their results showed a high frequency—of the 231 physicians who responded to the survey (half of those solicited), 45% had given a placebo to a patient in clinical practice.

“Placebos have been used in medicine since ancient times and remain both clinically relevant and philosophically interesting. In addition to their recognized use as controls in clinical trials, this study suggests that placebos themselves are viewed as therapeutic tools in medical practice,” said Rachel in a quote from *U.S. News & World Report*.

Since the article was published, the research has been cited in news outlets as far away as India and the United Kingdom.

Pritzker Service Group Earns AOA Award

The Pritzker Community Service Fellowship (PCSF), currently headed by fourth-year students Martha Johnson, Mia Lozada, Jen McDonnell, and Allison Stark, recently received a Medical School Service Project Award through the national Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, which aims to support the “establishment or expansion of a medical student service project benefiting the medical school or the local community.” The PCSF, a new group created this year, is described as “an organization of Pritzker School of Medicine students and faculty that aims to create a community dedicated to lifelong service and activism in underserved areas via mentorship and service-learning.” Although the four leaders will be graduating from Pritzker this spring, with nearly 30 members from the first, second, and third-year classes, the PCSF will continue to serve as a facilitating organization for those who are invested in and dedicated to community service.
Prior to matriculating to Pritzker in the fall of 2007, first-year student **Adam Back** worked with Memorial Hermann neurosurgeon Peter M. Shedden MD, MSc, FRCS(C), FACS. Their numerous research projects include gamma knife radiosurgery treatment of arteriovenous malformations, use of rh-BMP-2 to achieve posterior cervical fusion, use of betadine in lumbar laminectomy surgery to prevent infection post-operatively, diagnosis of normal pressure hydrocephalus, and abnormal presentations of foramen magnum meningiomas. As a result of their work, Dr. Shedden invited Adam to present a CME lecture (Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Hospital Neurosciences Lecture Series) at The Woodlands Memorial Hermann Hospital in Texas. His presentation, “Infratentorial Meningiomas,” took place in December. Adam will also make a poster presentation based on his abstract on gamma knife radiosurgery for the treatment of arteriovenous malformations at the May 2008 Leksell Gamma Knife Conference in Quebec.

Third-year student **Neena Kapoor** will be presenting a poster at the Society of Hospital Medicine’s Annual Meeting entitled “TTP or Not TTP.” The poster is a case report from a third-year medicine clerkship, and was written with third-year medicine resident **Teresa Nam**, David Vanderweele, MD-PhD ’07, and **Dr. Vineet Arora**, Assistant Professor of Medicine.

**Joe Novak**, a fourth-year student and former engineer and USAF F-15C pilot, recently returned from Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas after having completed two months of research with NASA physicians. Joe studied shoulder biomechanics in rear-entry space suit doffing, with the goal of determining the safest way (from a shoulder injury perspective) to get out of the next generation Mark III spacesuit. Joe’s study, “Shoulder Biomechanics in Rear Entry Suit Doffing” will be presented at the International Conference on Environmental Systems this June.

**Stephanie Peng**, a fourth-year student, co-authored a paper entitled “Laparoscopy or Conventional Open Surgery for Patients with Ileocolonic Crohn’s Disease? A Prospective Study,” which was published in the October 2007 issue of Surgery. Stephanie’s work emanates from the project she conducted with **Dr. Alessandro Fichera**, Assistant Professor of Surgery, during the Pritzker Summer Research Program.
Caitlin Schaninger, a second-year student, attended the Institute for Health-care Improvement (IHI) National Symposium in Orlando, Florida this past December, and served as a moderator at several sessions. Caitlin received a student scholarship to attend the symposium. She attended the symposium with Assistant Professors of Medicine Dr. Vineet Arora, Dr. Julie Johnson, Dr. Lisa Vinci, and Mary Johnson, a graduate student in Health Administration and Policy at the School of Social Service Administration.

Caitlin's work on the use of FACE™ Cards has resulted in multiple publications and presentations. She will present her first-authored poster abstract entitled “Improving Patient Identification of Their Inpatient Physicians: Use of FACE™ Cards” at the Society of Hospital Medicine’s Annual Meeting this April. Caitlin will also represent Pritzker in a panel at April’s Institute for Healthcare Improvement Health Professions Education Collaborative Meeting, as well as present a poster, “Improving Inpatients’ Identification of their Doctors: Use of FACE™ Cards.” The discussion will revolve around case studies of learning about improvement, safety, and inter-professional care.

Tell Us What You’re Doing!

If you would like your recent achievement to be highlighted in the next issue of the Pritzker Pulse, please visit the Pritzker website at pritzker.uchicago.edu and click “Submit your Pulse update!”
On January 19, members from the Huggins and DeLee Societies and significant others braved the subzero temperatures and participated in the Chicago Cares Celebration of Service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Huggins group painted two murals at John Fiske Elementary School, while members of DeLee volunteered at the Wadsworth Elementary School at 64th and University Avenue, reorganizing and cataloging the school’s library. The school had been without a librarian for two years and this organizational effort now allows students to borrow books once again.

—Matt Kalscheur, MS 4 and Mia Lozada, MS 4

Coggeshall Society has talent! Coggeshalls from all four years came out to cheer each other on as they belted cheesy tunes and scarfed cheesy quesadillas at Blue Frog Bar and Grill. The highlight of the evening: Society advisors Dr. Arora and Dr. Schwartz teaming up for a smashing rendition of “Girls Just Wanna Have Fun.”

—Erin Kirkham, MS 2

It was a cold yet electrifying Friday night in February when the DeLee Society shutout the Phemister Society, 2-0, in an epic Broomball showdown. Drs. Howes, Gehlbach, and Abelson were present to show their support as their students swept, fell, and got themselves back up again to continue this annual tradition.

—Mia Lozada, MS 4

### Upcoming Events

**MAY**

- 8  Senior Scientific Session
- 12  Dean’s Distinguished Lecture
- 13  Bowman Society Annual Meeting and Induction Ceremony

**JUNE**

- 13  Divisional Academic Hooding Ceremony
- 13  University Convocation
- 18-20  Introduction to Clinical Biennium
- 18  Student Clinician Ceremony

**JULY**

- 17  MS 4 Meeting: ERAS Application

**AUGUST**

- 1  Orientation
- 3  White Coat Ceremony
- 4  Autumn Quarter begins for MS 1

**SEPTEMBER**

- 4  MS 4 Meeting: Application Updates
- 29  Autumn Quarter begins for MS 2, MS 3, and MS 4

For the event details, visit the Pritzker Calendar of Events at [http://events.uchicago.edu/pritzker](http://events.uchicago.edu/pritzker)