Dear Students, Alumni, Faculty, and Staff,

I am tremendously proud to share with you in the pages of this issue some of the exceptional acts of humanism I have seen from our current Pritzker students, residents, and faculty members in recent months. Their commitment to service is unparalleled, and their work within our community is simply inspiring.

Many students choose the Pritzker School of Medicine because of its urban setting and commitment to serving the underserved. This dedication can be seen through both our curriculum, which incorporates and addresses healthcare disparities, and the abundance of opportunities available to work with the underserved in our community. The ways in which our students take ownership of this commitment and responsibility for its execution show great leadership on their part. As you will see from those involved with the Pritzker Community Service Fellowship, students are taking the lead in establishing longitudinal relationships among those interested in service. This group, which began last year with support from the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Student Service Project Award, recently planned and executed a Day of Service, encompassing four community organizations. The event was a smashing success.

We also recently honored those students in the graduating Class of 2009 who have demonstrated the utmost excellence in academics, leadership, service, and research. This year’s Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society and Gold Humanism Honor Society inductees not only excel within the confines of our institution, they have shared their talents with our community. Most recently, members from these two groups worked with faculty members to orchestrate a service project at the Greater Chicago Food Depository, wherein approximately 20 medical students and faculty members spent their Saturday morning sorting food and making meals for those in need.

We revisit our mission statement frequently, as its principles are a guiding force for our institution. The statement concludes with the phrase “dedicated to inspiring diverse students of exceptional promise to become leaders and innovators in science and medicine for the betterment of humanity.” The Pritzker administration works diligently to ensure this promise is executed, but we must acknowledge with gratitude and pride the outstanding works and accomplishments of our students in leading the force for bettering humanity. I am enormously proud of you.

Gratefully,

Holly J. Humphrey, MD ’83
Dean for Medical Education

Holly J. Humphrey
I came back from the day inspired,” Enrique Escalante, a first-year medical student, reflected at the end of Pritzker’s inaugural Day of Service, which took place on Saturday, January 31st and drew approximately 40 Pritzker students and 20 community members. The event was organized and sponsored by the Pritzker Community Service Fellowship (PCSF) and the day was just as Enrique put it: inspiring. It was filled with meaningful interactions with community members from two of Chicago’s South Side neighborhoods with whom Pritzker is planning long-term partnerships.

The partnerships build upon the Pritzker Society system; DeLee and Phemister members have partnered with organizations and community leaders in the South Chicago neighborhood and students in Huggins and Coggeshall have partnered with those in the Greater Grand Crossing neighborhood. These neighborhoods were chosen based on their significant need for improved educational and medical resources and the enthusiasm of identified community partners.

Pritzker students in DeLee and Phemister began their day of service with a tour by Dinah Ramirez, RN, a life-long resident of South Chicago, as she discussed the changing demographics of the neighborhood and the rise and fall of the South Chicago economy. Afterwards, the DeLee and Phemister students arrived at Bowen High School, where they spent time with students from the New Millennium School of Health (NMSH) at the high school’s campus. NMSH was created to address the shortage of workers in health fields and South Chicago.

Students worked on a beautification project, painting a long hallway in the school, including an inspiring mural designed by students from Bowen. Medical and high school students shared many important moments, laughing while discussing musical taste and dancing style, and exchanging more somber sentiments when discussing mounting violence and gang affiliation in the community. When asked to identify areas in which Pritzker students might be able to work with the community, the high school students came up with several projects, including career advising, a pregnancy prevention program, community beautification, and construction of a teen-community center.

Pritzker students in Huggins and Coggeshall started their day with a tour of the Greater Grand Crossing Neighborhood led by Greg Mooney, Executive Director of the Comer Science and Education Foundation, and Sam Binion, life-long resident of the neighborhood and Program Director of Revere C.A.R.E., a group striving to promote neighborhood safety.

The tour highlighted the recent transformation of the neighborhood and several initiatives, guided by the leadership of community members and supported by the resources of the Comer Foundation, including the construction of a state-of-the-art youth center and the implementation of an affordable housing and skills training programs.

Hugginites and Coggeshallers conducted their service project at the Gary Comer Youth Center (GCYC), which was founded by Gary Comer in 2006 to provide youth with an opportunity to engage in positive extracurricular activities. Pritzker students worked on six different projects with high school students who attend the center’s programs. The service projects varied from decorating the center for Black History Month to recording an original hip-hop song track with a theme of combating health problems that impact the community. The high school students and Pritzker students discussed engaging in future service projects together that address their communities’ needs, such as writing newsletters on health issues for seniors in the neighborhood,
workshops on teen pregnancy, and mentorship programs. The idea for this innovative partnership program originally emerged in spring 2008 out of a subcommittee of the Urban Health Initiative designed to explore the future of community-based education at Pritzker. Since then, the PCSF (Pritzker Community Service Fellowship) leadership, Dr. Sarah-Anne Schumann, Dr. John Schumann, and the UCMC Office of Community Affairs have been developing partnerships with these two communities. The main goals are to engage in meaningful service-learning that addresses the needs identified by community stakeholders and to create opportunities for medical students to have an ongoing relationship with a South Side Chicago community by learning about their strengths and needs and better understanding the lives of those surrounding our medical community.

Overall, the Day of Service was a huge success. “This day was so inspiring because community members showed great hope for improvements in their neighborhoods even though they faced many set-backs and obstacles,” Enrique explained at the reflection session. The vision for our long-term partnerships is to leverage this “hope” with collaborative service projects to improve the health of our neighbors while developing skills crucial to becoming outstanding, compassionate physicians and leaders in medicine.

We would like to thank Dr. Sarah-Anne Schumann, Dr. John Schumann, Laura Derks, and Nubia Chaidez and her team from the UCMC Office of Community Affairs for their time and resources to make the Day of Service and long term community partnerships possible. We also greatly appreciate the ongoing support of Dr. Shalini Reddy, Dr. Vineet Arora, and Dean Holly Humphrey.

**Faculty Accolades**

**Vineet Arora, MD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine, was highlighted in the January 30 edition of the *New York Times* for her research on whether hospital patients can identify their medical teams and the role each person played. Dr. Arora conducted her research with **Amit Mehrotra, MD’07** while he was a fourth-year student at Pritzker. Dr. Mehrotra is currently a PGY2 internal medicine resident at the University of Chicago.

**Will Harper, MD**, Associate Professor of Medicine, worked with faculty members from all over the country to collaborate on an article entitled “The Learning Environment and Medical Student Burnout: a Multicentre Study.” Their research was published in *Medical Education* earlier this year.

**Dr. Lainie Friedman Ross**, Associate Director of the MacLean Center for Medical Ethics and Professor of Clinical Ethics in the Department of Pediatrics, was awarded the *Patricia Prince Browne Prize in Biomedical Ethics*. This award recognizes those who “have made an outstanding contribution through active service in medical ethics activities, by serving on an ethics committee or commission, or by improving the profession’s effectiveness in upholding its ethical standards through advocacy of policies, provision or organization of services.”
Congratulations, 2009 AOA and GHHS Members!

On February 24, 2009, 19 students were inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. Regina-Celeste Ahmad, MS4 introduced the AOA Visiting Professor Dr. Patrick Brown, MD’82, PhD’80 to her fellow AOA honorees:

“Dr. Brown’s successful career exemplifies the tenets upon which AOA was founded. He is a leader in his field, compelled to ask fundamental and far-reaching questions that have changed the world’s view of genetics. He is a professional, repeatedly recognized and honored by his peers. Finally, he is committed to public service, cultivating social awareness of issues surrounding public access to biomedical literature and actively seeking ways in which to improve scientific communication. We have also come to learn that he is an eternal optimist. And that trait, combined with a creative drive to propel forward scientific progress, has been a recipe for success.” Dr. Brown is a professor at Stanford University and a national leader in DNA microarray technology.

2009 Alpha Omega Alpha Inductees

Faraz Ahmad
Regina-Celeste Ahmad
Karen Bauer
Alexandra Briggs
Nadieska Caballero
Patrick Dillon
Ryan Foley
Vanitha Johnson
Neena Kapoor
Ross Kessler
Shakirat Oyetunji
Riddhi Patel
Lindsay Petty
Jami Rothe
Talya Salant
Mark Silvestri
Shashank Sinha
Ramsey Tate
Timothy Vanderbldt

2009 Alpha Omega Alpha Honorees

Vinee Ahora, MD, MA ’03
Alissa Johnston, MD
David Levy, MD
Arjmand Mufid, MD
Douglass Given, MD ’80 PhD ’79, MBA
Mukta Katdare, MD
Poj Lysowvakon, MD
Kim Williams, MD ’79

Dr. Patrick Brown and Herbert Abelson
The AOA Class of 2009
Talya Salant, MS4 with her family and Dr. Holly Humphrey
Shakirat Oyetunji, MS4 honors Dr. Poj Lysowvakon
On March 3, 2009, students, families, faculty, and staff gathered at Bond Chapel to celebrate the induction of 18 students into the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS). GHHS recognizes those graduating students who maintain the highest standards of humanism and professionalism. The entire fourth-year class selected fellow student Marissa DeFreitas and Dr. Patricia Kurtz from the Department of Medicine as the winners of the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Student and Faculty Awards, respectively.

“I think we can describe the features of excellence and I think the very foundation of excellence in clinical care rests on two pillars. The first is TRUST. Trust is the cornerstone of the therapeutic relationship. With trust you can calm a worried soul, guide a critically sick patient to the right decision, and, when necessary, help a grieving patient or family member. Without trust you have nothing. The other cornerstone of excellence in medical care is LEADERSHIP. For as you know, we live in difficult times and excellence in clinical care will also require that you stand up and be counted.”—Dr. Scott Stern in his keynote address

“Everything we learn goes into everything we do.”—Dr. Patricia Kurtz, paraphrasing the motto of John Deere upon receiving the Leonard Tow Award

2009 Gold Humanism Honor Society Inductees

Faraz Ahmad
Erica Aronson
Karen Bauer
Ayana Chase
Michael Churchwell
Marissa DeFreitas
Stephanie Donald
Jeffrey Eisen
Adam Kern
Riddhi Patel
Julie Silverman
Mark Silvestri
Shashank Sinha
Ramsey Tate
Sarah Tsang
Susanne Vanderbilt
Timothy Vanderbilt
Andrae VANDROSS
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.
Pritzker Students Travel to the Middle East for a Unique Medical, Cultural Experience

By Eric Chen, MS2; Aaron Cohn, MS2; Eugene Du, MS2; Sarah Sobotka, MS4

In December 2008, twenty-five Pritzker medical students of five different faiths traveled to Israel for a truly unique experience. We embarked on an ambitious itinerary; each day was filled to the brim with medical, cultural, political, and religious experiences. Ranging from visiting an Arab Bedouin clinic to state-of-the-art hospitals; from traveling to Fassouta, a Christian Arab village on the Lebanese border to home-stays in Kiryat Gat, a town 30 minutes away from the Gaza border; from discussions with the director of Iranian Studies at Tel Aviv University to dinners with Israeli medical students, our experiences were diverse and profoundly educational.

After only the first full day, Kweku Grant-Acquah, MS4, immediately recognized that “beyond simple facts...one must understand the broader cultural and political forces that have influenced this remarkable country.” Indeed, the profound complexity of the political tensions in Israel was hard to ignore and we sought to gain a more nuanced understanding of the current Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We were fortunate enough to meet with Khaled Abu Toameh, a renowned Palestinian journalist living in the West Bank. As Josh Williams, MS2, commented, we did not “leave [the meeting] with any kind of a clear perspective, only lingering questions.” However, “the ability to ask more intelligent questions is a small step forward.”

On the medical front, the day-to-day reality of treating patients in a region of deep-seated conflict has sobering ramifications. One trauma surgeon shared with us the story of one of his patients who later attempted to return for a follow-up visit with bombs strapped to her. He simply shook his head and said, “I don’t understand it.” Another physician told us about the complexity of making medical decisions while taking the political reality into account. For instance, when deciding whether or not to discharge a patient, doctors must consider the risk of a patient getting checked at a border crossing, potentially prolonging the admission for ensuing care.

Though the Middle East is often portrayed as a region of struggle, destruction, and violence, we discovered a young country full of hopeful and inspiring stories. As future physicians, the universal message that health care is a human right resonated deeply. Jeanie Paik, MS1, reflected, “In the health care world, people come together regardless of religious perspective.” At Schneider Children’s Hospital, we heard a powerful story of how the death of a Jewish child resulted in a series of transplants to provide a Druze child, a Jewish child, and a Muslim child with critical organs. The juxtaposition of profound hope and commitment in a setting of perpetual violence made the determination of physicians to treat all patients to the best of their abilities all the more poignant.

In many ways, the trip was an affirmation of the many reasons we chose to dedicate ourselves to the practice of medicine. As Umar Khokhar, MS2, said, the unifying nature of medicine was “reassurance that we are in the right line of work.” When we visited a Bedouin clinic in the Negev desert, we spoke with two Muslim physicians, both trained in Italy, about the challenges of interfacing between modern health care and the traditions of a nomadic people. Though they had the opportunity of practicing elsewhere, both physicians returned to their homes to provide care for an overwhelmingly underserved community. They acknowledged the reality that doctors are often lured away by salaries in the United States, but many feel compelled to return home.

One pivotal experience was a discussion with a 16-year-old girl from Sderot, a town that has been the daily target of Hamas rockets for the past eight years. Her remarkable composure, despite living with constant fear, and her father’s concern for Palestinian friends in Gaza gave us much to think about. Upon returning to the US, we were troubled to hear of the war in Gaza and the escalation of violence in the beautiful land that we had just visited. Our thoughts were often with the wonderful people that we had the privilege of meeting during our trip. Through the heterogeneous faces that gave a personal voice to our rich experiences in Israel, we gained a profound appreciation of the restorative and unifying potential of medicine and the promise that peace can be found in the pursuit of healing.
A Legacy of Humanism: Student Service at Local Food Depository

By Mindy Schwartz, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine

Over the past 20 years, the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine has had an extraordinary commitment to humanism and helping those in the local community and beyond.

On January 17, 2009 a contingent of approximately 20 students and faculty from the University of Chicago continued this rich tradition as they packed food and supplies at the Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD) to help minimize hunger in our community. The entire event was spearheaded by Jami Rothe, MS4 and sponsored jointly by the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Honor Society and Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS). In addition to the students, faculty leaders included the 2008 GHHS Keynote Speaker, Dr. Michael Mendoza, and GHHS chapter advisor, Dr. Mindy Schwartz.

The student leadership solicited students to participate and also helped to arrange rides to the depository, located close to Midway Airport. To better help the students understand what they can personally do to help hunger related issues, Dr. Schwartz, Course Director for Nutrition in Medicine, gave a lecture on Hunger Poverty and What We Can Do About It.

The GCFD is a non-profit food bank supplying the Chicagoland area. Food banks are an essential part of the social safety net for those who are underserved, in addition to other government programs and supplemental food stamps. The economic downturn has led to a significant increase in the number of people needing such services. Food banks distribute food though a network of food pantries, soup kitchens, and homeless shelters. The food depository serves an astonishing 46 million pounds of food – the equivalent of more than 9500 meals. The organization is largely run by volunteers. More than 13,000 volunteers contribute the equivalent of 40 full-time staff. Volunteers do everything from packing trucks to assembling and repacking food to sorting produce. The University of Chicago contingent was one of 20 groups volunteering that day.

All who participated tremendously enjoyed the experience. It was an opportunity to make a tangible impact within the community and meet other volunteers from all walks of life and a variety of organizations. Those who participated in the food depository event unanimously agreed that the success of the day and the powerful feeling of improving the lives of those who live in our backyard and neighborhood were both exhilarating and immensely motivating.

Students Donate ECG to Community Health Clinic

By Andrew Phillips, MS2

The Community Health Clinic Pritzker student board recently donated a new electrocardiogram (ECG) device to the Community Health Clinic (CHC), a non-profit adult clinic in west Chicago that provides care to the medically uninsured. The students received grants from two University of Chicago organizations—the Community Service Center and the UCMC Office of Community Affairs—to fund the purchase. ECGs are important in diagnosing a myriad of conditions from heart attacks to heart failure. The new device will allow significantly faster and more accurate diagnoses for the more than 20,000 patients the CHC sees annually. “We are grateful for the University’s support, the remarkable services the CHC provides, and the dedicated faculty who make our care for the patients possible,” said Andrew Phillips, the MS2 CHC student board member who led the initiative. “It was a great team effort.”
Honors and Awards

Student Achievements

Students Chosen for AOA Medical Student Service Award

The Pritzker Community Service Fellowship (PCSF) and Asian Pacific Medical Student Association (APAMSA) have both received funding from the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. PCSF, which is led by MS4s Faraz Ahmad, Marissa DeFreitas, Christina Jarosch, and Jeffrey Eisen, received renewed support for its efforts to create continuity and opportunity for all those interested in community service. APAMSA will use the funds to educate the Chicagoland Asian community about the Hepatitis B disease and how it can be prevented. The project is led by Yiuka Leung, MS1.

Annie Dude, PhD, MS3, recently published a paper in the January 2009 edition of the International Journal of STD and AIDS entitled “General Hygiene, Sexual Risk Behavior, and HIV Prevalence in Truck Drivers from Andhra Pradesh, South India: Implications for Prevention Interventions.” This research, which was also presented at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting in October 2008, emanated from her research with Dr. John Schneider during the Summer Research Program in 2007. Annie also wrote on spousal intimate partner violence in Rwandan women that has been accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of the journal AIDS and Behavior.

Second-year Students to Have a Big Presence at the American Geriatrics Society Meeting

Melissa Fish received the 2009 Student Clinical Research Award at the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) for most outstanding research contribution by a student. She will present her research titled “Higher Quality of Care for Hospitalized Older Adults is Associated with Improved Survival One Year After Discharge” as an oral presentation at both the AGS Meeting later this spring and the Society of Hospital Medicine Meeting. Her work emanated from the research Melissa conducted with Vineet Arora, MD during the Summer Research Program.

Megan Prochaska will present her research “Association Between PCP Communication for Hospitalized Older Patients and Reported Complications after Discharge” as an oral presentation at the AGS Meeting. She will also give a poster presentation at the Society of Hospital Medicine Meeting. Megan investigated this topic during the Summer Research Program and was mentored by Drs. Jeannne Farnan and Vineet Arora.

Jeremy Wortman will present his poster on “Comparing the Effectiveness of Telephone and Palmtop Computer Based Experience Sampling Methods in Hospitalized General Medicine Patients,” while Julia Berian has a poster that will be included in the Presidential Poster Session portion of the meeting. Jeremy conducted his research on this topic with David Meltzer, MD, PhD during the 2008 Summer Research Program. Julia’s research, titled “Salivary Testosterone is Independently Associated with Gait Speed in a Nationally-Representative Sample: Data from the National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project (NSHAP),” was conducted with her mentor, William Dale, MD, PhD.

Second-year student Sean Pitroda has been working with Dr. Ralph Weichselbaum, Chair of the Department of Radiation and Cellular Oncology, throughout the past year on a cancer research project. They have discovered that targeting MUC1 transmembrane glycoprotein could be an effective strategy to block tamoxifen resistance in breast cancers. Sean is the first author of a paper that will be highlighted in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, entitled “MUC1-Induced Alterations In a Lipid Metabolic Gene Network Predict Response of Human Breast Cancers to Tamoxifen Treatment.”
Honors and Awards

Pritzker Representation at the AMWA Regional Conference
Numerous women from the Pritzker School of Medicine attended and presented posters at the American Medical Women’s Association Regional Conference held at UIC this past January. The conference, titled “The Gaping Hole in the Closing Gap: Women in Academic Medicine,” was co-organized by Tashera Perry, MS2. Dean Holly J. Humphrey, MD gave the keynote address.

Regina-Celeste Ahmad, MS4 and Jina Youn, MS2 both received awards for Best Poster Presentation at the conference. Regina-Celeste’s poster, entitled “The Ubiquitin-Modifying Enzyme A20 Regulates TCR Signaling and T Cell Function” emanated from her from PhD thesis research. Jina’s work stemmed from her master’s research and was titled, “Temporally Limited Role of Substantia Nigra-Central Amygdala Connections in Surprise-Induced Enhancement of Learning.”

Elaine Lin, MS3 has been listed as first author of a publication in the American Journal of Chinese Medicine entitled “Antioxidant Protection by American Ginseng in Pancreatic B-cells.” Her mentor for this project was Dr. Chun-Su Yuan, and her research emanates from work conducted as an undergraduate at University of Chicago Tang Center for Herbal Medicine Research.

Jami Rothe, MS4 received a Joseph E. Johnson Leadership Day Grant—one of just 8 grants that are awarded nationally to medical students—to attend the American College of Physicians (ACP) Leadership Day in May. She also organized the first annual Chicago Internal Medicine Student and Resident ACP Social in partnership with Imerman Angels, a one-on-one cancer support network.

Geoff Stetson, MS1 served as co-author for a paper published in the November issue of Biochemistry. The article, “Structural Basis of Substrate Recognition by Hematopoietic Tyrosine Phosphatase,” was a product of his undergraduate research at Brown University, which focused on x-ray crystallography structural analysis of Hematopoietic Protein Tyrosine Phosphatase (HePTP). Kaity Wallace, MS2 submitted an abstract to the 2009 International Anesthesia Research Society Meeting that was ultimately selected as one of the top 16. Her project, “Evaluation of the BIS Monitor as a Gauge of Post-Recovery,” emanated from her research with Dr. David Glick during the 2008 Summer Research Program. MS2 Jina Youn is the recipient of the American Academy of Neurology’s Sanofi-Aventis Award. The award serves to recognize students interested in pursuing a career in neurology who have a demonstrated commitment to serve underrepresented communities. Jina will travel to Seattle later this spring to accept that award at the Academy’s annual meeting.

MS2 Celine Goetz has been selected to a two-year term as the regional representative to the American College of Physicians (ACP) Council of Medical Students. Celine was also invited to be a part of the ACP Ethics, Professionalism, and Human Rights Committee.

*Correction: In the Winter 2009 issue of the Pritzker Pulse, we reported that three students participated in the North American Primary Care Research Group Meeting. We failed to mention the important contributions of Lucia Navar, MS3, who was the first author on the poster presentation “Point-of-Care Information Technology Use by Community Health Center Physicians” and who collaborated on the other research projects named.
Three MS1s Receive University Human Rights Internships

First-year students Jessica Beaman, Colleen Denny, and Geoff Stetson have all received Human Rights Internships from the University of Chicago to fund their summer service projects later this year. Geoff will be working with Drs. Sarah-Anne Schumann, Vineet Arora, and Kristine Bordenave on the Pritzker Summer Service Partnership, specifically working with the New Millennium School of Health to develop a sustainable partnership with the community based on service and community development. Colleen hopes to use this internship opportunity to learn about and work on the provision of women’s health care, particularly reproductive health care, in resource-poor areas of the world. She is currently looking into possible collaborations in South America or western Africa. Jessica will either be returning to Costa Rica to work on human rights law and policy with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and Government of Costa Rica or will be working in Havana, Cuba on issues including food sovereignty and systems of care.

Third-year student Ravi Bamba was the first author on a paper recently accepted for publication in The Laryngoscope. His article, “The Minor Salivary Gland Biopsy as a Diagnostic Tool for Sjogren’s Syndrome” is a retrospective review of lip biopsies performed at the University of Chicago for Sjogren’s Syndrome. This project was part of the 2007 Summer Research Program, which he completed with Elizabeth Blair, MD.

Ross Kessler, MS4, was awarded the recipient of the Mid-America Orthopaedic Association Physician in Training Award for his research on “Potential Use of Sox9-Transduced Mesenchymal Stem Cells in Articular Cartilage Repair.” He will present his work in a plenary session at the Association’s Annual Meeting later this spring. Ross’s research emanated from his Summer Research Program work with Drs. Sherwin Ho and T.C. He from the Section of Orthopaedic Surgery.

The Internal Medicine Interest Group was highlighted as the IMIG of the Month on the American College of Physicians website. Erin Cobain, Shashank Sinha, and Jami Rothe, all MS4s lead this group as Co-Directors. To read more about the groups endeavors for the 2008-09 academic year, visit the ACP website at www.acponline.org.
Ann DeBord Smith, MS4 authored an article that appeared in the March 2009 edition of the *International Journal of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology*. The paper, “Distal Esophageal Foreign Bodies: Is it a Common Occurrence Post-Fundoplication Requiring Immediate Intervention?” was undertaken to determine the occurrence of asymptomatic distal esophageal foreign bodies (DEFB) in children with post-fundoplication. Dana Suskind, MD was Ann’s mentor on this project.

Ann also plans to give an oral presentation at the *American Transplant Congress* in Boston, which will be held in June. The presentation, “The Markov Decision Process Can Help Maximize Benefits in Paired Kidney Donation,” stems from the ongoing research Ann has been conducting over the last year with Drs. Guiliano Testa & Robert Harland. She received the AOA Carolyn L. Kuckein Student Research Fellowship for 2008-2009 to conduct this research, and was awarded the 2008 Roche Presidential Student Mentor Award from the American Society of Transplant Surgeons.

**Society Photos**

![Society Broomball!](image)

![Coggeshalls hit the lanes](image)

![Coggeshalls having a ball at Lucky Strike](image)

![DeLee Society members share an Ethiopian dinner](image)

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**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!”