Dear Students, Alumni, Faculty, and Staff:

The writing of the Dean’s Corner column is a happy herald of autumn. New laptops, crisp autumn winds, boots crunching leaves, and wild geese that fly with the moon on their wings are just a few of the things replacing the throng of tourists that is Chicago in the summertime. Welcome, Class of 2016! We are happy you are through the application process, moved into your cozy new apartments, oriented, initiated, and settling into your new lives at Pritzker.

Meanwhile, the second-year students are gearing up to master the CPP&T course, third-years are getting the hang of things on the wards, and fourth-years are getting through yet another application process. And so the circle of Pritzker life triumphantly continues…

We are very honored to serve you as this year’s Pritzker Chiefs. Our job is to serve as liaisons between students and faculty. You will be hearing from us weekly through our “This Week at Pritzker” emails with upcoming events and meetings. We also connect students between classes by organizing social events, including a school-wide talent show this year! And in partnership with Peer Mentoring at Pritzker (PMAP), we will be putting underclassmen in touch with upperclassmen for peer mentorship.

We will be regularly meeting with each class throughout the year both on campus and up at NorthShore to talk about life, hear any concerns, and offer any support we can. We are really looking forward to getting to know you and are hoping you want to get to know us, too, so we can go to work for you!

Along with Dr. Humphrey, we will be leading the Pritzker Morning Report class in September, February, and March. This course provides opportunities for fourth-year students to learn from one another about interesting case reports as well as meaningful patient interactions. The February class will also be open to second-years interested in these dynamic learning sessions.

If you have any ideas on how we can make the Pritzker community even more enriching for us all, we would love to hear them. Please also feel free to bring any concerns to our attention – we’re here to help. Otherwise, here’s to a great year!

Your Pritzker Chiefs,

Gabe, Daniel and Jason
pritzkerchiefs@bsd.uchicago.edu
An Update on the Bucksbaum Institute for Clinical Excellence

By Angela Pace-Moody, Executive Administrator, Bucksbaum Institute for Clinical Excellence

The Bucksbaum Institute for Clinical Excellence at the University of Chicago was created in September 2011 to improve the doctor-patient relationship and communication in medicine. Thanks to a generous $42 million gift from the Matthew and Carolyn Bucksbaum Family Foundation, the Bucksbaum Institute hopes to elevate interest and promote research in improving the relationship patients have with their physicians.

The gift for the Bucksbaum Institute was inspired by the Bucksbaum’s own doctor-patient relationship with their physician Dr. Mark Siegler, the Lindy Bergman Distinguished Service Professor of Medicine and Surgery at the University of Chicago and Executive Director of the Bucksbaum Institute.

The Bucksbaum Institute achieves its mission by supporting the development of physicians at three stages: medical students, junior faculty, and senior clinicians. The goal of the Institute is to enhance the skills of physicians as advisers, counselors, and navigators to help patients make informed decisions.

Medical students and physicians trained at the Bucksbaum Institute will serve as role models in communication and shared decision-making. As an Institute Scholar, students and faculty participate in workshops, lectures, and symposium; they receive mentoring; and they receive financial support towards their academic studies and research.

Each year there is an application process for each scholar group. Within each scholar group, all applications are reviewed and a new class of scholars is selected. The Bucksbaum Student Scholar program helps support three new medical students a year as Bucksbaum Student Scholars, assisting them with tuition and fees from the second to the fourth year of medical school.

Our Student Scholars

In 2011, the Bucksbaum Institute selected three medical students as Student Scholars: Liese Pruitt, Alexander Ruby, and Jasmine Taylor, all current MS3s. Each of these students demonstrated a commitment to academic excellence as well as a keen interest in the doctor-patient relationship. During the first year as Bucksbaum Student Scholars, they have continued to focus on learning more about doctor-patient relationships and how to become excellent clinicians.

Pictured, from left to right: Dr. Matthew Sorrentino, Dr. Alex Langerman, Dr. Arthur Rubenstein, John Bucksbaum, Kay Bucksbaum, Alex Ruby, MS3, Dr. Mark Siegler, Dr. Jordan Cohen, Dr. Monica Peek, Dr. Laura Roberts, Dr. Holly Humphrey, Liese Pruitt, MS3, Jasmine Taylor, MS3, Dr. Kenneth Polonsky

By Angela Pace-Moody, Executive Administrator, Bucksbaum Institute for Clinical Excellence
Liese Pruitt, MS3

As a complement to her global health research on the cultural and social barriers to effective breast cancer care in southern Nigeria, Liese co-developed a new course, “Case Studies in Global Health,” as an interdisciplinary seminar at the University of Chicago taught by Drs. Brian Callender and Shatanu Nundy. She served as captain for the University of Chicago’s team at the Emory Global Health Case Competition, a competition that invites interdisciplinary teams to develop innovative solutions to real-world global health issues, in Atlanta, Georgia this past April. The case for this year’s competition involved designing an intervention for the country of Sri Lanka. The University of Chicago’s team presentation addressed the most pressing health needs in the country, which include malnutrition and mental illness due to decades of civil war, while taking into account lasting conflict and mistrust throughout the country. In May 2012, Liese returned to Nigeria for a month of follow-up research to continue her work on improving access to breast cancer care in the country. She interviewed community women and religious leaders about breast cancer awareness, misconceptions about breast cancer, and spiritual healing.

Alexander Ruby, MS3

This past year, Alex’s illustrated book for children—a project created with a team of his peers that combines information on the flu with beautifully rendered illustrations—was self-published with support from the University’s Arts | Science Graduate Collaboration Grants program. Additionally, he presented his research on the economic feasibility of an online adolescent depression prevention intervention at the Conference for the Pediatric Academic Societies in Boston in April. This past spring, Alex conducted research in collaboration with Dr. David Meltzer on care transitions to improve patient care.

Jasmine Taylor, MS3

Since the start of her tenure as a Bucksbaum Student Scholar, Jasmine completed an investigation of patient satisfaction amongst patients at a student-run clinic for homeless women and children. In addition, she presented at two national conferences in Missouri and California (the National Health Care for the Homeless Conference and Policy Symposium as well as the Society and Student-Run Free Clinics Conference). Jasmine also received the 2012 University of Chicago President’s Volunteer Service Award for dedication to the community and commitment to the welfare of others, as well as the Charles M. Ross Trust Fellowship, awarded to students who are committed to world service.
An Update on the Bucksbaum Institute for Clinical Excellence

Our Junior Faculty Scholars

The research and work of our Bucksbaum Institute Student Scholars are complemented by the wonderful clinical and research work being completed by our two Junior Faculty Scholars: Monica Peek, MD, MPH and Alexander Langerman, MD. Dr. Peek is an Assistant Professor in the Section of General Internal Medicine, where she provides clinical care, teaches, and conducts health services research in the area of health disparities with a particular focus on diabetes. Dr. Peek also investigates the development and evaluation of community-based, culturally-tailored interventions to promote healthy behaviors and preventive care, including women’s health (i.e. breast cancer screening), physical activity, and diabetes self-management.

Dr. Langerman is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery, where he specializes in the latest diagnostic, treatment, and surgical techniques for head, neck, and skull base disorders, cancers, and other tumors. He is also a trained specialist in robotic surgery. Dr. Langerman’s research interests include leading-edge techniques to treat head and neck cancer and decision-making in head and neck surgery. His additional research interests are doctor-patient relationships during multidisciplinary care, research and education in the operating room, and tissue banking and human tissue research.

Other Institute Activities

Since the Bucksbaum Institute was officially launched on September 22, 2011, the Institute has hosted ten events for our scholars as well as the larger University community. The Bucksbaum Institute programs bring together students and faculty at every level. At the first annual Bucksbaum Symposium on April 27, 2012, Dr. Sherwin Nuland, Clinical Professor of Surgery at the Yale School of Medicine delivered a brilliant lecture entitled “The True Healer.” Following the lecture, the two Junior Faculty Scholars and three Student Scholars presented their research, alongside a panel of medical experts including Dr. Laura Roberts and Dr. Jordan Cohen. Dr. Laura Roberts is the Katherine Dexter McCormick and Stanley McCormick Memorial Professor and Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University. Dr. Jordan Cohen is Professor of Medicine and Public Health at George Washington University, President Emeritus of the American Association of Medical Colleges, and Chairman of Academic Affairs at Morehouse School of Medicine. Dr. Roberts and Dr. Cohen are both members of the Bucksbaum Institute Advisory Board.

The Bucksbaum Institute is continuing to work on various ways to connect with students and faculty throughout the entire University campus. On August 8, 2012, the Bucksbaum Institute hosted a luncheon for the Pritzker School of Medicine incoming Class of 2016, where students and doctors discussed doctor-patient relationships. At the lunch, the first-year class was joined by Dr. Kenneth Polonsky, Dr. Holly J. Humphrey, Bucksbaum Institute Associate Director Dr. Matthew Sorrentino, Junior Faculty Scholars and Student Scholars, and seven Associate Junior Faculty Scholars.

A calendar of 2012-13 Bucksbaum events will be available on the Bucksbaum Institute’s website in October (http://bucksbauminstitute.uchicago.edu).

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### Application Highlights

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The Impact of a Mentor: The Inaugural John D. Arnold, MD’46 Scientific Research Prize

In honor and recognition of the inspiring relationship he developed with his research mentor Dr. John D. Arnold, Charles Pak, SB’58, MD’61 has made a gift to the Pritzker School of Medicine that will support fourth-year medical student research. Recipients of the award must demonstrate a strong and effective working relationship with a faculty mentor. Recently, Liese Pruitt, MS3 had the opportunity to speak with Dr. Pak about his first days as a research technician with Dr. Arnold, the importance of scholarship as a part of his career, and what he views as the keys to mentor-student success.

LP: How did you decide to work for Dr. Arnold?

CP: In the summer of 1955, I transferred to the College of the University of Chicago in the pre-med program after spending two years at Shimer College (Mt. Carroll, IL) in liberal arts. I desperately needed a job, since my scholarship from the University covered only tuition. In the midst of the Eisenhower depression, jobs were scarce. I was rescued by a call from a personnel officer at the University of Chicago “to rush over to see a very bright medical doctor” at Billings. That person happened to be Dr. John Arnold, who had just received a letter of reference about me from the Dean of Students at Shimer. The first question Dr. Arnold asked was whether I had worked with rabbits. I replied that I had raised them for a FFA project while growing up in Hawaii. I worked that summer as a technician preparing rabbits for kidney transplantation experiments of Dr. Arnold and his colleague Dr. George Block.

After that summer, I continued to work in Dr. Arnold’s laboratory as a technician for about 20 hours per week during college and medical school, and full-time during summer vacations. In the summer of 1957, before entering medical school, Dr. Arnold assigned me a research project of my own. Thus, working in Dr. Arnold’s laboratory during medical school not only gave me financial means to attend medical school but “hooked me” to a career in medical research.

LP: What was your mentoring relationship with Dr. Arnold like?

CP: At work, the relationship was strictly professional. However, we enjoyed a keen personal relationship. He acted in many respects like a “big brother” to me.

Once he appreciated my commitment and abilities, he assigned additional responsibilities to me. By the time I was given a special research project of my own, he treated me as a junior colleague. We reviewed the research results together and planned the future course of the project. He was willing to consider my input. Once we decided on a future course, he left me alone to implement them.

He encouraged me to pursue a career in medical research, scoffing at a popular notion at the time that such a career would be “out-of-reach” for an Asian without financial means.

LP: How did early exposure to research during medical school affect your career trajectory?

CP: I was bitten by the “research bug” while doing research in medical school. The turning point was just before Thanksgiving in 1957. For several months, I had worked hard but unsuccessfully to determine whether a monolayer of nucleohistone could detect the presence of a minute amount of lupus erythematosus factor in serum. All of a sudden, I had a breakthrough. I remember working constantly day and night through the holiday, checking one serum after another. That work resulted in my first
The Pritzker Pulse, Fall 2012

The Impact of a Mentor: The Inaugural John D. Arnold, MD’46 Scientific Research Prize


I still have a copy of the letter from the editor. “I was very much interested in reading your manuscript and feel that it deserves prompt publication,” the editor wrote. “The material is well presented, the manuscript provided adequate detail whilst being sufficiently concise.” The editor addressed me as a doctor before I received my medical degree!

In this research project on lupus, I first experienced the overwhelming feeling of exhilaration and fulfillment that comes from successful research. During the following five decades, I felt the same experience repeatedly over numerous projects, no matter their size or importance.

**LP:** What about Dr. Arnold made him an inspiring and memorable research mentor?

**CP:** Dr. Arnold was one of the brightest and most imaginative persons I have ever encountered in my medical career. He had multiple research ideas to explore. During the research process, he constantly exercised his fertile mind to seek explanations for the research findings and set the course for future research directions.

**LP:** What qualities in mentor-student relationships do you feel are key for success?

**CP:** Bilateral commitment, with the mentor willing to teach and the student willing to learn. The mentor should have the expertise and resources, as well as time, to offer the student. The student should not only have an interest in the chosen area of research, but a commitment to work hard.

**LP:** What things did you learn from Dr. Arnold or from working for him that you have taken forward into your career?

**CP:** Be imaginative. Constantly seek explanations for various questions or problems. Be happy and excited while exploring new ideas and research.

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**Congratulations to the recipients of the inaugural John D. Arnold, MD’46 Scientific Research Prize!**

We look forward to honoring the following students and their mentors during the 2013 Senior Scientific Session.

**STUDENT:** Nikita Alexiades, MS4  
**MENTOR:** Maciej Lesniak, MD  
**PROJECT:** An evaluation of the role of the VEGFR2 receptor in neural stem cell tumor tropism.

**STUDENT:** Clifton Brock, MS4  
**MENTOR:** Suzanne Conzen, MD  
**PROJECT:** An exploration of the glucocorticoid’s role in molecular pathways involved in diabetes and insulin resistance.

**STUDENT:** Jasmine Swaniker, MS4  
**MENTOR:** David Glick, MD  
**PROJECT:** An exploration of the handling and use frequency of anesthetic syringes to determine if there is a relationship between syringe exposure and likelihood of contamination.
Time off for research? Nah, not even considering it!” Those were my exact thoughts many years ago when entering Pritzker. But along the way, with the amazing exposure and opportunities Pritzker provides, I became addicted to the world of research.

Through shadowing in the Section of Neurosurgery during my first year, I met a neurosurgeon, Dr. Baktiar Yamini, who made a lasting impression on me. He was a kind and caring physician who was devoted to his patients and to providing them with the most advanced and skilled medicine available. He was a scientist who was dedicated to running a prolific basic science laboratory that had a strong bench-to-bedside mentality. He was a teacher who was committed to being involved in his students’ day-to-day education and to being available on a daily basis for support and input. It made the decision to join his lab a “no-brainer.”

Four years later, after completing the Summer Research Program, an HHMI year, and a combined HHMI and Pritzker Fellowship year, I am excited at how our research has progressed. The research has largely focused on elucidating the role of nuclear factor-κB1 (NF-κB1, p50) in the response of malignant gliomas to the alkylating agent temozolomide (TMZ), the most commonly used chemotherapeutic agent in glioma therapy. Previous findings in the lab proved that p50 is necessary for TMZ-induced killing. As NF-κB is a transcription factor, we hypothesized that a loss of p50 modulates the downstream gene expression profile in a manner that confers resistance to TMZ. Our data has identified several genes that are dysregulated when p50 levels are depleted. We further hypothesized that modulation of these genes might improve the cytotoxic effects of TMZ. Currently in the lab, si-loaded nanoparticles with the specific genes elucidated in our gene profile are being delivered to gliomas. Our hope is that by providing directed knockdown of these specific genes, we may be able to enhance the efficacy of TMZ treatment.

Four years ago I was hesitant about taking a break in my formal medical education for research. I had never participated in research full-time, I was unsure of what role basic science research would play in my future career, and I was concerned I would find the research to be perfunctory and slow-paced. However, my experience was anything but mundane. I found the day-to-day life in the lab to be challenging, exciting, and downright fun. Being engaged in a research project that shifted from a basic science focus to a translational focus demonstrated that a future career in neurosurgery can be complemented by laboratory research. Having a dedicated and involved mentor like Dr. Yamini, a physician who has successfully integrated research into his neurosurgical practice, has demonstrated that a future in neuro-oncology research as a practicing physician-scientist is a career path I wish to pursue.

The past four years in Dr. Yamini’s lab have been an unforgettable adventure and I am extremely grateful for the Pritzker Fellowship that allowed me to continue research in Dr. Yamini’s laboratory.
The Class of 2015 embraced the opportunity to dig into scholarship and service projects this summer, as a combined 73 students participated in the Summer Service Partnership and the NIH-sponsored Summer Research Program.

Now in its fourth year, the Summer Service Partnership (SSP) has become an invaluable experience not only for Pritzker medical students, but also for students from the College and area high schools as they collectively work to address the most pervasive needs of their respective South Side communities. With faculty oversight provided by Dr. Kohar Jones and staff support from Sujata Mehta, Eileen Wayte, and Shewanna Wackman, SSP participants experienced another exciting summer of meaningful service and activities.

The Annual Pritzker Summer Research Program (SRP), funded in part by the NHLBI, NIDDK, and NIA, allowed students to work closely with faculty mentors across the clinical, translational, and basic sciences. Thanks in large part to the continued guidance of Drs. Vineet Arora, David Boone, Eugene Chang, and V. Leo Towle, the SRP often gives students a platform for ongoing research and a chance to present and publish their work on a national level.

After presenting their work to a panel of faculty judges, the following students were awarded for their excellence at the SRP closing ceremony, held on August 24, 2012:

**The Joseph B. Kirsner Research Award for Excellence**

**Richard Schroeder**

MENTOR: Eric Beyer, MD, PhD

*A Mutant Connexin50 Protein Impairs Organelle Degradation in the Mouse Lens*

**The Sigma Xi Award for Impact on Society**

**Philip Carullo**

MENTOR: Daniel Sulmasy, MD, PhD

*Adding Insult to Injury: Delays in Death Certificate Completion by Physicians*

**The Brain Research Foundation Award for Neuroscience**

**Claire Shappell**

MENTOR: Jeffrey Frank, MD

*Variability in Approaches to Brain Death Determination: A Review of 226 Brain Dead Organ Donors*

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**Summer Service Partnership Teams**

**Team Woodlawn**

Addressed the issue of: *Bullying*

**Team South Chicago**

Addressed the issue of: *Teen Pregnancy*

**Team Greater Grand Crossing**

Addressed the issue of: *Building Neighborhood Relationships*
Overall Excellence in Scientific Quality, Content and Ability to Respond to Questions in the Performance of Research in Clinical Science

Lara Delamater
MENTOR: Funmi Olopade, MD
Evaluation of Parent to Offspring Communication of Hereditary Breast Cancer Risk

Rishi Pandya
MENTOR: John Schneider, MD, MPH
Anthropometrics and Structural Position Within a Men Who Have Sex with Men Network

Brian Thurber
MENTOR: Siri Greeley, MD, PhD
KCNJ11-Related Neonatal Diabetes Diagnosis and Treatment

Overall Excellence in Scientific Quality, Content and Ability to Respond to Questions in the Performance of Research in Basic Science

Kyle Ericson
MENTOR: Stephen Archer, MD
PGC-1α is Deficient in Pulmonary Hypertension and is Associated with Decreased Anti-proliferative Mitochondrial Protein Expression

Alexandra Garnett
MENTOR: Michael Spiotto, MD, PhD
Punctuated Mutational Events Drive Cellular Transformation

Ramin Morshed
MENTOR: Maciej Lesniak, MD
Neural Stem Cells Loaded with Doxorubicin-conjugated Mesoporous Silica Nanoparticles: A Novel Approach in the Treatment of Malignant Brain Cancer

Honorable Mention for Excellence

Noura Choudhury
MENTOR: Kathleen Goss, PhD
Wnt Pathway Activation Alters the in Vitro Therapeutic Response of Triple-Negative Breast Cancer

Camil Correia
MENTOR: William Meadow, MD, PhD
Serial Predictions of Mortality and Discordance Among Clinical Caregivers in the Medical Intensive Care Unit

Michael Hayes
MENTOR: Stephen Hanauer, MD
Effect of Concomitant Immunosuppressant Use on Infliximab Therapy in Ulcerative Colitis

Amy Kaufman
MENTOR: Peter O’Donnell, MD
Assessment of the Pharmacogenomic Evidence of Cardiovascular Drugs for Clinical Implementation

Ellis Kim
MENTOR: Eric Beyer, MD, PhD
Differential Effects of Lysophosphatidylserine and Thrombin on Endothelial Connexin Channels

Paras Patel
MENTOR: Jayant Pinto, MD
Utility of Quantitative Imaging Data as a Biomarker in Chronic Rhinosinusitis?

Jack Peace
MENTOR: Dana Edelson, MD
Tablet-Based Cardiac Arrest Documentation: A Pilot Study

Robert Sanchez
MENTOR: Monica Peek, MD, MPH
Shared Decision-Making Preferences and Behaviors among Hispanic and non-Hispanic White Patients with Diabetes

Emily Stockert
MENTOR: Alexander Langerman, MD
Assessing the Magnitude and Costs of Intra-operative Inefficiencies Attributable to Surgical Instrument Trays
The incoming Class of 2016 participated in the first-ever Orientation Day of Service on Saturday, August 4, 2012. Working in their just-revealed anatomy lab groups, more than 70 first-year students provided much needed service to four sites in the surrounding community.

Days of Service are quarterly events organized by the Pritzker Community Service Fellowship (PCSF) that involve students volunteering on a Saturday at partner sites in the community. This spring, PCSF proposed the idea of holding a Day of Service during Orientation as a way for incoming students to immediately engage with Pritzker's surrounding neighborhoods. The idea was met with enthusiasm and support from the Student Orientation Committee, and throughout the summer, the MS2 Day of Service Planning Committee (Kate Adkins, Tom Couri, Amy Kaufman, Claire Naus, Joanna Perdomo, and Alisha Ranadive) worked with Dr. Shalini Reddy and Dr. Kohar Jones to plan a meaningful and fun event.

The Day of Service began with excitement as the Class of 2016 used their nametags to simultaneously discover their service site and their anatomy lab group. The newly formed groups then settled into a lecture hall for an impactful opening address by Mr. Rudy Nimocks, Director of Community Partnerships for the University and former head of the University of Chicago Police Department, and his wife, Mrs. Joyce Nimocks. The Nimockses have lived in Woodlawn for more than sixty years and are well-respected community leaders and activists who spearhead many initiatives such as the Woodlawn Children's Promise Community, an organization that aims to improve children's lives largely through education reform. The Nimockses shared their incredible work and encouraged all in the room to engage in service, not just for one afternoon, but throughout the next four years as medical students and beyond as physicians.

Inspired by their words, students engaged in their first service events as Pritzker students. At the Ronald McDonald House, students helped clean and organize indoor and outdoor spaces. Lots of mopping, changing lightbulbs, hauling boxes, and helping with other fix-up projects took place at the historic First Presbyterian Church in Woodlawn. Students helped weed and clear the ground for new plants at the Excellent Services Soup Kitchen in Washington Park. Finally, at Su Casa, a shelter for women and children who have been affected by domestic violence, students worked to tidy rooms so that new families could move in.

The afternoon concluded with a group reflection back on campus. Emily Barlett, MS1 recounted, “The Day of Service was a great addition to the Orientation schedule! It was a wonderful opportunity to learn about some of the community organizations in the area, as well as a fun way to get to know other Pritzkerites better before classes got underway.”

At the close of the Orientation Day of Service, more than 140 collective hours of service had been provided, new community partnerships had been formed, and nearly 20 anatomy lab groups had begun to bond, providing a successful foundation for what is the first of hopefully many more Orientation Days of Service to come!
The Pritzker community enthusiastically welcomed the 88 members of the Class of 2016 to its ranks during the White Coat Ceremony, held on Sunday, August 5, 2012 at Rockefeller Memorial Chapel.

The annual event marks the day when students are formally presented with their white coats, each by their respective career advisor, and are feted by their family and friends alongside their peers and teachers.

**Dr. Farr Curlin**, Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, delivered the keynote speech. In his address, Dr. Curlin recounted his experiences conducting mission work, noting that the work of a doctor can often play a very powerful part in a person’s life. In addition, he urged the students to view their service as a physician to be a vocation – a calling.

*We once again extend our warmest welcome to the Class of 2016 – we are so glad you are here!*
**HONORS AND AWARDS**

**Student Achievements**

**ABBY CUTLER, MS4** has been awarded the **American Medical Association’s Physicians of Tomorrow Scholarship**. As one of just 18 students in the country to receive this award, and one of four to be selected for support from the Hammond fund, which supports medical journalism, the award acknowledges Abby’s promise as a future physician.

**AMANDA GAWIN, MS4** recently received a **Great Lakes Scholarship**, awarded by the Great Lakes National Scholarship Program. The program strives to support students in science, technology, engineering, or math with the goal of helping to “change lives for the better through higher education.”

**ELISE MADRID, MS2** participated in the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) Midwest Annual Conference, which took place in Chicago earlier this year. At the meeting, Elise presented a poster and received **3rd place for the LMSA Research Symposium** for her investigation of “Breastfeeding Disparities and Opportunities for Improvement Nationally and Locally.” This project emanated from her work during the **Health Care Disparities in America** course, under the direction of **Dr. Monica Vela**.

**TESS MURRAY, MS3** served as first author of “The Symptom Experience of Community-Dwelling Persons With Dementia: Self and Caregiver Report and Comparison With Standardized Symptom Assessment Measures.” The publication appeared in the April 2012 issue of **American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry**. The research is an expansion of her final Summer Research Program (SRP) manuscript. In addition to being published, the article was also selected by the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine as one of five articles to be included in the electronic publication, **PC-FACS** (Fast Article Critical Summaries for Clinicians in Palliative Care). Each month, **PC-FACS** “provides hospice and palliative care clinicians with concise summaries of the most important findings from more than 100 medical and scientific journals.” Tess was mentored by **Dr. Joseph Shega**.

**KUNMI SOBOWALE, MS3** and **A. NING ZHOU, MS3** were awarded the **Minority Medical Student Travel Scholarship** to attend the American Psychological Association’s Institute on Psychiatric Services (IPS) meeting, taking place in New York this October. The IPS meeting is an inter-professional meeting with a predominant focus on community and public mental health and substance use issues, and provides top-notch scientific and policy presentations.
**JASMINE TAYLOR, MS3** was selected to receive the 2012 President's Volunteer Service Award as a part of the University of Chicago Student Leader Awards. Jasmine was selected from amongst a group of both undergraduate and graduate students for this award. The President’s Volunteer Service Award recognizes those students who have “demonstrated a superior commitment to service in the greater community during the past academic year.” Jasmine was one of only two students in the entire University chosen to receive the award.

TARAK TRIVEDI, MS4 received the Benjamin H. Kean Traveling Fellowship in Tropical Medicine to support a research project he proposed, entitled “Effects of FUT2 Secretor Status on the Susceptibility to Norovirus and Rotavirus Gastroenteritis in Ecuador.” The project was initiated during a trip to Ecuador during Tarak’s year at the CDC. While there, Tarak and his mentor had the idea to conduct the study using an already-recruited cohort of patients.

Tarak also received the Kaiser Permanente Northern California Scholarship, which recognizes achievements in the area of population-based research. Tarak was presented with the award at Kaiser Permanente Northern California’s Graduate Medical Education Open House in September.

After participating in the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) National Conference in Boston earlier this year, **KIARA TULLA, MS2** was awarded 2nd place for the LMSA Conference Poster Session. The poster, entitled “South Side Historians: Resiliency in a Chicago Community,” describes a video-documented oral history that Kiara and her classmates gathered and created as a part of the Health Care Disparities in America course, under the direction of Dr. Monica Vela.

**ASHLEY VACHON, MS2** presented a poster of her work during the Digestive Diseases Week 2012 Conference in San Diego in May. Her research, entitled “Patient Perception of Fecal Microbiota Transplantation for Ulcerative Colitis,” emanated from her SRP project and is a continuation of Ashley’s Scholarship and Discovery work. She was mentored by Dr. David Rubin.

**JOSH WILLIAMS, MS4** was acknowledged in Papua New Guinea’s national newspaper, The Post Courier. As a recipient of a Global Health Scholarship, Josh traveled to remote Papua New Guinea to do a seven-week international health service elective at Rumginae Hospital. The article documents a dramatic story of a pregnant woman whose baby arrived prematurely. Thanks in part to Josh’s help, both the woman and the baby survived.
Students Present Scholarship at the SGIM Annual Meeting

Pritzker delivered an impressive showing at this year’s Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM) Annual Meeting as seven current Pritzker students presented their work during the May conference held in Orlando.

Congrats to all!

**MARIE ADACHI, MS3**
Perceived Control and Sleep in Hospitalized Adults: A Sound Hypothesis? – Abstract

**ANTHONY ASPESI, MS3**
IBCD: Effectiveness and Sustainability of a Checklist to Improve Quality of Care for Hospitalized General Medical Patients – Poster Abstract

**SABA BERHIE, MS3**
Faculty Development Utilizing Educational Video-Based Scenarios and Evaluative Instruments for Handoff Communication – Abstract

**KEVIN CHOO, MS4**
When Do Supervising Physicians Decide to Trust Residents with Unsupervised Tasks? A Qualitative Study – Abstract

**EMILY LU, MS3**
Assessing Organizational Readiness for Quality Improvement in a General Internal Medicine Faculty Practice – Poster Abstract

**KATIE RAFFEL, MS4**
A New Model of Retention for Health Education/Behavioral Interventions: Urban African-Americans in Diabetes Empowerment Program – Abstract

**MADELEINE SHAPIRO, MS3**
More than Meets the Eye: Measuring the Dual Risks of Low Health Literacy and Poor Vision for Hospitalized General Medicine Patients – Poster Abstract
We welcome all those who have “joined” the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine family throughout the past months. Congratulations to all!

Charlotte Mei Brock
Born on June 19, 2012
To Amy Laude and Clifton Brock, MS4

Lucy Jane Ferguson
Born on July 25, 2012
To Abbie and Ben Ferguson, PhD, MS4

Aiden August Molinski
Born on August 17, 2012
To Michael Molinski and Lauren Hensley, MS4

Shamsideen Musa, MS, MS4 and Christine Henry
Married on April 7, 2012
Livingston, New Jersey

Diana and Shawn Patel, MS4
Married on May 19, 2012
Morton, Illinois

Asad Qadir, MS3 and Samira Saifi
Married on June 2, 2012
Albany, New York

Noah Kazantsev
Born on December 11, 2011
To Andrey and Stephanie Kazantsev, MS2
Faculty Accolades

Kohar Jones, MD

Dr. Kohar Jones, Director of Community Health and Service Learning, will be participating as a panelist at the 2012 Schweitzer Leadership Conference. The meeting will take place in November in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Share your good news!

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!”

If you would like to share weddings or births with your fellow Pritzker students, email Caroline Kraft (ckraft@bsd.uchicago.edu).

Calendar of Events

**OCTOBER**
- 2 | MS4 Meeting #3: Interviewing for Residency
- 10 | Deans’ Brown Bag
- 21-24 | LCME Site Visit

**NOVEMBER**
- 5 | MS1 Service of Gratitude

**JANUARY**
- 2 | MS3 Winter Class Meeting
- 22 | MS4 Meeting #4: Preparing your Rank List

For their workshop presented during the SGIM Annual Meeting in Orlando this May, **Drs. Amber Pincavage** and **Wei Wei Lee** were awarded one of the competitive **David E. Rogers Junior Faculty Workshop Awards**. The award is given to “junior faculty for workshops judged the most outstanding among those presented at the 2012 Annual Meeting.” Drs. Pincavage and Lee presented on “Transforming Resident Continuity Clinic Year-End Handoffs: Risks & Opportunities.” Both faculty members are MERITS alumni who have received grants from the Academy of Distinguished Medical Educators and from the Bucksbaum Institute for Clinical Excellence to support their work.