Remembering Katie Karas

On April 4, 2014, the Pritzker community suffered a tremendous loss with the death of one of our second-year medical students, Katie Karas. Katie had battled cancer in 2004 and again in 2011. In January of this year, she learned that the cancer had returned and at that time she entered palliative care.

As we are a small community here at Pritzker, such a loss reverberates throughout our members. Each student selected to be one of the 88 in each matriculating class represents a unique person who has the potential to contribute to Pritzker in very specific and very powerful ways. Katie Karas was such a person. As a Phi Beta Kappa graduate from Dartmouth, Katie was an English major and an outstanding and sensitive writer. Her dexterity with the nuances of language made her not only an extraordinary communicator, but also an adept listener. She was actively engaged at every moment and fully attentive, be it while sitting in lecture, participating in the Childhood Cancer Survivors Study, serving her community through the Pritzker Community Service Fellowship, or encouraging and supporting her classmates as a team player at the Pritzker Formal or Orientation. She was a warm, eloquent, deeply generous student whom we all miss.

These specific traits and talents that each member of our community possesses enrich the collective learning experience; the shared qualities that our students possess also help them form powerful bonds amongst one another. Katie embodied these uniting traits of innate curiosity, a commitment to service, and a lifelong pursuit of achieving excellence.

As a patient dealing with the ebb and flow of cancer, Katie developed tremendous empathy for those in a vulnerable state due to the commanding presence of disease. As her classmates and peers, our students learned how to outwardly help an ailing friend, as well as when to more quietly observe the gravity of the situation. We, as a community, have learned from Katie. In her classmates and in our memories, Katie's legacy – both through her unique qualities and through the qualities she shared with her Pritzker peers – will continue.

Holly J. Humphrey, MD’83, MACP
Ralph W. Gerard Professor in Medicine
Dean for Medical Education

What's Inside?

- 2014 Pritzker Poetry Contest
- Match Day 2014
- Chief Resident Round-Up
The Pritzker Poetry Contest: Words of Compassion Serve to Inspire

The Pritzker Poetry Contest, now in its third year, serves as a forum for all members of the University of Chicago community who are involved in patient care to share not only their creative talents, but – even more importantly – their spirit of compassion. Through their eloquent observations, presented in both six-word format or in open form, participants have the opportunity to inspire humanism in medicine.

The contest is sponsored by Dr. Rama Jager in conjunction with University Retina and Macula Associates (a private retinal practice founded by Dr. Jager). The contest was proposed by Dr. Jager and organized in 2012 by two then-senior medical students at the University of Chicago, Rebecca Levine, MD’12 and Margaret Nolan, MD’12.

This year’s winners, selected after two rounds of judging, received prize monies ranging from $250 to $1000 and formal recognition at the 2014 Bucksbaum Symposium, held on Friday, April 25, 2014.

To read all of the finalists’ poems, please visit the Pritzker Poetry Website: http://bit.ly/1omKtIe

We thank all who participated in this year’s contest; your words serve as an ongoing source of inspiration for compassionate patient care.

First Place

By Jasmine Dowell, MD’11
Pediatrics Resident

Dropped Beats
“A broken heart divided, leaves two”

(A pediatric resident observes the mourning parents of an infant with congenital heart defect)

Second Place

By Marc Robinson, MD
Internal Medicine Resident

Solace
“Falling snow blankets her heart’s ruins.”

(Snow began to fall as a patient passed in the ICU, providing a beautiful moment for the patient’s devastated wife)
First Place

By Alexandra Garnett, MS3
Pritzker School of Medicine

A Name
I ask her for her full name and the year that she was born,
I ask her where she lives and who resides at home,
I ask about her current health, of aching joints and belly pains,
I ask about her diet and the food that fuels her veins.
I ask of juvenile ailments, though she struggles to recall,
I ask about her parents’ death: At what age? And how?
I ask of sordid details from a youth gone past –
Times long forgotten, buried and forgiven, by most but not us.

I ask of her travels, her employment, and her sleep,
And bit-by-bit she offers up these pieces of her life
Because a body’s secrets are no longer hers to keep,
Now portions of a record, scribed by a stranger’s pen.
I smile politely and turn to leave, our encounter at its end,
But at the door I take pause, as something in me stirs.
I catch her eye and offer up one brief beholden look,
For it seems strange that in exchange for everything I took,
The only thing I’ve shared with her is a name she’d not quite heard.

Second Place

By Wei Wei Lee, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine

This Is Just to Say
I have felt
the thrill
that flutters in
your chest
and which
you were probably
hoping
was just nerves
Forgive me
my voice trembles
unsteady as
I start to speak

(This poem is based on the William Carlos Williams poem of the same title)
Match Day 2014: Members of the Graduating Class Enter a Bittersweet Time of Transition

By Alan Schurle, MS4

Match Day is arguably the capstone event of medical school and, like all such ceremonies signifying growth and transition, it is bittersweet. It can represent the culmination of nearly four years of work – sleepless nights spent studying, a first correct diagnosis or perfect suture, empowering a person to manage their health – or it can underscore a culmination of the time, money, and effort spent on interviews. It can represent a dispersion of friends to the nation’s geographic extremities with the hope that friendships endure the distance. Simultaneously, it portends the creation of new relationships. It unquestionably represents change, an end to the formative time of medical school. And, more than anything, it is nerve-wracking.

Certainly worldwide, where in 2014 roughly half of international medical graduates did not match, the day is filled with trepidation. While we at Pritzker are incredibly fortunate in myriad ways (94.4% of US seniors matched successfully this year), we weren’t separate from this global community of nervous, excited fourth-year medical students. Some of us, having received calls or emails from effusive program directors, worried about matching at our number one choice; others, pursuing an exceedingly competitive field while simultaneously applying to back-up residencies, contemplated the contingency of finding a wholly different career path inside the envelope; and a few, told we had been “ranked to match” at our top choice, strove to shake the thoughts that mistakes had been made or false assurances given.

In short, it was into a crackling atmosphere of excitement, nerves, and matching t-shirts on Friday, March 21, 2014 that Dr. Holly Humphrey, Dean for Medical Education, spoke her famous words: “The Class of 2014 is 100% matched!” The packed lecture hall erupted with cheers from students, faculty, and family members alike. Match Day facts aimed at soothing the masses replaced the slide show assembled from four years’ worth of group photos as Dr. Humphrey gracefully continued distracting the room from the impending revelation. That difficult job began with our own Pritzker Chiefs, Vanessa Rivas-Lopez, Sean Swearingen, and Nick Ludmer. The trio provided an ooh- and ahh-filled “name that baby” presentation of fellow students’ old photos as well as teaching the assembly a Match Day dance, replete with hip thrusting and fist pumping.

After Dr. Humphrey finished, Dr. H. Barrett Fromme began distributing the envelopes in her trademark no-nonsense style. In between calling names, she reminded the crowd of the cash prize awaiting the last student summoned – a bag of crumpled dollar bills donated by everyone in attendance. Rebecca Kaiser was the fortunate recipient of the money and, with that, the countdown to envelope opening began.
Whatever else can be said about the enigmatic computer algorithm at the helm of Match Day, it does a decent job – 54% of US medical graduates matched at their first choice this year. Time and perspective will be necessary to definitively judge each result of the 2014 Match, for not everyone in the auditorium that morning was immediately ecstatic. Overall, however, the 101 members of the Pritzker Class of 2014 did marvelously. The most popular fields accounted for nearly half of the graduates and included Internal Medicine (25), Anesthesiology (10), and Pediatrics (10). The location of categorical and advanced programs was decidedly skewed towards the Midwest, but the East and West Coast drew their fair share. The top institutions included the University of Chicago (19), the University of California San Francisco (6), Brigham and Women's Hospital (4), Vanderbilt University (4), the University of California Los Angeles (3), Yale (3), Massachusetts General Hospital (3), Barnes-Jewish Hospital (3), New York University (3), the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (3), the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (3), and the University of Wisconsin (3).

From San Diego to Boston, Miami to Seattle, and everywhere in between, my class and I know where we’re headed next year. For all of us, the shock of Match Day has since worn off and a new type of nervous anticipation is taking hold – that of facing the realities and responsibilities of daily patient care. We have, however, been vetted by a rigorous, four-year process, and the faculty and clinicians at Pritzker have deemed us ready.

We are.

\textit{Congratulations to the Class of 2014 and best of luck to everyone next year as we begin the next great adventure of residency!}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIALTY</th>
<th># OF STUDENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internal Medicine, Categorical</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anesthesiology</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Surgery</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Medicine</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Medicine</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>Psychiatry</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harvard-affiliated hospitals</td>
<td>MA</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beth Israel Deaconess Med Center (1)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Brigham and Women's Hospital (4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Massachusetts General Hospital (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>UC San Francisco</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanderbilt University Medical Center</td>
<td>TN</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wash. Univ. in St. Louis-affiliated hospitals</td>
<td>MO</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barnes-Jewish Hospital (3)</td>
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<td>St. Louis Children's Hospital (1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York University School of Medicine</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics</td>
<td>WI</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Pittsburgh Medical Center</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yale-New Haven Hospital</td>
<td>CT</td>
<td>3</td>
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As interns, we hear that our experience is a universal one. Indeed, the passage above is nearly 50 years old and could have been lifted straight out of my personal journal.

Lauded as the first inside account of modern medical and hospital practice, *Intern* is an anonymously published week-by-week diary of a medical resident’s first year on the job. Though dated at times, the book is a poignant, validating, and scarily accurate portrayal of a resident’s first months as a physician. (This is especially true if read in step with one’s own intern year, an exercise I highly recommend!)

Much like third year of medical school (or a Dickensian novel, for that matter), intern year can only be described as the best and worst of times. Within weeks of setting foot in the hospital, you might perform your first cesarean section from start to finish, deliver a baby “in the caul,” and learn to respond when someone calls for a doctor. In that same first month, you’d invariably make countless errors, embarrass yourself daily, and more than once fall asleep post-call in your bathtub. And on your very worst day, you might lose a patient on the operating table and seriously question whether you’d be able to get up in the morning and do it all over again. But you would.

Reflecting on the last 12 months, I wince at some memories and take pride in others. But mostly I am humbled to realize just how much of the past year I have spent sharing profound moments with people who were once perfect strangers, whose names and faces may fade with time but whose significance will endure. Intern year is necessarily difficult, but with it come so many instances of growth and countless small victories: That time you correctly ordered the antibiotics without anyone’s help. That time your medical student thanked you for teaching her something new. That time your patient insisted on taking a photograph of you holding her newborn. That time you felt like a doctor.

Of course, such meaningful experiences are not exclusive to the first year of residency; most of us pursue this work in the hopes of filling a lifetime with them. But internship provides a space for the most formative and intense of those encounters – they are precious to doctors-in-training not just because they stand as proof of our professional progress, but because they remind us that we were present in our patients’ lives and they in ours. A book like *Intern* speaks to that timeless truth, which is why its words are as relevant today as they will be half a century from now.

So much can happen in a year. I miss many things about medical school – my classmates and mentors top the list, just above Hyde Park Produce and swimming at the Point. It’s almost impossible to believe that a Spring ago I was basking in that blissful interlude between Match Day and graduation, vaguely nervous about what was to come but too happy to spend much time thinking about it.

And in retrospect, I wouldn’t have changed a thing – except maybe to lift my chin higher and open my arms wider in the face of the terrible, wonderful, and downright remarkable year that stretches on and on forever until, quite suddenly, it ends.
**MN:** How did you decide to enter the medicine?

**DW:** I had no medical people in my family. During my undergraduate time at Rice, I flirted with physics, English, and engineering before settling into biology. I applied to medical school and then got a call from the dean here about my interest in joining the medical program at the University of Chicago. One of things that inspired me to come to Chicago was that the University of Chicago had a great Economics department, and I wanted to fix the healthcare system. I learned that the problem was more political than economic, but came away with my MBA. That’s part of the reason I pursued dermatology: to have the flexibility to pursue business and administration. However, I truly understood how much I enjoyed taking care of patients during residency. Afterwards, as Director of the Dermatology Clinic at the University, I found I loved teaching both residents and students.

**MN:** Can you tell us a little bit more about your time with the Alumni Association?

**DW:** I think our current leadership is as good as it’s ever been, and that’s what makes being an alum so fun. One of my efforts was engaging alumni with the students more. I was part of the team that engendered a shadowing program to link students with practicing alumni. I’ve enjoyed that the Alumni Council is a more inclusive and connected body than when I joined, and it’s fun to be a part of its success.

**MN:** Do you have any advice for students seeking mentorship?

**DW:** Once you know what you want to do, you have to find the best [in the field]. Most of them [at the University of Chicago] would be good, and they would tell you who they think is doing important work. All of the best clinically have always sought out the best to train with. Keep going, don’t stop, train as hard as you can.

**MN:** Do you have any advice for students interested in dual-degree programs, e. g. the MD-MBA?

**DW:** Don’t just do it because it sounds like a good idea to have on your CV. Do it because you have a vision for yourself and this degree.

**MN:** Since this is the Graduation issue of the *Pritzker Pulse*, any final insights for graduating medical students?

**DW:** Plan on giving back as soon as possible! Understandably, the residency period is busy and proximal to medical school, but your contribution doesn’t have to be financial; it could be time, mentorship, or expertise. You’ll have a lot of fun in the process.
To be selected as a chief resident is a tremendous honor, suggesting the high regard in which a resident is held within his or her residency program. We are always thrilled to learn the news of our recent graduates assuming such leadership roles, and we celebrate alongside them in their accomplishments, be they across the University of Chicago campus or across the country. This year, the following alumni were reported – from the graduates themselves – as being selected to serve as a chief resident in their respective residency programs.

Congratulations to all!

2012-2013 CHIEF RESIDENTS

MEGHAN CONNETT, MD'10
University of Iowa
Family Medicine

CHARLOTTE-PAIGE ROLLE, MD’10
Internal Medicine
Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital

JOE WILLIAMS, MD'10
Emergency Medicine
Madigan Army Medical Center

JOSEPH YANTA, MD'10
Emergency Medicine
University of Pittsburgh

2013-2014 CHIEF RESIDENTS

MARKUS BOOS, PHD’08, MD’10
Dermatology
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

DAVID HWANG, MD'11
Pathology
Brigham and Women's Hospital

STEVE KAHN, MD’10
Dermatology
University of Illinois

KATHLEEN KASTNER, MD’10
Pediatrics
University of Chicago

JACKY (KEHLER) KRUSER, MD’10
Internal Medicine
University of Wisconsin

ROHIT PURANIK, MD’10
Anesthesiology
Maine Medical Center
2014-2015 CHIEF RESIDENTS

SEAN BARNES, MD’10
Combined Anesthesiology & Pediatrics
Johns Hopkins

BRANDY BLACKWELL-FORD, MD’11
Pediatrics
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital

AHMED CHAUDHARY, MD’10
Radiation and Cellular Oncology
University of Chicago

MICHELLE MARTINCHEK, MD’12
Internal Medicine
University of Chicago

MAUREEN WILLCOX, MD’12
Internal Medicine
University of Chicago

NANCY WANG, MD’11
Neurology
Brigham and Women’s Hospital and MGH

2015-2016 CHIEF RESIDENTS

PAT LYONS, MD’12
Internal Medicine
University of Chicago

MICHELLE MARTINCHEK, MD’12
Internal Medicine
University of Chicago

MAUREEN WILLCOX, MD’12
Internal Medicine
University of Chicago
Dr. Monica Vela Wins National Recognition for Commitment to Diversity in Medicine

Congratulations to Monica Vela, MD’93 who received the 2014 Herbert W. Nickens Minority Health and Representation in Medicine Award from the Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM) on April 25, 2014 during the Society's Annual Meeting. The Nickens Award recognizes “exceptional commitment to cultural diversity in medicine.” The award is named in memory and honor of the late Dr. Herbert W. Nickens, former Director of the Office of Minority Health, Department of Health and Human Services and the first Vice President and Director of the American Association of Medical Colleges’ (AAMC) Division of Community and Minority Programs.

As Associate Dean for Multicultural Affairs at the Pritzker School of Medicine, Dr. Vela is one of our institution’s most ardent supporters of minority medical students. Dr. Holly J. Humphrey, Dean for Medical Education, notes, “…it remains the personal connection between student and teacher that is at the heart of medical education and which will always be the most powerful strategy in broadening the diversity of the physician population. Dr. Vela's ability to foster such connections is unparalleled.”

Dr. Vela's remarkable work in encouraging and inspiring diversity in medicine encompasses multiple facets of medical education, as well as learners across the continuum. One of her most noteworthy accomplishments has been the development of the Health Care Disparities: Equity and Advocacy course. This is a unique experiential program that all first-year Pritzker students attend during the summer quarter to help further their understanding of the disparities that many populations experience in health outcomes or health care access. Past participants in the course have developed remarkable initiatives such as Mission Nutrition and the Pritzker Mammography Access Partnership, making a tremendous impact on our local community. The course bolstered the Pritzker School of Medicine's stature as a national model for teaching about the impact of health care disparities; many students cite the class as positively influencing their decision to attend Pritzker, and a qualitative study revealed that the course contributes to a cultural climate supportive of minority medical students. Dr. Vela has chaired the SGIM’s national Health Disparities Education Subcommittee and has traveled across the country to share her innovative work broadly through scholarship, publications, and presentations. She was listed as an expert in diversity in medicine in a recent US Supreme Court writ.

In addition to her teaching and mentoring activities related to medical students, Dr. Vela has also made meaningful contributions to the development of minority high school students interested in science and medicine through her oversight of Pritzker’s pipeline programs. The Chicago Academic Medicine Program (CAMP) II is an eight-week commuter program through which students learn to conduct primary research in a laboratory with a University of Chicago faculty mentor, in turn gaining a fundamental understanding of the ethics of research, the basics of biostatistics, and the conduct of biomedical research. Dr. Vela also helped to develop a new pipeline model that addresses obstacles faced by young students who are underrepresented in medicine: Science socialization, Educational endowments, Acquiring materials, Leveraging networks, and Social expectations (SEALS).

Dr. Vela is champion for reducing health care disparities and possesses both the inspiring personality to motivate others to pursue this worthy cause, as well as the shrewd insight to tackle the issue with precise action. We applaud her efforts and thank her for all that she has contributed to the Pritzker School of Medicine.
**Student Achievements**

**DARA ADAMS, MS2** presented her work titled “A Missed Opportunity to Improve Patient Satisfaction? Patient Perceptions of Inpatient Communication with their Primary Care Physician” at the 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Geriatrics Society in Orlando, FL this May and received an AGS Top 25 Abstract Student Travel Stipend related to this project. This scholarship was related to work completed under the guidance of Dr. Vineet Arora.

**OMAR AHMED, MS4** presented his poster titled “Mucositis Severity in Predicting False-Positive FDG-PET Scans Post Chemoradiotherapy in Head and Neck Cancer Patients” at the Multi-Disciplinary Head and Neck Symposium in Scottsdale, AZ this April. This scholarship was related to work completed under the guidance of Dr. Alexander Langerman.

**HASENIN AL-KHERSAN, MS1** was accepted to the Fellowship at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics – Medical Program. FASPE is an intensive two-week fellowship program that examines the roles of physicians in Nazi Germany and during the Holocaust, underscoring how the moral codes that govern the medical profession can break down or be distorted. The program’s integrated approach includes historical, medical, philosophical, and literary sources; survivor testimony; and onsite workshops in Germany and Poland.

**KENNETH BARSHOP, MS2** presented his poster titled “Small Bowel Rather than Gastric Motility Parameters Correlate with Gastroparesis Cardinal Symptoms Index (GCSI) in Gastroparesis Patients” at the Digestive Disease Week in Chicago this May. This scholarship was related to SRP work completed under the guidance of Dr. David Rubin.

**EMILY BARTLETT, MS2** presented her poster titled “Quality Assessment at the Maternal and Child Health Hospital, Kumasi, Ghana” at the Consortium of Universities for Global Health in Washington, DC this May. This scholarship was related to S&D work completed under the guidance of Dr. Sola Olopade.

**CRAIG BROWN, MS2** presented his oral presentation titled “Predicting Regression in Barretts Esophagus - Results from a Retrospective Cohort of 1342 Patients” at the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons 2014 Meeting in Salt Lake City, UT this April. This scholarship was related to SRP work completed under the guidance of Dr. Michael Ujiki.

**Caitlin Chicoine, MS2** presented her poster titled “Prognostic Variables During the Trial of Therapy for ELBW Infants: HUS, Clinical Intuitions and Duration of Ventilation” at the Pediatric Academic Societies and Asian Society for Pediatric Research Joint Meeting in Vancouver this May. This scholarship was related to SRP work completed under the guidance of Dr. William Meadow.
HONORS AND AWARDS

CASSANDRA FRITZ, MS4 presented her oral presentation titled “SEALS: A Process and Intermediate Outcome Evaluation of an Innovative Pipeline Curriculum” at the Society of General Internal Medicine Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA this April.

KIMBERLY CLINITE, MS4 presented two posters titled “Investigation of First Year Medical Students Career Preferences” and “What Does a Good Lifestyle Mean to You? A Qualitative Analysis of First Year Medical Students’ Views” at the Society of General Internal Medicine Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA this April. This scholarship was related to SRP work completed under the guidance of Dr. Shalini Reddy.

SARAH FEENSTRA, MS2 presented her poster titled “Comparison of a Portable Novel Cardiovascular Assessment Device Against Echocardiographic Assessment in a Rural Bangladesh Population” at the Consortium of Universities for Global Health in Washington, DC this May. This scholarship was related to SRP work completed under the guidance of Dr. Habibul Ahsan.

CASSANDRA FRITZ, MS4 presented her oral presentation titled “SEALS: A Process and Intermediate Outcome Evaluation of an Innovative Pipeline Curriculum” at the Society of General Internal Medicine Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA this April.

KARLA GARCIA-HUERTA, MS1 and KATE KINASZ, MSI were each awarded the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship. The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship is dedicated to developing a pipeline of emerging professionals who enter the workforce with the skills and commitment necessary to address unmet health needs. The Chicago Schweitzer Fellows Program is a one-year interdisciplinary, mentored fellowship program focused on health-related community service and leadership development. Kate was also accepted to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Summer Medical Student Fellowship Program.

ANDREW GOLDEN, MS2 presented his oral presentation titled “The Development of a Longitudinal Curriculum for Calling Consults” at the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine Annual Meeting in Dallas, TX this May. This scholarship was related to work completed under the guidance of Dr. Keme Carter. Andrew was also appointed the OSR Liaison to the Careers in Medicine Advisory Committee by the AAMC Organization of Student Representatives (OSR) Administrative Board.

Noura Choudhury, MS3 and Sahi Denduluri, MS3 have been selected to receive the 2014-15 Pritzker Fellowship to support their scholarly endeavors. This award provides financial support to select students who choose to pursue a one-year research project, international experience, or a community service opportunity. Noura will be working on “The Role of Tumor-infiltrating Lymphocytes in Predicting Sensitivity to Chemotherapy in Locally Advanced Esophageal Adenocarcinoma.” Her work will be conducted with faculty mentor Yusuke Nakamura, MD, PhD. Sahi’s project is titled “Inhibiting Insulin-like Growth Factor 1 Receptor (IGF-1R) Signaling Using Dominant Negative Mutants: a Novel Approach to the Treatment of Osteosarcoma.” He will be working with faculty mentor Dr. Hue Luu. Sahi has also been selected to receive funding through the Alpha Omega Alpha Carolyn L. Kuckein Student Research Fellowship for this project.

Students Selected for 2014-2015 Pritzker Fellowships

Noura Choudhury, MS3
Sahi Denduluri, MS3

Noura Choudhury, MS3
Sahi Denduluri, MS3

Sarah Feenstra, MS2

Karla Garcia-Huerta, MS1

Kate Kinasz, MSI

Andrew Golden, MS2

Kimberly Clinite, MS4

Sar Feenstra, MS2

Karla Garcia-Huerta, MS1

Kate Kinasz, MSI

Andrew Golden, MS2
DOMINIC HARRIS, MS4 was the first author of a cross-sectional study using data from the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project Kids’ Inpatient Database titled “Inpatient Database to Evaluate Risk Factors for Venous Thromboembolism in Children with Traumatic Brain Injury” in the *Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics*. This scholarship was related to work completed under the guidance of Dr. Sandi Lam. Dominic is also the first author of a review article on the use of synthetic materials in alloplastic cranioplasty titled “History of Synthetic Materials in Alloplastic Cranioplasty” published in *Neurosurgical Focus* this April. This work was done in collaboration with Abigail Fong, MS2.

JUSTIN HELLMAN, MS3 presented his poster titled “Simfield: A computer Simulated Visual Field Test to Screen for Glaucoma” at the *Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology Annual Meeting* in Orlando, FL this May. This scholarship was related to work completed under the guidance of Dr. Susan Ksiazek. Justin also presented his oral presentation titled “The Role of the Plastic Surgeon in Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy of Internal Mammary Nodes: A Case Report and Review of the Literature” at the *Midwest Association of Plastic Surgeons Annual Meeting* in Chicago this May. This scholarship was related to S&D work completed under the guidance of Dr. Julie Park.

CLIFFORD HSIEH, MS2 presented his oral presentation titled “Yearly Burden of Skin Cancer in Non-Caucasian and Caucasian Solid-organ Transplant Recipients” at the *Annual Skin of Color Society Symposium* in Denver, CO this March. This scholarship was related to SRP work completed under the guidance of Dr. Arlene Ruiz de Luzuriaga.

ROBERT KULWIN, MS4 presented his oral presentation titled “Factors Affecting Wound Healing Complication Rates in the Anterior Thigh” at the *American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Meeting* in New Orleans, LA this March. This scholarship was related to S&D work completed under the guidance of Dr. Rex Haydon.

LAUREN HOBBS, MS2 presented her poster titled “Summer Service Partnership Peace Party in People’s Park: Revitalizing Community Spaces for Violence Reduction and Prevention” at the *Community-Campus Partnerships for Health International Conference* in Chicago this May. This project was related to work completed under the guidance of Dr. Kohar Jones.

ASHWIN KOTWAL, MS4 presented his poster titled “Cancer Screening Behaviors Among Spouses in a Nationally Representative Sample” at the *American Society for Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting* in Chicago this June. Ashwin also presented his poster titled “Spousal Influence on Colon Cancer Screening in a Nationally Representative Sample of Older Couples” at the *American Geriatrics Society Annual Meeting* in Orlando this May. This scholarship was related to SRP work completed under the guidance of Dr. William Dale.
HONORS AND AWARDS

TALIA SHEAR, MS2 presented her oral presentation titled “Training Future Physicians to Address Intimate Partner Violence: A Public Health And Primary Care Priority” at the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX this May. This project was related to work completed under the guidance of Dr. Sonia Oyola.

GABRIELLE LIU, MS2 presented her poster titled “Utility of Optical Coherence Tomography Measurements as a Biomarker for Systemic Lupus Erythematosus With or Without Neuropsychiatric Symptoms” at the American Academy of Neurology Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA this April. This scholarship was related to SRP work completed under the guidance of Dr. Jacqueline Bernard.

JOSEPH LAMPLIT, MS4 presented a poster and an oral presentation titled “Aseptic Protocol Decreases Surgical Site Infections Following Hip Arthroplasty” and “Aseptic Protocol Decreases Surgical Site Infections Following Knee Arthroplasty” at the Mid-America Orthopaedic Association Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX this April. This scholarship was related to work completed under the guidance of Dr. Hue Luu.

JOSE MORALES, MS2 presented his poster titled “De-efferented Motor Cortex Provides a Viable Source of Neural Activity Command Signals for Centrally-Implanted Brain Machine Interfaces” at the American Academy of Neurology Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA this April. This scholarship was related to work completed under the guidance of Dr. Nicholas Hatsopoulos. José received one of 40 Medical Student Scholarships to attend the annual meeting.

NOAH SCHWARTZ, MS2 presented his oral presentation titled “Sleep-disordered Breathing in Three Resource-limited Settings: Prevalence, Risk Factors, and Comorbidity with Other Chronic Diseases” at the Global Health & Innovation Conference in New Haven, CT this April. This scholarship was related to S&D work completed under the guidance of Dr. Babak Mokhlesi.

TALIA SHEAR, MS2 presented her oral presentation titled “Training Future Physicians to Address Intimate Partner Violence: A Public Health And Primary Care Priority” at the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX this May. This project was related to work completed under the guidance of Dr. Sonia Oyola.

CHRISTOPHER SMYRE, MS2 presented his poster titled “Limits and Responsibilities of Physicians Addressing Spiritual Suffering in Terminally Ill Patients” at the American College of Physicians National Conference in Orlando, FL this April. This scholarship was related to work completed under the guidance of Dr. John Yoon.

PRITZKER STUDENT NAMED 2014 PAUL & DAISY SOROS FELLOW

RAMYA PARAMESWARAN, MS2 received the 2014 Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans. This prestigious and highly sought after award recognizes one of the most important factors in American society – the extraordinary contributions and achievements of immigrants to American life.

KATHRYN SULLIVAN, MS2 presented her poster titled “A Pilot Study of Auditory Function in Adults in the Setting of Chronic Arsenic Exposure via Drinking Water in Bangladesh” at the Consortium of Universities for Global Health in Washington, DC this May. This scholarship was related to SRP work completed under the guidance of Dr. Habibul Ahsan.
ADAM WEINER, MS2 was awarded the Herbert Brendler, MD Summer Medical Student Fellowship. This fellowship is awarded to students based on the quality of their research proposal and demonstrated commitment to a career in urology disease research. He was awarded this fellowship to fund his Scholarship & Discovery project entitled “Initial Management Patterns for Localized Prostate Cancer Using Contemporary Population-based Data from the National Cancer Database.”

Adam was also the first author of a research letter titled “Ongoing Gleason Grade Migration in Localized Prostate Cancer and Implications for Use of Active Surveillance” recently accepted to be published in European Urology. Adam also presented his two presentations titled “Trends in Management of Low-Risk Prostate Cancer in the United States: A Population-Based Analysis” and “Ongoing Gleason Grade Migration in Localized Prostate Cancer and Implications for Use of Active Surveillance” at the American Urological Association Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL this May. These projects were related to work completed under the guidance of Dr. Scott Eggener.

Finally, Adam published the case report “Dual Metastases in Advanced Prostate Cancer: A Case Report and Review of the Literature” as the first author. The article appeared in the most recent issue of Current Urology using work he started during his undergraduate studies at a cancer hospital in Madrid.

GARRICK TALMAGE, MS2 presented his poster titled “Effects of Natalizumab on Cognition and Neurodegeneration in Relapsing-Remitting Multiple Sclerosis” at the American Academy of Neurology Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA this April. This scholarship was related to SRP work completed under the guidance of Dr. Jacqueline Bernard.

HELIO ZAPATA, MS4 presented his poster titled “Lay Health Leaders’ Experiences Leading a Church-based Diabetes Self-management Intervention for Latinos” at the Society of General Internal Medicine Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA this April. This scholarship was related to SRP work completed under the guidance of Dr. Arshiya Baig.

LISA SUN, MS4 presented her poster titled “Keep Up or Else! Nationwide Trends in SCIP Performance from 2008-2012” at the International Anesthesia Research Society in Montreal this May. This scholarship was related to work completed under the guidance of Dr. David Glick.

NATHANIEL WILSON, MS2 presented his poster titled “Water and Sanitation in Ghana: A Framework for Success” at the Consortium of Universities for Global Health held in Washington, DC this May. This scholarship was related to work completed under the guidance of Dr. Sola Olopade.

NISHA WADHWA, MS2 won the prestigious Presidential Trainee Award at the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (ASCPT) Annual Meeting this past March. This was in recognition for her work done as part of “The 1200 Patients Project” in the research group of Dr. Peter H. O’Donnell. Nisha’s winning abstract was entitled “Clinical Impact of an On-Demand Genomic Prescribing System (GPS) for Pharmacogenomic (PGx) Results Delivery.”

NING ZHOU, MS4 presented his poster titled “Mindfulness Practice in Clinical Care: the Impact of a Fourth-Year Medical School Elective on Subsequent Residency and Clinical Practice” at the Annual International Scientific Conference Investigating and Integrating Mindfulness in Medicine, Health Care, and Society in Boston, MA this April. This scholarship was related to work completed under the guidance of Dr. Arthur Hoffman.
**Faculty Awards**

**DR. LOLITA ALKUREISHI** and **DR. WEI WEI LEE** were awarded the **Exemplary Innovation Poster Award** at the **Council of Medical Student Education in Pediatrics Annual Meeting** for their work titled “A Novel Curriculum to Teach Patient-Centered Electronic Medical Record Use.” They also received a **Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine Small Grants Award** for $4,500 for their patient-centered EMR project, which is an outgrowth of their work in the the MERITS Fellowship program.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

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.

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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 Rebecca Silverman (rsilverman@bsd.uchicago.edu).

**Calendar of Events**

**MAY**
- 28 Senior Skit
- 30 Divisional Academic Hooding Ceremony

**JUNE**
- 14 University Convocation
- 18-20 Introduction to the Clinical Biennium
- 19 Student Clinician Ceremony
- 30 MS4 Class Meeting #1: Residency Application Overview

**JULY**
- 22 MS4 Class Meeting #2: ERAS Overview

**AUGUST**
- 7 Orientation begins
- 10 White Coat Ceremony
- 26-28 Summer Research Program Research Forum