



the pulse

The Brown Medical School Student Affairs Newsletter

 Vol. 23 No. 5
 February 2006

A Word from the Dean



Last November I had the great pleasure of making my first trip to Tougaloo College, a historically black college near Jackson, Mississippi with which Brown has a long and proud history.

Tougaloo College is a private, co-educational, liberal arts institution located on the northern edge of the city of Jackson, Mississippi. Launched in 1869 by the American Missionary Association, Tougaloo College was chartered on the pledge that it "be accessible to all irrespective of their religious tenets, and conducted on the most liberal principles for the benefit of our citizens in general."

In the 1960s, activists from Brown traveled to Tougaloo to help with the civil rights effort, and to lend support to the then financially struggling College. Since 1964, the two institutions have enjoyed a formal partnership involving reciprocal faculty and student exchanges. In addition, the Early Identification Program (EIP) has, since 1975, guaranteed promising sophomores from Tougaloo a place at Brown Medical School consequent to obtaining their bachelor's degree. This latter initiative, undertaken by BMS's first dean, Dr. Stanley M. Aronson, has withstood the test of time. It was in this context that Tougaloo College conferred upon Dr. Aronson an honorary degree in recognition of his visionary leadership.



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Medical Student Affairs

Philip Gruppuso

Associate Dean for Medical Education

Over the last two months, there has been considerable activity in a number of areas relating to student affairs and curriculum. In the area of curriculum planning, a key event has been the development and endorsement of a plan to reorganize the MD Curriculum Committee. The purpose of doing this was to reformulate the committee to suit the curriculum design process. The new committee will include student representatives and standing committee heads, as in the past. Three at-large committee members will be designated. The remaining members will be the heads of the seven curriculum design working groups, which will focus on curriculum content, assessment, Doctoring, information technology, teaching excellence, scholarly tracks and the PLME. I am not yet able to formally announce the heads of these groups, although Dean Adashi has taken their identification under consideration and, in several cases, is poised to appoint individuals to these positions.

I am in the process of working with student leadership and Executive Dean Deeley to develop a financial and administrative structure for the funding of student travel, activities and programs. We will not have this structure in place soon enough to administer funding for this semester. I have told Student Senate President Neel Shah that an interim ad hoc arrangement whereby student requests are brought to my attention and considered as they arise is the best solution to temporarily assure that students are not adversely affected by the transition.

Working with Alex Morang and Alicia Monroe, I am in the early stages of a process aimed at improving the career advising that the medical school provides during both the pre-clinical and clinical years. I have heard a clear consensus that the counseling and crisis advising available to students is accessible and effective. I have also heard from students that they are not receiving the information they need to embark on and pursue careers in specific disciplines. A committee of students has been brought together. Alex, Alicia and I will work with them as the semester progresses with a goal of having a well developed program in place by the start of the 2006-2007 academic year. In the meantime, I strongly urge students to contact me directly with career counseling requests or suggestions. Through my long tenure at Brown, I have developed personal relationships with faculty in most if not all departments, and I would be pleased to help students make the kind of connections they want and need.

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Student Affairs

Alexandra Morang
Director

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday season.

MD Class of 2008: In early March we will offer a series of meetings to help you plan your third-year schedule. The first meeting will be a Core Clerkship Information Meeting. All of the clerkship coordinators will be on hand to discuss each clerkship, the third-year curriculum, and clerkship assignments. Next, a panel of third and fourth-year students will discuss third-year planning and share their clerkship experiences with you. Finally, we will have a Clerkship Lottery Information Meeting. A guide to the clinical years will be distributed and timelines will be discussed. Please watch your email for further details, dates and times.

Class of 2007: An informative meeting will be held for your class on Wednesday, February 22nd at the BioMed Center-Rm. 202 to discuss fourth-year options and planning, including away rotations, longitudinals and subinternships and to answer questions about the lottery and timing of residency applications. Dinner will be available at 5:00 p.m. with the meeting beginning promptly at 5:30 p.m. In addition, a few fourth-year students will be on-hand to share their perspectives, offer advice, and engage in an informal discussion of the goals of the fourth year. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

Class of 2006: Welcome back from all of your interview travels! Don't forget the absolute deadline to certify your match list is February 22nd at 9:00 p.m. The address is nrmp.aamc.org. Click on Main Match Registrants and then click on Applicant Sign On. Best wishes for a successful match!

Curriculum Affairs

Dick Dollase
Director

Dean Gruppuso reported at a recent Medical Curriculum Committee meeting that the following students have been appointed to a number of working groups that will redesign the medical school curriculum: Curriculum Content and Organization Working Group student representatives are Jennifer Kim, MD, PhD and Liz Won, '07; Doctoring Working Group student representatives are Sophia Califano, '09 and David Elson, '09; Assessment Working Group student representatives are Christina Cinelli, '08 and Christina Ronai, '08; and Scholarly Emphasis Working Group student representatives are Josh Honeyman, '07 and Rajeev Chaudhry, '09.

An email was sent to the Class of 2009 soliciting applicants for summer employment opportunities. Up to four positions will be available for this coming summer working on the curriculum redesign. Students in these positions will be provided a \$3,500 stipend. Interested students should contact Dean Gruppuso at Philip_Gruppuso@brown.edu.

Dean Gruppuso will also be sending a letter to the faculty inviting interested campus-based and clinical-based faculty to join the working groups.

Admissions and Financial Aid

Kathy Baer
Director

Welcome back everyone! We hope that you had a wonderful break.

We are busy processing applications for admission for the Fall 2006 entering class. We have received nearly 2,700 applications for admission through the new standard route of admission. Approximately 300 applicants have been invited to interview at Brown, and from that group we anticipate that 15 to 20 candidates will be selected for the class of 2010. We are so grateful to those of you who have given generously of your time to meet with applicants during the interview day, guide them through tours of the hospital, host them in your homes, or otherwise serve as resources to them throughout the application process.

Along those lines, we are excited to announce that a new Student Hosting Program is available to applicants. This program is made possible through the commitment of current BMS students who volunteer to serve as overnight hosts for applicants visiting BMS for their interviews. If you would like to participate in this program, please contact the Student Host Ambassador, Cliff Voigt, at Clifford_Voigt@Brown.edu.

focus on the future

Focus on the Future: Careers in Emergency Medicine

A discussion with emergency medicine doctors will include such topics as the type of person who might seek out their specialty as a profession; the pathway to gaining a residency in their specialty; and considering professional development opportunities along the way to make yourself more competitive in gaining a residency slot.

February 1, 2006
5:30pm in Eddy Auditorium

We are planning a "Second Look" program on Friday, April 28 for candidates who have been offered admission to BMS for the 2006 class. This event provides candidates with an opportunity for a more in-depth exploration of BMS before they have to make their final med school acceptance decision. To help us plan the agenda for this event, we held a focus group session on January 19 with several first-year students who shared candid and helpful insights regarding their early experiences here. If you were not able to attend the focus group and you would like to provide feedback or suggestions, please email Susan Browne (Susan_Browne@brown.edu).

Financial Aid News

As you may know, every seven years the Federal government reauthorizes the law governing the administration of Federal financial aid programs, which include Federal student loans. This law is known as the Higher Education Act (HEA). Congress is now in the final stages of reauthorizing the HEA, with July 1, 2006 as the likely effective date. We want you to be aware of several proposed changes that are pertinent to medical students:

- The formula for determining a family's financial need may change, resulting in a reduction in the assessed student contribution.
- The interest rate structure on Federal Stafford loans may change from a variable rate (currently at 4.7%) to a fixed rate of 6.8%.
- Federal Consolidation loans also would change from a variable rate to a fixed rate of 6.8%.
- The annual borrowing limit in the Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loan Program would increase by \$2,000 (though the aggregate borrowing limit would not be increased proportionally).

Another related development is the status of financial aid programs administered by the Department of Health and Human Services, specifically the Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS)

Program. I am pleased to report that Congress has spared this program and appropriated level funding for the upcoming year. We will be notified in June regarding Brown's share of this funding, and at this point we are cautiously optimistic that our allocation will remain at the current year level.

We will continue to monitor all of these issues, especially the changes related to interest rates. In all likelihood, we will recommend that you consolidate your existing Stafford loans at the current 4.7% rate prior to July 1 in order to retain that rate permanently. Please be assured that we will offer workshops this spring to give you comprehensive guidance on this issue. Announcements will be sent via your class listserv, so please stay tuned.

Financial Wellness Workshop II:

We will be offering a tax workshop, the second program in our financial wellness series, in February, tentatively on the 17th, from noon to 1 p.m. in the BMC, Room 202. We encourage all medical school students to participate. The program will offer specific tips for preparing your federal tax return, including who should file a return, which tax form is appropriate for you and which education-related tax benefits you may claim. Tax planning strategies for the future will also be covered. Confirmation of the event will follow, so please watch for announcements.

2006-2007 Financial Aid Applications:

It's time to apply for financial aid again! Each year that you wish to be considered for financial aid, you must apply anew. With that in mind, the 2006-2007 Financial Aid Information Guide and Application Forms will be available in PDF format on our website in early February along with the links for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), Need Access and other forms. For the first time, please note that our office will not mail the hard copy version. Instead, the 2006-2007 guide and application

february calendar

- February 1
Focus on the Future: Emergency Medicine.
- February 2
Medical Student Senate
BMC 202 at 7:30pm
- February 7
MD'09: Exam in Bio 158
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- February 10
"Time to Pull the Plug on Substituted Judgement?"
RIH George Auditorium, 12:00-1:00p.m.
- February 13
12th Annual Simon Lecture & Forum
Andrews Dining Hall, 5:30p.m.
- February 14
MD'08: Special GI Lectures
10:00a.m.-3:00p.m.
- February 16
Women in Medicine Winter Gathering
RISD Museum, 5:30-7:00p.m.
- February 18-21
Long Weekend-No class
- February 20-21
MD'08: Reading Days
- February 22
MD'07 Discussion of 4th-year options
BMC 202, 5:00p.m.
- February 22
MD'08: Integrated Exam
BMC 202, 9:00a.m.-12:00p.m.
- February 23-26
Long Weekend - No Class
- February 23
MMS & MD/PhD Workshop
- February 27
Endocrine & Nutrition Section Begins

opportunities

AMSA six-week summer fellowship programs: End of Life Care Fellowship, June 19-July 28, 2006. Application deadline: April 10, 2006. Washington Health Policy Fellowship Program, June 19-July 28, 2006. Application deadline April 10 2006. Complementary and Alternative Medicine LTP, June 18-23, 2006. Application deadline: April 7, 2006. Primary Care LTP. Learning from Each Other: Cultural Competency in Medicine and Dentistry. Additional information available in February online. The Paul Ambrose Health Promotion Student Leadership Symposium, June 22-25, 2006. For application deadline visit www.atpm.org. National Primary Care Week, Addressing Health Disparities: Healing the Nation. October 15-21, 2006. For further information and applications on all programs, students should refer to www.amsa.org. If you have question contact joan_h@amsa.org or (703) 620-6000 ext. 208.

Order and Disorder in the Social Brain: Twelfth Annual Wisconsin Symposium on Emotion, April 27-28, 2006. Featuring work of seven of the world's leading scientists in this expanding and diverse field. Symposium Fellowship Award, includes cash stipend, accommodations at a Madison Hotel, and waiver of registration fee. Deadline to apply for fellowship: February 24, 2006. To apply log on to www.healthemotions.org and click on 2006 Symposium Fellowship.

The Coler Goldwater Specialty Hospital & Nursing Facility is offering a six-week summer multi-specialty/ multidisciplinary externship from July 11-August 18, 2006. The goals of the program include acquiring an understanding of chronic illnesses and interdisciplinary team approach that is required to care for people with chronic illnesses. Free board and lodging provided at the hospital. Apply by May 9, 2006. For additional info contact Harvey Jolt, Ph.D. at (212) 318-4082 or Harvey.Jolt@nychhc.org

The American Dermatologic Association is pleased to announce its 2006 Medical Student Fellowship Program offering a \$700 monthly stipend for a maximum of three months. Awards to start June 1, 2006. Preference given to applicants seeking to

work in a department or division of dermatology. Application deadline: April 15, 2006. For additional information contact ameriderm1876@aol.com or (914) 923-8540

Call for Posters! Rhode Island Showcase: Cutting-edge Medical Technologies, Biotech Research & Discovery. February 16, 2006. Open to researchers from universities and/or hospitals, students, and new ventures in the medical or biotech field. To learn more visit www.brownforum.org or contact Victoria_Barbata@Brown.edu or (401) 863-3523. Abstract deadline is February 13, 2006.

The Center of Alcohol Studies, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, is pleased to announce that Scaife Family Foundation Fellowships are available for students enrolled in medical schools in the United States to attend the one-week Institute of Alcohol and Drug Studies (July 9-14, 2006). Fellowships will cover tuition, room and meals, and a \$400 stipend. Application deadline is June 16, 2006. For additional information contact (732) 445-4317 or collinsj@rci.rutgers.edu or visit <http://alcoholstudies.rutgers.edu>

The Wellsford and Mildred Clark Medical Memorial Scholarship, established to provide scholarships for third-year medical students entering their fourth-year of medical school, is currently accepting applications. Applicants must be residents of Connecticut for five years. For additional information contact (860) 243-3977 or email pdarby@ssmgt.com.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2006 Summer Research Program for Medical Students, May 30-August 4, 2006 at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas. The purpose of the Program is to provide participants with firsthand biomedical research experience in the basic or clinical sciences. Participants in the program receive a stipend of \$3,000 for the 10-week period. Applications due by February 6, 2006. To learn more contact (713) 745-1205 or mahearn@mdanderson.org

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forms can be viewed and downloaded from our web site.

The deadline for completing the FAFSA and the Need Access forms is April 1, 2006. The deadline for our receipt of all other forms is April 17, 2006. When completing the FAFSA, remember to use the BMS federal school code of E00059! Please let us know if you have any questions or need help as you complete your applications. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Minority Medical Affairs

Alicia Monroe

Associate Dean of Medicine

FACULTY PROFILE: Mentoring Can Change a Life - Emma M. Simmons, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Family Medicine, is a graduate of Brown Medical School '91, the Brown University/Memorial Hospital Family Medicine Residency Program '94, and the Brown University Program in Public Health '04. Dr. Simmons is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of Tougaloo College in Jackson, Mississippi. She has focused her career on prevention and early detection of HIV/AIDS in minority and underserved populations.

Dr. Simmons' describes her life as being shaped by multiple challenges, wonderful educational opportunities and a host of inspirational and exacting mentors. During high school, as a participant in a summer science program she shadowed Dr. Robert Smith, known to his patients as "Dr. Bob." Dr. Bob transformed her view of "doctoring" as he worked to cure, care, teach and console his patients. He inspired her to become a family physician. However, her career journey was not always smooth. While adjusting to the academic rigor at Tougaloo College, she considered changing career plans, but Drs. Bruno, Mehrotra, and McGinnis would not let her succumb to fear of failure, persuading her to stay on course. At Brown Med, Emma found a soul mate in

her future husband Scott Allen, M.D. '91 who shared her passion for serving the underserved. After completing medical school and residency Emma and Scott returned to Mississippi to work in a community health center. In Mississippi, Emma learned about the medical, social, and cultural barriers to HIV diagnosis and treatment as she cared for patients presenting with advanced HIV/AIDS. Emma and Scott returned to Rhode Island in 1996, as Emma's interests in prevention and early detection of HIV/AIDS in minority communities deepened. To increase her involvement in changing the course of the HIV epidemic she needed to pursue an advanced degree while juggling a family and a new baby. She was embraced and encouraged by multiple mentors including Dr. Timothy Flanagan—a no-nonsense, visionary leader, outstanding scholar, and compassionate caregiver. "I am happier in my professional life than I have ever been, and I feel fortunate to have a job that is challenging and immensely fulfilling. I am giving back to my community while trying to right societal wrongs, and taking part in the fight against the epidemic."

Professional Development

Monika Bolino

Coordinator

SAVE THE DATE! We are delighted to announce this year's distinguished guest speaker at the 12th Annual Stanley D. Simon, MD Lecture & Forum is Paul E. Farmer, MD, PhD. Please join us for this special lecture and dinner-discussion, which will take place on Monday, February 13, 2006, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Andrews Dining Hall (Pembroke Quad across from the BMC). Dr. Farmer is a medical anthropologist, physician, and world-renowned authority on HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. One of the founding directors of Partners in Health (www.pih.org), Dr. Farmer has dedicated himself for the past twenty years to infectious disease control, with special focus on dis-

parities in health care. He will talk about his efforts to create community-based treatment strategies in Haiti, Rwanda, and elsewhere, and about mindfulness among physicians. The Simon Lecture is an interactive experience with a high level of student involvement. The planning committee, which includes Dr. Peter R. Simon, clinical associate professor of community health, has prepared an event that closely reflects Stanley D. Simon's passion for communication and discussion. Dr. Farmer's presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer period and dinner discussion. Please RSVP to monika_bolino@brown.edu if you would like to attend. This event is free of charge and open to all medical students, PLME students, faculty, residents, and other members of the Brown Medical School and Department of Anthropology communities and their guests.

PETERSEN FUND AWARD FALL 2006 RECIPIENT: Congratulations to Heidi Brown, MD '06, the Fall 2005 recipient of a Petersen Educational Enhancement Fund award. Heidi received support to continue her work with the Progreso Latino Prenatal Workshop Series Project. The workshop series aims to give expectant mothers in Rhode Island's immigrant communities access to information about maternal and child health, and strengthen networks between underserved communities and health care providers. For more information on Progreso Latino, visit <http://www.progresolatino.org/>.

student news

Amy McIntyre, MD '08 has been appointed by the American Academy of Family Physicians as the AAFP Regional Coordinator for the Family Medicine Interest Group Network. She will be the FMIG coordinator for New England, New York, New Jersey, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Center for Biomedical Ethics Donna Goodnow Coordinator

"Time to Pull the Plug on Substituted Judgment?" - Friday February 10, RIH George Auditorium, 12:00-1:00 p.m.. Many times in critical care settings, patients are too sick to participate in decisions regarding their medical care. Current practice is to utilize what is known about patients' wishes to the greatest extent possible. (This is the "advance directive" principle, and is based on the ethical principle of respect for autonomy.) In the vast majority of cases, patients have left no directives specific enough to guide actual treatment decisions. Surrogate decision-makers are asked to make decisions based on "what the patient would want." In this provocative talk, Dr. John Lantos will discuss the theoretical and practical flaws in this practice of using "substituted judgment" and will propose possible alternative approaches. Dr. Lantos is Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine at the University of Chicago, Pritzker School of Medicine, and Associate Director of the MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics. A graduate of Brown University and the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Dr. Lantos is the author of *Do We Still Need Doctors?*, *The Lazarus Case: Life and Death Issues in Neonatal Intensive Care*, and *The Last Physician: Walker Percy and the Moral Life of Medicine*.

Later in February: On Thursday, February 23, the Biomedical Ethics Undergraduate Group will host Professor Sheldon Krinsky, Professor of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning at Tufts University, and the author of *Science in the Private Interest*.

Coming in March: "Court Appointed Guardians: Strangers at the Bedside." Who decides for the most vulnerable, and how are these medical decisions made? A panel discussion sponsored by the CBME and the Ocean State Ethics Network. Details to follow. Interested in serving on a hospital ethics committee? The CBME has obtained permission from the BMS-affiliated hospital ethics committees to allow students to join their committees for one year positions. Those interested should contact Donna Goodnow.

Summer Fellowship Program: The N.Y. Academy of Medicine invites applications from first year medical students for the David E. Rogers Fellowship Program. The Rogers Fellowship is meant to enrich the educational experiences of medical students through projects that bear on medicine as a social enterprise. Up to twenty fellowships of approximately \$3,500 will be awarded for projects executed during the summer between the first and second years of medical school. For further information and deadlines, visit <http://www.nyam.org/grants/rogers.shtml>. Contact the CBME for project ideas or application assistance.

Office of Women in Medicine Debra Abeshaus Director

The Office will hold a special winter gathering for women medical faculty, residents, medical students and RIMWA members on Thursday, February 16, 2006, 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) Museum, 224 Benefit

Street, Providence, RI. Please plan to join us for conversation, networking and a gallery tour! RSVP to: Debra_Abeshaus@brown.edu, Michele_Cyr@brown.edu or call Kathleen Haslam at 863-7960.

Save the dates!

March 7, 2006, 5:30-6:30 p.m. (location tba) Women in Cardiology – discussion with guest speaker Dr. Athena Poppas, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Brown Medical School.

April 6, 2006, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Women in Residency Fair. Women medical students, residents and faculty. Brown Faculty Club.

PLME

Julianne Ip, Associate Dean
Hilary Sweigart, PLME Manager

A warm welcome back to campus! We hope you have had a relaxing break whether it was spent with your family or perhaps traveling. We have some interesting events planned for this semester. So please be on the lookout for emails that come from the PLME office or hard-copy invitations to your box.

If you would like to sign up for a shadowing experience with a Rhode Island physician this semester, go to the web site to check out the Medicine In Action Program (MIAP) physician list and fill out the online form at <http://bms.brown.edu/miap>.

There is still time to apply for a Summer Research Assistantship (SRA) or an Arts and Humanities in Medicine (AHM) fellowship. The deadline for submission is February 24. For the list of Brown faculty who have expressed an interest in serving as an SRA sponsor and the application go to <http://bms.brown.edu/research/summer.html>. For the AHM application, go to http://bms.brown.edu/research/arts_medicine.htm.

women in medicine

Women in Medicine Winter Gathering

Thursday, February 16, 2006 from 5:30-7:00p.m. at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) Museum. RSVP to Debra_Abeshaus@Brown.edu

resocializing medicine

12th Annual Stanley D. Simon, MD Lecture & Forum with guest speaker Paul E. Farmer, MD, Ph.D.

“Resocializing Medicine” is the topic of guest speaker Paul E. Farmer, MD, Ph.D at the special lecture and dinner-discussion, on Monday, February 13, 2006, from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm in Andrews Dining Hall (Pembroke Quad across from the BMC).

Dr. Farmer is a medical anthropologist, physician, and world-renowned authority on HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. He will talk about his efforts to create community-based treatment strategies in Haiti, Rwanda, and elsewhere, and about mindfulness among physicians. The Simon Lecture is an interactive experience with a high level of student involvement. Please RSVP to Monika_Bolino@Brown.edu if you would like to attend.

PLME Sophomores: Be sure to meet with your Advising Dean regarding your Educational Plan, and find a concentration advisor early. (Dean Smith’s advisees should see Dean Robert Samuels, 863-3145, Robert_Samuels@Brown.edu.)

We encourage all students to make appointments with your advising dean this semester to discuss your ongoing performance and academic progress.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 1 - Focus on the Future: Emergency Medicine. Sign up required, contact Janice_Viticonte@Brown.edu

February 23 - MMS & MD/PhD Workshop with Phil Gruppuso & Anita Zimmerman. Sign up by 2/10/06 required Hilary_Sweigart@Brown.edu

February 24 - Deadline for SRA and Arts & Humanities in Medicine.

March 1 - Whole Patient Program: Francois Luks, MD, pediatric surgery, fetal medicine & surgery (Freshmen only)

March 1 - Focus on Future: Ophthalmology. Sign up required Janice_Viticonte@Brown.edu

March 3 - Deadline for German Summer Programs Application. (Juniors/Seniors/1st-yr meds only)

PLME Senate Carly Seidman Co-President

Happy New Year and welcome back to Brown—I hope that everyone had a wonderful break! We are looking forward to another semester on the PLME Senate! Whole Patient and Whole Physician programs are being planned for the upcoming semester. Community service projects, social events, and study groups are also in the works.

As we have done in the past, we are putting together a housing newsletter—if you would like to post an entry, please email a class representative or myself.

As always, I would like to encourage your participation and your input to the PLME Senate! Please be on the look out for upcoming meetings and events. Also feel free to email me at Carly_Seidman@brown.edu with any questions or ideas.

Best of luck with the new semester - I look forward to hearing from you!

Student Senate

Neel Shah
President

Student Advising at BMS: In applying to Brown, most of us benefited from “pre-professional” advising. This advice helped us solidify our intention to become doctors and enabled us to optimize our chances of being admitted to medical school. Similarly, upon arriving here, professional advising became something we highly value. We eagerly jump at every opportunity to learn a pearl of wisdom that will help us figure out the next steps—what kind of doc we want to be, and then how to increase our chances of matching into that specialty.

An ideal professional advising system would proactively help us answer these questions. It would efficiently and transparently disseminate information about resources and opportunities available at the medical school. It would connect us to experts that could help us explore burgeoning interests. And most importantly, it would give us guidance before we realize we needed it.

For this reason, enhancing student advising in both the preclinical and clinical years has been a top priority for the Medical Student Senate. We explained our concerns to the administration during the first semester and the Corporation, President Simmons, Dean Adashi, and Dean Gruppuso have all been very supportive and responsive.

The first step to moving forward will be objectively evaluating both the strengths and weaknesses of the current advising system. To do this, we decided it was best to go straight to the experts—you. A group of volunteer students helped carefully design a short web-based survey to look at our advising system in the context of what an ideal system ought to be. We expect to administer it in the very near future. Please take a few minutes to complete it.

Opportunities

Continued from page four

Betty Ford Center 2006 Summer Institute for Medical Students. Five Day experiential training in Rancho Mirage, California. Open to all medical students. Scholarships available and include tuition, travel, lodging, materials and on-campus meals. Deadline for scholarship March 15, 2006. Sessions available: May 22-26, June 5-9, June 19-23, July 3-7, July 17-21, July 31-August 4, August 14-18. For more information visit www.bettyfordcenter.org/welcome/training or 1-800-854-9211 ext. 4108 or training@bettyfordcenter.org

Bastyr University's Fifth Annual Complementary and Alternative Medicine Summer Program for the summer of 2006. Additional information and application materials are available at www.bastyr.edu/camsummer. The deadline for applications is March 1, 2006.

Medical Student Research Training Program in Diabetes and Endocrinology for Summer of 2006 allows medical students to conduct independent research under the direction of an established scientist during the summer between the first and second year or second and third year of medical school. The possible areas of

diabetes-related investigation are quite broad and range from basic laboratory studies on gene regulation to clinical studies in humans. Deadline to apply is February 17, 2006. For additional information and application visit www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/diabetes training or contact (615) 936-1642 or stu.res@vanderbilt.edu

2006 Summer Student Fellowship Program at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center to encourage interest in the field of oncology. Approximately thirty \$5,000 fellowships are available for the summer of 2006. Open to students in their first two years of medical school. Students will begin either June 12 or June 19, 2006. For additional information and application visit <http://www.mskcc.org/summerfellowships>. Completed application materials must be received by February 10, 2006.

Doris Duke Clinical Research Fellowship Program is currently soliciting applications for the sixth class of fellows. The 2006-07 fellows will begin in July 2006. Fellows receive stipends of \$25,000 and health insurance to spend a year conducting clinical research and receiving didactic training. For information visit www.ddcf.org/mrp/crf.

The Dean's Message Continued from page one

Accompanied by Professor Alicia D. Monroe, associate dean for minority medical affairs; Kathleen A. Baer, director of admissions and financial aid; Dick Dollase, EdD, director of curriculum affairs; and Tougaloo and BMS alumna Dr. Emma M. Simmons, assistant professor of family medicine, I was delighted to meet prospective EIP students, as well as two future matriculants of the MD Class of 2011. I also had the honor of hearing Dr. Simmons deliver the keynote address in the Woodworth Chapel at the weekly convocation, a meeting attended by the entire student body and presided over by President Beverly Hogan. Another highlight was a most enjoyable dinner at President Hogan's home that included Tougaloo physician alumni from the area.

I came away from this trip deeply impressed by the hospitality and professionalism of all whom I met, and especially those in President Hogan's office. The leadership and vision of President Hogan herself were an inspiration to me. This first trip to Tougaloo has left me firmly resolved to continue to nurture this partnership.

the pulse

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