

# the pulse

The Brown Medical School Student Affairs Newsletter

Vol. 23 No. 6  
March 2006

## A Word from the Dean



It is time for an update on the status of standard route admission to Brown Medical School (BMS), one initiated in 2004 as a two-year pilot project with approximately ten such openings designated per year. Broadly stated, the goals of this initiative were to ensure that BMS is accessible to all college graduates thereby enhancing our national visibility and expanding our experiential base.

With the mid-point of the second application cycle behind us, there is much to celebrate. Indeed, the 11 first-years among you who came to BMS through this route are proof positive of the success of this venture! Last year, 1,615 applications were received for a spot with the class of 2009, many from outstanding students at some of the country's finest undergraduate institutions. Of the 239 applicants interviewed, 48 were offered admission, for an admission rate of less than three percent. Of those, 11 matriculants (four women and seven men) joined the class of 2009, for a yield rate of 23 percent.

This year's application cycle is going exceedingly well. To date, we have received almost 2,700 applications – 66 percent more than last year.

Continued on page eight

## Medical Student Affairs

Philip Gruppuso

Associate Dean for Medical Education

There are a number of areas where considerable activity has taken place during the last month, so I will take this opportunity to provide the medical school community at large with a progress report.

As I wrote last month, the process to develop a new MD Curriculum is moving along. Leaders have been designated for three of the working groups: Dr. Luba Dumenco for Curriculum Content and Organization, Dr. Aaron Friedman for Assessment, and Dr. Alicia D. Monroe for the group that will focus on Doctoring. In addition, Dr. Agnes B. Kane will lead a group to reexamine the role and formulation of the PLME. I am pleased that such a distinguished and committed group of faculty members and academic leaders have been willing to devote their time and effort to this process. We are currently in the process of organizing initial meetings for these groups, and the leaders of the remaining three groups will soon be appointed.

The development of a budget proposal and mechanism for the funding of student activities, research and travel has moved forward. Thanks go to the students who provided information, insights and suggestions. The budget for these activities will be finalized soon as part of the Division's FY07 budget.

A first step in assessing our advising system has just been completed. A survey was developed by Alex Morang and myself with considerable input from a self-designated group of students. We also greatly benefited from the expertise of Dr. Melissa A. Clark

in Community Health. At the time of this writing, the survey had just closed. It was completed by 169 students, a sample representing just under half of our medical student body. While this is a somewhat smaller sample than I had hoped for, it will be adequate to provide us with a great deal of information pertaining to both our pre-clinical and clinical advising systems. Thanks to all who participated. In the near future, I will compile the results of the survey and make them available through a web-based link.

One last item: Kudos to the members of our Class of 2009 who developed and implemented a "real-time" evaluation system to provide data on the effectiveness of our lecturers. I am greatly impressed by the objectivity and constructive approach that has been evident thus far. The challenge is for the administration to utilize this information in effecting improvements in the quality of our teaching. Dean Adashi and I are fully committed to doing so.

## inside

Admissions and Financial Aid	2
Associate Dean	1
Calendar	3
Center for BioMedical Ethics	5
Curriculum Affairs	2
Dean's Message	1
Medical Student Affairs	2
Minority Medical Affairs	3
Office of Women in Medicine	5
Opportunities	4
PLME	6
Professional Development	5
Medical Student Senate	7
PLME Senate	6

## Student Affairs

Alexandra Morang  
Director

MD Class of 2006: Congratulations to all of the Early Match candidates on their spectacular matches! Match Day is March 16<sup>th</sup> and the invitations are in the mail! A festive champagne reception in your honor will be held at Andrews Dining Hall on Pembroke Campus. You will receive your residency training appointments exactly at the stroke of 12:00, immediately prior to the reception. Wishing you all the very, very best! Reminder: If you have not filled out your electronic AAMC graduation questionnaire, please do so. The web address is [www.aamc.org/gq](http://www.aamc.org/gq)

MD Classes of 2007 & 2008: the Glaxo Pathway Workshop will be held in early April for third-year students. This workshop is designed to help you select a medical specialty and to alleviate some of the anxiety associated with this decision. If room is available, we will accept students from the class of 2008. Details will follow.

MD Class of 2007: The fourth-year lottery will take place via the internet on March 17<sup>th</sup> using our new scheduling program, OASIS. Your preferred course list must be reviewed and approved by your career or academic advisor in order for you to participate in the lottery. Linda Bozzario will be sending you further details about the process.

MD Class of 2008: On Monday, March 13 at 3:15 in Room 202, there will be a Core Clerkship Information Meeting. All of the clerkship coordinators will be on hand to discuss the third-year curriculum and clerkship assignments. On Tuesday, March 14, from 5:15-6:45PM in Room 291, a panel of third and fourth-year students will discuss planning your third year and share their clerkship experiences with you. A guide to the clinical years will be distributed and timelines will be discussed.

## Curriculum Affairs

Dick Dollase  
Director

The Office of Curriculum Affairs will soon be recruiting preclinical students and third- and fourth-year students to help update the knowledge base of CurrMIT, the AAMC online curriculum data base. (CurrMIT stands for the Curriculum Management & Information Tool.) Working as a team, two students will review each preclinical course or core clerkship to ascertain if a knowledge base item is being addressed and how many minutes of instruction are being devoted to the topic. Students will also help determine what educational methods were employed such as lecture or small-group discussion, and what educational assessment measures were utilized to assess students' understanding of the knowledge base. Once students have reviewed a course, they will meet with the course director to discuss their findings. Students who volunteer will receive a \$50.00 stipend.

The curriculum affairs office will also be recruiting fourth-year students to serve on a nominating committee to determine the 2006 faculty recipients of the Profiles in Competence Awards in Ability III: Using Basic Science in the Practice of Medicine; Ability VI: Professional Development and Personal Growth and Ability IX: Problem Solving.

## Admissions and Financial Aid

Kathy Baer  
Director

Tax Workshop: We were pleased to see many students at our first-ever tax workshop held on February 17. We also are grateful to the workshop leader, Bob Cota, CSA, from Ocean State Financial Services, for providing his time and guidance. If you were not able to attend the workshop, Linda Gillette will post a handout from the meeting on the Oafa website in the near future. As soon as the information is available, we will alert you via your class listserv.

Financial Aid Exit Meetings for Graduating Medical Students: If you are graduating in May, please remember to schedule your appointment for an exit meeting as soon as possible. Detailed information has been sent to your apartment address as well as to your class listserv. This meeting is required for graduating students who borrowed federal student loans during medical school. We will give you a complete summary of your educational loans, deferment and payment options, consolidation information, and estimated repayment schedules. We will also show you how to organize your loan paperwork and develop a realistic repayment strategy. Finally, we will discuss other debt management issues, including various loan repayment programs and services available to you from the

# focus on the future

## Focus on the Future: Careers in Ophthalmology

A discussion with ophthalmologists 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.

March 1, 2006  
5:30pm in BMC 202

AAMC and from BMS after you graduate. You will have your choice of five dates between March and May, including a Saturday in early May. [This is the most important financial aid meeting of your medical school years](#), so please schedule your appointment with Amy Martin Webster (Amy\_Martin@brown.edu) as soon as possible. We are confident that you will leave this meeting with a clear understanding of your loans and with a “game plan” for how to repay them. Please take the time to prepare for it by gathering all of your loan paperwork in advance.

Second Look Program: We are planning a Second Look program on April 27-28 for applicants who have been offered admission to Brown Medical School for the fall 2006 entering class. This exciting event gives us an opportunity to showcase all that is special and wonderful about the medical school. If you would like to participate in a welcoming reception on Thursday, April 27 or come to the dinner the following evening, please contact Amy Martin Webster at (Amy\_Martin@brown.edu). We, of course, would welcome any suggestions you have for this event.

## Minority Medical Affairs

Alicia Monroe

Associate Dean of Medicine

FACULTY PROFILE: DR ANGELA ANDERSON. Angela C. Anderson, MD, FAAP, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine graduated from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio in 1985. Dr Anderson completed her residency training in pediatrics at Yale New Haven Hospital in New Haven, Connecticut in 1988. From 1988-1990 she simultaneously did a fellowship in Pediatric Emergency Medicine at Harvard Medical School Children’s Hospital and another in Clinical Pharmacology/Toxicology at Massachusetts Poison Control Center in Boston, Mas-

sachusetts. Since 1990 Dr Anderson has been a key figure in the departments of Pediatric Emergency Medicine at Hasbro Children’s Hospital and Rhode Island Hospital. Her research centers on airway management in Pediatric Emergencies and Clinical Toxicology. Throughout her career Dr. Anderson has published extensively and has won numerous awards including, most recently, the Outstanding Mentor Award from the National Center of Excellence in Women’s Health.

Although she is based in Providence, Dr Anderson has a wealth of experience working overseas. In 1993 she did medical relief work on the borders of Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya with 60,000 refugees. She has also worked as a voluntary preceptor with Brown medical students as they provided medical care to underprivileged patients in Jamaica in 1999. Between 1995 and 1998 Dr Anderson participated in a physician exchange program with physicians in Kosice, Slovakia and in 2004 she taught Pediatric Emergency Medicine Principles in Vietnam. More recently she worked closer to home when she was deployed to New Orleans to assist with relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Dr Anderson feels that these experiences have made her fully appreciate everything she has and everyone she loves.

As a medical student, Dr Anderson’s main mentors were her parents and her high school biology teacher, whom she would call for emotional support before every exam. Now as an accomplished physician she aims to inspire medical students by encouraging them to do what they love. She believes that medical students should work just as hard at becoming the ‘person’ they want to be as becoming the ‘doctor’ they want to be.

## march calendar

- March 1  
Focus on the Future: Ophthalmology
- March 1  
Presentation with Dr. Francois Luks  
Chancellors Dining Room, March 1st
- March 7  
Film Screening: Out of the Shadow  
BMC 139, from 6:00-8:00pm
- March 7  
Discussion on Women in Cardiology  
Hillel Center, 2nd Floor Lounge at 5:30pm
- March 12  
Faunce 201 at 5:00pm
- March 13  
Core Clerkship Information Meeting  
BMC 202, at 3:15pm
- March 15  
MD09 - Classes end for midterms
- March 16  
Match Day  
Andrews Dining Hall, Pembroke Campus
- March 16  
MD09 - Reading Day
- March 17  
Fourth-Year Lottery via Internet
- March 17-March 24  
Midterm exams
- March 21-23  
MD08 - Reading Days
- March 25–April 2  
Spring Break

# opportunities

CAPS is offering scholarships of \$1,000 to \$5,000 to students in United States medical schools. The CAPS Scholarships are open to all medical students in need of financial aid. The applicants are judged according to their academic achievements, financial needs, community service records and essays. Special credit is also given to those who are willing to serve the Chinese communities after their graduation. The deadline for applications is at the end of March. Due to the huge number of requests for applications and our shortage of manpower, we can no longer send out the application by mail unless a self-addressed stamped envelope is enclosed with the request sent to Lawrence Ng, M.D., Chair, Award Committee, Chinese American Physicians Society, 345 Ninth St., Suite 204, Oakland, CA 94607-4206. Visit the web to learn more: [www.caps-ca.org](http://www.caps-ca.org).

The American Medical Student Association (AMSA) Foundation is offering the following summer 2006 programs. Six-week summer fellowship programs: End of Life Care Fellowship from June 19-July 28 and the Washington Health Policy Fellowship Program from June 19-July 28th. Summer leadership training programs (LTP): Complementary and Alternative Medicine LTP, June 18-23rd, Primary Care LTP, and The Paul Ambrose Health Promotion Student Leadership Symposium, June 22-25th. Weeklong national initiative in the fall: National Primary Care Week, October 15-21st. For further information and applications on all programs visit [www.amsa.org](http://www.amsa.org) or call (703) 620-6000 ext.208 or [joan\\_h@amsa.org](mailto:joan_h@amsa.org).

The 17th International Course in Tropical Medicine offered jointly by The Louisiana State University Health Science Center and The University of Costa Rica Faculty of Medicine in San Jose, Costa Rica July 2-28, 2006. For information and application visit [http://www.medschool.lsuhs.edu/microbiology/courses\\_tropical\\_summer.asp](http://www.medschool.lsuhs.edu/microbiology/courses_tropical_summer.asp). Or contact Jeanine Campbell at (504) 568-4061 or [jcampb@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:jcampb@lsuhsc.edu).

The New England Institute of Jewish Studies, in conjunction with the Schlesinger Institute and Shaare Zedek Medical Center, Jerusalem, is sponsoring a four-week summer program, combining the study

of medical ethics, Jewish thought and tours of Israel. Summer program for medical students following the first year, June 27-July 27, 2006. For more information or to apply contact [info@neijs.org](mailto:info@neijs.org) or visit [www.neijs.org](http://www.neijs.org).

One Year Medical Student Research Opportunity in Ophthalmology. The New England Eye Center, Tufts University School of Medicine, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has an exciting and unique research opportunity for a highly motivated medical student. The research involves the clinical applications of ultrahigh resolution optical coherence tomography (OCT). The student will have the opportunity to design, initiate, and complete clinical studies on the utility of this device in retinal diseases and glaucoma. A background in engineering or computer science is preferred. This is a one year, full time commitment starting in July 2006. A stipend of \$ 25,000 per year is available. Interested individuals should contact Jay S. Duker, M.D., Professor and Chair, New England Eye Center, 617-636-4677, [jduker@tufts-nemc.org](mailto:jduker@tufts-nemc.org).

Stanley M. Kaplan Medical Student Essay Contest Entries may include topical essays, case reports, review articles, or original research that was conducted in medical school for which the student is first author. Entries will be judged on the basis of creativity, knowledge of psychiatry, style, and contribution to understanding important problems in any of the biological, psychological, or social dimensions of psychiatry. Entries should be postmarked by June 16, 2006 and sent or emailed to: Lesley M. Arnold, MD, Department of Psychiatry, UC College of Medicine, PO Box 670559, Cincinnati OH 45267-0559, or to [lesley.arnold@uc.edu](mailto:lesley.arnold@uc.edu). The winner will be awarded a cash prize of \$500.00 and two runners-up will be awarded \$250.00 each. There is no entry application and no standard format or length restriction for entries. Please include name, address, and phone number in a cover letter with the article submitted. If you have questions, write Dr. Arnold at the address above, call (513) 558-4866, or e-mail to [maryann.schmidt@uc.edu](mailto:maryann.schmidt@uc.edu).

Continued on page eight

## Professional Development

Monika Bolino  
Coordinator

Funding Available for Medical Student Community-Based Projects: Applications are now being accepted through April 14 for the Dr. Veronica Petersen '55 and Dr. Robert A. Petersen Educational Enhancement Fund's spring funding cycle. The Petersen Fund funds student projects that support innovative service or research initiatives designed to have a positive impact on individuals, families, and communities. Awards up to \$3000 per project are available; funds will be dispersed after May 5. Previous proposals receiving awards include the development of a mental health center for underserved communities, a mentoring program for kids interested in health professions, and a health and wellness workshop series for pregnant women. The deadline for proposals is Friday, April 14, 2006. For applications and guidelines, contact Monika Bolino at [Monika\\_Bolino@brown.edu](mailto:Monika_Bolino@brown.edu), 401-863-2881.

Paul Farmer Delivers the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Simon Lecture: On February 13, more than 575 medical students, PLME undergraduates, anthropology students, faculty, public health workers, and other members of the Brown community gathered at Salomon 101 for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Stanley D. Simon, MD Lecture delivered by Paul Farmer, MD, PhD. The renowned medical anthropologist and physician spoke about his work with international charity organization Partners In Health and their success bringing high quality health care to impoverished communities in Haiti, Rwanda, and the United States. The interdisciplinary audience gave Dr. Farmer a standing ovation; following the lecture, Dr. Farmer enthusiastically met with students and other audience members. For further coverage of the event, see The Providence Journal [[http://www.projo.com/news/content/projo\\_20060214\\_farmer14.da447cf.html](http://www.projo.com/news/content/projo_20060214_farmer14.da447cf.html)] and the Brown Daily Herald [in the

2/14 issue under Archives at <http://media.www.browndailyherald.com>]. For detailed information about Paul Farmer and his work, see Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor by Paul E. Farmer, University of California Press (2003); Infections and Inequalities by Paul E. Farmer, University of California Press (1999); Partners In Health website: <http://www.pih.org>

## Center for Biomedical Ethics

Donna Goodnow  
Coordinator

Upcoming event - Out of the Shadow: We invite all interested students to join us on Tuesday, March 7 from 6:00-8:00 pm in the Biomed Center, Room 139. The Bioethics Interest Group and the Psychiatry Interest Group will co-sponsor a screening and discussion of the powerful film "Out of the Shadow." This 65-minute documentary chronicles the filmmaker's schizophrenic mother as she suffers through the chaos of our mental health system as well as that of her own mind. The film illuminates a national plight through one family's struggle and helps dispel the stigmas and misconceptions surrounding this harrowing illness. It raises many issues about the mental health "system," reality, informed consent for treatment and choosing for others. Please join us for this provocative film followed by a lively discussion. Refreshments will be served. RSVP to [Donna\\_Goodnow@Brown.edu](mailto:Donna_Goodnow@Brown.edu) or 863-3969.

Save the date: "Court Appointed Guardians: Strangers at the Bedside?", a case presentation and panel discussion sponsored by the CBME and the Ocean State Ethics Network. Who decides for the most vulnerable, and how are these medical decisions made? We hope you are able to join us on Thursday, April 6, from 5:30-7:30 pm in the Chancellor's Dining Room. Refreshments will be served. Call Donna for more information or to RSVP.

Essay Contest: We would like to call your attention to an essay contest devoted to ethics and the physician-patient relationship. The contest is sponsored by the Dr. Shoshanah Trachtenberg Frackman Program in Biomedical Ethics at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. If you are interested in submitting an essay, the Center for Biomedical Ethics is happy to serve as a sounding board for ideas or preliminary essay review. Please feel free to contact us for further information. The deadline for receipt of final entries is April 15, 2006.

## SHERIDAN LECTURE

Save the date: On April 27 at 4:00 pm in Salomon 101, Ms. Anne Fadiman will deliver the 14th annual Harriet W. Sheridan Literature and Medicine Lecture, The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: The Challenges of Cultural Competence. For an opportunity to meet the author and discuss her book The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down at noon on the day of the lecture, please contact Donna at [Donna\\_Goodnow@Brown.edu](mailto:Donna_Goodnow@Brown.edu).

## Office of Women in Medicine

Debra Abeshaus  
Director

The Office of Women in Medicine cordially invites you to two upcoming programs. The first, a discussion on Women in Cardiology, led by Dr. Athena Poppas, Assistant Professor of Medicine, will be

## student news

Grace Farris, MD'08, is the recipient of a Charles Carpenter Travel Award for her poster presentation, "The Spectrum of Venous Stroke in Preterm Newborns," at the 2006 Pediatric Academic Societies' Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California.

# film screening

## “Out of the Shadow”

Tuesday, March 7 from 6:00-8:00pm at BMC 139. This powerful 65-minute documentary chronicles the filmmaker’s schizophrenic mother as she suffers through the chaos of our mental health system as well as that of her own mind. Presented by the Bioethics Interest Group and the Psychiatry Interest Group

held on Tuesday, March 7, 2006, from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. in the Hillel Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Student Lounge, 80 Brown Street (corner of Angell and Brown Streets – close to the BMC). If you’re interested in career paths in cardiology and ways to integrate practice, research and teaching, please jot down the date and plan to join us for this presentation [rsvp to Kathleen\_Haslam@brown.edu].

Next month, our annual Women in Residency Fair will take place on Monday, April 10, 2006 (please note new date), 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in the Brown Faculty Club. This is a unique opportunity for women medical students to learn about the residency experience and medical specialties from the perspectives of women physicians. If there are specific fields that you would like to see represented, please let us hear from you.

Finally, it’s never too late to meet with a mentor through the WIM Mentor Program. Please do not hesitate to stop by the office in Arnold Lab (132/130) or e-mail us about your interests.

## PLME

Julianne Ip, Associate Dean

Hilary Sweigart, PLME Manager

Congratulations to Jenna Kahn '08, who with the help of Rosalynn Vega '09, coordinated the Whole Physician Program medical student panel on February 15, which drew a large crowd to the BMC. A **BIG THANK YOU** to the busy med stu-

dents who took part: GEORGE TURINI, DAVID BERCOVICI, REY GOMEZ, ELIZABETH NAYLOR, AMANDA GRUBER, HEIDI BROWN, GRANT CHU, and JONATHAN GREER.

ALL PLMEs: The third Focus on the Future medical specialty presentation, RADIOL-OGY, will be held on April 12, 5:30-7:30 PM, Biomed Center Room 291. RSVP to Janice\_Viticonte@Brown.edu.

Will you be in Providence this summer? The Brown Summer Studies Program will offer an array of credit courses, June 19–August 4. If you would like to review the opportunities, visit [http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Continuing\\_Studies/](http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Continuing_Studies/). A few offerings that may be of interest include:

- BIO189 Human Histology
- BN001 The Brain: An Intro to Neuroscience
- BN0160 Experimental Neurobiology
- CH0033 Equilibrium, Rate, and Structure
- CH0035 Intro to Organic Chemistry
- MA0009 Intro to Calculus, Part I
- PH0003/4 Basic Physics,
- SP0031 Spanish for Social Service Applications
- UC0002/BC0002 Medicine, Law and Morality
- UC0101 Anatomy and Art: Study of Form in Man & Nature

PLME Freshmen: As we go to press with this issue of PULSE, we are anticipating a terrific presentation by Dr. Francois Luks, pediatric surgeon, on March 1<sup>st</sup> entitled “Fixing what ain’t broke: How to deal with an incidental finding in the asymptomatic patient.” Lawren Wellisch, Larry Kwon, and Bo Wang are hoping to

arrange a doctor–patient team to speak about issues of gastric bypass (tentative date is April 19). We’ll keep you posted.

PLME Sophomores: As you develop your PLME Educational Plan, you must meet with your advising dean to discuss it. Plans are due to Ms. Fullerton in the PLME Office by April 17.

PLME Seniors: Taking time off before entering medical school? Consider the Postbaccalaureate Intramural Research Training Award (IRTA) which provides opportunities for recent college graduates to spend a year engaged in biomedical investigation at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland and selected off-campus locations. While in this program participants work side-by-side with some of the leading scientists in the world in an environment devoted exclusively to biomedical research. The duration of the program is normally one year, but the fellowship can be extended for an additional year provided the performance of the trainee is satisfactory and continued support by the laboratory is available. The IRTA (<http://www.training.nih.gov/student/Pre-IRTA/pre-viewpostbac.asp?AppType=Postbac>) selects trainees who have a broad scope of research interests. There is no deadline. Applications are received continuously.

## PLME Senate

Carly Seidman

Co-President

The members of the PLME Senate are hard at work on many programs and activities as the semester progresses!

Our first Whole Patient Program of the semester will be held on Wednesday, March 1 at 5:45 pm in the Chancellor’s Dining Room. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Francois Luks, pediatric surgeon, accompanied by his patient. Please contact co-chairs Larry Kwon or Lawren Wellisch if you have any questions or suggestions

for future programs!

Kudos to Jenna Kahn, Whole Physician chairperson, who organized a very successful panel this past February. Entitled "The Inside Scoop: Life in Medical School," eight medical student panelists discussed their experiences and offered valuable advice on topics ranging from study habits to dating. Many thanks to our panelists for all their insights!

Our social chairs are in the process of planning a movie marathon as part of the University's new "Late Night" initiative. We will be showing a movie or episodes of *Gray's Anatomy*, *Nip/Tuck*, or *House MD* (snacks to be served, of course!). Please email social chairs Wesley Wu or Brian Huang with any preferences of movie/television program and look out for upcoming announcements of this event!

Our community service committee is working with the Medical School on

the Breeze Against Wheeze 5K Run, to be held this spring. Please look out for announcements of this event and email Annie Wang if you would like to become involved or have any questions.

We have recently started a study group for Bio 20 and a group for Chem 33 is in the works. Please email Rosalynn Vega, '09 class representative, if you are interested in the Bio 20 group. The Chem 33 group will be announced shortly.

Finally, we are once again putting together a housing e-newsletter. Feel free to send any entries to me or a class representative.

We will be meeting this month on Sunday, March 12 at 5 pm, in Faunce 201—all are welcome and encouraged to attend! In the meantime, please email me ([Carly\\_Seidman@brown.edu](mailto:Carly_Seidman@brown.edu)) at any time with any questions, comments, or suggestions—I look forward to your input!

## Student Senate

Neel Shah  
President

If you haven't already, visit <https://gifts.development.brown.edu/>, check the box for the BMSAF, and make a token gift. Here's why you should:

As many of you know, Brown is seeking a \$100 million gift to endow the medical school as part of the ongoing Campaign for Academic Enrichment. This will go a long way towards ensuring perpetual support for the programs we believe in and the causes the Medical Student Senate advocates for.

One solution to realize these goals as soon as possible is for us to pool our resources and hope it adds up to \$100 million. But unless you were recently bequeathed a fortune, there is a better alternative—help raise the participation rate of the Brown Medical School Annual Fund.

Having almost every current student participate would send an important and unequivocal message to potential donors with deeper pockets. If so many of us believe in the greatness of what our school is and could be, they should too.

Thanks for your help!

## Save the Date

April 6

"Court Appointed Guardians: Strangers at the Bedside?", a case presentation and panel discussion sponsored by the CBME and the Ocean State Ethics Network. Chancellor's Dining Room, 5:30-7:30pm. RSVP to [Donna\\_Goodnow@Brown.edu](mailto:Donna_Goodnow@Brown.edu)

April 10

Annual Women in Residency Fair presented by the Office of Women in Medicine. Brown Faculty Club from 5:30-7:30pm. For more information contact [Kathleen\\_Haslam@Brown.edu](mailto:Kathleen_Haslam@Brown.edu).

April 12

The third Focus on the Future medical specialty presentation, RADIOLOGY, in BMC 291 from 5:30-7:30pm. RSVP to [Janice\\_Viticonte@Brown.edu](mailto:Janice_Viticonte@Brown.edu)

April 27

April 27 at 4:00 pm in Salomon 101, Ms. Anne Fadiman will deliver the 14th annual Harriet W. Sheridan Literature and Medicine Lecture, "The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: The Challenges of Cultural Competence" at 4:00pm in Salomon 101. For information please contact Donna at [Donna\\_Goodnow@Brown.edu](mailto:Donna_Goodnow@Brown.edu).

## Opportunities Continued

Herbert W. Nickens Medical Student Scholarships. Five scholarships given to outstanding students entering their third year of medical school who have shown leadership efforts to eliminate inequities in medical education and health care and demonstrated leadership efforts in addressing educational, societal, and health care needs of minorities. Each recipient receives an award and a \$5,000 scholarship in November of the year the scholarships are awarded. A medical school may nominate one student for these awards. Students enrolled in combined degree programs (such as M.D./Ph.D.) are eligible when they are entering their third year of medical school. Deadline to apply is April 7, 2006. For more information contact the Division of Diversity Policy and Programs at [nickensawards@aamc.org](mailto:nickensawards@aamc.org) or visit <http://www.aamc.org/about/awards/nickensscholarships.htm>.

One Year Medical Student Research Opportunity in Ophthalmology - The New England Eye Center, Tufts University School of Medicine, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has an exciting and unique research opportunity for a highly motivated medical student. The research involves the clinical applications of ultrahigh resolution optical coherence tomography (OCT). The student will

have the opportunity to design, initiate, and complete clinical studies on the utility of this device in retinal diseases and glaucoma. A background in engineering or computer science is preferred. This is a one year, full time commitment starting in July 2006. A stipend of \$25,000 per year is available. Interested individuals should contact Jay S. Duker, M.D., Professor and Chair, New England Eye Center, 617-636-4677, [jduker@tufts-nemc.org](mailto:jduker@tufts-nemc.org).

AMSA's Medical Education Leadership Institute – Training Tomorrow's Teachers Today (T4) is an intense, one-week experience designed to train AMSA members in practical teaching and leadership skills. If you are passionate about becoming a teacher within the medical community this could be one of the most significant events in your education. We're very happy that the University of Michigan is hosting T4 this year. Their entire Medical Education Department is taking part in the planning and execution of this year's institute, and we expect it to be our best one yet! Applications are now available online at the T4 site: <http://www.amsa.org/meded/T4.cfm>.

The Baltimore Summer Internship Program is an intensive seven-week program for medical students between their first and second years of medical school. The internship provides an opportunity for selected students to actively pursue a

professional interest in community health, underserved populations health care, health justice and advocacy. The Summer Internship Program will be held from June 12th through July 28, 2006 with accommodations made for finals exams that extend beyond the start date. The deadline for receipt of your application is Wednesday, March 15. For more information call (410) 889-4700 or visit [www.fusiongroup.org](http://www.fusiongroup.org).

## A Word from the Dean

Continued from page one

The quality of these applicants – both academically and personally – remains impressive, with 76 percent of those invited to interview presenting undergraduate GPAs of 3.70 or higher and a mean composite MCAT score of 34 (92<sup>nd</sup> percentile nationally). The interviewees hail from 40 states and several other countries, and they represent over 100 research universities and liberal arts colleges. Approximately one-third of those invited to interview are students of color.

I look forward to sharing with you later this spring the final results of the second cycle, but I can say already that this initiative, which has demanded extraordinary focus and energy on the part of our admissions staff, our students, and members of our faculty, is inarguably a success.

## the pulse

The Brown Medical School Student Affairs Newsletter  
<http://bms.brown.edu/students/pulse/>

Published by the  
Brown Medical School  
Student Affairs Office  
Rose Bell, editor  
401-863-1618  
[Rose\\_Bell@Brown.edu](mailto:Rose_Bell@Brown.edu)  
Box G-A2, Providence, RI 02912

