The Learning Communities at UWSMPH have three guiding principles:

- **Create a caring community for all learning community members**
- **Help learning community members make sense of their experiences**
- **Empower the community and its members to make transparent and positive decisions**

Through these guiding principles, the learning communities will foster community, leadership, professionalism, well-being and sharing of knowledge in order to develop more intellectually, socially, physically and emotionally prepared physicians.
M4: Interviewing for Residencies

Contacting Programs You Haven’t Heard From: Either you or a faculty member willing to contact them on your behalf is appropriate. Call program coordinators, not program directors and “inquire about the status of your application.” Reiterate your interest in the program, emphasize your eagerness to interview with them and ask if there is anything additional you can provide. Your correspondence may not immediately yield an interview offer; you are hoping that they will review your application and get back to you.

Declining & Cancelling Interviews: Under no circumstances should you skip an interview without notification; ultimately, it is better for you to take the interview and just not rank the program; your rank list is private. Think of it as an opportunity to practice your interviewing skills. If you are no longer interested in a program, first withdraw from the program through ERAS and then contact the program coordinator by phone or email and, with at least 10 business days’ notice, ask to be removed from consideration.

Thank-You Notes: Unless you are specifically told not to, send thank-you notes/emails. If you’re unsure whether to send a hand-written note or an email, ask the residents what is the best way for you to communicate your interest in the program. Your thank-you should be personal and specific to that program and your interview experiences; this is your opportunity to reiterate why you’d be a good fit for the program. Anyone who interviewed you or with whom you interacted significantly is a candidate for a thank-you. If you had a vast array of interviewers, a single thank-you to the program director or coordinator is appropriate provided that you make specific reference to your interviewers and request that your gratitude be passed to these individuals.

Managing Post-Interview Contact: Some programs will try to ascertain their place on your rank list because they want to ensure that they get their first-choice students. You are not required to reveal your ranking! The best strategy is to remain enthusiastic about any program at which you interviewed and utilize suitable referrals such as intending to go on a second look, consulting with a spouse, weighing your options, etc. Avoid indicating that they are in a range such as the “top three;” it will not be interpreted positively. You may indicate if a program is your top choice; however, it must be one program that is truly your only top choice. Always end such communications by reiterating your enthusiasm for their program. The NRMP Match Participation Agreement states: Both applicants and programs may express a high degree of interest in each other and try to encourage future ranking decisions in their favor, but must not solicit statements implying a commitment. Although applicants and programs may volunteer how they plan to rank each other, it is a breach of this Agreement to request such information.

Second Look: Except in very rare cases where the program is overtly and strongly signaling a second-look visit, they do not impact where a program ranks you. A second look can be useful if you feel the need for this visit. When you go, be sure to have a defined agenda that you work out, in advance, with the program coordinator.

Still Have Questions? Contact Chris Stillwell, Director of Student Services at cmstillw@wisc.edu or call him at 608-262-7543. You can also find information in OASIS in the 2014-2015 Residency Application, Match, MSPE folder.
October Noon Talk: Meet Your House Mentors!

Join the InterHouse Council’s second Noon Talk for the Fall Semester on Wednesday, October 15th, 12:00-1:00 in your House Cluster Room.

Your House Mentors are a valuable resource during all four years of medical school. They serve as a sounding board for your plans and goals, provide a confidential listening ear during difficult times, refer you to support resources, assist you in sorting through questions and decisions, and generally are here to guide you to a successful medical school outcome.

While each House has its own Mentor, you may meet with and gather advice from any of our five House Mentors! If you haven’t already met with your Mentor, the October 15th Noon Talk will be a great time to learn a bit more about your Mentor.

Your Mentors are available by appointment through MyUW (see the August 2014 House Calls in the archives) and welcome your discussions!

After October you can look forward to two more Noon Talks for the Fall Semester:

- November 15th: Summer Opportunities
- December 3rd: Integrative Medicine and Mindfulness Meditation

What’s Your Topic?
Not every Noon Talk is fixed by topic; the Inter-House Council leaves space for your Noon Talk ideas! If there is a topic that you'd like to have hosted for a Noon Talk, please contact IHC’s Noon Talk Coordinator, Tim Rushmer, at trushmer@wisc.edu.

Watch For IHC Emails!
Prior to each Noon Talk, IHC will send you a food survey/RSVP. And if the Noon Talk involves your input, they may also have surveys to gather your questions and ideas related to the Noon Talk. Be sure to participate!

Community Engagement with Your House

Every House has its own community partner with whom they are working in order to improve the health and welfare of the community served by that partner.

During orientation, we know that you didn’t get a chance to meet actual community members because SMPH orientation just happens to occur at the same time as an annual city-wide United Way event; the community centers typically close for one week for staff training and deep cleaning. However, your chance is now to meet the community your House serves.

Your House’s Community Engagement Liaisons (CELs) are working with the community partners to determine what needs they will have for the Fall semester and how the Houses can assist in meeting these needs. Contact your CEL about projects such as:

For more information about projects, both large and small, that you can invest in, please contact your CEL whose email is on the first page of this newsletter!

Every House has both an M1 and M2 CEL. The M2 serves as the “lead” CEL for working with the community partner and training the M1 CEL to assume the lead role. Although the CEL position is only in its second year, our goal is to find great M1 and M2 leaders to develop this position into a public health connection assisting our community members.

Bamforth House is currently without either an M1 or M2 CEL! If you would like to step into this key role with our community partners, please contact Madeline Duffy at maduffy3@wisc.edu or call Madeline at 608-262-4204.
All medical students...ALL...are required to obtain a flu shot and provide documentation to Student Services that they’ve completed this important task. The flu shot not only protects you, it protects the vulnerable patients with whom you are working!

Immunization waivers for religious or medical reasons are available in OA-SIS in the “General Information” folder, “Forms and Instructions,” “2014-2015 Influenza Policy and Forms.”

Walk-in clinics are available as follows:
- Monday, Oct. 6 | Union South | 1308 W. Dayton Street | 9 am to 2 pm
- Thursday, Oct. 15 | Dejope Hall | Lake Mendota Room | 640 Elm Drive | 3 pm to 8 pm
- Friday, Oct. 31 | Health Sciences Learning Center (Atrium) | 11 am to 3 pm
- Daily 9am-4:30pm at UHS Green Clinic. Bring your student ID.

The deadline to turn in your documentation demonstrating that you have received your vaccination (or requested a religious waiver or medical contraindication) is 8am November 17th in the Student Services Office, 2141 HSLC!

For more information on flu shots, visit UHS at UHS/Flu Shot Information!

M3s and M4s who are out of town on a clerkship, all of our regional campuses (LaCrosse, Marshfield, Milwaukee, Green Bay / Aurora sites) have agreed to have their Employee Health administer the flu vaccine to you. You may ask at any of your sites - except UWHC Employee Health (they will not vaccinate UW students since we have UHS). Check with your site administrators if you have any questions.

M2 Exam Reviews and Resource Room Hours

The Test Review Room allows students to look over their last block exams. Please watch for emails from Adam Brigham, Learning Specialist regarding the room location. You can also view weekly locations and hours on the bulletin board located outside of Adam’s office. Fall semester Exam Review hours are:
- Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 3:00-5:00.

You may also contact Adam Brigham at abrigham@wisc.edu to review exams by appointment in his office at 2266 HSLC.

Remember that you are not allowed to take notes in any form. Electronic devices of any kinds are also not allowed. In order to use your coaching report while reviewing your exam, you must print it and bring it with you to the exam review.

Per the Student Handbook, available in OASIS in the “General Information” folder, you have two weeks to review an exam once it is released. Full policies regarding exam reviews are listed on pp 24-25 of the Student Handbook under policies 4.10 and 4.11.

M4 Interviewing Skills Videos and Workshops

M4s are currently scheduling and preparing for residency interviews. What is different about residency interviewing vs. any other typical job interview is that if you fail to acquire one of the open spots, you can’t just “keep looking.” Use every resource available to prepare the investigative skills, communication acumen and body language that doesn’t just say “hire me,” it says “I’m the person you want!” Leave nothing to chance for Match success!

Interview Skills videos are available in the UWSMPH Video Library. Each segment begins with “Residency Interviewing” and covers specific topics. Please watch for emails from Student Services regarding upcoming interviewing skills workshops during the month of October.

There are many times from hat you can gain hands-on practice with these skills. Don’t settle for being “good enough” or simply thinking you’re great; there’s someone else out there who wouldn’t settle for less than being the complete package that every residency program you interview for will want!
Our Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) has maintained a Humanism Wall on the 2nd floor HSLC bulletin board near the Bardeen House cluster room.

Please take time to read the experiences that your fellow House members and medical students have shared during medical school. GHHS provides note cards on the bulletin board so that you, also, can share the moments that remind you of the complex people and emotions wrapped into the facts of medicine.

Visit the GHHS Humanism Wall, soon, and read more about how our doctors are breaking through barriers to connect more openly with their patients.

**Passion for Patient Advocacy**

**Featuring Jeff Mahlum, Bardeen House**

Jeff Mahlum, Bardeen House, is taking his own experience with the healthcare landscape into positive, patient-centered directions.

UW-Madison recently featured SMPH student and Bardeen House member, Jeff Mahlum, in the news. Jeff, who is also an alumnus of UW-Madison, talks about his journey to patient advocacy and how earning his patient advocacy certificate guides his perspective as a medical student.

According to Mahlum, “You learn the value of just being there for your patients and listening to them and supporting them through what they’re going through,” explains Mahlum. “I will definitely carry with me, as both a medical student and a doctor, understanding what my patients are going through and how it may be much more complicated than just what I see in the exam room. If I’m able to do that, I think I can be a much more effective doctor.”

Read this terrific and inspiring article in its entirety at [UW News](#)