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.
How do I apply for Step 2? Use the same USMLE account you created for step 1 found at USMLE.

When should I plan to take Step 2? You should complete all Year 3 core clerkships prior to taking Step 2. If you want to have your Step 2 CK (Clinical Knowledge) score available when applications are sent (Oct 1), then you need to take the exam prior to August 31. The same applies if you want to show improvement from Step 1 to Step 2 CK for residency applications.

Who should I seek advice from regarding how my Step 2 impacts my residency choices? HOUSE MENTORS are your source for residency information. They have data and expert knowledge to help you determine how to proceed with Step 2.

Bamforth - Dr. Laura Zakowski (Internal Medicine)
Bardeen - Dr. Carol Diamond (Pediatrics)
Gundersen - Dr. David Rakel (Family Medicine)
McPherson - Dr. Jacqueline Arbuckle (Surgery)
Middleton - Dr. Christopher Hildebrand (Internal Medicine)

Can I meet with someone to discuss this further? Sharon Marks and Adam Brigham are more than happy to meet with you to discuss your study schedule, picking a date, or to review assessment profiles as you prepare.

Reminder: Step 2 CS is only offered in five U.S. Cities
- Atlanta, GA
- Chicago, IL
- Houston, TX
- Los Angeles, CA
- Philadelphia, PA.

If you decide to take the exam in Chicago and you want to take it after YEPSA in June, you should be ready to schedule a date early (Jan/Feb.).

The CS permit is active for twelve months. School policy states that you need to take CS in order to graduate, so you can take the exam anytime in your 4th year.

Step 2 CK has a three-month permit given out no more than 6 months before your eligibility date (just like step 1).

If you want to have your CK score available when applications go out October 1, then take CK by the end of August. School policy states you have until December 31 of your 4th year to complete Step 2 CK. This allows you to have the score before residency ranking in February.

You have access to the Board Exam Preparation Course on Learn@ UW for Step 2 materials.

If you have additional questions, please contact Sharon Marks or Adam Brigham (see column to left of this article).
With under two months to Match Day and less than four months to graduation from medical school, there are few things more motivating than planning ahead for how great you’re going to feel—and look—on SMPH recognition day as well as graduation day.

Every M4 will need appropriate academic attire; you don’t want to be that person who forgot his/her gown, or cap, or everything! Academic attire and commencement information for UW-Madison can be found at this Commencement link.

When your academic attire arrives, be sure that you have all the required pieces (cap, tassel, gown). If you receive your medical school hood, please be sure to give your hood to a staff member in Student Services prior to SMPH Recognition Day.

UWSMPH Recognition Day will be Friday, May 15th, 10:00am-11:30am at Union South in Varisty Hall (2nd floor). Academic attire is required and graduates must be seated by 5:00pm. There is no limit on the number of guests.

Be sure to check the Commencement link for all activities necessary prior to graduation. Use your phone to program a few reminders for the day-of ceremonies such as “Remember Tickets!” “Remember cap and gown!” Because…you don’t want to be that person. You want to be THAT person in the photo, above!

M4 Graduation: Look Good. Be Ready

Be A Leader With InterHouse Council

Each year, the Inter-House Council (IHC) needs new leaders who would like to use or hone their soft skills, creativity and time management for the benefit of their fellow medical students.

Applications and position descriptions will be available starting February 4th and will stay open until February 25th. While IHC works as a team to coordinate House activities and responsibilities, each position allows an individual to bring fresh ideas to the table and advance the mission of the SMPH Learning Communities. Earning a leadership is a competitive process and we hope that you will send an application and showcase what you will bring to the InterHouse Council!
Enjoy a healthy lunch while also learning something new and getting the opportunity to ask a few questions. The InterHouse Council (IHC) invites you to attend their monthly Noon Talks. Here's what's on the menu...

**Wednesday, February 11th: Preview for 3rd Year.** This is your chance to talk to current third year students and find out what the third year really turned out to be for them.

**Wednesday, March 11th: Community Engagement Liaison “Report From the House.”** Each House has two Community Engagement Liaisons (CELs) who work directly with one of five local Madison community-based organizations and bring together the unique skills of medical students with community needs. Get the full report from your CEL and learn more about the value of bringing your skillset to the community.

**Wednesday, April 8th: M4 Success Stories Panel: Applying, Interviewing, and the Match.** This is it. This is what you’re here for—earn your medical degree and match into a residency program. It’s a process, it’s a journey and every House member will want to hear these stories.

**Wednesday, May 6th: Big Sib Lil Sib Information Session:** Are you interested in being a Big Sib but not sure how much you’ll need to be involved? Learn more about one of the Learning Communities highest rated programs and how Big Sibs have provided positive support, resources and “inside information” for fellow medical students.

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**A Sweet Week: February 9-12**

Mark your calendar for the sweetest week that SMPH medical students will experience.

**WMAA Valentine Thank-You Cards. February 9th and 10th.** UW SMPH alumni are responsible for providing a great deal of support to current medical students. Thanks to the efforts of WMAA, alumni donate money to scholarships and stethoscopes as well as time for shadowing programs. This is your chance to show just how much you appreciate them by writing them as many thank-you notes as you want! Just stop in at the WMAA office on the fourth floor of the HSLC. And when you’ve finished writing a card or two or more, WMAA will have some fabulous Valentine treats for you, too!

**Crush Can Valentines. February 9, 10, and 12.** Have a Crush? Get a Crush! This favorite House Cup event lets you make a donation for a can of Crush soda to deliver to your personal Crush (or maybe just someone you really really appreciate). Suggested donations will cover the cost of the Crush and earn points for your House. Send a little sweet love someone else’s way and, while you’re at it, send a little love (and points) to your House.

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**SCORE! Actually...Double Score!**

The Allied Drive/Allied United community lost their local Walgreens in December, 2014. There are few food sources in this area and losing Walgreens will have a major impact on this area.

In an effort to boost Bamforth House’s overall score, M1 Nikita Shulzhenko hauled a suitcase full of items to the HSLC.

Thank you, Nikita, and all House Cup participants for earning points while helping a local Madison community.

Even though this event has ended, if you want to help the Allied United Community, please contact James Bernatz or Alissa Small in Bardeen House (see page 1 of this newsletter), or contact any InterHouse Council member for more information.
A Taste of Wisconsin and the Arts

Each year, WMAA hosts a winter event for medical students and local alumni featuring music performed by medical students as well as local foods and beverages.

WMAA has issued a call for medical student artwork for this special event that will be held March 6th, 2015 from 6:00-8:00pm at the Fluno Center, 601 University Ave., on campus.

Email wmaa@med.wisc.edu with a photo of what you would like to display and be sure to include dimensions of your artwork. You will need to commit to displaying your artwork by February 13th.

All artwork will be displayed on tables or easels provided by WMAA. Those who have committed to displays will need to deliver their art on March 6th between 3:00-5:00pm at the Fluno Center. Artists should be available at the event to discuss their displays with alumni and medical students.

Bonus! Those of you planning to display artwork for the Ebling Library on April 9th can use the same artwork for WMAA’s Wondrous Winter Event.

M4 Match—The Final Stretch

Here are some brief tips from Student Services as M4s prepare for Match Day.

1. Rank all programs at which you would be willing to train because this is much better than being unmatched. Rank as many programs as you are comfortable with (hopefully at least 8).

2. Rank programs EXACTLY IN THE ORDER YOU WANT TO GO - no gaming the system - it favors YOU!!

3. Certify and submit your rank order list no later than February 25 at 8 PM CST.

4. It is OK to communicate your interest to programs but be very careful about explicitly promising where you will rank them because you may change your mind. Your best strategy is communicating your continued interest and enthusiasm.

5. If you have a sensitive question about your rank order list you can confidentially ask Student Services (Deans / Chris Stillwell) and / or ACAP Mentors.

HOUSE CUP STANDING: DECEMBER

McPherson 116.51
Gundersen 78.07
Middleton 62.91
Bamforth 49.51
Bardeen 44.50

2013-14 House Cup Final Scores

Gundersen 283.50
McPherson 280.50
Bardeen 126.50
Bamforth 125.00
Middleton 103.00

HOUSE CUP STANDING: JANUARY

McPherson 124.51
Gundersen 82.07
Middleton 64.91
Bamforth 53.51
Bardeen 46.50

What’s Next For 2014-15 Events

There are many more ways to boost your House’s points but the BIG EVENT is the WILD CARD WALK-A-THON

WMAA provides every participant with a free pedometer for one month. Each week you’ll visit WMAA to earn points for your steps. In addition to students, HOUSE MENTORS walk for their own Houses and each House will get to pick one Wild Card Walker to add their steps! Wild Card Walkers are: Dean McBride, Dean McIntosh, Chris Stillwell, Karen Peterson and Jodi Sherman.