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.
Residency Applications and ERAS

WHERE DO I FIND INSTRUCTIONS?
Select this link to go to the ERAS User Guide for 2015

WHEN CAN I APPLY?
September 15 is the first day you can transmit your application to programs via ERAS. (Ophthalmology applicants have already submitted their materials through the SF Match, but will still use ERAS for prelim/transitional programs.) Applying early can be seen as a proxy for commitment and diligence; therefore, we encourage students to submit applications as soon as they are complete and 1-2 letters of recommendation can be attached. Practically, there isn't much difference between applications submitted on 9/15 vs. 9/17 because materials must be downloaded by programs and then disseminated to screening committees for review. It takes programs a few days to start their application download and review processes.

HOW DO I MANAGE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION (LORs)?
Assigning a LOR: To assign a LOR to a program you must 1) finalize the LOR author in the Documents/Letters of Recommendation section of ERAS, and 2) the letter must be uploaded into ERAS by the LOR author or Student Services. Once a letter has been assigned and downloaded, it may not be unassigned.

Adding Letters: You may assign additional letters to programs you’ve previously applied to under the Programs / Programs Applied To section in ERAS. This will be important if you apply early to programs with less than your full complement of letters and then additional ones become available.

The Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE)

At the start of fourth year, every medical student on target to graduate will receive a compilation of evaluations and other information in OASIS via the MSPE. The MSPE is just one of many pieces of information used for the interview, application, ranking and matching process that leads up to Match Day.

Prior to uploading letters for release in ERAS, students may review and make specific types of factual corrections to their letters as per national guidelines.

Your letter must be reviewed no later than noon on September 29th for timely release on October 2nd.

Watch for emails from Student Services!

See this newsletter article on “Letters of Recommendation” for more information about your LoR!
Noon Talks

Throughout the year, the InterHouse Council (IHC) offers brief talks on a variety of subjects. These talks are held once-per-month on a Wednesday from 12:00-1:00 in your House Cluster Room. Food is provided to those who have RSVP’d to the food survey.

2014 will kick-off with *What I Wish I Had Known When I was an M1*. This popular discussion will be held on Wednesday, September 17th starting at—yes—Noon.

Be sure to watch for the food survey in your email!

And whether you’re an M1 or an M4, everyone will benefit by spending time with their House Mentor! Your House Mentor is there to guide you through times when you may feel lost, confused or losing motivation. They are there to remind you of what comes next, what to look forward to, and plan for each step of every semester. If you haven’t met your House Mentor, yet, then be sure to meet them on *Meet Your Mentor* on Wednesday, October 15th starting at—that’s right—Noon.

If you have a new idea for a Noon Talk, please contact Tim Rushmer (trushmer@wisc.edu), IHC’s Noon Talk Coordinator!

Great food, friends and conversation at—you know it—NOON!

Education Vendors: Policy, Board Exams and Resources

Every year, our second-year medical students are approached by vendors offering free study guides and other promotional items for Step 1 board exams, provided that the students can assist with creating a resource fair or event in which their product can be viewed or demonstrated.

School policy, similar to hospital and clinic policies, is very strict about outside vendors; any association between students and outside vendors is a conflict of interest within our educational facility.

More importantly, students often second-guess their knowledge; these outside vendors are counting on students’ excitement or anxiety about boards in order to sell students an expensive product that they often end up not using. It is important to remember that right now you need to do well in your classes; students who do well in their classes will have the required content to pass their boards—there are no top secret trick questions! In February you can begin thinking about boards, at which time Sharon Marks will assist you with a variety of resources that has

Careers In Medicine

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) provides free access to the Careers in Medicine (CiM) site where you will find tools for career planning, choosing a specialty, and navigating the interview process for residencies.

CiM can help you assess your interests, consider work-life balance, and so much more!

Additionally, remember to use all of the resources available to you which include:

- Informational interviews with clinicians and faculty
- Meeting with your House Mentor
- Seeking advising with the friendly staff in Student Services.

Access to the CiM site is as easy as creating a log-in using your AAMC information.
IHC Leadership Training

The InterHouse Council (IHC) spent an evening with Student Services Director, Chris Stillwell, to learn more about how to be terrific leaders.

Stepping into a demanding leadership position while managing the academic and clinical requirements of medical school can stretch the abilities of even the most capable of people.

More importantly, learning to balance these demands between curricular and extracurricular provide our medical students with opportunities to hone their communication skills, prioritize effectively and work with diverse teams—all skills that any medical student can use as a doctor.

Mr. Stillwell created an immersion workshop utilizing a meeting agenda in which he explained the purpose of each agenda item and included errors in the agenda in order to teach leaders how to maintain effectiveness when difficulties arise during meetings.

IHC members also broke into three work groups with each group seeking to learn a basic leadership concept, report that concept to other groups and discuss how they can use that concept in their real-life leadership positions. The work groups looked at these inter-related areas:

- **Leadership As A Creative Process** as discussed by Dieter Rams and Jonathan Ive. This perspective viewed leadership through the lens of design thinking.
- **Leadership During Crisis** as viewed through the actual crisis of how to bring the Apollo 13 astronauts home, safe and alive.
- **Everyday Leadership**, a TED talk that looks at those moments when you have created a change in someone else’s life just by being in the right place at the right time.

It’s a great time to be a leader in UWSMPH!

Student Organization Fair

Join the fun in the Atrium on **Wednesday, September 3rd 12:00-1:00** while learning about all of the great medical, musical, and other student organizations that are available to you!

Enjoy a chocolate chip cookie or take a few medical moments to check out a brain, heart or liver (we usually don’t keep the cookies and the internal organs at the same tables).

These students are passionate about their student organizations and excited to tell you more about what membership in their organization can offer.

It only happens once-per-year so don’t miss this great lunch-hour event!
The room was dimly lit, quiet and only with the sounds of periodic, deep breaths. The midwife and I have been pushing with the patient for the past two hours. As the mom continued to push, a tinge of orange peaked through the window blinds, and then a flush of coral-colored light filled the room. We could see the crown of the head peaking out. The patch of hair slowly grew wider. At 6am, the baby finally decided to grace us with her presence. My fingers trembled as I placed one hand above and one hand below her head. One push, her face was facing me and one more push, the shoulders, arms and legs soon followed. At the site of this new life, I froze, unsure what to do next. Fittingly, she was named Elsa (after the princess in Frozen).

The learning curve has been steep but incredible. At times, I was more than a medical student, I was their medical student. The family took me in; they introduced me to the grandmas, aunts and uncles. We chatted; we laughed; we talked about plans for the future. I was there for them, for this stressful but incredible moment in their lives.

Yi Ding’s first clinical rotation of her M3 year provided her with 6 weeks of obstetrics and gynecology in Milwaukee. According to Yi, she “could not have asked for a better introduction to third year and to clinical medicine.” Ms. Ding recently started a 6 week rotation in pediatrics.
UWSMPH’s newest students have the unique opportunity to focus on what the “public” in public health really means.

From the first day of orientation through Thursday, UWSMPH connected the faces and lives of real patients to Madison’s diverse community, the neighborhoods in which they live and their needs; interwoven throughout is the Honor Code guiding the professionalism, values, integrity and actions as our students move towards their M.D. degrees.

M1s, who completed a brief asset mapping activity, will continue their exploration and discussion in their first integrative case study.

In Faces of Patients, students learn more about patients’ lives and backgrounds as a reminder that their future patients are more than a collection of symptoms.

Gundersen House supported the Goodman Center’s annual top-to-bottom, inside-and-out cleaning day so that local community members and neighbors in need have a welcoming place to visit.

McPherson House stuffed a whole lot of backpacks at the Salvation Army Center on Darbo Drive! What does it do for the health and well-being of a school-age child to feel prepared for the first day of school?

“Team” is the theme as Bardeen House prepared the Allied Drive Boys and Girls Club for the upcoming school year. By organizing into teams, Boys and Girls Club participants learn more about the meaning of team while also learning about various colleges and what it takes to successfully get from high school to college.
BARDEEN HOUSE serves Allied Drive Boys and Girls Club as well as the Dane County Parent Council. James Bernatz (jbernatz@wisc.edu) is the Community Engagement Liaison for Bardeen and your contact for getting involved with Bardeen’s community partners!

MIDDLETON HOUSE serves Porchlight in the downtown Madison area. Shawn Wayne (spwayne@wisc.edu) is the Community Engagement Liaison for Middleton and your contact for getting involved with Middleton community partners!

GUNDERSEN HOUSE serves Goodman Community Center on Madison’s east side. Maggie Barnes (mlbarnes3@wisc.edu) and Busola Adesina (adesina@wisc.edu) are the Community Engagement Liaisons for Gundersen and your contacts for getting involved with Gundersen community partners!
The Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) had their formal induction on August 24th, just prior to the M1s’ White Coat Ceremony.

Assistant Dean of Students, Gwen McIntosh, hosted the ceremony; Dean Golden and Dean Petty provided the group with a brief history of UW School of Medicine and Public Health’s participation in GHHS and the accomplishments of GHHS members.

GHHS inductees received a certificate from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation and Dean Golden, as well as the honor society pin for their white coat. Student inductees fro 2014-15 are:

- Mohammad Hararah: Gundersen House
- Michael Kessler: McPherson House
- Lucas Kuehn: McPherson House
- Benjamin Lipanot: Bardeen House
- Heather Nennig: Gundersen House
- Mehria Sayad-Shah: Middleton House
- Nathan Swenson: McPherson House
- Meaghan Trainor: McPherson House
- May Tun: McPherson House
- Shola Vaughn: Bamforth House
- Caroline Yang: Bamforth House

Inducted along with the students was Dr. Sam Lubner, Class of 2003 and now serving in the Dept. of Medicine, Hematology/Oncology; Dr. Robert Dempsey, Neurological Surgery; and Dr. David Rakel, Family Medicine and Integrative Medicine. Additionally, Dr. Rakel, who serves as the Gundersen House Mentor, was selected by GHHS members to receive the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine award.

And remember to join this great group of students every second Wednesday from 6:00-7:00pm for Gold Humanism dinner and discussion. Watch your email for details!

**Gold Humanism Rounds**
- September 10th, 2014
- 6:00-7:00pm
- Includes dinner for those who RSVP

**Gold Humanism Honor Society Induction**

1. It's all about the patient. Always.
2. Remember the power differential, even when you're a student doctor.
3. When in doubt about what to say or do, don't say and don't do it.
4. Be aware of when professional relationship lines are getting blurred.
5. Be very aware of what you post on social media and if you should use social media at all.

**Deans Cup and House Cup**

Every year, UW School of Medicine and Public Health students stage two incredible competitive events and everyone has an opportunity to join!

The year kicks off with the **Dean’s Cup**: Med vs. Law! Started in 1995 as a charitable event, all UWSMPH students work together to keep the Dean’s Cup in our talented hands. We lost the competition in 2013, so this is the year we’re going to bring the trophy home.

The **Medical Student Association (MSA)** will be contacting you soon to get your team spirit (and team shirt).

**House Cup** is a friendly competition between the five Learning Community Houses and consists of a series of fun events and one lucky House will take home the coveted (and brand new) House Cup!