The Neighborhood, comprised of five Houses, cultivates community, well-being, and professional identity through individual and shared experiences.
Here are just a few of the hundreds of great photos from SMPH graduation 2017. Graduation was a celebration with class speaker, Nate Baggett, friends, family, faculty and...of course...Bucky Badger!

Class of 2017: Hello Residency!

2017 is the last ceremony in Varsity Hall. Graduates are hooded by faculty and read the Oath of Geneva as they proceed to residency.
If you are a rising M4 who is planning on attending one or more extramural rotations, be sure that you are taking all of the right steps to get a grade for your efforts!

The majority of extramural rotations are arranged through the Visiting Student Application System (VSAS) or directly with a medical school that uses its own visiting student system.

While it may be possible for students to arrange a rotation with a medical center or clinic that offers a specialty, experience, or geographic location of interest, you want to be sure that these “outside” locations have supervising faculty with appointments at an LCME-accredited medical school so that your experience can be appropriately evaluated and graded. If you have questions about this, contact Jodi Sherman at 608-263-7135 or jodi.sherman@wisc.edu for information.

Did we mention evaluations and grades? Your host school will need to send an evaluation form to Student Services so that you can get a grade. Our UW SMPH evaluation form for AWAY rotations is located in OASIS Notices> General Information>Y4>Away Rotation Clinical Evaluation. If your host school prefers to use their own evaluation form, Student Services can work with that! Extramural evaluations are guided by our M.D. Student Handbook Section 2.3(5) Oversight of Extramural Electives. It is the student’s responsibility to be sure that all extramural evaluations are received prior to your graduation!

New This Year...Upon returning from your extramural experience, UW SMPH will require that you complete an evaluation of your experience at another institution. The evaluation form will be available in OASIS and, over time, serve as an important source of information to other medical students seeking similar experiences.

Remember that extramural rotations do not count towards direct patient care credits because your experience is being supervised outside of the UW SMPH medical student program.

If you want to get the most out of your extramural rotation, or if you are making decisions about extramural rotations, be sure to connect with any of our House Mentors to discuss your plans, questions, or concerns.

It’s Never Too Early To Plan Career Trajectories

Careers in Medicine

The Association of American Medical College’s (AAMC) Careers in Medicine (CIM) website is a great resource for students at all levels. You can access the website with your AAMC ID and password. Whether you are trying to figure out a specialty or changing specialties, CIM has exploratory tools for every level of the medical profession, from pre-medical students and beyond.

Remember that CIM is just one great resource for medical students at UW SMPH! Use CIM to create questions for your House Mentors who can help you to reflectively sort through what you have learned from your exploration.

Medical students also have access to the Passport in OASIS. The Passport is an area where you can build your CV, create your personal statement, and reflect with fellow students, House Mentors, and faculty on important activities or events.

It’s Never Too Early To Start Your Personal Statement

The personal statement is one of those items that gets pushed to the bottom of a medical student’s priority list. And then suddenly you’re in your fourth year of medical school and you need a personal statement NOW.

The personal statement is not a redux of your curriculum vitae (CV). It’s called “personal” statement for a reason! This statement enhances the facts contained in your CV and provides the reader—perhaps the program director in your chosen specialty—with a deeper understanding of who you are and what you will bring to their program.

Residency programs read hundreds upon hundreds of personal statements. Take the time and opportunity to have your personal statement stand out (in a positive way) from the hundreds before you and convince the program to schedule an interview with you.

Why leave your personal statement to chance when you can take time throughout medical school to write and reflect on your goals, experiences, and knowledge?

The Passport system in OASIS is the perfect place to record and reflect on your experiences as they occur. Sharing your Passport reflections with friends and House Mentors will help you develop clear thoughts for a well-written personal statement. It won’t take long before you see trends that are shaping your interests in certain specialties and knowledge of the doctor you will bring to a residency program.

Your House Mentors, as practicing physicians who read residency applications, are the ideal connections for developing and discussing your personal statement.

Do you need a starting place before you contact your House Mentor? Review the personal statement you wrote for medical school and go from there. It’s never too early to start!
Step 1 Study Tips from Student Academic Success Services (SASS)

As many of you embark on your Step 1 study time, the SASS team wants to share with you 5 Tips to aid in your study:

- Accept the fact that you cannot learn everything
- Make a study schedule
- The goal is to maximize your actual Step score, not your Q-Bank score.
- Find and close your knowledge gaps
- Apply and integrate knowledge, do not just memorize First Aid
- Take practice exams to see where you stand

To see more Step study tips watch this short video and schedule a meeting with a SASS team member!

Why Do I Need An Ombuds?

An ombuds is someone who helps people to informally resolve conflict by facilitating communication and utilizing resources that will help achieve a satisfactory solution. The ombuds is neutral and, most importantly, confidential.

While most students have never used a campus ombuds, there may be times when you need their services. Typically, students will seek the counsel of an ombuds when they have what they feel are high-stake situations involving a power differential between the student and the other party(ies).

It is important to understand that the ombuds does not advocate on behalf of specific individuals or concerns. The ombuds is impartial; all information you share with the ombuds remains confidential.

Ombuds services are covered in Section 17 of the M.D. Student Handbook in Oasis. Students in the School of Medicine and Public Health needing the services of an ombuds can contact Lynn Maki, Associate Dean for Student Academic Affairs in the School of Veterinary Medicine

lmaki@svm.vetmed.wisc.edu, 608-263-2525.

The academic process and requirements of veterinary medicine are very similar to human medicine; Dean Maki understands this and medical students can feel confident in her ombuds services. The Veterinary medicine Building is located at 2015 Linden Dr., just a short walk, or ride on the #80 bus, from the medical school.
The Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association (WMAA) and the Medical Students Association are proud to announce the Wisconsin Shadow program. This program will allow all enrolled students at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health the opportunity to have unique shadowing experiences with alumni throughout the State of Wisconsin. The goal of Shadow is to encourage current medical students to develop medical skills and learn about medical specialties in non-academic settings.

Shadow will allow medical students an opportunity to experience medicine outside of the university environment. The practice of medicine differs greatly outside of the University and one of Shadow’s major goals is to allow students to explore non-academic medicine. All alumni volunteers are physicians who live around the State of Wisconsin. With its geographical diversity, Shadow will also allow in-state students to shadow near their hometowns during school breaks and weekends. Out of state students are encouraged to use this program as well.

The Shadow program offers a one-of-a-kind exposure to medical specialties. Classroom learning, third-year rotations, special interest groups, and other current programs offer an excellent chance to learn about medical specialties. Shadow was created to enhance and add to these resources. The list will continue to expand, but the following are specialties that can be shadowed: Anesthesia, Cardiology, Dermatology, Emergency Medicine, OB/Gyn, Family Practice, Hospitalists, Internal Medicine, Ophthalmology, Orthopedic Surgery, Medical Oncology, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, General Surgery, and Urology.

As a reminder, Shadow is a voluntary program, and the experience should not interfere with class time or work. This is a non-credit experience. Therefore, medical students DO NOT have liability (including malpractice) insurance coverage. The program is to be exclusively a “shadow” experience. We strongly encourage any feedback you have as we continue to improve this new program! If you have any questions please contact Karen Peterson, WMAA Executive Director (kspeters@wisc.edu)

In order to participate, you must do the following:

- Sign up in the WMAA Office at the front desk, room 4296 HSLC.
- Sign the agreement form which states you understand this program is not for credit and therefore does not provide liability (including malpractice) insurance coverage. The agreement form is also at the front desk.
- Request a list of alumni “Shadow” volunteers from the WMAA staff.
In April, McPherson House members threw a retirement party for Dr. Arbuckle, their House Mentor. Dr. Arbuckle received an honorary “McPherson Mug” and many well-wishes from her House. Dr. Arbuckle has served as a House Mentor since 2012 and we are grateful for her dedication and commitment to our medical students. House members received the following email from Dr. Arbuckle:

Dear fellow McPherson house members,

Thank you so very much for the reception last night. It was such a wonderful way to recognize our time together. I’m grateful for the time I was able to share with you during your time in medical school and the thoughts each of you have shared with me. I’m certain that Blaise Nemeth will be an amazing mentor for our house. As we talked about last night, I plan to stay in touch with the medical school and would love to hear from you regarding your plans, successes and thoughts.

Thank you for the card, I will keep it in a treasured spot in our home.

McPherson House Bids Farewell to Dr. Arbuckle

Second-year student leaders from the Inter-House Council (IHC) and Medical Student Association (MSA) were recognized by our administration and Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association (WMAA) for excellent service to our medical student body. Balancing the responsibilities of a heavy academic load with leadership requires commitment, strong abilities to compartmentalize and prioritize, and—most importantly—a vision for creating and managing the encompassing experience of being a successful medical student.

After receiving certificates signed by Deans Golden, Petty, and McIntosh, leaders “tossed around” some of their thoughts and comments about the past two years and shared them as they prepare to enter their third year clinical rotations.

M2 Student Leaders Take Leadership to the Next Level

If you didn’t have a chance to join the Greenbush donut-filled info session on May 3rd, please check out the Peer Wellness Group link for information about being a leader or a participant. We hope that M3s and M4s will find time in their busy schedules to participate in a group to bring a deeper understanding of the medical school experience to M1s and M2s.

If you have questions, please contact Sasha jascor (sjascor@wisc.edu) or Erin Curtis (erin.curtis@wisc.edu)
The graduating Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) members hosted about 20 people at their final rounds, presenting “My Life, My Story: The Importance of the Patient Narrative” with guests Seth Jovaag and Debby Deutsch from the Veteran’s Administration (VA)’s My Life My Story program.

Advice was provided in these key areas:

- Narrative has evolved over the past 15 years
- Narrative competence is important to develop.
- Recognize, absorb, interpret, and act on the stories our patients tell us.
- There are four areas of narrative that a physician can develop in order to become truly competent:
  - Physician and patient
  - Physician and self
  - Physicians and colleagues
  - Physician and society

Students were reminded that preparing for interviews (Physician and self narrative) during fourth year is a time to reflect on patient interactions and what they meant to becoming a physician. One student was advised to "write a personal statement," not for an interview but for the purpose of writing whatever came out in order to discover what direction you want to take as a physician.

Narrative is for every patient, not just those at end-of-life. As you work with your patients, remember to them “Tell me what you think [this illness/this diagnosis] is?” The answers will help you to understand your patient better.

Guest presenters shared their techniques for gathering narratives from veterans who want to participate in the My Life My Story program. Trained volunteers interview and audio-record veterans' stories. To get the conversation started, the volunteer may ask, "If your doctor could know anything about you, what would that be?" Or..."So where were you born?” You need a starter in order to get some patients to talk about themselves, especially to strangers with whom they don't have a common bond.

The volunteer then writes a short narrative, about 1000 words, of a veteran's story and provides it to the veteran for revisions and final approval. The story is loaded to the medical record. Additionally, stories may be read aloud to staff to remind them of the people they are caring for.

Get involved! **Course 632-919m "My Story" is a pass/fail elective for 4th year students.** Offered in March and April for two weeks/two credits. Contact Tara Loushine at tloushine@medicine.wisc.edu or Thor Ringler at thor.ringler@va.gov

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You’re Invited to Gold Humanism Honor Society Rounds

**Wednesday, June 14th 6:00-7:00pm**

Please watch your email for details!