

The May 11th Chat for Accepted Applicants included members of the Pritzker admissions staff and current students. If you haven't already, please check out the Pritzker Podcasts, as well!!

To help “decode” the chat names, below is a key:

PritzkerSylvia: Sylvia Robertson, Asst. Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid
PritzkerJoni: Joni Krapec, Director of Admissions and Outreach
PritzkerDavid: David Owen, Director of Admissions and Financial Aid
Pritzker Sophie: First-year student and one of the Orientation Co-Chairs
Pritzker Cooper: First-year student and one of the Orientation Co-Chairs
Pritzker Mei: First-year student and one of the Pritzker Orientation Ambassadors
Pritzker Kristi: First-year student and one of the Pritzker Orientation Ambassadors

(PRITZKER Joni): Hi Everyone!

DCMoore: Hello, I'm David from DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana

(PRITZKERSophie): Hi david!

(PritzkerSylvia): Is that David!!!! Welcome -- I am so glad you could come to the chat!

(PRITZKER Joni): Hi David!!

(PRITZKERmei): Hi David

(PRITZKERSophie): Hi, I'm Sophie. I'm a first-year student and am one of your Pritzker Orientation Co-Chairs. I am originally from the Chicago suburbs and graduated from Duke University.

(PRITZKER Joni): Hi Rebecca!!!

(PRITZKER COOPER): Hi, I'm Cooper. I'm a first-year student and am one of your Pritzker Orientation Co-Chairs. I am originally from Illinois and graduated from Northwestern University.

(PRITZKER Joni): Hey Jeff!

(PritzkerDavid): Hi David, Hi RDEskin

(PritzkerDavid): I am a Director of Admissions and Financial Aid. I work with graduates from colleges and universities in the Midwest and West

(PRITZKERkristi): Hi, I'm Kristi. I'm a first-year student and am one of your Pritzker Orientation Ambassadors. I am originally from Seattle and graduated from the University of Chicago.

(PritzkerSylvia): David, that update I promised you yesterday is all set and on its way -- let me know if you have questions

DCMoore: What does Orientation consist of?

rdeskin: Hello everyone! I'm Rebecca and I'm finishing up at Stanford in a few weeks

(PritzkerSylvia): Sylvia is our Assistant Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid

(PritzkerSylvia): Congratulations Rebecca -- enjoy graduation!

(PRITZKERSophie): Hi Rebecca! congrats on almost being done!

(PRITZKER Joni): I am a Director of Admissions and Outreach. I work with graduates from colleges and universities in the Northeast and South.

Jeff85: Hi, I'm Jeff! (Hey Rebecca, I graduated Stanford '08!) From Chicago, but currently working in DC

(PritzkerDavid): Hi Rebecca, how does it feel to be that close to the end of college?

(PRITZKER Joni): David--lucky we have our orientation chairs right here! They are answering...

(PRITZKER Joni): Hey Jeff! How's the weather in DC?

(PRITZKER COOPER): Orientation is a weekend long event that consists of mingling time, logistical information, introductions to the staff and faculty that will help you on your way through Pritzker

(PRITZKERSophie): med school is way better than college! :)

rdeskin: It's pretty great. I'm actually done with classes (since the end of winter quarter) so now I'm workig and enjoyig the California sunshine

(PritzkerDavid): How's the weather in Stanford today? Last time you said it was

wet and cool

(PRITZKER COOPER): as well as many chances to get to know your new classmates through night time events and daily activities

(PRITZKERSophie): Hi Jeff! I'm from the Chicago area too and I can say, its great to be back

Jeff85: We've had beautiful weather here for the past couple of days

rdeskin: The weather finally caught up -- its mid-70s nd sunny!

(PRITZKER Joni): Rebecca--my husband just left for a business trip for LA and he's taunting with the weather!

(PritzkerSylvia): We are having a beautiful evening here --- an amazing sunny day today

(PRITZKER Joni): Jeff, great to hear you have good weather, too!

(PRITZKER Joni): Let us know what you guys are thinking about or have questions about!

rdeskin: Jeff - I'm from the DC area originally!

(PritzkerSylvia): And now we are thrilled you are both coming to Pritzker!

(PRITZKER Joni): Hi Laura! Welcome!

Jeff85: DC is a great place to live... tons of free things to do

(PRITZKER COOPER): side note on Orientation: we will also be training you in basic life saving techniques (read CPR) and giving you a chance to talk to second year students about what to expect next year

(PRITZKER Joni): Good habit to get into for Med School too Jeff :-)

rdeskin: I have a question about the next week or so -- is there anything we need to do, like send in a deposit, to secure our spot?

(PRITZKERSophie): Orientation is a really great time to bond with your classmates and prep for the long (and fun and exciting) road ahead!

(PRITZKER Joni): Rebecca--nope! Just tell us you are coming and that's it! Then just be sure to withdraw from any other school at which you are holding a spot!

DCMoore: Orientation sounds good- I'm interested in that non-academic time to meet our classmates. Good thing about CPR- I just took a life-guarding at DePauw and got certified- we have to take PE classes like high school here.

(PRITZKER Joni): You can stay on other wait lists too though.

(PritzkerSylvia): We will send you a formal letter on May 15 -- it's a procedure thing -- to help you remember to withdraw from other schools, etc but no deposit is required.

(PRITZKER Joni): David you had to take PE in college? Actually, I did too. My "skill" course was country line dancing...I went to school in Iowa :-)

rdeskin: Also my 22nd birthday is the same day as white coat ceremony! so one more activity for orientation!

(PritzkerSylvia): At U Chicago college you have to pass swimming and take PE classes but no such med school requirement -- our students are very healthy though!

(PRITZKER Joni): Oh that will be awesome Rebecca!

(PRITZKERSophie): ...we will also have some non-academic meet and greet/welcome activities during the weeks following orientation, TBD

lauraz: i have a related question - is there a way that we can double check that we have withdrawn everywhere else?

(PritzkerDavid): that will be a wonderful way to celebrate your birthday!!

(PritzkerDavid): Hi Lauraz...

(PritzkerSylvia): Wonderful Rebecca, The whole class could celebrate with you – what a wonderful way to mark your birthday

DCMoore: I couldn't make it to the second visit weekend- can you tell me what specific curriculum changes are being made?

(PRITZKER Joni): Hi Jason!

(PRITZKERmei): Hi Jason

(PRITZKER Joni): It is important to know that the "new" curriculum will not be

radically different from our current successful curriculum. Our goal is to incorporate a few new changes to best prepare our students for the challenges of medicine in the 21st century. There will be continued focus on questions of why & not just how. There will be an increased integration of teaching among disciplines & increased opportunities for small group learning. We will also have a Scholarship and Discovery thread, which will support you in pursuing a scholarly project throughout your time in medical school.

- (PRITZKERmei): Hi, I'm Mei. I'm a first-year student and am one of your Pritzker Orientation Ambassadors. I grew up all over, including China and Australia. I graduated from Penn State University.
- (PRITZKERSophie): Hi, I'm Sophie. I'm a first-year student and am one of your Pritzker Orientation Co-Chairs. I am originally from the Chicago suburbs and graduated from Duke University.
- (PritzkerDavid): Lauraz, The best way to make sure that you are withdrawn from all the other schools, is to email the Dean or Director of Admissions, and then send a letter to their office as well.
- (PritzkerSylvia): Sylvia is our Assistant Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid
- DCMoore: Thanks Joni!
- (PRITZKERkristi): For those of who who just came... I'm Kristi. I'm a first-year student and am one of your Pritzker Orientation Ambassadors. I am originally from Washington State and graduated from the University of Chicago, so I know Hyde Park very well.
- (PritzkerSylvia): Does the AMCAS website tell you where you are still holding – just thinking? If not, just keep checking with us and we can look.
- (PRITZKER Joni): If you all want to introduce yourselves feel free! You all might be classmates next year!
- jasonwc: Hi there everyone, just wanted to take a little time and see what had already been discussed. By way of introduction, just graduated from BYU and getting really excited about coming to Chicago.
- lauraz: ok, that makes sense David. I know at this point you guys can see where else we're holding spots, and I wasn't sure if there was a way for us to do that too
- (PRITZKERSophie): o yay jason, we're excited to have you here!

(PritzkerDavid): Lauraz, You can also email me to check to see if the other schools have accepted your withdrawl you or not.

(PRITZKER Joni): Yeah, Laura, it would seem to make sense that there was somewhere for you to see it yourself...but I guess not.

(PritzkerDavid): Hi Jason

DCMoore: I'll just keep the questions coming- does Pritzker have a simulation center or manikins to practice basic procedures on? For the new chatters- I'm David, go to DePauw University and originally from Evansville, IN.

(PritzkerSylvia): Hi Jason, Congratulations on graduation! How many graduated from BYU this year?

jasonwc: From the whole university? Somewhere between 6000 and 7000.

DCMoore: Ha- DePauw doesn't even half that many students!

(PRITZKER Joni): Hey Kelly--is that you?

(PritzkerDavid): Hi Kledbett

(PritzkerSylvia): Yes, David, good questions -- these are very helpful tools in teaching medicine -- our 2nd year CPP and T course is developing some really exciting new ways to use these -- they would be ready for you

(PRITZKER Joni): Wow, Jason. I didn't realize BYU was THAT big!

kledbett: yes! Hi- I was wondering if you could elaborate on the increase of PBL in the curriculum

(PritzkerDavid): Hi Jason,

jasonwc: Yeah, it's a pretty big school. It's also quite a small campus so it's pretty congested between classes.

DCMoore: Sylvia, CPP and T Course?

kledbett: I've heard a lot about PBL as a way of learning but don't know how much Pritzker is using

(PRITZKER Joni): Kelly, During the first two years of medical school, along with

Clinical Skills, we aim to teach the Scientific Foundations of Medicine. Updates to this curriculum have focused on several principles: to temper the number of lectures with small group discussions and relevant clinical case presentations; to reduce redundancy in lectures among courses; and to promote student self-learning. In addition, courses on related themes and approaches will be integrated as far as possible: Cells and Molecules; Tissue Biology; Response to Injury; and Neurobiology, each to occur in one of four quarters. Our current MSI schedule is found on the Pritzker website and you can expect more free time in your schedule than that which is reflected in the MSI schedule.

(PritzkerDavid): Hi Jason, How many of your classmates were pursuing medicine?

Jeff85: I have a question about living near campus vs. else in Chicago during the first year. Are there any disadvantages to living downtown (besides the commute)... in terms of keeping in touch with people, meeting up for study groups, etc. Also do students ever find they need to be on campus later at night much (working in lab, etc)?

(PRITZKERSophie): CPP and T is our Clinical Pathophysiology and Therapeutics, one of the best classes offered here at Pritzker, and is used as a model for other medical schools around the control. It really is an excellent course!

(PRITZKERSophie): *country

(PRITZKER Joni): We don't do "PBL" in it's truest form, which is a lot of self-directed learning, but we do a lot of case-based scenarios guided by faculty and small groups.

(PritzkerDavid): HI Jeff85, the commute from south loop is about 20 minutes...

jasonwc: I think each year there are a few hundred applicants to medical school. Most everyone in my college were either pursuing medical school or dental school.

(PRITZKERkristi): Jeff, (I'm Kristi) I live close to campus, but do have some friends that live downtown and commute both by car and some by metra....

(PritzkerSylvia): <http://pritzker.bsd.uchicago.edu/about/news/pritzkerpulse/2009winter/initiative.shtml>. David, check out this link for more information about simulations

(PRITZKERkristi): Those that drive don't seem to have much problem getting to

whatever they need to, but my friend who commutes via metra does not come to campus for meetings on the weekend etc.

DCMoore: Sounds prettyÂ fascinating! Thanks! Here's another- what do you think isÂ advantageousÂ about such a small class size?

(PritzkerDavid): and several members of each class live south loop, and a few others live in near north.

(PRITZKER COOPER): I have a number of friends that live in Chicago (one even lives in Evanston), and I haven't heard any complaints outside of the commute. A number of them participate in intramurals and other student organizations.

jasonwc: If we are still holding acceptances to other schools, should be withdraw before May 15th to be safe or is it okay to do it on the 15th?

(PRITZKER Joni): Jason--you can do it on the 15th, but schools appreciate knowing asap (as do students on waitlists!)

(PRITZKERmei): I really like the small class size because everyone knows everyone else.

(PRITZKERSophie): my take on the small class size...

(PritzkerSylvia): Hi David, You will have the resources you need -- 88 is the right size for us, clinically and in terms of faculty support for research projects. You will be known here and will have the resources needed to thrive

(PRITZKER COOPER): the small class sizes also allow us to get to know the students in the classes ahead of us fairly well

(PRITZKERkristi): Jeff -- also before exams many people do stay late on campus and study. I often have people over at my place for study groups in the evenings.

(PRITZKER Joni): Personally I think the small class size gives people the opportunity to really know one another, be very well mentored and supported, and have the opportunity for great leadership positions in community service, outreach, etc.

(PRITZKERSophie): i really like it. i think it really allows the students, faculty and staff here at Pritzker to form a close-knit family of sorts...

jasonwc: Thanks Joni, another question: do many students live south of the midway? Housing seems so much cheaper and it seems relatively close to campus? Any thoughts?

(PritzkerSylvia): Hi Bob, Welcome!

(PritzkerDavid): Hi Bob

rdeskin: Also can someone elaborate on having a car (I'm planning to live in Regents). Advantages and disadvantages?

Jeff85: Thanks!

(PRITZKERSophie): ...medical school can be a tough couple of years and a marked transition period for many of us, and I have found that having a small community here is absolutely wonderful

bobdess: hi everyone! can you talk a little bit about scholarship and discovery? when do we choose a thread? how will this happen?

(PRITZKERSophie): ...and I've always gone to large schools, so its a pleasant change for me

(PritzkerSylvia): Yes, more and more students and staff and faculty are living south of the midway -- there is even a new dorm that will open up next year across the midway

(PRITZKERmei): My fave thing about Regents is it has the best lake access

DCMoore: That makes sense! For all the people talking about housing- do people usually move from year to year? I think it would be exciting to experience perhaps 4 different areas of Chicago- unless i found one I really liked.

(PritzkerDavid): Throughout your first year of medical school you will gain exposure to all 5 of the tracks offered through the Scholarship and Discovery curriculum, including an opportunity to take in-depth electives in the tracks most compelling to you. Our hope is that you will be comfortable choosing your track as you move into your 2nd year of medical school. You will be guided by faculty mentors throughout this experience and through to the completion of your scholarly project during your fourth year.

kledbett: I'm really interested in Global Health. I know there are several interest groups that the students participate in but what about doing

research in that area for the scholarship/discovery program?

(PritzkerSylvia): Many people though want the security of a doorman and that is not available across the midway

(PRITZKERmei): Rebecca, it's also convenient in that most of your classmates will be there.

jasonwc: Thanks Sylvia. Is it an okay area as far as safety goes?

(PRITZKERkristi): Rebecca, I have a car (I live in a 3 story walk up apartment) and enjoy having it. I make trips to costco and the grocery store. I also often drive downtown on the weekends and up to the north side.

(PritzkerSylvia): Hi David, You could move every year or you could make a plan to visit different neighborhoods. Moving every year takes time and costs money -- but it is absolutely possible

(PRITZKER Joni): Kelly--one of the threads for scholarship and discovery is Global Health--so you will indeed be able to do research and electives in that area.

(PritzkerSylvia): Hi Jason, It does not have buildings with the security a doorman provides.

(PRITZKER COOPER): a number of people are moving this year, probably due to the norm of choosing housing the first year without being able to investigate enough. However, moving tends to be a hassle, so I wouldn't suggest moving every year, especially since the end of your second year lease would put you right in the middle of your first quarter on the wards

rdeskin: Is there parking in the area that's less expensive than the Regents garage?

(PRITZKERkristi): (about having a car) advantages: flexible mobility disadvantages: paying for parking, parking tickets (watch out for street cleaning)

(PRITZKERmei): Rebecca, I have a car and I didn't pay for Regents parking but I also don't use my car very much. I just park on the street.

(PRITZKERkristi): you can do street parking, but around regents it's hard

DCMoore: That makes sense- perhaps I'm a bit ambitious (or naive?). Did I see there was a place where we could meet/search for roommates?

(PRITZKERSophie): Jason: If you are worried about living south of the midway, I would look somewhere north of the midway, where the large majority of students live anyways

(PRITZKER COOPER): there is a housing discussion board link on our orientation website

rkn24: Hi everyone! I'm Ryan. I just graduated from Northwestern University.

(PRITZKER COOPER): please feel free (and encouraged) to post and look around on here

(PRITZKERmei): Hi Ryan

(PritzkerSylvia): Congratulations Ryan!!!! You did it!

(PRITZKER Joni): Rebecca--a lot of students will also park at the garage on campus (\$80/mo) and just get their cars when they need them. From Regents you can take a free bus back and forth to campus everyday so you don't need your car all the time.

(PritzkerDavid): Hi Ryan

(PRITZKER COOPER): there is also a discussion going on on facebook about housing for next year's class

(PRITZKER Joni): CONGRATS Ryan!!

(PRITZKERSophie): ...also some of our classmates live in other neighborhoods of the city completely, like the South Loop, Lincoln Park, Old Town, Wicker Park, River North, all of which are wonderful neighborhoods as well

(PRITZKERkristi): the ellis parking lot (near campus) runs about \$220 per quarter -- i think the prices are up online

DCMoore: Are any rotations in the 3rd and 4th years done away from the main campus?

(PRITZKER COOPER): Shameless plug: please visit pritzker.bsd.uchicago.edu/orientation often

lauraz: i know i don't want to live in regents - is there a place that you would recommend where i can stay cheaply if/when I come back to Chicago to look for an apartment?

(PRITZKER Joni): Laura--try the International House--it's right on campus and only \$60 a night. And we can always see if a student is around who is willing to host you for free?

rkn24: I'll probably end up switching banks. Any recommendations for convenience around campus / hyde park?

(PritzkerSylvia): Yes, the rotations away from campus give you the needed diversity in your training. Most of your training will still be on our campus. We do want you to have exposure to more traditional hospital settings.

(PRITZKERmei): Citibank has a uchicago student deal but a lot of people have Bank of America also.

(PRITZKER Joni): Laura, here's the link to the I-House: <http://ihouse.uchicago.edu/>

(PRITZKERkristi): Banks -- citibank

(PRITZKER Joni): Chase Bank is all over Chicago, too

(PRITZKERkristi): there are two citibank atms on campus

(PRITZKER COOPER): for non-regents housing: a number of students live and are happy on 57th street. there are many restaurants, a few shops, and it is a great neighborhood. Another popular location is 54th and drexel.

(PRITZKERmei): Citibank is the only one with ATMs on campus but I haven't found it to be way more convenient.

(PRITZKER Joni): For non-regents too, you may want to go through Graduate Student housing

jasonwc: How many rotations are done away from campus? Which ones in particular?

(PRITZKERSophie): Laura--if you want, feel free to email the orientation co-chairs (Cooper and me) or any of the Pritzker Ambassadors, and we could perhaps find a student for you to stay with while you are looking for apartments this summer.

lauraz: thanks joni - i was looking at their website earlier

(PRITZKERkristi): i LOVE 57th/56th street and I highly recommend Parker-Holsman for apartments

(PRITZKER COOPER): ditto on Parker-Holsman

(PRITZKER Joni): Jason--Family Med, Psych, and OB-GYN. Then people can also do away rotations of their choice as part of their 4th year.

lauraz: ok, do a lot of people stick around?

kledbett: are the 57th/56th street places ok if you don't have a car?

(PRITZKERkristi): i'm planning on staying in hyde park all 4 years

(PRITZKER Joni): Laura--absolutely. Our school year doesn't end until mid-June anyway and then about 80% stay for the summer research program

(PRITZKER COOPER): kledbett: I live on 57th street, all the way at the lake. but it's only a 15 minute walk

jasonwc: Do many students do away rotations? Like where they are looking to match for residency?

(PRITZKERkristi): I'm on 56th and Kenwood and I walk to class everyday :)

(PRITZKER COOPER): and bikes are all the rage here

(PritzkerDavid): 57th and 56th are great places--pretty short walk, and a well-developed bus system

(PRITZKER Joni): There are also CTA bus routes that service campus, and those routes are free for students, faculty, and staff

(PRITZKERmei): The CTA buses do get crowded certain times of day but after 6pm, there are free shuttles from the library every 20 minutes

kledbett: even in the winter with the windchill??

(PRITZKER COOPER): that's the best time to ride bikes

(PRITZKER COOPER): or the bus

(PritzkerDavid): Sure, just layer

(PritzkerSylvia): Yes, Jason, particularly in your 4th year -- students do rotations all over the country to check out possible residencies -- if they want

to. Our students are able to get back to their homes if they want to
- we have a national match

(PRITZKERSophie): The CTA bus routes that run in Hyde Park are the CTQ 171, 172, 174 and these are free to u of c students, faculty, and staff...you can google them if you want more info

kledbett: i've been hearing horror stories so i'm going to have a million coats :)

(PRITZKERkristi): no, just one really good one

jasonwc: Great, thanks Sylvia

(PRITZKERmei):<http://facilities.uchicago.edu/transpparking/transportation/index.shtml>
is the link for the buses

(PRITZKER Joni): Go for one of those columbia coats with a zip-out fleece lining. Then you can wear the fleece when it's chilly, the outer layer when it's rainy, and them both together when it's cold :-)

(PritzkerSylvia): just layers, Kelly, honest -- I grew up in North Carolina and I love the winter here

(PritzkerDavid): Hi SarahG\

SarahG: hi David! Hi everyone!!

(PRITZKERmei): Hi SaraG

(PRITZKERSophie): Kelly: I went to school in the South and you adjust quickly. It is cold, but it makes you appreciate the warmth so much more for it!

(PRITZKER Joni): Hi Sarah!

DCMoore: Random and useless question- How close would the Olympic stadium be if it was built?

(PRITZKER COOPER): 2 blocks from the school building

kledbett: thanks :) I'm from Seattle and people completely freak out about snow here (wont drive in 2 inches!). I went to Wellesley though so it can't be too much worse :)

(PRITZKERkristi): 4 blocks from the BSLC

(PritzkerSylvia): less than a mile

(PRITZKERmei): DCmoore, right on the border of campus

jasonwc: When should we get really serious about securing our housing? I read that most openings won't be listed 'til mid early June.

(PRITZKERkristi): OOOh i'm from Seattle too!!

(PRITZKER Joni): Kelly, I'll teach you to drive in the snow :-)

DCMoore: Thats amazing!

rdeskin: Do you guys get ice too? Driving in that is the worst!

(PRITZKER Joni): I had a sports car in Michigan through their winters, and Connecticut winters, and Chicago winters. I can handle anything :-
)

(PRITZKERSophie): Jason: if you're sure you're coming to Chicago, you can begin looking now, but you don't really have to get serious about it until june. I started in mid-June

(PritzkerSylvia): Sometimes we get ice, sometimes we get snow -- it just doesn't last as long as in Wisconsin or Michigan

(PritzkerDavid): Rebecca, we drive in ice, too...

(PRITZKER Joni): Yeah, we'll get some ice, but truly the streets are pretty well maintained. Ice is tough, but the city does a great job of cleanup

DCMoore: Are there any good music venues (even small pubs) around Hyde Park? Or do you go north for that?

Jeff85: I know this doesn't necessarily apply to the graduate schools, but why do people often call UChicago the place "where fun goes to die?"

(PritzkerDavid): because you get used to and they salt pretty well. ALso...

(PRITZKER COOPER): David, the good music venues are almost all further north

(PRITZKERSophie): I know other people who looked around in July and ended up with nice places too. Its all about how much effort you put into looking for housing

(PRITZKER Joni): Kristi went to U Chicago undergrad so we'll let her answer :-)

(PRITZKER COOPER): there is very little live music in Hyde Park

(PRITZKER COOPER): but plenty of places to have fun

kledbett: they call it that?

(PritzkerDavid): there is a great tradition in Chicago to save the parking place you shoveled out with lawn chairs.

(PritzkerSylvia): The Checkerboard Lounge is in Hyde Park and Buddy Guys is in the south loop -- you don't have to go far

(PRITZKER Joni): yeah, Kelly...but the med students make t-shirts that say "Where fun comes to be resuscitated?"

(PRITZKER Joni): I was questioning my spelling, not the phrase!

kledbett: lol

jasonwc: Thanks Sophie. What about graduate student housing? If we want a good place, how soon do you need to get your application in?

Jeff85: lol, i want one of those tshirts

(PRITZKERkristi): UChicago undergrad (like me) revel in our uniqueness :). I had a fantastic time during undergrad, but it was a lot of work (thus the jokes).

(PRITZKERSophie): ...for graduate student housing, I would apply sooner rather than later. You can always turn them down

DCMoore: Jeff if you get one I'd like one as well

SarahG: I was wondering-- do we have to send a letter of some sort to the admissions office to confirm our spot? or is it just pretty much known after may 15th if we haven't withdrawn?

(PRITZKERSophie): we're thinking about that tshirt for our orientation shirts this year, but its thus far still a work in progress, so keep your fingers crossed!

(PRITZKER Joni): Sarah, we always appreciate a quick email or something to say you are definitely coming (we tend to celebrate and clap!), but

officially you can just withdraw everywhere else.

(PRITZKER COOPER): tshirts will be coming. we just don't know what the design is

(PRITZKER Joni): You guys all remember that you get your scrub pants, too, when you come for Orientation right?

Jeff85: Thanks so much for the scrub tops!

(PRITZKERkristi): (re where fun comes to die) Med school has a different feel -- so it's really talking about the undergrad courses.

DCMoore: Joni- I heard- the scrub tops were just a tease!

(PRITZKER Joni): Yep :-). We're good like that!

lauraz: i am also looking forward to the pants :)

(PritzkerSylvia): NO, they are real -- you will get your scrub bottoms during orientation

SarahG: great thanks Joni!

lauraz: then

(PRITZKER Joni): Sure Sarah! I'll be watching for an email :-)

DCMoore: I ask this because I know it has happened elsewhere- With the changes to the curriculum (however minor)- do you expect our class to experience some inconveniences as the "glitches" are worked out? How long has this been in the works?

(PRITZKER Joni): What are you all up to this summer? Any fun plans?

DCMoore: I'm going backpacking in the rockies for a month! Getting out of the midwest.

(PRITZKER COOPER): side note from a first year: we got some curriculum tested out on us this year, and we were the envy of the school

(PRITZKER Joni): David--the curriculum review has been going on for several years, and being rolled out in phases. It's not like we're turning "off" the old curriculum and turning "on" the new one.

(PRITZKERmei): Cooper is right.

Jeff85: Working through the summer but taking a week off to go to Hawaii :)

(PRITZKERkristi): Jeff. I'm jealous!

(PRITZKER Joni): There can always be a glitch or two but part of the joy of the small class size is you know your faculty so well and they are so accessible.

rdeskin: Backpacking through europe! But I don't graduate till June 14 so summer is short

SarahG: I am going to Paris and Cairo the day after graduation :)

(PritzkerDavid): what island are you going to?

(PRITZKER Joni): Jeff--where are you going? I was just in Maui for my honeymoon and it was awesome!

(PRITZKERmei): Wow everyone has great plans.

lauraz: i'm mainly travelling around the country going to weddings

(PRITZKER Joni): WOW!! Enjoy!!

Jeff85: I'm going to Kauai

(PRITZKER Joni): Laura--i'm with you. I have 3 :-)

(PRITZKERSophie): ...and even with a minor glitch here or there, the administration is really receptive towards student feedback on our courses. we have preclinical and clinical curriculum committees especially for giving the deans feedback and implementing changes for each progressive year

(PritzkerDavid): Have a wonderful time!!, Jeff

(PRITZKER Joni): Jeff, you'll have to report back on that. I haven't been to that island.

Jeff85: Will do

(PritzkerSylvia): I am thrilled to hear that you are all doing such exciting things – you will enter medical school energized and ready -- relax, enjoy

lauraz: same, Joni! well, 4, but i'm skipping 1

mreeves: Hi all. My name is Megan.

(PRITZKERkristi): Just a note about the undergrads -- they do some pretty neat things too -- right now the largest scavenger hunt in the world is taking place on campus for the next week.

(PRITZKER COOPER): *each of the curriculum committees have very active student representatives from all 4 classes

(PRITZKERmei): Hi Megan

(PritzkerSylvia): Hi Megan, Welcome!

(PRITZKERSophie): Hi Megan!

mreeves: I just had a few quick questions

(PRITZKER Joni): Yeah, I'm skipping one too. No way I can be in Seattle on Friday and Iowa on Saturday. Are you a bridesmaid in any?

jasonwc: Will our coming class experience the most curriculum changes and hence the most "glitches"?

bbetham: Hi everyone, my name is Brittany and I'll be at Pritzker in August :)

(PritzkerDavid): Hi Brittany

(PRITZKER Joni): Hi Brittany!!!

(PRITZKERSophie): Hi Brittany! YAY!

(PritzkerDavid): Yeah Brittany!!

mreeves: My first is what the basic student daily schedule looks like, how many hours of lecture, how many of lab, when the day starts, when it ends etc?

(PRITZKER Joni): Megan--During the first two years of medical school, along with Clinical Skills, we aim to teach the Scientific Foundations of Medicine. Updates to this curriculum have focused on several principles: to temper the number of lectures with small group discussions and relevant clinical case presentations; to reduce redundancy in lectures among courses; and to promote student self-learning. In addition, courses on related themes and approaches will be integrated as far as possible: Cells and

Molecules; Tissue Biology; Response to Injury; and Neurobiology, each to occur in one of four quarters. Our current MSI schedule is found on the Pritzker website and you can expect more free time in your schedule than that which is reflected in the MSI schedule.

Jeff85: When will next year's schedule be posted?

(PRITZKERSophie): ...jason: honestly, I think that the biggest curriculum changes were given to our class (with anatomy being moved into the summer, and small groups being integrated into the curriculum)...

lauraz: i have a really random question about health insurance - is that too specific to ask here?

(PRITZKER Joni): Jeff, it's usually just before school starts.

(PRITZKER Joni): Laura, you can ask but I'm not 100% sure we'll know the answer but we'll try!

(PRITZKERSophie): ...the "new" curriculum is more a reshuffling of courses into a more streamlined manner, and the addition of focused-tracks in the Scholarship and Discovery Thread

(PRITZKER COOPER): something to look forward to: Spring quarter = 9-12 every day. that's it.....

jasonwc: Thanks Sophie. Well it sounds like the transition was smooth because you all seemed to love it :)

mreeves: thanks joni. do you not know exactly what the schedule looks like at this point and if not can you tell me what it looked like this year?

(PritzkerSylvia): Hi Jason, I don't think you will encounter "glitches" -- this has been a very well planned transition -- this year's class experienced some of the changes and it all went very well -- we are dedicated to giving you a world class education -- we are careful you will have the foundation you need -- this new curriculum is better, honest

(PRITZKERSophie): absolutely :)

(PRITZKER Joni): Megan, no we don't know the daily schedule for next year but I'll look up the link for you for this year...hang on...

Jeff85: What time do classes usually start in the morning, and is there some sort of video taping or note taking system?

(PRITZKERmei): either 8:30 or 9:30 Jeff

lauraz: ok! the website says that you need comparable health insurance (but the form you fill out is in the password protected part of the site). Is there a way to learn more about that requirement? I know this sounds really nutty, but I'm trying to figure out my budget, and it makes a signif difference whether or not I can stay on my current

(PRITZKER Joni): <http://pritzker.bsd.uchicago.edu/md/curriculum/calendar.shtml>

rdeskin: when people take classes in other schools as electives, are those also pass/fail?

(PRITZKER COOPER): yes

mreeves: with the new curriculum do students basically take one class at a time and then the social medicine and scholarship thread?

(PRITZKER COOPER): and by yes, I mean it's up to the discretion of the faculty

(PRITZKERmei): Jeff, we haven't really used video taping system, but all the powerpoints are posted online for any classes you miss.

(PRITZKERkristi): rebecca -- you have to ask the prof to let you take it pass/fail -- usually they don't have a problem with that

(PritzkerSylvia): The new TIME project
<http://pritzker.bsd.uchicago.edu/about/news/pritzkerpulse/2009winter/initiative.shtml> will allow for eventually the entire curriculum to be available to you in a searchable format -- more to come on this

(PRITZKER Joni): Laura...hmmm. Ok, so I don't know that we know the answer to that :-). Send me an email though and I'll forward it along to someone who can help.

bbetham: Do any of the current students have experience living in Reagents? I'm looking at living there with a few of the other first years.

lauraz: okay, sounds good

(PRITZKERkristi): Jeff, some classes are voice recorded... and i think they are increasing the number of classes recorded

(PRITZKERSophie): Laura...I live regents...

bbetham: Do you like it?

bbetham: Any important pros/cons?

DCMoore: Well I better get going- I have a cumulative Biophysical Chem final in the AM worth 34% of my grade- thanks for the help! I'll email if I think of another question. Bye!

(PRITZKERSophie): I really enjoy it. I live by myself in a studio, and I really like it,...

(PRITZKER Joni): Megan, no some of the classes will be taken together, but done so in an integrated way. So for example you might have one prof for one hour with biochem and one prof for another hour of cell and molecular bio but both are on the same page with each other so the courses make sense together and you don't have one person way ahead of the other. Does that make sense?

(PRITZKER Joni): Bye David! Good luck!

(PritzkerDavid): Good luck David! See you in a few months!!

(PRITZKER COOPER): bye David

jasonwc: I know at a lot of other schools, they rave about having lectures videotaped. Do you feel it at all a disadvantage to not have that resource?

(PritzkerSylvia): Bye David, all the best -- don't worry -- you have a med school offer for sure!

(PRITZKERmei): Laura, in terms of health insurance. There are certain criteria, it's detailed on a uchicago website somewhere. Most private insurance is pretty comparable..check your private insurance website or give them a call. I was able to get it waived pretty easily.

(PRITZKERSophie): Pros: a big proportion of my class lives there, so I never feel like I'm at a shortage for socializing with my classmates, from going out in the city, gathering to cook dinners, going over to friends' places to study

mreeves: Do you then take one assessment for both or different assessments? I guess my question is are you focusing on one theme at a time or does it jump around from class to class?

(PRITZKERSophie): Cons: its high rise living, and some people don't like living in high-rises. You have to wait for elevators, the apartments are nice, but they are basically white walls and admittedly there are more characteristic apartments around hyde park

(PRITZKER Joni): Megan, you are focusing on one theme at a time. Like Tissues, then Cells, then Response to Injury then NeuroScience. Each prof may give you a different exam but they are in conjunction with each other so you aren't slammed with 3 tests in one day.

(PRITZKERSophie): ...but i really enjoy living in regents because it gives me the security of having a door man, living in a huge complex, indoor garage, 24 maintenance and security

(PRITZKERmei): to chime in about regents..easy cab access/easy to get rides

(PRITZKERkristi): Jason, we have tons of resources, so I don't feel disadvantaged not having them video taped -- I haven't ever used the voice recorded lectures

(PRITZKERSophie): ...granted, it is a bit more expensive than other hyde park apartments

bbetham: Thanks Sophie!

Jeff85: Does Hyde Park go to sleep pretty early or do restaurants and grocery stores stay open late?

kledbett: about the scholarship and discovery program... can you find support and guidance for practically any independently created project or are students encouraged to continue research that is already being done by their mentors?

(PRITZKER COOPER): most things close around 11

(PRITZKERSophie): ...so its a give and a take. I have found that it works out really well for me, but its really an individual-by-individual basis

(PritzkerSylvia): Hi Jeff, It is actually past my bed time now

(PRITZKER COOPER): there's a 24 hour Walgreens

(PRITZKERkristi): things are open until about 11

Jeff85: lol

(PRITZKER COOPER): and the bars stay open til 1-2

kledbett: and do people take classes in other departments (say with the business school) to help them with the research or project?

mreeves: can you also tell me a bit more about what years 3 and 4 look like? For example, when does year 2 end? Is time given for studying for boards? When do rotations start? How is the fourth year organized once core rotations are done?

kledbett: are practice boards given first and second year?

(PRITZKERmei): kledbett: you can take electives in other departments in spring quarter

(PRITZKER Joni): Kelly, the goal is to find support and guidance among the faculty and be able to do some of your own ideas and such. That said, obviously you have certain needs for any research project (administrative things, funding, etc) so it's good if your mentor has a way they can 'stretch' their work toward yours. Does that make sense?

SarahG: Do students get time off to study for step 1??

(PritzkerDavid): Kelly, you can take courses all over the unviersity...

kledbett: yes. that makes sense

(PRITZKER Joni): Sarah G--yes you get about 5-6 weeks off depending on when you set the date.

(PritzkerDavid): and there is no charge to do so. This is a really interdisciplinary place...

kledbett: and i know people are allowed to take courses, i just wasn't sure if they did to help with their research :)

(PritzkerSylvia): Hi Kelly, Don't worry about the boards now -- we have great results because of the strength of our curriculum -- trust it -- know many have done it before you and have blazed great trails for you -- trust it.

(PRITZKERmei): I agree with Sylvia, check out our Match List!

bbetham: Will we also be taking the Disparities in Medicine course this summer?

(PRITZKER COOPER): what what

(PRITZKERSophie): megan: year 2 for your class will end earlier than previous classes, rotations will start for your class earlier than it has for other classes...but you will still get a good amount of time off for studying for the boards

(PritzkerDavid): so developing skills and knowledge outside of medicine to supplement our understanding of it is encouraged.

(PRITZKER Joni): Kelly, a lot of people will. For example, if you decide on a dual degree and that program requires a thesis, then you can use that to cross over to count for schol and discovery.

(PRITZKERkristi): Healthcare Disparities is still in the summer with Anatomy

mreeves: and year 4? What does that look like?

(PritzkerSylvia): Welcome Brittany! It is wonderful you are here! We are still celebrating here!

(PRITZKER COOPER): a long way off

bbetham: Thanks Sylvia! I can't tell you how excited I am!

(PRITZKER Joni): Year 4 is very flexible--people do away rotations, residency interviews, sub-internships---it's fairly self-designed.

(PRITZKERSophie): ...(megan) 3rd year is a series of clinical clerkships lasting approx 1 month

(PRITZKERSophie): ...and i think that this is pretty on par with the other medical schools around the country

mreeves: what is the clinical experience in year 1 and 2 look like?

kledbett: i wasn't worried! just curious if the school had a set way to prepare everyone :)

(PRITZKER Joni): Oh yeah, Kelly, we definitely do!

(PRITZKER Joni): Your clinical experience will begin the first week of medical school. Our students also frequently shadow our physicians at the UC hospitals, and volunteer in one of our two student-run free clinics.

mreeves: oh and do we have options to do rotations internationally in 4th year?

(PRITZKER COOPER):three free clinics

(PRITZKER COOPER): four free clinics

(PritzkerSylvia): Hi Megan, So many of our students become Chief Residents because of the remarkable clinical experience and training they have here -- it is even getting better. Check out our match list to see the results

(PRITZKER Joni): Megan, yes, you can if you speak the native language where it is you are going.

(PRITZKERSophie): also in our clinical skills course we have resident-mentorship opportunities to learn some patient-encounter skills

(PRITZKERSophie): in clinical skills, we work lots with standardized patients throughout the first and second years

(PRITZKER Joni): Megan, on the course schedule for this year that I gave you the link to, you can see the "clinical skills" listed in the weekly scheudle. You will have a very similar experience during your MSI and MSII years.

bbetham: Are there many international trips that students can take over the first summer. I know about the REMEDY trip, but are there others as well? How hard would it be to start one?

mreeves: for the students, do you feel as though the schedule in your first and second year is manageable and you can have a life outside of school?

mreeves: and what is the best thing for you about being at Pritzker

(PRITZKERkristi): i definitely have a life

lauraz: i have a question about the schedule that was linked - what classes (particularly for the summer) are mandatory?

(PRITZKERmei): Megan great life outside of school

(PRITZKERSophie): The Geographical Medicine Scholars Program is a 12 month curriculum in Global Health competency that has been developed

for housestaff and medical student trainees. The program culminates in an international practicum which will take place in South India.

<http://pritzker.bsd.uchicago.edu/about/news/gmsp.shtml>

jasonwc: About the match list: can you expound on why so many match in the Chicago area? Is it because they like the city and want to stay? Great programs? Best option?

(PRITZKERkristi): this weekend i went to two potlucks, went running and went out dancing as well as my studying

(PRITZKER Joni): Laura--anatomy and health disparities are indeed mandatory. Electives start in your 3rd quarter.

Jeff85: Heading out now, thanks for this chat!

(PRITZKER COOPER): there are many scholarships, including the Keith Edson that allow our students the chance to participate in events around the world. I personally know of people going to Ecuador and Tanzania

(PRITZKERkristi): Bye Jeff!

(PRITZKER Joni): bye Jeff!

(PRITZKERSophie): pritzker is awesome

(PRITZKER COOPER): I heart Pritzker

(PRITZKERmei): <3

lauraz: Oh, I understand that - I meant mandatory attendance

mreeves: what do you like so much about it? What don't you like?

(PRITZKER COOPER): there are those who do and those who don't

(PRITZKER Joni): (Jason, sylvia is typing an answer to your question it's just very detailed :-))

(PRITZKERSophie): the best thing about pritzker for me are the people in my class

(PritzkerSylvia): Many do stay in Chicago mostly because of the great programs here. Some do have family connections which limit their match search. Some come from the coasts and fall in love with th

midwest and want to stay. Our students really do have great choices -- sometimes the best one is in Chicago -- and, its a great city! But, students who want to go back home are able to do that.

(PRITZKER COOPER): it all depends on your personal learning skills

(PRITZKER COOPER): styles

(PRITZKER COOPER): not skills

(PRITZKERSophie): its a great, diverse group of people to learn with and learn from

(PRITZKERSophie): about 70-80% of the class attends class regularly

(PRITZKER Joni): When we do advisor visits, the advisors who have been to other med schools are way impressed with how many students we have in class.

jasonwc: Thanks Sylvia. I am hoping to fall in love with Chicago too. All I hear from everyone is how great the city is

(PRITZKERmei): In terms of going to class, it is what you get out of it. If you will get more out of reading it yourself, then you have the option of not going.

mreeves: one major concern i have is the weather. i am a california native and practically freeze in 50 degrees

(PRITZKER COOPER): There are periodic classes that are mandatory, but they tend to be the exception not the rule...

(PRITZKERSophie): small groups will take attendance for the most part

(PRITZKERkristi): the key to surviving the weather is preparation!

(PRITZKERmei): I agree w/ Kristi..I am from Australia

lauraz: Sophie, is that true of anatomy as well? (I'm not a slacker, but I'm probably going to have to miss a day in August and I'm trying to figure out how bad that will be)

(PRITZKERmei): it's fine once you get the right gear

bbetham: What is the format of the small groups that are being added this year? Are they all going to be case based, or perhaps discussion about what we're covering in class or some combination of both?

(PRITZKERSophie): i would not worry about about missing a day!

(PRITZKER Joni): Brittany--choice C, a combination of both :-)

mreeves: along the same lines as bbetham is pbl incorporated at all

(PRITZKERkristi): I missed at least half a week of anatomy and just kept on top of things with help from my labmates (go coop!)

(PRITZKERSophie): It is true that anatomy is a more intense course, and people for the most part find that attendance in labs is helpful

lauraz: that's good to hear Kristi

mreeves: for anatomy do you do full dissection or is there prosection?

(PRITZKERSophie): but attendance is not taken, and lab group partners become wonderful resources for learning the material. it really becomes a team-learning experience in anatomy

(PRITZKER COOPER): yes and yes

(PRITZKER COOPER): we do full dissection, and there is a prosection so we can see what it's "supposed" to look like

(PRITZKERkristi): there is both full dissection with 4 people per table and a prosection

(PRITZKERmei): The TAs do a prosection

lauraz: if you could choose what part of the body the day you missed was in, what would you pick?

jasonwc: How bad is the weather really? All I hear is how cold the winters are, but I was born and raised in Utah and the cold has never bothered me. Will Chicago be brutally worse?

(PRITZKERkristi): not head and neck

bbetham: I'm interested in that question too, people keep telling me the weather is worse than Detroit.

(PRITZKER COOPER): lower limb

bbetham: But I love snow, so no worries there.

mreeves: do you think doing the dissection yourself is absolutely necessary to learning the anatomy? I have looked at other schools and they do prosection

(PRITZKERSophie) :otherwise, not right before exams and you'll be fine

(PRITZKER Joni): We don't do PBL in it's truest form (aka almost exclusively self-directed learning) but we do interact with 'real life" case-based scenarios that allow for small group discussion guided by faculty.

(PRITZKER COOPER): Kristi rocked the dissection herself and it was useful. I used her "prosection" and it helped me beyond anything else

(PRITZKERkristi): Thanks Coop!

(PritzkerSylvia): Megan, this is honestly going to be okay. People will be here to help and you will have a great introduction into why you are doing this. What is happening in your life right now -- are you still in school?

(PRITZKER Joni): Re: Weather. I've lived in NY, Iowa, Connecticut, Ann Arbor, MI and Chicago--I didn't think Chicago was worse than any of them, and in a lot of ways is so much better because it doesn't paralyze the city. You still see people out and about in -15 (including me!)

(PRITZKERSophie): everyone learns anatomy differently, and thats why you are in a lab group. People will take on roles during anatomy lab and find the best way to learn and teach on another

(PritzkerDavid): HI Jason, I've been in the midwest all my life and I love hot weather. The cold isn't bad, and for a good deal of the winter it is sunny (while still cold) and the snow can be beautiful

bbetham: How many students do you have per body?

(PRITZKERkristi): 4

(PRITZKERSophie): 4

(PRITZKER COOPER): 4

(PRITZKERkristi): maybe less next year

(PRITZKER Joni): Wait, I don't get it. Isn't 1 student 1 body?

(PritzkerSylvia): Actually, four

mreeves: i am not in school any longer. i have been a teach for america corps member in los angeles for the past two years and I am a bit nervous about moving out of los angeles and having some difficulty making a final decision.

(PRITZKER Joni): Ooooooh, I see what you mean now.

(PRITZKER Joni): :-)

(PRITZKER Joni): I'm clearly not a med student.

(PRITZKERSophie): we have a classmate who did tfa

bbetham: Hahaha Joni, I was looking at that and realized I maybe should have said cadaver.

(PRITZKER COOPER): I did AmeriCorps last year, and had to move out of New Orleans. It was devastating at the time, but I couldn't be happier about where I am now

(PRITZKERSophie): ...and i think she was in LA as well

(PRITZKER Joni): Well, Brittany...there's a reason I'm on the admissions side. I'm not so good at the science and the math.

mreeves: whats her name?

(PRITZKERkristi): e-mail me kguyton@uchicago.edu and i can put you in touch with with her

mreeves: great

(PritzkerSylvia): Great, Megan -- we have students who have done TFA -- if you can do that you can absolutely do this. And, didn't you go to Occidental? If you can do that you can do this! I know this is a big decision but remember it is a nice problem to have. Now is the time to go with your "heart" -- focus on that and know we are here as a resource. Feel free to call me anytime, any of you can, 773-702-0682. We honestly are here to help you with this tough decision

mreeves: thank you, and yes i am an oxy grad. i love how you guys are so invested in your accepted applicants, that is very much unique to pritzker.

(PRITZKER Joni): Is Cecila Fox still there or has she retired now?

jasonwc: I am sure this has been discussed before, but I will bring it up again. To the current students: you all know doubt had multiple acceptances so what about Pritzker was the deciding factor?

(PRITZKER Joni): I was on a panel with her once and she is just delightful.

mreeves: she is still there. she retired then came out of retirement. she is great. i have been very lucky to work with her.

bbetham: I have a question about applying for loans. Is that done through the school, or do we just use the award letter as a guide to borrow from lenders?

(PritzkerSylvia): I love Cecila -- I have loved so much from her! You are lucky to have the chance to work with her.

(PRITZKER Joni): Oh good! She's such an amazing resource--she's been in advising forever!

(PritzkerDavid): Cecila is a great resource and an icon among advisers and admissions people.

mreeves: Sylvia, are you from oxy?

(PritzkerDavid): Brittany, after you have your FA letter...

(PRITZKERSophie): For me, I really prioritized the schools where during the interviews/second looks I loved the student body.

(PRITZKER COOPER): For me the deciding factors were the fact that the administration truly cares about what current students think (a lot of the curriculum changes are direct results of student opinion) and the fact that it's in Chicago

(PritzkerSylvia): No, but I have worked with Cecila for so long -- I have learned from Cecila -- Joni just caught my typing error -- sorry!

(PRITZKER COOPER): *I'm from the area

(PRITZKERkristi): Jason, I won't be a very good person to answer your question because I was accepted while I was an undergrad here (note: an unbinding acceptance) -- so their confidence in me and my love of Chicago and Hyde Park brought me back.

(PRITZKERSophie): Oh yeah, being in a city is great. It was a welcome change from Durham, NC where I spent my four years of college

(PritzkerDavid): you select a lender to form which to borrow. You can select any lender and we have a short list of lenders we have vetted...

rdeskin: What are the differences between the lenders?

(PritzkerDavid): on our web site. After you select a lender, then apply to that lender for the amount you want to borrow, and reply back to us with the FinAid confirmation form (also on our web site) how much you are going to borrow and from whom.

(PRITZKERmei): Jason, from my perspective now, the things I really enjoy now are the small class size and pass/fail, I think a collaborative environment is really important. med school is a really long time if you don't like your classmates.

mreeves: one thing I am also a bit concerned about is the fact that I am 2 years out of college and I am no longer in a college mindset at all. I am looking to be in a community with people like me too, those who have taken time off as well, approximately what proportion of the class came directly from undergrad?

bbetham: Thanks David! That helps a lot.

(PritzkerSylvia): With the change in lending rules there are very few differences between the lenders now. We have an elaborate rating system which evaluates the history our students have had with lenders but the rates are mostly the same now. Check out our web site and the preferred lender list -- it is a place to start evaluating lenders.

(PritzkerDavid): De nada

(PRITZKER Joni): Megan, there are a LOT of people here who are 1-2 years out of college. And even some that have been away from undergrad for 7+ years or longer.

(PRITZKER Joni): I think that's where the p/f system comes in really handy, too...gives you time to adjust back into the flow of things.

(PRITZKER COOPER): p/f will be your best friend

(PRITZKERkristi): I took 2 years off (teaching English in Ecuador) and feel very comfortable here with my classmates -- it's about 1/3 straight out

of college, about 1/3 took 1 year off and the other 1/3 2 or more years

(PRITZKERmei): Lots of our classmates got PhDs and other degrees

(PritzkerDavid): and you will have a wonderful group of supportive classmates, too

rdeskin: I met people at revisit weekend who were late 20s and had amazing stories to share!

(PRITZKERSophie): Megan: I'm straight out of college, and I was pleasantly surprised at how many people had taken a lot of time off (meaning more than just 2 years) in our class. They definitely add so much more to our class discussions than I can, as one with no life experience haha

mreeves: does pritzker match well in California?

(PRITZKER Joni): Oh Sophie! you have life experience! You helped me run the Revisit Weekend which was all kinds of life experience!

(PRITZKERmei): Yea the non-traditional students definitely add a lot to our class.

(PritzkerSylvia): Yes, we have a national match -- you can check out the match list on the web site

jasonwc: How much time should we allow ourselves between moving to Chicago and orientation?

(PRITZKER Joni): Megan, CA is actually our next-most popular home state (outside of IL) and therefore a lot of people want to return there after college.

bbetham: good question!

(PritzkerDavid): Our match list is on the website--and lots of people go back to CA

(PRITZKER Joni): Oops--I mean med school.

(PRITZKERmei): I was here a week before orientation Jason

(PRITZKER COOPER): ditto

mreeves: thanks for answering all the questions. in some ways I have been putting off the decision because of teaching

(PRITZKERkristi): I moved in a few days before, but also had help from family

moving in

(PRITZKER Joni): Jason--you probably need 2 days. Your wife probably needs a week+ to hang all the pics on the wall and such :-)

jasonwc: Did you feel that was enough time to get settled in and familiarize yourself with Chicago?

(PritzkerSylvia): Megan, what are you teaching?

(PRITZKER Joni): That's how I am anyway!

(PritzkerDavid): What grade and subject do you teach?

mreeves: bio and chem to high school students

mreeves: 9th and 10th grade

(PRITZKERSophie): for those of you who are thinking about regents, they will let you prorate the rent to get a couple of days extra before the beginning of the month, if you need it to move in/get settled

jasonwc: ha ha, she would make me do that!

(PritzkerSylvia): You are a saint -- honestly, medical school will be a piece of cake after that

(PRITZKERmei): You don't really need that much time Jason..everyone adjusts slowly throughout the year. some people came the day before orientation..

mreeves: they have their standardized tests tomorrow. very high stakes for teachers.

(PRITZKERSophie): and everyone will explore the city together!

(PRITZKER COOPER): there are many activities planned for during and after orientation that will help you discover parts of Chicago

(PritzkerDavid): Good luck to your students!!

(PRITZKER Joni): Jason--Chicago is so easy because of the grid system--and the Lake is great for orienting yourself. If you get lost, look for water and know which way is East :-)

mreeves: what is the average rent for a one bedroom in the hyde park area

and thanks for the good luck wish.

(PritzkerSylvia): At this point you can only help them be calm -- deep breaths -- you'll be great

(PRITZKER Joni): Plus the students write a book for you called "life at Pritzker" that gives you all the important dish.

jasonwc: Sounds great! I just want to be sure and enjoy some summertime Chicago.

(PRITZKERkristi): summertime in chicago is fantastic

(PRITZKER Joni): Oh definitely do that Jason! Come a week early to go to Retro on Roscoe--it's a fantastic street fair August 1-2!

(PRITZKER COOPER): "Life at Pritzker" to come in the June mailing

lauraz: besides craigslist, are there any other, maybe chicago specific, sites that are helpful for getting stuff after moving? (i am planning on selling my stuff before i move)

(PRITZKERmei): uchicago marketplace has a link on the orientation website

(PritzkerDavid): Megan, we budget you for \$900/month for rent; students find nice apartments in HP for less than that, and having a roommote will save you more.

rdeskin: Do Regents leases start on the 2st of the month?

(PRITZKER Joni): the Marketplace is kind of like the university's craig's list.

(PRITZKERSophie): do you mean 1st? but you can prorate

rdeskin: yes, I meant first, thanks!

(PRITZKERSophie): so you can move into regents whenever you want. they are flexible

rdeskin: excellent

(PRITZKER Joni): Just make sure to reserve the elevator when you move in though! That way you get all your stuff up pretty quickly using the cargo elevator!

rdeskin: ooh good suggestion!

(PRITZKER Joni): I lived there my first year here :-).

(PRITZKER Joni): Hi Chris!

jasonwc: Alright, I gotta head out. Thanks everyone for you answers, y'all helped a ton!

(PRITZKERmei): bye Jason!

(PRITZKER Joni): Thanks for coming Jason!

(PRITZKERSophie): bye jason!

(PRITZKERkristi): Bye Jason!

(PritzkerDavid): Hi Chris, see ya Jason in a couple of months

(PritzkerSylvia): By Jason!

(PRITZKER COOPER): It is important to consider that there are many places to live in Hyde Park that aren't in Regents. Regent's is convenient by I find it more enjoyable to be immersed in the community.

(PRITZKER Joni): Anyone cheering for the Blackhawks tonight???

(PRITZKER Joni): Big game!

(PRITZKERSophie): yeahhhh hawks!

(PRITZKER COOPER): go CUBS!!!!

chris11: hi all!

(PritzkerSylvia): GO Hawks!!!!

(PRITZKERkristi): Coop -- you live on the south side

(PRITZKER Joni): Two separate sports, Coop :-). I'm a Cubs fan too!

(PRITZKERmei): hi Chris

(PRITZKERSophie): CUBBIES

(PRITZKER COOPER): born and raised a northsider

mreeves: thank you all so much. it was very informative.

(PRITZKERSophie): absolutely megan!

bbetham: Are the other places in Hyde Park reliable. I remember looking for apartments in Detroit, in an area of Detroit similar to Hyde Park and a lot of the buildings were outdated enough to make them unsafe.

(PRITZKER Joni): Bye Megan! Good luck with the kids!!

(PritzkerDavid): I live in the south suburbs with 3 sox fans, and I'm a die-hard cubs fan.

(PritzkerSylvia): You are welcome Megan -- let me know if we can help.

mreeves: i better run off now and thank you

(PritzkerDavid): Bye Megan!

bbetham: By reliable, I guess I mean well taken care of.

mreeves: bye

(PRITZKER Joni): David...uh are the 3 Sox fans your wife and daughters?? :-)

(PRITZKER Joni): You should have gotten at least 1 daughter to be a Cubs fan! It's only fair!

(PritzkerDavid): That right, Joni and I suspect the dogs are too, just to spite me

(PRITZKER COOPER): the other places in Hyde Park tend to be very reliable. I live in a 4 story walk-up that is up to excellent standards

(PRITZKERSophie): as a person who lives in regents and a visitor of apartments that are non-regents, i have found most of the places charming

(PRITZKER COOPER): I would look at any place before you move in

(PRITZKERkristi): I love my 3 story walk up

(PritzkerSylvia): Regents is the only place I would move into without taking a look first -- maybe Windermere too.

(PRITZKERkristi): If you can't look here, lots of people move into Regents without vetting it first

(PRITZKER COOPER): also, from what I can tell the management companies tend to have their offices in the area, so the super is generally readily available

bbetham: cool

SarahG: I have to get going (sorry I've been awfully quiet-- I was studying for a final while reading this conversation). Thanks for all of the insight! See you all in a few months.

(PRITZKER COOPER): bye Sarah

(PRITZKERmei): Bye Sarah!

(PRITZKERkristi): Sarah, good luck and see you next year!

(PRITZKERSophie): bye sarah!

(PritzkerDavid): Bye Sarah, see you in a few months!!

(PRITZKER Joni): Bye Sarah! Good luck on your final!

(PritzkerSylvia): Best wishes, Sarah!!!!!! It would be wonderful to welcome you here!

(PRITZKER Joni): Do other people have questions or fascinating facts to share?

lauraz: i'm curious about moving south of the midway

lauraz: i've heard mixed things about this

bbetham: what does "south of the midway" mean?

(PRITZKER COOPER): We have at least 4 classmates who live south of the midway

kledbett: does anyone know the areas of global health that are currently being studied at U of C?

lauraz: (this came up briefly before but kind of got glossed over)

(PRITZKER COOPER): It is definitely doable, and from what I've heard they enjoy it

(PRITZKERSophie): the midway is between 59th and 60th, and is a long grassy area of campus

(PRITZKER COOPER): of course you need to be careful about when and with whom you are walking around

rdeskin: I heard from a friend who lives in the area that South of the midway is improving significantly in safety, and that she will go there for errands, etc but she still wouldn't recommend living there quite yet

(PRITZKER Sophie): ...the midway is where they held the world's fair back in the day!

(PRITZKER COOPER): but that's true of any neighborhood in the entire city

(Pritzker Sylvia): I know the Global health group is going to the Dominican Republic this summer -- David is looking for the link

(Pritzker David): Take a look at http://medicine.uchicago.edu/section_pages/infe/global.htm

(PRITZKER Joni): I think to 61st street is pretty okay--lots of students and faculty around--but I wouldn't go too far beyond that.

lauraz: i guess i'm trying to get a sense of how different it is from the other options (since it seems so cheap) - do those people go home early or take more cabs?

(PRITZKER kristi): There is an undergrad dorm that is opening on 61st and ellis, so there will be an increasing university presence south of the midway

kledbett: awesome

lauraz: cool, when does that open?

bbetham: Why do students love CPP&T so much?

bbetham: I think that is what they call the second year course

(PRITZKER Joni): Well, you're less likely to have a doorman building so that's a difference. It's not a huge walking distance so you might not need cabs, but there are also "safe ride" programs if you are on campus late at night.

(PRITZKER COOPER): I think the "south of the midway" question completely depends on your personality. I would not suggest living there to my family (who have no experience living in a city), but I personally would be comfortable moving there

(PritzkerSylvia): There is also a great bus system that students use

rdeskin: How does the saferide program work?

(PRITZKERmei): CPP&T: I've heard from the 2nd years that it's where they learn everything that's important for boards and for rotations

(PRITZKERmei): it's very well organized, well taught, good lecturers etc

chris11: I have several questions: is there a visible LGBT community within Pritzker/UChicago? How would you describe the student body in terms of being open-minded and tolerant? What about the faculty/administration and the larger Hyde Park area? Also, (sorry this is probably less relevant to medical school), but would you say people are more liberal or conservative politically or a mix?

(PRITZKER COOPER): I've heard that it's the class during which you tie everything from the first two years into a bundle that will prepare you for life on the wards

(PritzkerDavid): Lauraz, the dorm opens next year, but it is just for the undergrads. It will have street-front shops in it which will enliven the area.

(PritzkerSylvia): I agree with Cooper -- if you are more comfortable with a doorman who should choose another part of the neighborhood

lauraz: thanks guys, that was a helpful summary. i grew up in nyc (no doorman) so i think i would be okay

(PRITZKER Joni): Rebecca:
<http://facilities.uchicago.edu/transpparking/transportation/saferide.shtml> You basically call for a ride during night-time hours.

bbetham: Does U of C have a gym that students can use?

(PRITZKERmei): Yes there is a gym

(PRITZKERmei): it's free

lauraz: it's that thing that looks like a weird ship, right?

(PritzkerDavid): Here is a web site about it too.

(PRITZKERkristi): Chris -- I would say that the campus and community are liberal. There is a strong LGBT group within the undergraduate community and it is increasing in presence within the medical

school community

(PritzkerDavid): <http://lgbtq.uchicago.edu/resources/lgbt.shtml>

(PRITZKER Joni): Chris--we can always put you in touch with students if you would like us to!

(PRITZKERSophie): Chris--I would also add that people here at Pritzker are certainly very open-minded and tolerant

(PRITZKER Joni): Yep, Laura!

(PRITZKER Joni): I think that's actually designed on purpose that way.

(PRITZKERkristi): It's not a huge community within Pritzker (due to small class size) but I think there is an increasing LGBT community within the graduate programs in general

rdeskin: speaking of the other graduate programs -- do pritzker students interact with other professional/graduate students?

chris11: ok thanks!

(PRITZKERSophie): any other questions? :)

(PRITZKER COOPER): yes, there are grad student mixers quite frequently

(PRITZKER COOPER): we have two students dating law students

(PRITZKERkristi): I have several friends in law school, the GSB and in other grad programs

(PRITZKER COOPER): and some people live in one of the 3 coops in Hyde Park which greatly expands the social sphere

(PRITZKER Joni): Ummm...but you don't have to date other grad students to get to know them :-)

(PritzkerSylvia): now that is mixing!

bbetham: How do the students like the smaller class size?

(PRITZKERmei): We get emails from the graduate school programming about events

(PritzkerDavid): there is a great fund raiser that Remedy does--it is a speed dating fund raiser

(PRITZKER COOPER): it's great. We get more face time with the faculty as well as a greater opportunity to express ourselves in small group settings

(PritzkerDavid): it gets students from all over the university

kledbett: fun :)

(PRITZKER Joni): I think too that most students know at least by face every other student in the class by the end of orientation!

(PRITZKER Joni): 15 more minutes!! Other questions??

(PritzkerSylvia): Sorry, everyone, we are now all talking about the fun had at the speed dating event -- wish you were here -- now everyone, back to the chat

(PRITZKER Joni): And feel free if you have specific/personal questions to email us directly--we're happy to help! We know it's a big week!

lauraz: chris, did you go to revisit? i met a bunch of lgbt students in the incoming class :)

chris11: i missed revisit

(PritzkerDavid): and we missed you

(PRITZKERmei): as always, you guys can contact
pritzkerambassadors2009@gmail.com

chris11: but i was pretty much set on pritzker already anyway

(PritzkerDavid): yeah!

(PritzkerSylvia): CELEBRATION!!!!

lauraz: cool

(PRITZKER Joni): YAY Chris!! You can check out the Revisit Website:
pritzker.bsd.uchicago.edu/admissions/revisit. A fun video just got posted!

chris11: it seems like a lot of students do research at uchicago during their first summer... what are some other things that students do?

(PRITZKERSophie): orientation2009@bsd.uchicago.edu email us if you have any

questions!

(PRITZKERkristi): Chris,

(PritzkerSylvia): travel, do service projects, get married

(PRITZKER COOPER): There is a summer service partnership in which we are being partnered with high school students from the south side and working for 10 weeks on a community service project of our desing

(PRITZKER COOPER): design

(PRITZKERkristi): oops I'm going home, doing some research and riding horses!

(PRITZKERSophie): some students will do internships at other medical institutions, like Sloane-Kettering or UCLA's geriatrics program, while others will do internships at Abbott Laboratories, a big pharmaceutical company in Chicago

chris11: haha, stupid question coming, but what exactly is a Pritzker ambassador?

kledbett: riding horses? i'm an equestrian too :)

bbetham: How often do you have exams during your first year?

(PritzkerSylvia): There are no stupid questions in med school

(PRITZKERkristi): We (Mei and I) answer your questions :)

(PRITZKER COOPER): also, Philip and Andrew are ambassadors

(PRITZKERSophie): exams are about every 2 week throughout the quarter, but the exams rotate among our classes

(PritzkerSylvia): where are philip and andrew tonight by the way

(PRITZKER COOPER): there will be 4 bios coming in a mailing in the next week or two

(PRITZKERkristi): Yea!! We always need more equestrian -- I'm actually doing research on horse related injuries (and competing during the summer too)

(PRITZKER COOPER): they couldn't make it, family issues

(PRITZKERSophie): so like last week we had our epi midterm, this thursday we have a neuro exam, and then we'll have week or two off before our next exam

kledbett: awesome!

bbetham: cool

bbetham: when do you guys finish your first year?

kledbett: you'll have to tell me where you ride and more about your project at some point

(PRITZKERSophie): phil and andrew were at the last chat in case you were in that one

(PRITZKER COOPER): June 10th

(PRITZKERkristi): e-mail me and we can chat more kguyton@uchicago.edu

lauraz: and when is the summer schedule released?

bbetham: then do you start again in august?

bbetham: or later in the second year?

kledbett: i've got to go but this chat has been great

(PRITZKER COOPER): actually we start in september

chris11: how many days in advance do students typically start studying for exams?

(PRITZKERSophie): your first day of class is Aug 10 (monday)

kledbett: thanks everyone

(PRITZKER COOPER): late September

(PRITZKERmei): summer schedule won't be posted until closer to when class starts

(PritzkerDavid): See you Kelly!

(PritzkerSylvia): Bye Kelly, all the best! Sylvia

(PRITZKERkristi): Bye Kelly!! I look forward to talking about horses :)

(PRITZKERSophie): classes will begin at 1 PM that first day with anatomy lecture, and you should get the summer schedule shortly before the quarter starts

kledbett: definitely kristi!

kledbett: bye

(PRITZKER COOPER): 10 days or 1 day

(PRITZKERSophie): just check online a few days before

(PRITZKER COOPER): or somewhere inbetween

(PRITZKERSophie): We have just a few minutes left...any other questions?

(PRITZKER COOPER): I know people who study before or right after the first lecture, I personally wait to study until the exam looms

bbetham: I'm really interested in EM and I had heard that you can do that rotation at Cook County since they have a level 1, is that true? (haha, i know this is a long ways off)

chris11: What's your favorite thing about Pritzker :)

lauraz: what does 10 days or 1 day refer to?

(PRITZKER COOPER): sorry, how long before exams we study

(PRITZKERmei): There's an Intro to EM elective in the spring

(PRITZKERSophie): There is also an Emergency med elective that about 1/2 of our class takes in the spring quarter, first year

(PritzkerSylvia): Yes, you can do EM rotations at Cook County -- it's hard to get much teaching there so most students wait until 4th year but our department here will help you make the connections -- one of our alums is very active there

(PRITZKER COOPER): a few of us are in the EM elective right now, and it's personally my favorite class yet

(PRITZKERSophie): Plus the ER is open to shadowing at any time. They always tell us we can just walk in and shadow :)

bbetham: So there are electives that you take from the medical school in the

first year? I didn't realize this! That's cool. How does that work?

(PRITZKERSophie): Pritzker is a really supportive environment and that really has made the transition easier for me.

(PRITZKERSophie): bbetham: you take electives in the spring quarter...

(PRITZKERmei): favorite thing about Pritzker..i almost saw Obama

(PritzkerSylvia): Yes, there are electives in the spring of first year -- great choices

(PRITZKERSophie): so I am taking a reproductive health and family planning elective

(PritzkerDavid): Obama owrks out at Regents when he is in town

chris11: haha how do you "almost" see someone

(PRITZKER COOPER): I have walked past Obama's house

(PRITZKERmei): haha his cars were parked outside regents

(PRITZKER COOPER): and been stared down by the secret service

bbetham: That is crazy. They must have to shut down the gym.

(PRITZKER COOPER): nope

(PRITZKERSophie): other electives people are taking include: global public health, intro to emergency medicine, palliative care, forensic peditrics, cancer biology, etc

(PRITZKER COOPER): he works out next to us common folk

(PRITZKERmei): they don't shut down the gym..there's just tons of security i think.

(PritzkerSylvia): I am friend's with the bomb sniffing dog who comes to Regents – she just likes me –

(PRITZKERSophie): its a really wide array of courses that are offered, all of which are pass fail and are taught mainly in discussion-based seminars

(PRITZKER COOPER): shameless plug: palliative care is a fantastic elective. look into it

bbetham: that is great! about how many do you take in your first year? is there room for just one?

(PRITZKERkristi): usually one or two

(PRITZKER COOPER): 2+, almost all during the spring quarter

(PRITZKERSophie): you can take as many as you want, i'm only in one because i'm getting credit hours for doing some work on my summer research project in advance

bbetham: very cool

lauraz: is there anything you wish you had known in advance, esp those of you who moved far distances?

bbetham: thank you for all the information, this was great!

(PRITZKERSophie): there are people taking 4 or so though! i admire them lots haha

bbetham: see you all in August :)

chris11: can i just add, for those of you reading this and haven't yet joined the Pritzker 2013 facebook group, do it! Already 40 people and counting!

(PRITZKERmei): hm..i probably wouldn't have brought my car

(PritzkerDavid): You're welcome, Brittany, see you in a few months!!

bbetham: have a great night everyone!

(PRITZKERmei): g'nite!

(PRITZKER COOPER): bye

(PRITZKERSophie): goodnight! thanks for all of the awesome questions!

(PRITZKER Joni): Good night! Be in touch if you have questions!!

(PritzkerSylvia): Thank you for joining us -- All the best wishes! It would be an honor to welcome you here

chris11: thanks!

lauraz: thanks for taking the time to do this!

(PRITZKERkristi): Bye everyone! Welcome to Pritzker!

(PritzkerDavid): Good night everyone. Best wishes on winding things up before med school!!