

July 15, 2008

Hello Class of 2012!

My name is Dr. Elizabeth Kieff, and I will be your Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. I apologize for introducing myself via mail but I will be away for your first few months at the Pritzker School of Medicine on my maternity leave. When I return (October 1st), I will be setting up individual meetings with each of you. My hope is that these visits can help jump start our getting to know each other.

As Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, my primary aim is to be someone within the medical school with whom you will be comfortable approaching with your concerns, questions, and aspirations about your future career as a physician. These issues may range from feeling stressed about an upcoming exam to needing some help trouble shooting around a family emergency to contemplating which specialty is the right one for you. In short, I hope to be one of the many people at Pritzker who helps support you throughout medical school on your way to becoming a doctor.

As part of the school's effort to provide you with the skills and support you will need on your path to becoming successful doctors, we are in the process of developing a four year wellness curriculum. The term "wellness" is used to incorporate the spectrum of lifestyle behaviors, emotional and physical states that allow any individual to be fully content and at ease. Our hope is that this curriculum will add to the range of tools in your toolkit and will further enable you to be healthy, happy, and well rounded physicians in training. As you move through the next four years, I will be looking to each of you for feedback and participation in the development of this new endeavor.

Finally, I want to tell you a bit about myself. I was born at the University of Chicago and grew up here in Hyde Park. I came to the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine pretty certain that I wanted to become a pediatrician. Much to my surprise, I became interested in and subsequently went into Psychiatry. I stayed here for residency and my current clinical practice is at our Student Counseling and Resource Services center where my patients are students at the University of Chicago. (I don't see medical students as my patients and if you were to be seen at SCRS it would not be by me). In addition to my role as Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, I am also a Career Advisor for the Plemister Society. Some of you will have been assigned to be my advisees. I live in Hyde Park with my husband, son, dog, and daughter, who will have arrived by the time you get this letter.

I hope you each have a fun and restful end to your summer. Congratulations on the start of a wonderful process. I look forward to getting to know each of you.

Best wishes and welcome!



Elizabeth Kieff, MD
Assistant Dean of Student Affairs