

July 15, 2008

Dear Class of 2012 (aka Fellow Pritzkerites!),

Hello, congratulations and welcome to the Pritzker family! We are so excited to work with all of you over this next year, and we wanted to introduce ourselves to you in the hopes that this will be the beginning of a beautiful friendship! We know that Megan and Jon have been working extremely hard along with their classmates and the PSOM (Pritzker School of Medicine) faculty and staff to make your transition as easy as possible. As Pritzker Chiefs, we hope to aid in that process. We are two fourth-year students whose roles are to function as the liaisons between students and the administration, as well as to serve as mentors to the student body. This means that we are here to serve you by listening when you have concerns or need advice, planning and overseeing activities, and continuing to make the Pritzker community the best it can be. Here is a little bit about the two of us.

Pritzker Chief #1: Erica Aronson

I grew up in the magical world of Hyde Park. Yes, I am a townie. I did leave for a few years and headed out to Stanford University for my undergraduate degree where I majored in Psychology and even dabbled with the idea of pursuing a PhD in Clinical Psychology. But I came to my senses, came home to Chicago, and began a post-bac pre-med program at UIC. After finishing the required classes and working as a research assistant in the Department of Psychiatry at U of C, I renewed my “lifer” status and entered Pritzker. My fiancé and I are avid hikers and all vacation time is spent on the next big wilderness adventure. As you may have noticed there aren’t many mountains in Chicago, which means we take a lot of road trips. I still am unsure about which specialty I will be pursuing though according to numerous emails I was supposed to have that decided months ago. Hopefully fourth year will clear it up for me. ☺

Pritzker Chief #2: Karen Bauer

I grew up in Geneva, Illinois about 35 miles west of Chicago. I went to the University of Missouri-Columbia, majored in Biology, and played soccer for the Tigers. I then moved to the area for med school. Since my not-so-glory days were done, I tried to find a new hobby, so I ran the Chicago Marathon in 2006...OUCH! Probably the only one of those I’ll ever do...something about 45 degrees and raining may have swayed me! The search for a new hobby has now begun, and now that I am a fourth-year, I have no excuse. Otherwise, I have decided to go into Pediatrics, likely with a fellowship afterwards. For the time being, I am enjoying fourth year. ☺

We hope that you now feel that you know a bit more about us and will begin to feel comfortable coming to us with questions, concerns, or if you need advice. We know that the Class of 2011 is already doing a fantastic job in easing your transition, but we are excited to meet all of you during your orientation, at Pritzker Chiefs’ breakfasts, and at Pritzker society functions. We look forward to a great year ahead! Remember that you can always email us at pritzkerchiefs@bsd.uchicago.edu.

All the best,
Erica and Karen