

## WELCOME NEW STUDENTS!

### Of Special Interest

24 New Students

### MEET UMed 2011

Adey Berhanu  
 Jamie Brewer  
 June Chae  
 Jessika Diaz Lara  
 John Franco  
 Tracy Harkensee  
 Sophia M. Hermann  
 Jeremy Howe  
 Kathryn Kemnetz  
 Mengyao Liang  
 Nikhil Narang  
 Zachary Nayak  
 Caroline Novak  
 Julieigh Nowinski  
 Lisa Pearl  
 Benjamin Preyss  
 Juan Rojas  
 Ernesto Romo  
 Gurkiran Sardar  
 Sarah Shaprio  
 Mara Terras  
 Peter Ureste  
 Annie Wu  
 Miao Crystal Yu

Welcome UMed 11!  
 This issue is dedicated to our new UMed students, the College of Medicine Class of 2011, set to arrive on campus August 13, 2007.

Some are traveling from as far away as Portland, Oregon to the west and Flanders, New Jersey to the east. Thirteen

already call Illinois their home.

UMed 11 presents a diverse group of individuals dedicated to the needs of the underserved communities in urban areas. The final class roster has not been completed, 63% of the students indicated that their ethnic heritage is other than

white. Sixty-three percent are females. The average age of the students is 23.

Read further to find out more about these new faces on campus and what they have been doing before arriving on campus.

## Upcoming UMed Dates

### August 25

&

### September 1:

UMed Bus Tour ~A Historical Look at Chicago's Underserved Communities.

### September 14<sup>th</sup>:

M3 meeting

### September 28<sup>th</sup>:

UMed meeting

### October 26<sup>th</sup>:

UMed Meeting

### November 16<sup>th</sup>:

M3 Meeting

### December 19<sup>th</sup>:

UMed End of Semester Gathering

### January 3<sup>rd</sup>:

M3 ECP&P II

### February: Research Day

### February 29<sup>th</sup>:

M3 Meeting

### March 13<sup>th</sup>:

UMed – Preparing for the Next Year

### April 11<sup>th</sup>:

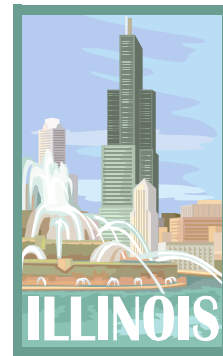
UMed – Community Differences

### April 29<sup>th</sup>:

UMed – M3 Meeting

### May 13<sup>th</sup>:

UMed – End of Year Gathering



## Jessika Diaz Lara



Jessika Diaz Lara, prefers just to go by Jessika Diaz. She was born in Mexico City and came over to the US when she was two. Since then she has been living in Chino, CA (near the outskirts of Orange County).

She graduated from Stanford in 2006 with her

B.A. in Human Biology, along with one of a very close girlfriend, who is also at UIC.

This past year she has been enjoying life on the beach in Pacific Beach (San Diego) while working for a pharmaceutical and biotechnology consulting firm. Plus, she just got back from backpacking throughout Europe and is looking forward to "getting

in to Chicago." Her hobbies mostly include staying active (running/the gym/taebo/sports/'surfing'), catching up with girlfriends, traveling, and volunteering/translating in clinics serving the underserved.

Jessika's interests in medicine are in surgery, gyn/oncology, pediatric oncology, and TBD.

## Sophia Magda Hermann

Her full name is Sophia Magda Hermann, but no one, not even her parents has ever called her Sophia, it has always been Sophie and Soph.



Soph is originally from and is "rabidly fanatical about Portland, OR." She thinks "it is the most beautiful and well run city on earth, but has heard many wonderful things about Chicago, and is very excited to try out a new place.

Her love of travel has

brought her all over the world. Though, she has been trying to get back to the west coast ever since she left Portland at age 18 to go to Harvard. She has lived in Paris, walked across Spain and has worked in India.

Sophie picked Harvard, "largely in part because I wanted to see the other half of the country." There she majored in French History and Literature as an undergrad.

After she graduated, she worked at a non-profit in

DC that lobbies for contraception funding for third world countries. And went on to spend two years teaching social studies to a wild bunch of middle schoolers in Baltimore, "a job I ultimately, though certainly not initially enjoyed."

She likes outdoorsy type stuff, running, biking, being on water, and reading semi-classical fiction.

One of Sophie's highlights this summer was celebrating her grandmother's 82nd birthday with her.

## Kathryn Kemnetz



Kathryn Kemnetz, but prefers to go by Katy, because I was born in Katy, Texas. Her family moved to Abu Dhabi, UAE ten years ago, and that's where she



went to middle school and high school. Katy's immediate family is still there... although most of the rest of her family is in Illinois... and for the past four years she was an undergrad at Notre Dame.... "So that's why I always hesitate when people ask me where I'm from."

During undergrad, Katy sang in a choir and ran the fundraising committee for Habitat for Humanity. Her current fetishes are country music, Bollywood films, and Lost.



## Mengyao Liang



**M**engyao Liang is not traveling far from his family home when he enters the College of Medicine this fall.

Chicago is home for Mengyao. He grew up in the Bridgeport neighborhood, just blocks

from the UIC campus. And is certainly familiar with the needs of the underserved communities in Chicago.

Mengyao received his undergraduate degree at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, which

is about two hours southwest of Chicago.

In his spare time he enjoys reading, TV/Movies and games.

## Juleigh Nowinski



Juleigh Nowinski is from Palos Park, Illinois- a suburb of Chicago.

Her hobbies include traveling, reading, hiking, cooking, long dinners with family and friends, and triathlons/competitive running.

A non-traditional student, having graduated from Northwestern University in 2003 with a degree in social policy, after college, she worked on a senatorial campaign in Chicago, and then moved to Washington

D.C. to work on health policy in the U.S. Senate. She lived there until this past June, when she took the summer off to travel and spend time with family and friends.



## Juan Carlos Rojas

Another native of the Midwest, J.C. Rojas, is from Farmington Hills, Michigan, about a four hour drive from Chicago when there is no lake-effect-snow.

He attended the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor for his undergraduate degree

just a few miles from his home.

In its 2007 edition, U.S. News & World Report ranked the University of Michigan's undergraduate program second in the United States among public universities and 24th among

all universities. The university is also noted for its athletic teams, which is fitting because JC's hobbies include sports, when he is not watching learning channels on TV, movies or cooking.



## Gurkiran K. Sardar



Gurkiran K. Sardar is not only excited about returning to Chicago, her birthplace, but is "currently engaged, will be married by the time school starts."

Gurkiran grew up in Flanders, NJ. She completed her

undergraduate degree from the University of Rochester in Health & Society and Biology. She

also holds a MPH in Global Health from Emory University.

Her hobbies include: cooking, yoga, travel, music and general merry-making.





## Sarah Shapiro

Not only is Kenosha, Wisconsin known for the Keno Family Outdoor Theatre, Wisconsin's oldest drive-in theatre, it is Sarah Shapiro's

hometown.

Sarah is a Biology major from the University of Madison. She plays tennis and soccer and loves to be

outside! In the winter, "I love to ski," this is a good thing because Kenosha averages 38.5 inches of snow per year.

## Mara Terras



Mara Terras is another native from Chicago. She attended Brown University in Providence, RI and graduated in 2006 with a degree in Neuroscience.

After graduation, she took a year to travel and get an idea of what life outside of school is like. She took a road trip from Chicago to the Pacific Northwest, then returned to Providence for a few months to tie up some loose ends from school.

She worked as an EMT and taught an independent study in Neuroscience at a local high school before returning to Chicago for a few months. In April, she traveled to South America for the first time and spent six weeks in Ecuador. This summer Mara is living in Providence and taking a Biostatistics Class in preparation for the joint MD/MPH degree program.

In college, Mara was involved in drug policy activism, primarily through

Students for Sensible Drug Policy, a national organization dedicated to reducing the harms caused by the War on Drugs and seeking a less punitive alternative. She was drawn to drug policy reform because it encompasses so many important social and civic issues. Plus, she has an interest in volunteering a free clinic and in learning more about the applications of complementary and alternative medicine in urban settings.



## Annie Wu

A self proclaimed "borderline nontraditional student" Annie Wu has been out of college of two years. She is originally from the Bay Area and calls San Jose, California her hometown.

Annie received her

degree from the University of California – Berkeley, which is the oldest of the ten campuses affiliated with the University of California.

This summer she spent sometime traveling in Barcelona.

She loves food, running, tennis and hiking. But then again she grew up in an area that boasts of over 300 days a year of full or significant sunshine and an average low temperature of 45 degrees in January.



## Miao Crystal Yu

Miao Crystal Yu prefers Crystal, which is her middle name. She, also, attended the University of California – Berkeley and majored in Molecular Cell Biology.

She is a native of Oakland, California.

In her spare time Crystal likes watching movies and enjoying reading fiction and historical novels. She has

an interest in Free Clinics and working with homeless or injection drug user populations.

## Benjamin Preyss



Benjamin Allen Preyss - Ben for short, was born and raised in a little town east of Cleveland, Ohio called Chagrin Falls, home to the great pumpkin roll.

He graduated from The University of Chicago in 2005 after majoring in Human Development, captaining the men's soccer team, and working

for a non-profit called Teach For America.

After school, he took a job with a Chicago-based health care consulting group that focuses on a number of operational, financing, and strategic planning issues with major urban public hospital systems. For 2 years, Ben enjoyed this work a great deal and learned a lot

about providing access and care to some of our nation's most vulnerable citizens.

He is recently "retired", training hard for the Chicago Marathon, and consuming abnormally large quantities of ice cream.

## Jeremy Howe



Jeremy Howe is from Lincoln, Nebraska. He graduated from the University of Nebraska with a degree in Spanish in 2005. After he graduated he wanted to take some time before jumping into med school so he moved to Quito, Ecuador and worked in a hospital for several months (and backpacked most of the west coast of

South America).

When he got back he moved to Chicago to work as a medical interpreter, and in June he capped off his last free summer by getting married.

Jeremy loves to travel and do anything new that feels like an adventure. He is a pretty rabid soccer fan

(¡Vamos Sevilla!), but most of his free time and money goes to music--attending concerts, buying records, and reading about new bands whose concerts and records he can spend his money on.

"I'm really excited to be a part of the UMed program and can't wait to meet you all," Jeremy.

## Zachary Nayak



Zachary Nayak is an Illinoisan from Bloomington. His hobbies include watching sports, especially football and baseball, playing any sport, reading and napping.

He attended Cornell University, which was chartered in 1865 and is considered the youngest of the Ivy League schools.

And for Zach he has found, a trusted friend, counselor and teacher in his brother David, a M3 UMed student.

## Adey Berhanu



Denver, Colorado has a few things to be proud of, Colfax Avenue, the longest continuous street in America and Adey Berhanu, a graduate from Stanford University who majored in Human Biology.

Though she lived in Denver, Adey is proud of the Ethiopian household she grew-up in. (Did you know that Ethiopia was the first country to cultivate coffee and it was traded through a port called Mocha?)

Her hobbies include travel, reading, running, and crossword puzzles.

## Peter Ureste



Originally from Southern California, Peter Ureste was born in Riverside, which is about 70 miles east of Los Angeles, and then lived in LA for a few years before relocating to Portland, OR. Since much of his personal growth occurred in Portland, he identifies this as his hometown. During his 7 years in Oregon, he earned a BA in community health at Portland State University in Spring 2007.

Peter considers himself a late bloomer and nontraditional student. Besides being an underrepresented minority (Mexican-American), "I am gay, and older (31 years old) than the average medical student. Identifying as a minority in various categories has instilled in me a sense of social responsibility to assist the under-served and be sensitive to the needs of others."

On a recreational note, he enjoys running (currently training for the Chicago Marathon), swimming, and riding his bike and outings for coffee and a leisure bicycle ride are always enjoyable. He also digs foreign and indie film watching, or going to see live music shows. Peter's occasional activities include film/video making, writing in his journal for introspection, or making up heart-felt tunes with his guitar.

## Jamie Brewer



"Hello Returning U-Med students reading my autobiography! Hope you enjoy! ;-P"

Where to start... Jamie Brewer is from the South side of Chicago. She completed her undergraduate degree in '05 at Northwestern University with a double

major in Biology and Psychology. After graduation she worked as a Clinical Research Coordinator at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in the Lynn Sage Comprehensive Breast Center.

This past year Jamie headed back to school and

completed a Master's degree program in Medical Sciences at Loyola University Chicago (also known as MAMS – Master of Arts in Medical Sciences).

Hobbies... "I'm a bit of a book nerd. I can't go into a bookstore without buying a book. I am a BIG Harry Potter fan."

## June Chae



As a Korean-American, June Chae is eager to be a part of the UMED program. She was born in the "Windy City", Chicago, Illinois. The City is so named because of the politicians that are full of long-winded and boastful

speeches of Chicago, not because of the weather.

However, June calls Skokie, Illinois her hometown, where she has grown up amongst diverse cultures.

She attended the University

of Illinois @ Urbana-Champaign. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign was ranked as one of the top 10 public universities in the United States for the year 2007 by [U.S. News and World Report](#)

## John Franco



From Cleveland, Ohio. Was a Biology and Neuroscience double major at Oberlin College in 2003. Earned a Masters degree in Neuroscience from Case Western Reserve University

in 2006. Spent the summer studying in the UIC summer prematriculation program and becoming a first time homeowner. Celebrating his first wedding anniversary with his lovely wife, Thalia

in the middle of August. Passionate about health policy reform.



## Tracy Harkensee

Tracy Harkensee is from Arlington Heights, Illinois – a northwest suburb of Chicago. This past May, she graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia, which is sometimes better known as

“Mizzou.”

She considers herself a traditional first year med student with a BS in Biology and BA in Spanish.

Tracy has a lot of little hobbies to keep her busy,

but for the most part she spends most of her summer working, bike riding, going to the lake/pool, exploring Chicago and watching Cubs games.



## Lisa Pearl

Lisa Pearl is from Buffalo Grove, Illinois. She graduated in 2006 from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign where she majored in International Studies, and I have spent this past year participating in Avodah: the Jewish Service Corps in

Washington, DC. There she worked in a Wellness Center for homeless and low-income women.

Lisa says she is the type of person who will try almost anything, but in her free time you can typically find her enjoying

the outdoors, reading, cooking, traveling, attempting to be artistic, and spending time with her family and friends.

## Nikhil Narang

Nikhil Narang graduated from Emory University in 2006 with a B.S. in Biological Anthropology. He is from Crystal Lake, which is about an hour northwest of Chicago.

His hobbies include following Chicago sports (Cubs Fan), exercising, guitar, and

voyaging all sorts of cities when he gets a chance. Nikhil is truly excited to be part of the UMED program and is looking forward to learning more about healthcare and its related challenges in an urban setting.



## Ernesto Romo

Ernesto Romo is from West Chicago, Illinois. He recently graduated in May from the University of Dayton in Ohio with a

Bachelor of Science in Pre-Medicine. He enjoys reading, listening to music, and watching sports. Ernesto's favorite sport is

soccer. Plus, he also enjoys spending time outdoors playing cornhole (some folks call it Bean Bag or Bean Toss), hiking, swimming etc...

Not Picture: Caroline Novak

## UMed Continues to Grow

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While the number of M.D. degrees awarded in the US more than doubled since the early 1970s, the distribution of physicians by geographic area continues to disproportionately favor the periphery and suburban areas of large cities. Rural communities and central areas within large cities are more likely to be medically underserved and/or have a shortage of medical professionals. Very few medical schools are addressing this growing shortage in the

underserved communities.

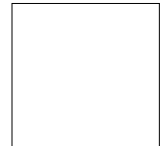
The UMed Program at the University of Illinois has a mission "To admit and prepare medical students from Illinois who will, upon completion of residency training, locate their practices in urban communities in any specialty deemed as needed for those communities."

In existence since 2005, UMed currently has sixty students in the program. These students are being taken beyond the standard

biological and physical science pre-requisites. Their interests in social and cultural aspects of U.S. society are developed, and the knowledge of their impact on the practice of medicine is reinforced.

Applications for the UMed Class of 2012 will be available in September 2007. For additional information on UMed view our Website at <http://www.uic.edu/depts/mcam/umed/index.shtml>

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