

PEORIA PONS

Bridging communication; Celebrating accomplishments

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Happy New (School) Year!

Can you believe it's already time for school again?! For some of us, it's our first year of medical school, still bright-eyed from undergraduate. For others, it's the beginning of our final year as students before embarking on our future journey as residents and soon-to-be physicians. However, if there's one thing we all have in common, it's that we're all traveling this path together. The trick: you get out of this what you put into it. So find ways to become involved, always look for opportunities to learn, and get to know those in and out of your class. I think the M1 class put it best with their unofficial motto: "work hard, play harder." Have an amazing year, and enjoy the ride!

AJ Heaps (M4)

Peoria Medical Student Council (PMSC) Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, September 18th
6:00 PM, UICOMP A100-2

Patagonia Apparel Sale

University of Illinois
College of Medicine Peoria



It's not too late to get your UICOMP Patagonia Apparel. Sale closes **September 6th**, so act quickly! Click [here](#) to see all the products available and to place an order.

Does your SIG event need more notoriety? Get your event included in the Student Events Calendar!

Contact Jaymi Belcher: jaymib@uic.edu



Upcoming Events

Dialogue with the Deans

Wednesday, September 4th

6:00 PM; UICOMP A100-3

Have a burning question to ask the deans of UICOMP? See an area of improvement? Come learn about all the changes happening here, and find ways to give back to our medical school.

Financial Literacy

Thursday, September 12th

5:15 PM – 6:00 PM; UICOMP A100-3

Learn how to reduce the cost of medical school through service commitments, monetary awards, and scholarships. Click [here](#) to register.

Hy-Vee Nutritional Store Tour

Tuesday, September 17th

5:30 PM; Hy-Vee (4125 N. Sheridan Rd #20, Peoria)

Come take a store tour with Dietitian Lauren to learn how to make healthier grocery shopping decisions. This was such an informative event last year that the wellness committee members wanted to offer it again this year. Meet near the produce section towards the main entrance.

Strategic Planning Forum

Monday, September 23rd

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM; UICOMP A100-1

Major changes are happening within UIC College of Medicine at a state-wide level. They are actively looking for student involvement and feedback, so your attendance will not go amiss!

Dialogue with Dr. Rosenblatt

Monday, September 23rd

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM; UICOMP A100-1

Dr. Mark Rosenblatt, Executive Dean of the College of Medicine, will be visiting Peoria and hosting a regional town-hall meeting for students and faculty. This is a great opportunity to get to know the dean of the entire College of Medicine, as well as ask any questions you may have.

Advising Houses Opening Meeting

Monday, September 30th

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM; UICOMP

Advising houses provide a wonderful opportunity to connect with faculty and classmates of all years and backgrounds. The first meeting is hosted by the Office of Student Affairs; dinner will be provided. Please click [here](#) to let us know if you'll be attending so food can be planned accordingly.

Community Service Fair

Tuesday, October 1st

3:30 PM – 5:30 PM; UICOMP Lobby

Come learn about all the various service opportunities available in and around Peoria!

Blood Drive

Friday, October 4th

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM; UICOMP A100-2

UICOMP's semi-annual blood drive benefiting the Red Cross. Any participation is warmly welcomed!

PEORIA'S RIVER CITY PRIDE FESTIVAL 2019

Peoria Proud and UICOMP's LGBTQ+ Student Alliance put on a colorfully spectacular event!

THIS PAST MONTH, PEORIA

held its biggest and best Pride weekend EVER! Titled "River City Pride Festival", the events were planned by local organization Peoria Proud in coordination with members of UICOMP's LGBTQ+ Student Alliance. The festivities were held from August 1st-3rd 2019, and attracted people of all ages, genders, sexualities, and colors!

Events consisted of Pride Night with the Peoria Chiefs, and a Pride Bar Crawl through many of Peoria's local bars; however, the crowning event was the River City Pride Festival at the Glen Oak Amphitheater. This event was a massive all-day affair, garnering over 2,000 guests to enjoy musicians, drag shows, magicians, and dance performances on the main stage from the morning until evening. There was plenty of information and education, with over 50 vendor tables present (most of which being local businesses and community outreach groups). An emphasis was placed on sexual health at the event as well, with free healthcare via UnityPoint's Care-A-Van, free HIV/STI testing, and free Hep A vaccinations. On top of all that, the event had plenty of family-friendly fun, with story-hour book readings, bounce houses, side-walk chalk contests, and even a "Doggies in Drag" parade.

This weekend of Pride highlighted the progress made in the Peoria community in recent years to embrace the LGBTQ+ community, and people of ALL backgrounds, truly embracing the motto of Pride: to celebrate oneself and others for who they are. The River City Pride Festival was an incredible experience to be a part of, and certainly one to enjoy next year!



WELCOME CLASS OF 2023!

Sixty-four enthusiastic and bright future physicians join the Peoria family



ON AUGUST 5TH, PEORIA

welcomed its 3rd class of first year students onto its campus, with 64 energetic new faces—consisting of both in- and out-of-state residents. Following a week of orientation, they had the privilege of receiving their white coats during Peoria's annual White Coat Ceremony: a reminder that a physician is more than a title, but a duty to keep humanity within the healthcare industry.

Of his class in Peoria, Tahsin Zaman (M1) says he "appreciates the small class size which lends itself well to forming a tight-knit class." Another first year, Connor Rachford (M1), when asked what he's most looking forward to during medical school, replied "I'm most excited to work with and learn from my fellow classmates. We are so lucky to have such a diverse student body stemming from many different backgrounds. It'll be exciting to see how each person tackles the same problem differently."

While so much has already happened for these 64 students—from moving to a new town, to starting a new program, a white coat ceremony, and even quizzes—so much lies ahead on their journey towards being a future physician!





GARDEN 'N GRILL: WELCOME BACK 2019

To welcome the Class of 2023 and kick-off the new school year, PMSC hosted a Garden 'n Grill service and social event on Saturday, August 24th. A group of students from all four classes had a great time volunteering at The Garden of Hope—a local organization dedicated to addressing the shortage of healthy food in low-income areas of Peoria. Burgers, veggie burgers, and hotdogs were fired-up on the grill at the Moose Shelter at Detweiler Park after the service event, and students enjoyed a beautiful afternoon in the park with frisbees and a slackline.

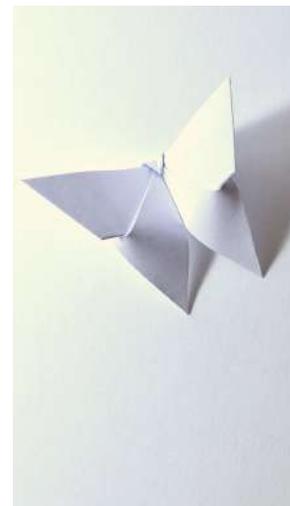


STUDENT RESOURCES AT PEORIA'S LIBRARY

Did you know our library carries more than books? Check out some of these other resources offered through the Library of Health Sciences at Peoria

- Activity kits that include tennis rackets and tennis balls, binoculars and a field guide, brain teasing puzzles, and a football, soccer ball, and Frisbee. Kits can be checked out for 24 hours.
- Study break supplies including origami guides and papers, coloring books and colored pencils, and note cards, along with group activities like community jigsaw puzzles.
- Medical and nursing student life materials that include books to help you balance work and life, gain perspective on your chosen specialty, cook a healthy meal, or just relax and read for fun.
- Library staff also sometimes provide free coffee and snacks.

If you need help finding anything or have any suggestions, please feel free contact the library at: lib-pref@uic.edu



SUMMER LOVIN'

Time to recap all that's happened since the last Pons

SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED

since the May 2019 edition of the Pons. We won't be able to recap everything that's happened with everybody, but here are some of the highlights:

- Dr. Sara Rusch, former Regional Dean of UICOMP since 2008, officially retired in May of 2019—ironically, her announcement came just days after winning the student award "Most Likely to Never Retire" at UICOMP's Formal 2019. Her position is filled in the interim by UICOMP's own Dr. Meenakshy Aiyer.
- Dr. Kevin Wombacher was hired as UICOMP's Assistant Dean for Medical Assessment and Education, primarily overseeing students during their clinical years. Originally a Bradley Graduate, he completed his Doctorate in Health Communications at the University of Kentucky. He is currently filling the position previously held by Dr. Gerry Wickham.
- The Class of 2019 graduated May 4th, 2019, with 100% match rate of their graduating cohort—a testament to their accomplishments and their future successes as now first year residents.
- The Peoria Medical Student Council (formerly SGA) elected its new executive body: Ellen Cealey (M3) and Matt Schaeffer as Co-Presidents, Victoria Lu (M4) and Eliot Rapoport (M2) as Vice-Presidents, Andy Meister (M2) as Treasurer, and Dom Bruncho (M2) as Secretary.



OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Know of anything Pons-tacular?

We are always looking for stories, events, or accomplishments that happen around UICOMP. If you have a story you'd like to see included in the *Peoria Pons*, please email written articles to Anna Kolasa or Christine Pak. Please keep all articles to 250 words or less; photos are always encouraged. Deadline: 25th of every month.

THE LIST OF STUDENT INTEREST GROUPS AND CONTACT INFO

Click [here](#)

THE LIST OF ELECTED STUDENT LEADERS 19-20

Click [here](#)

University Medical Student Council (UMSC) Quarterly Meeting

Saturday
September 28th
10:00 AM
@ Chicago



YOUR PMSC 2019 - 2020

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