

Thoughts from the UIC-COP Webmaster

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With the spring semester well underway and ICHP executive board elections drawing near, I realize that there is still so much I want to accomplish both as webmaster and as a student member.

Just one year ago, our chapter website underwent a complete transformation to make it contemporary and user friendly. Emily Lin, current president-elect, had a difficult task as webmaster last year, but she did a phenomenal job, making my role as the current webmaster straightforward and without complication. Although my duties may not be the most exciting tasks, the website is more important than ever this year. Because of our expansion to Rockford, not all students have access to our organization's leadership should they have any questions or concerns. Therefore the Chicago campus has the responsibility to keep our Rockford student members informed. All new announcements, contact information, articles, and photos are posted on the website and updated regularly. Maintaining and updating the website is a great way to share information without flooding the e-mail inboxes of the members. I find my role to be fulfilling, which keeps me motivated and excited to be a part of ICHP.

I have been an ICHP member for three years now, but it was not until my third year that I took on a leadership role. As a first year student, my involvement was minimal, and I didn't plan to get involved with ICHP. I went to the general meetings, but did not participate in any of the health initiatives or committees. As a second year student, my involvement with ICHP began to increase after I attended the annual meeting in Oakbrook in late August 2009. It was one of the best decisions I have made. Apart from networking with students and graduate ICHP members from both UIC and Midwestern Universities, the highlight of my weekend was having the opportunity to attend the residency showcase. There, I was able to talk to current residents at hospitals and VA programs from across the Midwest. Previously, I thought that residency training was something to think about only after P3 year. I learned quickly that it is never too early to start preparing for residencies, especially because they are becoming more and more competitive every year. I left the meeting with a wealth of new information and an excitement to get more involved. I began to research the many different residencies available, and repeatedly kept coming across ASHP. I felt that I had learned things that I would have never heard about if I had not ventured out to the annual meeting. There are only a few months left before I begin rotations, but I want to continue to make an impact on the UIC ICHP student chapter as a P4, and even as a clinician someday. If you are interested in residency, hospital pharmacy, or even just becoming more involved in ICHP, I encourage you to attend the annual meetings and to explore the numerous leadership opportunities available as a member of ICHP! ■



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