Welcome back! We have a few things to share with you about health professions advising as you start your year. Please read this carefully as there is a lot of information.

We hope you heard that Professor Futterman has left the college, and Professor Miles Cahill has been appointed to replace him Health Professions Advisor. You have likely met or have at least seen each other at an event, and he is looking forward to continuing working with you. He will focus on helping students thinking about the right time to apply, getting their materials ready for application to medical and other health professional schools, post-bac programs, the MCAT prep course, and other concerns for 3rd year and 4th year students and alumni. Professor Jumi Hayaki from the Psychology Department has been appointed to replace Professor Cahill as Associate Health Professions Advisor, and is looking forward to her primary role of guiding students on forming academic plans, choosing co-curricular activities, evaluating progress, considering different health professions, etc. She has served on the health professions advising committee for several years and is very much looking forward to her new expanded role. We do not see any major changes happening this year – we plan to continue to work in much the same way we have been, except the health professions advisor will not be wearing a St. Louis Cardinals hat. If you would like to meet with Professor Cahill or Professor Hayaki, please call Ms. Casello at x2533 or stop by Stein 129A to set up an appointment.

This coming semester students considering applying to medical or other health professional schools will have some important meetings and will face some important deadlines. Please be on the lookout for e-mails announcing these meetings. We will likely have an informational meeting on the committee process in late September with a deadline before October break for opening a file and requesting an advisor. We will have a Saturday morning autobiography writing workshop in late October to help get you going on your personal statement, and a meeting in November a meeting to talk about the MCAT preparation course offered on campus in the spring. In addition to this, there will be several excellent events for you to attend – we expect talks from physicians, admissions officers and various other people associated with healthcare.

Here are a couple of other notes of things you may not be aware of:

- Health professional schools strongly value a rigorous academic program. Taking three classes or choosing a major just because you think it will boost your GPA is not a good idea. (This is true for athletes as well!)
- You cannot transfer a summer class to Holy Cross unless it counts towards your major, minor or concentration; makes up for a deficiency; or meets a common requirement. However, you can submit transcripts from summer classes to medical and health professional schools when you apply. At the same time, if you do take summer classes make sure they will be accepted by your target graduate schools. For example, some programs accept community college credit and some do not and some accept online courses and some do not. If you plan to take a summer class at some point, to be safe please try to take a course as rigorous as a Holy Cross course. And, don't take a summer class unless you have an identifiable need: you don't want to do this just to make your load lighter at Holy Cross. It's a good idea to talk to one of us before you decide to take a summer class that is a health professional school requirement.
- If you are unable to take a course at Holy Cross during a semester, you make take it at another Worcester-area college as part of your Holy Cross tuition and have it appear on your Holy Cross transcript. Good reasons to do this are because the Holy Cross class is full (e.g. anatomy and physiology) or because we do not offer it here (e.g. nutrition). See the HECCMA website for details: http://www.heccma.org/crossregistration
- It is very difficult for non-US residents/citizens to gain acceptance to US medical schools. If you are not a permanent US resident or US citizen and plan to apply to US medical schools, please make an appointment to see Professor Cahill as soon as possible.
Our web page contains a wealth of information and links that will help you with course planning, finding programs, the committee and graduate school application process, etc. Check it out! http://www.holycross.edu/academics/programs/health-professions-advising

We hope you have a great year at Holy Cross and look forward to working with you! Remember to make an appointment to see us call Ms. Casello at the office at x2533 or stop by Stein 129A.

Professor Miles Cahill
Professor Jumi Hayaki