Hello All! My name is Sharline Madera, and I would like to represent our student body as the next Student Overseer. I am confident my great enthusiasm, coupled with my diverse background, will make me an excellent representative and voice for our needs and concerns.

In the fall of 2008, I joined the WCMC/Rockefeller/Memorial Sloan Kettering student body as an MD-PhD student after completing a Bachelor of Arts in Biochemistry at Wellesley College in Massachusetts. As an undergraduate at Wellesley, I was heavily involved in student government and other activities that influenced the quality of student life. My desire to better the experiences of my classmates has continued into my graduate career as shown in my involvement in several organizations, including MSEC, SNMA, and UAEM. I was also granted the opportunity to represent our medical school during the 2008 UAEM conference last fall as part of the Weill Cornell UAEM chapter. These experiences not only show my concern for the activities of our school, but also my ability in leadership positions—experience and concern that will extend to the work I do for you on the Board of Overseers.

As Student Overseer, I intend to address the many issues that concern all of us. Being an MD-PhD student, I am equally concerned with both medical and graduate student issues and the interests that we share. In addition, my various study abroad experiences and foreign citizenship have exposed me to the difficulties of studying in one country while being connected to a main administrative body in another country, an issue to which our classmates in Qatar may be able to relate. I believe these connections and experiences will allow me to empathize with any issues or mutual interests our united student body may have, and my open door (e-mail) policy will make it very easy for anyone to contact me with their concerns.

As busy students, graduate or medical, we can all relate to the frustrations of lacking guaranteed study space. If elected Student Overseer, I plan to work with administrators to secure a space for our students in the new Biomedical Translational Research Building. I envision that not only will WCMC students have exclusive access to the space without closures and rentals, but that the space will also be equipped with full technology and offer extended hours. In addition, I also hope to extend our access to workspace to other areas of the college so that we may have a variety of work environments.

Furthermore, our fellow medical students have voiced a strong desire for a pharmacology course. This is something that I would be interested in pursuing, and though it is a large project to take on, making the Board of Trustees aware of our needs (and gaining their support for our cause) would be vital for creating such a change.

Housing is an area that could use some extra attention, especially lately since an increase of incoming students has presented a shortage of housing more directly felt by various graduate students living in Olin. As Student Overseer I plan to pay special attention to the current housing issue, which is likely to be aggravated due to the current influx of medical, graduate, and special program students.

I am very open to bringing forth our needs, wants, and concerns to the attention of some of the most powerful figures behind our institution. I hope to represent all of our diverse outlooks and opinions.