

Historic First: Match Day for Graduating Medical Students Held in Bethlehem

By St. Luke's

BETHLEHEM - Local medical student Eva Munshower says she is "so happy" to learn that she will spend her next five years training as a new doctor in a general surgery residency at St. Luke's University Health Network. She got the news at noon, today, March 15, when she opened an envelope at the Match Day ceremony.

Match Day is a national rite of passage for fourth-year medical school students moving onto residency programs. A complex algorithm matches the students' top choice of residencies with the programs' top choice of students. Post-graduate medical education can last three to eight years, including residency and fellowship.

Making this year's Match Day extra special, the Katz School of Medicine celebrated Match Day on both its North Philadelphia Campus and in Bethlehem. At precisely noon, the 38 students from the St. Luke's campus simultaneously opened the envelopes that contained the letters identifying their residency programs.

Munshower is following in the footsteps of her father, Thomas Munshower, D.O., a family medicine physician with St. Luke's University Health Network. Dr. Munshower attended Match Day with his daughter and the rest of their family at the ArtsQuest Center at SteelStacks.

Eva Munshower was one of 10 of the class of 38 to match to residencies at St. Luke's.

"The most meaningful part of this day was that our students learned of their futures right here in the community that supported them from day one," said Shaden Eldakar-Hein, M.D., Senior Associate Dean and Professor Lewis Katz School of Medicine, St. Luke's Campus. "Every student means so much to us, and when they opened their envelopes, we were so incredibly happy and proud of them."

A Lehigh Valley native, Munshower will graduate in May and fell in love with general surgery when, while a student at Central Catholic High School, she was invited to watch an operation in the OR of Sacred Heart Hospital.



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