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Update on The Phi Rho Sigma Foundation

Phi Rho Sigma continues as a viable organization serving the evolving needs of medical students. Although much has changed with medical education since our founding in 1890, our student members continue to serve their local communities with projects that both improve the lives of those served and the Rhos that participate in those activities.

The Foundation is doing its part in 2018 providing over \$65,000 in the funding of these undertakings. In 2018 we had the opportunity to provide support for students studying alternative therapeutic modalities in China, India, Africa, Central America and Southeast Asia; community health screenings; volunteering at neighborhood health clinics; support for food pantries; and raise funds to support research for HIV. In addition, the Foundation has been actively working with medical schools where our chapters are no longer active but were once an important part of the school's fabric to establish and support scholarships for deserving students. At a time when the cost of medical education continues to soar it

is important for us to remember that an increasingly difficult financial burden is being placed on the medical student and the Foundation is trying to make a difference.

In 1996 we established the Foundation as a 501(c)(3) organization, so donations to support these important activities are treated as tax-deductible contributions for federal tax purposes. As a member of the medical profession and Phi Rho Sigma Medical Society we would urge you to make an investment in the lives and future of those who would follow us in this noble profession. Greater than 99% of any contribution goes to support these activities.

John Ayres, M.D. serves as Foundation Chair and Trustee. Also serving as Trustees are Martin Wice, M.D. and James Jackson, M.D. You can contact the Foundation by email at phirhofoundation@yahoo.com or by regular mail at PO Box 90264, Indianapolis, IN 46290.

Grants Help Students Experience Global Medicine

The Phi Rho Sigma Foundation is pleased to publish the following reports from our students.

Nicaragua

We spent our spring break on a UNMC medical mission trip to Jinotega, Nicaragua. Our group had six medical students, an advisor and one physician. This trip was focused on vision care for children, village leaders and midwives. While there, we worked individually with patients and physicians, conducting eye exams and fitting individuals for lenses and frames.



During our trip to Nicaragua, we saw 300 patients and provided glasses to 160 of them. We learned from local physicians about

common health issues in Nicaragua as well as physical exam skills that aren't as often used in the United States. We also distributed donations such as dental care supplies and clothing.

The Nicaraguan culture was very welcoming to



... Continues on page 2

In this issue:

- 1 Update on The Phi Rho Sigma Foundation
- 2 Grants Help Students Experience Global Medicine
- 3 Spotlight on Alumni

our group and shared with us their traditions such as salsa dancing and desayuno nica. We spent our free time seeing a volcano, swimming in a lagoon, petting monkeys, and walking through local markets. We are very grateful to Phi Rho Sigma for aiding us financially for this trip. This experience reinforced the importance of global health and we are excited to pursue that in our medical careers. Thank you for helping make this medical mission experience a possibility.



— Haley Mathews, Kaitlin Hehnke, and Lauren Greufe, Iota Chapter

Uganda

As a student at Creighton University everyone is expected to embrace the Jesuit ideals of service and caring for the whole person. One of the ways which students have the opportunity to experience this is through a Project CURA medical service trip. Students embarking on Project CURA trips seek to deepen their understanding of global realities and health disparities, inspire personal growth and reflection, and create avenues for deep and meaningful service-learning opportunities by fostering partnerships between host communities and Creighton Medical Students.

This summer I organized the month-long service learning experience for seven eager classmates to the city of Kabale, located in the mountainous region of Southern Uganda. This was our second year traveling to Uganda, and it was encouraging to see how much our group was able to build off the relationships developed from last summer's trip. On our trip we spent time learning from health care professionals in both private and public hospitals where we witnessed the unique challenges patients faced because of varying social, cultural, and economic factors. One of my most valuable experiences came when rounding with a doctor in the maternity ward. The doctor spotted a woman who had been reading her bible and took the time to share a verse and lesson with the all the other expecting mothers in the room. He read from Matthew 6 where Jesus asked the question of who by worrying can add even a day to their life. He then beautifully tied in the message of relying on God during stressful times to the medical relevance of how excess stress and worry is actually harmful for their developing baby. It was encouraging for me to see how this physician related to his patients

and simultaneously encouraged them in their faith and health principals. Some other notable experiences included hosting weekly swim lessons at the lake, challenging one hospital's staff in a game of basketball, and touring the nation's capital city of Kampala.

Our group also partnered with KIHEFO, a local nonprofit, to participate in rural outreach clinics to villages. During these outreaches we counseled and tested for HIV, assisted with patient interviews, performed blood pressure checks, and performed vision screenings. During our outreaches we screened and gave out over 500 pairs of both reading and prescription glasses. It was incredible to watch the joy from adults and kids alike have their vision restored after a basic vision screen. This trip was an extremely formative experience for me as I look forward to volunteering internationally once I become a physician.



As the vice president for the Phi Rho Sigma Eta Chapter, I would like to thank the foundation for their continued support of the many Creighton Phi Rho members who participate on Project CURA trips. The financial support offered has helped offset the cost of participating in these trips and allows more students to participate. Trips that not only offer students valuable healthcare experience, but also give us the opportunity to reflect and let the experiences shape our future practice as physicians.

Thank you,

— Ryan M. Saliga, Eta Chapter

Guatemala

I traveled to Xela or Quetzaltenango, Guatemala for one month. My purpose there was two-fold. I was able to take Spanish classes M-F for about 3.5 hours a day. This experience was awesome. I had taken Spanish through college but had not used it for over 6 years. My first tutor only spoke Spanish, so it was definitely a quick immersion into the language. I was able to focus a lot of my Spanish learning on medical Spanish since I already knew the basics. I also participated in a clinic throughout the month. I was able to utilize my medical Spanish with patients which was really helpful. We participated in clinics in Xela and also performed mobile clinics in more rural areas of Guatemala.

... Continues on page 3

I also stayed with a host family and got to know my family really well. It was a really cool experience staying with a Spanish speaking family and getting further immersion into the language. I also met a ton of awesome medical students from around the country. I was able to see and experience a lot of cool things while in Guatemala, and the scholarship from Phi Rho Sigma was incredibly helpful.
— Neil Knight, Alpha Upsilon Chapter



Spotlight on Alumni

G. Allen Finley, Alpha Eta '80, is Professor on Anesthesia and Psychology at Dalhousie University in Halifax. He also is the Dr. Stewart Wenning Chair in Pediatric Pain Management and is Director of the Centre for Pediatric Pain.

An Emergency Physician, Mildred Willy, PI '96, lives in Bay City Michigan. She is chair of the CME committee at Central Michigan University College of Medicine where she is also a Clinical Associate Professor and Assistant Medical Director of the Emergency Department.

Another Emergency Physician is Tom Aufderheide, Theta Tau '82, He is an internationally recognized physician and researcher in emergency cardiac care and was inducted into the National Academy of Medicine in 2009 for his contributions to medicine, science and public health, A resident of Milwaukee he is a Professor of Emergency Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

William A. Reed, Pi '54, and his late wife, Mary, were named Philanthropists of the Year in Kansas City in 2017. He has been a Professor of Surgery at the University of Kansas Medical School for many years.

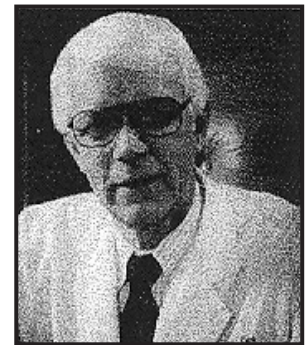
After retiring from Family Practice in 2003, Jack Alan Brown, Zeta '57, of Grand Rapids, Mi has been keeping busy. He has worked for Habitat for Humanity as a volunteer construction worker for over fourteen years.

A man of many talents is Mark O. Jensen, Theta Tau '78. He lives in Fargo, ND where he is a Professor of Surgery at the University of North Dakota. In May of 2018 he published a book, "Surgical Anatomy for Mastery of Open Operations" which has been translated into thirty languages. Five years ago he began working in the Electrical Engineering Department and has now become an Adjunct Professor of Engineering.

Richard Pitman, Mu '68, lives in Columbus, IN where he is a Diagnostic Radiologist at Columbus Regional Hospital. Dick is Past President of both the Indiana Radiological Society and the Bartholomew County Medical Society.

Retiring after 29 years as Chairman of the Department of Urology at the University of Tennessee, Memphis, is Clair E. Cox, Zeta '58. In retirement he retains his involvement with university's Center for the Health Sciences where he serves

on a wide variety of boards and committees. His very first paper, on bladder defense mechanisms, published in 1962, set the stage for a long, productive research career focusing primarily on the diagnosis, etiology and treatment of urinary tract infections. He has since written more than one hundred papers and presented at conferences around the world. Outside the hospital, Cox owns a grain farm in Illinois as well as a 900 acre tree and horse farm in northern Mississippi which he works with his four sons and considers a wildlife refuge.



Lionel B. da Silva, Chi Eta '56, is a retired Ophthalmologist who lives in Newport Beach, Ca. In addition to his private practice in Newport Beach and Costa Mesa he was an Assistant Clinical Professor at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles and at UCI, Irvine.

A pediatrician specializing in Adolescent Medicine, is Robert E. Morris, Alpha Lambda '71. He joined the faculty at the University of California at Los Angeles and the medical staff of the Los Angeles County Court Health Services in 1968 and since then has held many positions. Included are his serving as Health Care Director for the Division of Juvenile Justice, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and as co-director of the U.C.L.A. Adolescent Medicine training program. Dr. Morris has published several papers on health risk behaviors of incarcerated youth and correctional health. Now Professor Emeritus he continues to teach at UCLA. Joining the JWCH board of directors in 1988 he has served as board Chair twice and also serves on the Boards of COPE, a non-profit health care consulting organization and the National Commission on Correctional Health Care.

A graduate of Iota '01 is Jeana Petree. She is a Diagnostic Radiologist in Mason City, IA. where she keeps busy with her practice and her children. In her spare time Jeana enjoys photography, traveling, gardening and reading.

... Continues on page 4

Her memberships include American College of Radiology, American Roentgen Ray Society, and the American Association for Women Radiologists.

John Erwin Jr., Alpha Nu, '64, has retired from Family Practice in Hillsboro, Tx. In addition to his work as a physician he has been very active in his community. He has been elected to several positions in Hillsboro including President of the Public School Board, City Councilman and Mayor of Hillsboro.

Now retired from his practice as an ENT, Charles Henry, Zeta '66, keeps busy with his continued love of music . Beginning with his membership in the University of Michigan Marching Band and the Men's Glee Club he is now a trombonist with the local "Docs of Dixieland" Band in Ada, MI where he resides.

Bobby H. Smith II, Chi Epsilon Alpha '94, lives in Philadelphia. MS where he is an Urgent Care Physician at the Neshoba County Hospital.

NOMINATIONS NEEDED FOR GRAND CHAPTER MEDALISTS - 2019

Phi Rho Sigma is now calling for nominations for the Society's gold medals which are to be presented at our June 2019 meeting in Tampa.

The Irving S. Cutter medal is presented to a member of Phi Rho Sigma who has made an outstanding contribution to medicine during his/her medical career.

Our second award, the Jessie Ansley Griffin medal, is given to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to Phi Rho Sigma Medical Society.

The Paul L. McLain Research award recognizes research done by a society member during his/her medical education. Information on the criteria for this award was sent to all chapters in November.

Nominations for the Cutter and Griffin medals are due in the National Office by February 28th...please send your information to PO Box 90264, Indianapolis, IN 46290 or via email at hrodenbe@sbcglobal.net.

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<p>Editor: SHERYL MASCARENHAS, M.D. P.O. Box 90264 • Indianapolis, IN 46290</p>	<p>Address all correspondence concerning the society to: GABRIEL CUKA, M.D., Secretary-Treasurer P.O. Box 90264 • Indianapolis, IN 46290-0264</p>
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