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Julie Best, M.D. - Phi Rho Sigma's New President



Elected as President, Julie Best, MD is originally from Carmel, IN and is a graduate of Indiana University School of Medicine. She completed her residency training in Family Medicine at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis, IN. She

was in private practice in Phoenix, AZ for 17 years before becoming the Phoenix Contact Physician for the Texas Rangers MLB Team and working at Magellan Health. She is certified by the American Board of Family Medicine and is a member of the American Academy of Family Practice.

She has devoted time to Phi Rho Sigma since 1996, being involved in Pi chapter in Indianapolis as Treasurer and President, then later as National Secretary/Treasurer and Vice President and has spoken at the biennial meetings on Physician Burnout/Wellness.

At home, she is kept busy shuttling her two kids, Andrew and Katelyn, to school and basketball practices/games and spending time with her husband, Carl. She enjoys reading, hiking, gardening, cooking, and meeting up with friends and family.

Others Elected

Officers elected were Vice-Presidents Gary Leroy and Sheryl Mascarenhas both from Alpha Upsilon chapter. Gabriel Cuka, M.D., Iota, will continue to serve as Secretary-Treasurer.

Christy Benson, M.D., Mu, will be our historian and Neil Knight, M.D., Alpha Upsilon will be Journal editor. Elected as Undergraduate Delegates to the Grand Council were Ryan Nelson - Eta, Ryan Larson - Iota, Ellery Sarosi - Zeta and Nathan Walton - Mu.

Those selected as Alternate Undergraduate Delegates included Ashley Trent - Alpha Upsilon, Allison Seats -Eta, Dan Matasic - Mu, Michelle Adamczyk - Alpha Upsilon and Joseph Ayoub - Eta.

President Best appointed the following as committee chairs - Dr. Worthe Holt, Pi, - Advisory Chair, Dr. Joseph Wheeler, Iota - Social Media Chair, Leah Svingen, Iota - Foundation Liaison, Nicole Patel, Zeta - Undergraduate Members of the Executive Council Chair, Tayler Bockstock, Theta Tau - Resident Chair, Allison Seats, Eta - New Chapter Chair, Dr. Elisabeth Righter, Alpha Upsilon - Succession Planning Chair and Dr. Wade Swenson, Theta Tau - McLain Research Award Chair.

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2019 Phi Rho Sigma Medalists



The **Irving S. Cutter Medal** recipient is **Leo J. McCarthy, M.D.**, Iota chapter. It is presented for outstanding contributions to Medicine. Dr. McCarthy is a graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Medicine. After serving in the U.S. Navy as a battalion surgeon with the Marines in Vietnam he was Pathology resident at Stanford

University. He retired as Emeritus Professor of Pathology, Medicine and Pediatrics from Indiana University School of Medicine where, for over 30 years, he was Director of Transfusion Medicine and taught medical students. Dr. McCarthy was among the first to receive board certification in the new Transfusion Medicine specialty. His career in academic medicine was noteworthy because it occurred during remarkable times of medical advancements. He saw the advent of apheresis, the discovery of Hepatitis C, and was on the “front lines” during the devastating and confusing global AIDS epidemic. TTP was his area of special interest and was the first to treat cerebral malaria with red cell exchanges. During the early days of organ transplantation (kidney, bone marrow, liver, stem cell) Dr. McCarthy directed Indiana’s first Cryobiology lab to support renal transplantation and supplied the necessary blood components for other transplant programs. He established the first Transfusion Medicine fellowship in Indiana and was a board member of the International Society of Blood Transfusion, serving as chairman in 2009. He is the recipient of numerous honors. In 2014 he was named Distinguished Alumnus of the Year, University of Nebraska College of Medicine; in 2015 he was given the National Catholic Education Association’s Distinguished Graduate Award; and in 2017 was honored with the Glenn W. Irwin, Jr. Distinguished Faculty Award, Indiana University. He is a Fellow of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of Edinburgh and Ireland, a member of AOA and Phi Beta Kappa. He has endowed named lectureships in Transfusion Medicine (Riley Children’s Hospital) now in its 25th year and History of Medicine (Indiana University). He established the McCarthy Award for History of Medicine Research (Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh), underwrote the McCarthy History of Medicine speaker (Royal College of Physicians of Ireland), and established scholarships at Boys Town, Saint Margaret Mary Grade School, and

Creighton Preparatory School and has named rooms at the McGoogan Medical Library (Nebraska) and the Ruth Lilly Medical Library (Indiana). Dr. McCarthy authored over 340 publications, had over 200 invited addresses, and over 1300 secondary citations.



William A. Reed, M.D. of Pi chapter is the recipient of the **Jessie Ansley Griffin Medal** for his outstanding contributions to Phi Rho Sigma Medical Society. A resident of Kansas City,

MO he has served as Chair of the Cardio Vascular Department and as a Professor of Surgery at the University of Kansas Hospital in Kansas Hospital in Kansas City, KS. He was also a founding member of Mid-America Thoracic and Cardio Vascular Surgeons. Dr. Reed has received the Lifetime Service award from Ingrams magazine which celebrates the unsung heroes of medicine in the greater Kansas City metro area. In 2013 he was given the Catalyst Award by the University of Kansas Hospital. Dr. Reed has authored over one hundred publications either as first author or co-author. In 2017 Dr. Reed and his late wife, Mary, were named Philanthropists of the Year in Kansas City. Away from medicine he is a partner in Stonecrest Farm where he raises thoroughbreds. Dr. Reed has also written a memoir entitled “The Pulse of Hope”. You can view the presentation and acceptance remarks on the Phi Rho Sigma web page.

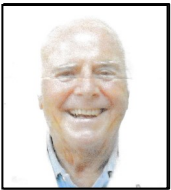


The recipient of the **Paul L. McLain Research Award** is **Hannah Meissner** of Eta Chapter. This award recognizes research done by a member during his/her medical education. A graduate of Notre Dame with a degree in Biology and a minor in Poverty Studies,

she received the Braco Award for Excellence in Biology Research for her work on breast cancer in Dr. Zachary Schaefer’s laboratory. Hannah is a second year medical student at Creighton University and has continued her breast cancer research with Dr. Yaping Tu. She also serves as president of Creighton’s AMA chapter. Future plans include practicing emergency medicine in an urban center before pursuing a Master’s Degree in Public Health and working on health policy.

Spotlight on Alumni

Elected the 72nd President of the American Academy of Family Physicians is **Gary LeRoy, Alpha Upsilon,'88**. Dr. LeRoy is the Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Admissions at Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine. He is also active in Phi Rho Sigma serving as National Vice- President, counselor to Alpha Upsilon chapter and was awarded the Jesse Ansley Griffin Medal for his outstanding contributions to the society.



James L. Breen, Alpha,'52 has retired from Volunteers in Medicine. Prior to joining VIM he served as Chair of the Ob/Gyn Department for over 30 years at Saint Barnabas Hospital in Livingston, NJ.. As a gynecologic oncologist he spent his entire career, quietly, deliberately, and effectively working to improve the obstetric and gynecologic care of women. He has trained thousands of doctors through his residency training program and through his highly acclaimed course in Advance Gynecologic Surgery. He has served as President of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology and has received many awards including the American Cancer Society Man of the Year award and the Distinguished Surgeon Award from the Society of Gynecologic Surgeons. Now 93 years young he live in Livingston, NJ with his wife of 67 years, Doris.

The 2019 Distinguished Alumnus Award given by the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University was presented to **Richard Gillum, Alpha '70**. He is a pioneer in the field of cardiovascular health disparities and a co-founder of the Association of Black Cardiologists. Now a professor at Howard Medical School, he became fascinated by cardiology and cardiac physiology while in medical school and studied about health disparities that affected blacks and other minorities regarding hypertension, stroke and heart disease. He was the first African-American internal medicine resident at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. Dr. Gillum has also done research in cardiovascular epidemiology at the National Institute of Health and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. In accepting his award he said, "I hope that Northwestern will continue its proud history of offering opportunities for minorities and that they will continue a strong commitment to the Chicago community." Elected to Alpha Omega Alpha while at medical school he continues to be active in the organization and publishes in their journal, THE PHAROS.

Keeping it all in the family is **Marvin Tiesenga, Beta Gamma,'54**. A pioneer in Bariatric Surgery he did the first Gall Bladder operation laparoscopically in the Chicago area. He was in practice for forty five years and served as Chief of Surgery for twenty years at West Suburban Hospital in Oak Park, IL. His son, **Frederick Tiesenga**, also a **Phi Rho** from the University of Illinois College of Medicine, took over his father's practice when his father retired. Frederick serves as President of the Bariatric Society and has an office in Elmwood Park, IL Marvin also has a daughter who is an ENT and a grandson who is currently in medical school at Liberty University.

Mildred Willy, Pi,'96 became the Associate Dean of Student Affairs at Central Michigan College of Medicine in April of 2019 after serving in an interim role since July of 2018. She also was elected President of the Saginaw County Medical Society and on the state level is the Chair of the Liaison Committee with the Medical Licensure Board, Michigan State Medical Society.

An **Iota** alum, **Joseph Wheeler,'14**, lives in the St. Louis area where he is an Assistant Professor- Internal Medicine Hospitalist at the Saint Louis University Hospital, He has continued his interest in Phi Rho by serving as Social Media Chair on the Executive Council.

T.Robert Bragonier, Iota,' 64 is retired from the Los Angeles Department of Health Services where he held the position of Medical Director of Mat, Child and Adolescent Health and from The UCLA Geffen School of Medicine where he was an Adj. Professor in the Department of Ob/Gyn. For the past 16 years he has taught jazz history courses at South Bay Adult School in Santa Monica.



Dr. Jim Jackson, Alpha '85 ran into **Dr. Dave Schmidt, Zeta '59** at an ophthalmology meeting. Both men have served the Society in leadership positions on the national level.

William DeWolf, Alpha,'67 resides in Southborough, MA where he is Chief of Urology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and a Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School in Boston.

Also retired is **Phillip Huggins, Delta,'67** of Columbia, SC. He was a Clinical Professor at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine. He is a retired Colonel from the US Army, and has several patents to his credit. Hobbies include vintage automobiles, phonographs and toasters.

Living in McKinseyville, CA is **Erik Jansson, Mu,'72** he has had a gratifying 38 year career as a small town ophthalmologist. He has also developed and owns five "Health Sport" health clubs in northern California.

A Phi Rho author is **Richard Trackler, Chi,'61** who has written and published several books...one history, one family remembrance, and a novel titled , " The Roll Call Vote". He practiced Diagnostic Radiology San Diego, CA.

An Ophthalmologist in Spokane, WA is **Jeffery Snow, Iota, '73**. In addition to his practice he has been past president of the following organizations: Spokane Central Lions Club, Spokane Enological Society, Food and Wine Society, and the Spokane County Medical Society. He has also served as Mayor of Twin Beaches Community on Lake Cour 'd Alene, Idaho. When his grandchildren turn twelve years old he and his wife take them to wherever they want to go in the world for two week...lucky grandchildren!.

ALUMNI continued...

Retired **William Cashore, Lambda Rho, '66** writes "My Pediatric career was a privilege, especially being on the "ground Floor" of a new medical school at Brown University. I have many long-lasting and international friendships including guest professorships in South Africa and Slovakia." He is now Professor Emeritus of Pediatric/Neonatology at Brown University. He occupies his time with choral singing, golf, woodworking, and watching college football especially, Notre Dame.

Establishment of Eta Tau chapter at Creighton University in Phoenix

Phi Rho Sigma is pleased to announce the formation of Eta Tau chapter at Creighton University in Phoenix, AZ. For the last several years many of the year 3 and 4 students from Creighton University in Omaha have completed their last two years of medical school on the Phoenix campus. Many of these students have been Phi Rhos and have kept together as a satellite chapter of Eta. These students have requested that they become a separate chapter as Creighton Medical School in Phoenix will

become a four year medical school within the next two years. Welcome Eta Tau!

Eta and Iota chapters sponsor "DO NO HARM"

Eta and Iota chapters met the Phi Rho Sigma goal of excellence in professional work and improvement to the medical profession by sponsoring the film "DO NO HARM". This documentary is directed by Robyn Symon and is about the recent epidemic of suicides affecting the medical profession. Eta chapter hosted two showings, one on the school campus and one at Bergen Mercy Hospital. A discussion followed each showing lead by a panel of experts and faculty. At Iota they served dinner during the film and a Q&A session followed. Physician suicide is not an easy topic to talk about but the movie provided an opportunity to reflect on this topic while also finding a way to help medical students and the medical community through this epidemic. Over 350 people saw the film and the audience was a combination of medical students, faculty and community professionals.

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