



The JOURNAL of Phi Rho Sigma

Volume 109

Winter 2014

56th Grand Chapter Convention Highlights

The 56th Grand Chapter Convention was held in Chicago on June 14 - 15, 2013. The meeting took place at the Allerton Hotel which is located just a few blocks away from the Northwestern University School of Medicine which is where the Alpha chapter was founded.

Highlights of the meeting included:

Presentation of the Irving S. Cutter Medal to Dr. Melvin Sigel of Minneapolis, MN. This medal is given to an member of Phi Rho Sigma who has made an outstanding contribution to medicine. A graduate of the University of Minnesota and a member of Theta Tau chapter, Dr. Sigel has been active in the Federation of State Medical Boards and led the organization as President. He was also twice President of the Minnesota Board of Medical Examiners.



Dr. Melvin Sigel



*Dr. Elisabeth Righter and
Dr. Alan Adler*

A discussion of Social Media, Physicians, and Professionalism was facilitated by the following Undergraduate members of the Executive Council: Dr. Matt Downen, University of Iowa, Joe Wheeler, University of Nebraska, and Juan Reyes Genere, University of Minnesota.

During the business sessions the convention body approved the newly revised version of the Laws of Phi Rho Sigma. The

body also voted to allow chapters to form at schools accredited by the American Osteopathic Association Commission of Osteopathic College Accreditation.

The following National Officers were elected for 2013-2015:

President - Elisabeth Righter, M.D., Alpha Upsilon
Vice President - Gary Leroy, M.D., Alpha Upsilon
Vice President - Gabriel Cuka, M.D., Iota
Secretary/Treasurer - Julie Best, M.D., Pi
Historian - Casey Drake, M.D., Iota
Editor - Sheryl Mascarenhas, M.D., Alpha Upsilon
Undergraduate Delegates - Michael Jung - Alpha, Michelle Pequet - Eta, Siri Hill - Theta Tau, LaTashia Irving - Alpha Nu
Undergraduate Alternate Delegates - Priya Larson - Theta Tau, Brennan Tesdahl - Mu, Alyssa Newton - Zeta, Ben Grams - Iota, Joe Giacalone - Mu

Additional members of the Executive Council appointed by the President include:

Advisory Council Representative - Worthe Holt, M.D., Pi
New Physicians Chair - Christy Benson, M.D., Mu
Social Media Chair - Joe Wheeler, Iota
Councilors Chair - Matt Downen, M.D., Mu
Chapter Communications Chair - Juan Reyes Genere - Theta Tau
McLain Research Award Chair - Wade Swenson, M.D., Theta Tau



Executive Council 2013-2015

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“BOOKENDS”

Excerpts from remarks of Melvin E. Sigel, M.D. as he accepted the Cutter Award from Phi Rho Sigma in Chicago, June 2013.

Thank you for this wonderful honor. I began my medical journey as a freshman at the University of Minnesota in 1952 and at that time, belonging to a medical fraternity was something almost all of us did. The house (and we had a grand house directly across the street from the medical school) was a place we could have lunch, rest between classes, study, react with other students and even live-in if necessary. The fraternity was an indispensable part of our school years. Since graduation in 1956, minimal if any contact with the fraternity was the norm though many of my friends and colleagues to this date, were members.

I could go on and on as to how medicine... its practice, training, compensation and advances have changed in the over 50 years since graduation... the list is too long but it has been an amazing transformation and we can all take pride in being part of that journey. Some parts of the journey have been difficult and make us pine for the “good old days” but all in all, progress and change have been mostly positive.

Even the way we license physicians has not been without change. I have spent many years in the State licensing process and the National Federation of licensing boards. Licensing issues are rarely addressed in school but do become of utmost importance when graduation looms. All the States and territories have licensing boards with the mission of public protection. They are, along with each State’s Medical Practice Act, a direct product of the legislature. Not only must Boards verify training and other credentials, they have traditionally administered an examination as a precursor to full licensure. What started as state-administered exams has evolved into the USMLE exam, a product of the Federation of State Medical Boards of the USA and the National Board of Medical Examiners... that exam, along with the Clinical Skills Assessment, has become the standard for most States. The examination itself constantly undergoes changes and revisions to adapt to the times.

The future will see efforts to ensure “life-time-learning” by programs designed to maintain one’s license as is done with specialty certification. CME will become more specialty-specific to aid this effort. The public expects physicians to somehow demonstrate that our knowledge and skills to practice are up-to-date and relevant and I know we expect that of ourselves as well.

Phi Rho Sigma has represented, with this award, the “bookends” of my medical career for which I thank you most sincerely.

NEWS FROM ALUMNI

A resident of Kansas City, Mo, **William Allen Reed, Pi**, is Chair of the Cardio Vascular Department at the University of 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. He has authored over one hundred publications either as first author or co-author. Away from medicine he is a partner in Stonecrest Farm where he raises thoroughbreds.

James William Hopkins, Alpha, is an eight generation of physicians from the Hopkins side of his family. A resident of Des Moines, IA he is certified by the American Board of Surgery, the Board of Thoracic Surgery, and has a Certificate of Special Competence in Pediatric Surgery. After having a solo private practice in pediatric surgery in Des Moines he returned to the Chicago to work at Michael Reese Hospital and to teach at the University of Illinois College of Medicine – Chicago. Since his return to Iowa he has been associated with the Iowa Methodist Medical Center and Drake University where he has served as Director of Clinical Trials Research and on the Surgical Research Special Projects both as a coordinator and staff member. He enjoys bicycling when he has spare time.



US OUT!

**New Website at
www.phirhosigma.org**

Alan Adler Honored with Griffin Medal

In 2011 the Jesse Ainsly Griffin Medal was awarded to Pi alumnist, Alan Adler, M.D. for his many contributions to Phi Rho Sigma. At the National Convention in June, Alan reflected on his memories and accomplishments in over the past 46 years.

Alan joined the organization in 1967 during the fall of his first year of medical school at Indiana University. At the time he was 29 years old and married with 3 children. He recalls being motivated to join Phi Rho Sigma in order to help lessen the stress that comes along with raising a family and going through medical school. However his involvement in the Pi chapter led to much more than just an outlet for stress. He soon was learning social skills necessary to become a well-rounded physician. He gleaned invaluable lessons from upper classman and was able to connect with physicians in the community.

In 1970 Alan was selected as a delegate to the Biennial Convention in Gulfport, Mississippi. This convention would later prove pivotal in developing the Phi Rho Sigma Medical Society to what it is today. The student delegates at that convention took note of the disparity in ages between themselves and the officers of the Grand Chapter. Alan remarks, "Many of the student delegates were concerned that the officers of the Grand Chapter were old men who were out of touch with student wants and needs." As a result Alan was able to help amend the Grand Chapter Laws to mandate the election of student representatives to serve as officers of the Grand Chapter—a role still in existence today. Alan was one of the first students to be elected to this position.

Also during this convention, Alan was part of the two other instrumental changes to the organization. Prior to 1970 Phi Rho Sigma was exclusively a male fraternity. Both the idea of excluding females and maintaining a "fraternity" concept seemed antiquated. Following this convention the new Grand Chapter officers, including the brand new student representatives, revised a set of by-laws to allow for the inclusion of females and the change to a medical society.

In 1972 Alan was elected Historian of the Grand Chapter and then went on to join the International Board of Trustees which was headed by Paul McClain, M.D. The International Board was formed to help with potential financial instability. Funds were allocated from day to day operations to be invested by the International Board. By the late 1970s McClain stepped down, at which time Alan was appointed lead trustee. By the early 1980's the foresight of the founders of the International Board became apparent when the Grand Chapter struggled to remain financially viable on declining numbers of initiation fees and dues alone. Thankfully the International Board was already in place to fund the Grand Chapter and keep it afloat.

The Board also funded individual members with its Dollar Student Loan Fund which was designed for student emergencies. The value of the loans were initially capped at \$500 but over the years the size of the loans increased. The program proved popular for struggling medical students. Unfortunately, many were noncompliant with repayment and attempts to track delinquent recipients proved impossible. By the 1990s the over \$30,000 in unpaid student loans forced the termination of the loan fund.

Alan's work on the board has also allowed for the continued financial support of alumni. Previously Phi Rho Sigma was not a tax exempt organization, which meant those donations were not deductible by the IRS. Work of the International Board, especially John Ayres, M.D., led to the granting of tax exempt status by the IRS and also a change in the name of the Board to the Phi Rho Sigma Foundation. Alan has since stepped down from the lead trustee position, which John Ayres now assumes. Alan remains one of 3 trustees on the Foundation.

At this past 2013 National Convention, Alan reflected on his 46 years of involvement with Phi Rho Sigma. "As I quietly ride off into the sunset, headed for the nearest fishing hole somewhere in the forested lands of Northern Minnesota, I want to thank those who have gone before and those who are following for the great moments I've enjoyed as a member of Phi Rho Sigma."

NEWS FROM ALUMNI

John G. Langdon, Eta, has had a diverse career including clinical, academic and administrative positions. A resident of Winter Park, FL, he has served as President of the Florida Chapter of the American Society of Internal Medicine. A member of the American College of Physicians, Dr. Langdon is a Fellow and Governor Elect of the Florida Chapter. He will begin his term as Governor in 2014. He is presently Medical Director at New Wave Bio Sciences in Winter Park. Other professional activities and honors included being the founder of the Genetic Cancer Center at the Florida Hospital Cancer Institute, receiving Public Service awards from both the ACP and the ASIM, and being involved with two nationally syndicated television series. He has made over 15 medical mission trips to such places as Mexico, Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Haiti. Dr. Langdon will make his 4th trip to Haiti in April of 2014. A graduate of Creighton University Medical School in Omaha he was honored to be named to receive the "Spirit of Creighton Award".

After spending thirty five years in the Army Reserve Medical Corps Service, **Col. Donald R. Anderson**, Eta, has retired. During those years he was activated four times and deployed three times for a total of fifteen years on active duty. On his last deployment to Iraq he was injured and as a result he has had to retire from active practice. A cardiologist, Col. Anderson, has served at Brooke Army Medical Center, Beaumont Army Medical Center, and Walter Reed Army Medical Center where he served as Director of Echocardiography. He now resides in Lewisburg, WV.

William Paul Glezen, Beta, is Distinguished Emeritus Professor, Baylor College of Medicine, Departments of Molecular Virology and Microbiology, and Pediatrics. He is also Adjunct Professor of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of Texas Health Science Center, Houston. In 2004 he received the Distinguished Physician Award from the Pediatric Infectious Disease Society and in 2006 received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Purdue University.

Mission to India

I am happy to say I am safely home in the United States after my 6 weeks abroad. I wanted to thank you for your contribution toward my wonderful experience this summer and give you a little taste what you helped do for the people of India and especially for me.



Taj Mahal and my newly shaved head

Our trip started with a bit of sightseeing to get acclimated to the new culture. We went shopping in Delhi, saw the Taj Mahal in Agra, and visited palaces in Jaipur.

After we had our fill of tourism, we took a flight further east to Kolkata where our work was mostly manual labor type work at the Mother Teresa houses. My favorite part of the experience was visiting with people. During the week of working there, I got to know some people pretty well and loved hearing the stories of their lives. I think the best way to describe this experience is to take a day from my journal and share it with you.

June 4th

The first day at the Mother Teresa home. It was a fifteen minute walk through an old run-down trash filled neighborhood with people sleeping, washing clothes, and bathing in the streets everywhere. We were at the main mother house at 6am for mass. All the sisters were there and sang in perfect unison which



made for beautiful songs during the mass. Other volunteers we talked with were from all over the United States, Egypt, England, Mexico, and Ireland. It was awesome to see so many Catholics from around the world meeting to help complete strangers. Mass is optional but I'm glad I went. Afterward I said a prayer at Mother Teresa's tomb and had some bananas and bread for breakfast. Of the four or so houses, I choose the one that serves 200-300 adults in medical, mental, or physical need called Prem Dan. It was about a 30 minute walk from the mother house. We started at Prem Dan with carrying buckets of soapy water and throwing them out on all the ground and sweeping it with "sticks" or brooms. We also helped transport people, serve food, clean dishes, hang laundry, and put lotion on some patients. I ended up giving a massage to one guy for around an hour. He was very tight in all his muscles and he seemed to be in constant pain. Next, we got a chance to go in the dressing wounds room. A guy was missing all the skin off his left arm and infected muscle with puss was showing. He was screaming in pain as someone cut away tissue with no pain relievers. I was holding the injured arm with the wound close to my face. This is the first time I have ever felt nauseous

in a medical setting. It was an interesting first day of getting used to just how little these people have and how dependent they are on living at Prem Don. AMDG"



After our last days in "mainland" India, we were happy to fly over Bangladesh to Northeast India for the main part of our trip. One of our first stops was in Shillong, Meghalaya where we helped a doctor run medical clinics

in rural villages around the city. We would take a bus with all our supplies from the hospital to a little community gathering center in each of the villages. Mothers walked for miles with their kids in order to see the doctor. The doctor had to see hundreds of patients so we were very helpful in taking vitals and a history (with the help of a translator sometimes) and then presenting the case to the doctor who would have the final say in treatment. Here is what I wrote after our first medical clinic.

June 13th

We left the Jesuit house at 4:30am to head for Shillong. The ride was beautiful, very bumpy and made me a little motion sick, but beautiful nonetheless. This area is full of rolling hills with green everywhere. The people here look more like Asian/Filipino rather than what we typically think of as Indian. The dress of the people is all over the place but I'd say very fashionable and much more western.

Our clinic was set up in a village on the top of hill in the outskirts of Shillong called Mawlynrei. The clinic for this village is held once a month and consisted mostly of Pediatrics and Obstetrics. I loved playing with all the kids and I think both the kids and mothers really enjoyed us being there. It was an amazing day of taking histories and vitals for the doctor mixed with playing with the kids! Our doctor, Dr. Christina, was also great to work with. I can't get over how nice all the people are and how much I loved playing with the kids. The most common problem in the kids we saw was actually worms from lack of washing their greens adequately. AMDG
P.S. Peek-a-boo is successful globally"

In the far east of India in a state called Nagaland, two other guys and I were placed in the high mountainous town of Pftusero. We worked in a clinic in the mornings and the hospital in the afternoon. We continued to do much of the same work we did in Shillong (doing the initial work up on patients before the doctor would see them). We also helped in a few surgeries. For example, one of us pulled a piece of metal out of someone's face, one helped remove a cyst a patient's back, and I helped remove a cyst from a young man's ear.

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Although almost every day on the trip consisted of some kind of work, I wanted to also give you a taste of the kinds of things we were able to do and experience in our "free time." Here is my journal from June 10th when we had two days off to relax in the Sundarbans.

June 10th

With our couple days before heading to the Northeast, we decided to go on a "Tiger Tour" which is really just a boat ride through the Sundarbans. We woke up early and traveled 3 hours by car to get on a boat. Then we boated to our hotel that was on a secluded island without any electricity. They cooked food for us on the boat. After a short rest in the hotel, we went to a nearby village. They had some battery powered lights but no electricity. We found a few kids who were going to play soccer so we asked to join them. We played on a large dirt field next to the river. As soon as we started playing, kids started appearing everywhere to play and a crowd of adults were watching. Most of the kids were younger than us but that didn't take the sweetness out of our 2-0 victory (I scored the second goal) to move our international soccer record against 13 year olds to 1-0! The boat rides and walk through the village was full of music. One of the guides from the boat played the guitar and sang with his cousin. They played English music and local village songs for the villagers who had come out.

On a slightly lower note, our group seems to be dropping like flies. Erika spent the whole night sick, Danielle is nauseous all the time, Alyssa is starting to get sick, and Ben has some type of skin infection or burn around his eye. Thanks India!"



"The winning team" (I've never sweat so much in my life.)

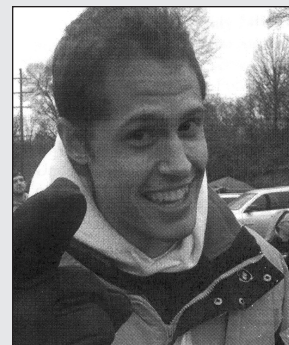
Before we left on this journey, we had a retreat where a Jesuit priest told us to "try to see God in everything in your trip." I thought about this often while we were in India and it was interesting I found Him in places I wouldn't have expected. In the beginning I saw Him in my classmates as I learned more about them and their reasons for wanting to help people halfway around the world. I also saw Him in the physical objects that man has built in the tourist attractions we saw. When we went to Kolkata it changed. I now saw Him in the poor and weak and found that we could serve through our hard physical work. Finally, while in the northeast He stood out in the hospitality of everyone we met. Everyone would invite us into their homes and serve us food and tea no matter how little money they had. Some families even sang, danced, and talked with us for hours about their day to day lives. And of course, I cannot leave out the scenery of the northeast. It is one of the most beautiful places on earth between the huge rolling green hills and mountains. It was almost like the culmination of all we had seen before and the possibility of such a natural beauty in the end of such a journey.

I would like to emphasize that what I will take away the most from this trip is my experience with the people. The medical experience was great, and I hope we were helpful in at least a little way, but I think I will be a better doctor because of my interactions with the people. I have gained a better respect for all people because I was able to meet people from such a diverse background and engage in a number of enlightening conversations. This will do nothing but help me better relate to any of my future patients. Thank you again for making this possible. I will never forget your generosity.

Sincerely,
Chris DeZorzi
Eta - Creighton University

Tragedy at Zeta Chapter

On Wednesday, July 24th, 2013, Paul DeWolf, a fourth year medical student and beloved member of Phi Rho Sigma, died at the Zeta Chapter House. A native of Schoolcraft, Mich., Paul served as house manager in his second year. He attended medical school on an Air Force scholarship and held great promise for a military career. He is remembered by his leadership, discipline and passion for life.



Shock at his untimely death turned to horror the following day when the Ann Arbor Police Department announced that the incident was being treated as a homicide. Understandably, many Actives chose to leave the house until the investigation was concluded. However, a core group of students remained and assumed new leadership roles at the Zeta Chapter.

Over the following weeks, a great dealing of healing took place, buoyed by an outpouring of support from classmates, alumni, the medical school administration and the Ann Arbor community at large. A successful online fundraiser was spearheaded by the Actives to meet a budget shortfall predicted by a year of difficult recruitment. House security was updated with a generous donation from Tom Prose (UMMS '82). On Saturday, September 28th, the DeWolf family joined the Actives to plant a memorial tree in front of the Chapter House.

Months passed with the thought of any resolution to this tragedy fading to a glimmer, but hope rose anew on November 7th. The Ann Arbor Police Department assisted by the Air Force Office of Special Investigations tracked a stolen laptop to Detroit and subsequently to South Carolina where two arrests were made. A third suspect was taken into custody the following day. While the judicial process is ongoing, it is alleged that the events unfolded as the result of a home invasion.

The senseless loss of our talented friend and colleague shook our foundation, but in its aftermath our bonds have grown stronger than before. The Zeta Chapter is resolved to carry on its mission of Friendship, Application and Protection.

- William Cederquist, M.D. (Executive Secretary of the Zeta Chapter) and Peter Wu (M.D./Ph.D. Candidate UMMS 2014)

Dr. John L. Batty 1914-2013

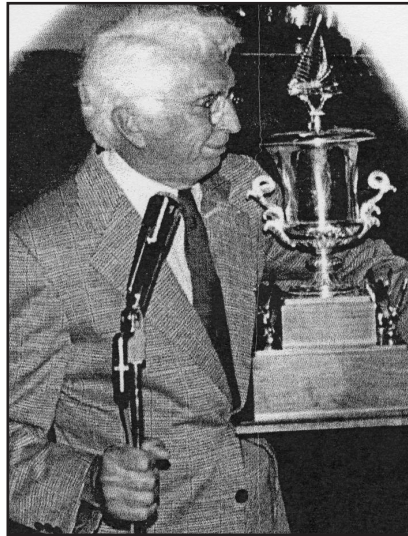
I remember Dr. Batty for many different reasons. He gave me my first scoliosis check when I was in junior high. He turned me loose as a medical student to sew up a laceration in the McCook ER, much to the consternation of the supervising RN. During my "out-state" Family Practice rotation he helped me learn some of the key ingredients to being a good physician.

Dr. Batty entered the US Navy in 1942 and served in the Hawaiian Islands and on a destroyer. He left the Navy as a Commander and returned to McCook after the war providing his considerable skills as an internist for 38 years.

Dr. Batty and I graduated from The University of Nebraska Medical Center nearly 50 years apart as Phi Rho members. His last official Phi Rho act was to speak at the Biennial Meeting in Omaha in 2007.

His life encompassed much more than just medicine as he was passionate about sailing, trees and flowers, jam making and cooking.

Carol Drake, M.D., Iota



*Dr. Batty with his Hanna Cup
Grand Lake, Colorado
August 1976*

**The Journal
of
Phi Rho Sigma**
(ISSN: 0022-3581)

Volume 109
Winter 2014

Published by:
Phi Rho Sigma
Medical Society
P.O. Box 90264
Indianapolis,
Indiana 46290

Distributed without
charge to every
member.

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The Journal of Phi Rho Sigma
PO Box 90264
Indianapolis, Indiana 46290-0264
Address Service Requested