The Alpha Omega Alpha David and Diane de Harter Visiting Professorship

Last year, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health alum Dr. David deHarter and his wife Diane deHarter provided a very generous gift to Alpha Omega Alpha to establish an annual visiting professorship at our school. Our inaugural visiting professor was Dr. Leon Rosenberg, retired professor from Princeton University.

Dr. Rosenberg gave Department of Medicine Grand Rounds, entitled “Of Genes & Genomes: Personal Odyssey, Clinical Evolution.” This was followed by student presentations of their research in progress:

1. Jacob Goldberg, Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) research scholar program presented: “Description and Characterization of an Endogenous Antibody Associated with Better Outcome after Tumor-Reactive Monoclonal Antibody Therapy.”

2. Trista Stankowski-Drengler, who is a new AΩA inductee and a Shapiro-ICTR (Institute for Clinical and Translational Research) Student Research Fellow presented: “All-Cause Mortality is Decreased in Women Undergoing Annual Mammography Screening before Breast Cancer Diagnosis.”

3. Jon Stefely, MSTP (Medical Student Training Program—MD/PhD) student presented: “Mitochondrial ADCK3 Employs an Atypical Protein Kinase-Like Fold to Enable Coenzyme Q Biosynthesis.”

Dr. Rosenberg then spoke informally to the new AΩA inductees and the Gold Humanism Honor Society students about his path to leadership, medical professionalism, and patient care.

Finally, Dr. Rosenberg was the keynote speaker at the AΩA induction banquet.
New member of the Pharos editorial board

We are pleased to announce the addition of another member to the Pharos editorial board:

Aaron McGuffin, MD

Aaron McGuffin (AΩA, Marshall University, 2002, Resident) is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine in Huntington, West Virginia. He is a 1999 graduate of Marshall and a 2003 graduate of the school’s Medicine-Pediatric Residency Program. He has served in many roles over the past twelve years at Marshall, including as clinician, medical educator, and medical education dean. His most recent endeavor has involved applying web-based and mobile technology to medical education through an exciting curricular project entitled Universal Notes.

Dr. McGuffin’s love of poetry was developed as a child through influences from his mother, Rosemary, a beloved English teacher in high school and college. He has been published in several journals and local publications, and published his first book of poetry, Common Illness, in 2013. Dr. McGuffin draws inspiration for his writing primarily from his medical practice, his four children, and his deep faith. He is thrilled to join the Pharos editorial board as a poetry reviewer.

Medical Professionalism: Best Practices

In July 2013, Alpha Omega Alpha, with support from a President’s Grant from the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation, sponsored a think tank on medical professionalism remediation best practices.

The two-day meeting was attended by more than a dozen scholars in medical professionalism remediation, and included presentations on aspects of medical professionalism and ways of looking at and dealing with lapses.

The result is the publication of an AΩA monograph, Medical Professionalism: Best Practices. The monograph is available on the AΩA web site both to read online and as a PDF download at http://alphaomegaalpha.org/medprof2015.html.

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