

# Alpha Omega Alpha

## “Be Worthy to Serve the Suffering”

LCOM Gamma Chapter  
Established 1953

December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018



The University of Vermont  
LARNER COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

# National AΩA

- Established in 1902
  - Group of medical students at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Chicago
  - Led by William Webster Root
- 120 chapters nationally/150,000 members
- 51 Nobel winners amongst AOA members
- 75% of deans of medical schools as members
- Annual AOA grants to students & faculty = \$575,000
- [www.alphaomegaalpha.org](http://www.alphaomegaalpha.org)



# Mission Statement

*Dedicated to the belief that:*

In the profession of medicine, we will improve care for all by:

- Recognizing high **educational** achievement
- Honoring gifted **teaching**
- Encouraging the development of **leaders** in academia and the community
- Supporting the ideals of **humanism**; and
- Promoting **service** to others

# UVM LCOM AΩA Chapter

- Chapter established 1953
- AOA Councilor
  - Marie Sandoval, M.D. (2018-2019)
  - Heather Burbank, M.D. (2016-2017)
  - Gilman Allen, M.D. (2013-2016)
- Associate Dean of Student Affairs
  - Christa Zehle, M.D.
- Medical student administrative support
  - Kiersten Hallquist

# Student Selection

- ELIGIBILITY
  - Top 25% of class eligible for election
  - Based on Clerkship Honors (after rotation #7 grades posted for the respective class)

# Student Selection

- FINAL SELECTION
  - Up to 1/6<sup>th</sup> of graduating class
  - Scholastic Achievement
    - Leadership
    - Research
    - Humanism
    - Service

# AQA STUDENT MEMBERS 2019

- Holly Elizabeth Bachilas
  - Cody James Couperus (Junior Inductee)
  - Julia Lane Cowenhoven
  - Florence Ann DiBiase (Junior Inductee)
  - Lindsay Spencer Howe
  - Margaret S Johnston (Junior Inductee)
  - Daniel Austin Lambert
  - Geordie Claire Lonza
  - Samantha Jill Magier
- Michael Joseph Marallo
  - Amber J. Meservey (Junior Inductee)
  - Sravana Keerthy Paladugu
  - Jacob Benjamin Reibel
  - Allison B Robbins
  - Maia J Sakradse
  - Adam Michael Schlauch
  - Quinn R Self
  - Benjamin Frederick Smith



# AQA STUDENT MEMBERS 2018

- Stephanie Alexis Brooks
- Christina Rose Cahill
- Kathryn Marie Colelli (Inducted with co2017)
- Kelley Weston Collier
- Laura Kenyon Donnelly
- Lindsey Marie Eastman
- Peter Thomas Evans (Junior Inductee)
- Miles William Grunvald
- Ethan Robert Harlow
- Peter R. Hyson (Junior Inductee)
- Alicia Ostopoulos Imada (Junior Inductee)
- Alex Jacobson
- David Anthony Leon
- Molly Ann Gorton Markowitz
- Stephen Michael Maurer
- Nicole Lin Mendelson
- Lindsay Miller
- Gayathri Prabhakar
- Astia Norton Roper-Batker
- Apoorva Trivedi (Junior Inductee)





# AQA Services/Programs

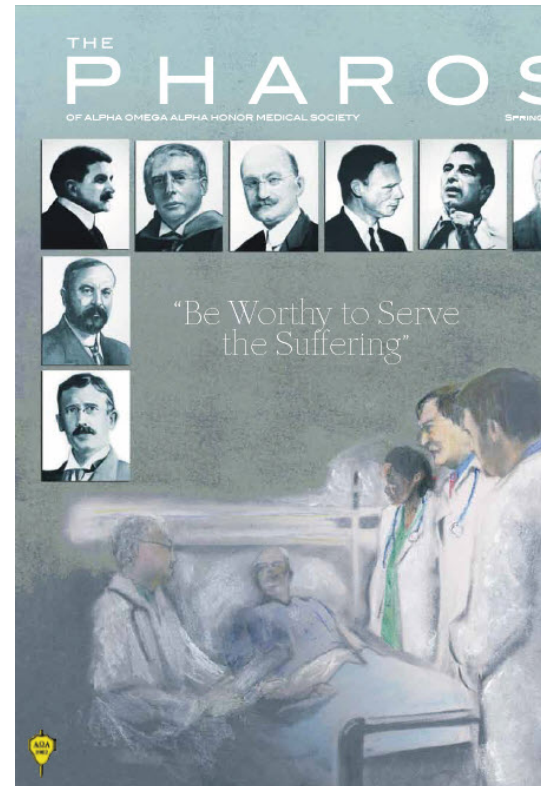
- The Pharos
- Student research fellowships
- Student essay and poetry awards
- Medical student service leadership project
- Postgraduate award
- Distinguished teacher awards
- Volunteer clinical faculty award
- Visiting professorships

[View AOA awards and scholarships opportunities for both members and non-members >>](#)



# Alpha Omega Alpha – The Pharos

- Published 4x/year
- Features:
  - Essays/articles
  - Poetry
  - National/chapter news
  - Physician at the movies



What is your diagnosis? Courtesy of the author.

## Community-acquired pneumonia

The tyranny of a term

Bennett Lorber, MD, and Thomas Fekete, MD

Dr. Lorber (AGA, elected as faculty, Temple University 1980) is the Thomas M. Durant Professor of Medicine, and Dr. Fekete (AGA, elected as faculty, Temple University 1997) is professor of Medicine at Temple University School of Medicine.

What signifies knowing the name, if you know not the nature of things?

—Benjamin Franklin

Pictorial: this, it's a true story.

A twenty-nine-year-old woman enters a hospital emergency room with complaints of fever and cough. In the emergency room her fever is confirmed, she has a cursory exam and is sent for a chest X-ray that shows a left mid-lung infiltrate (see the X-ray above). A diagnosis of community-acquired pneumonia (CAP) is made, and the patient is discharged on azithromycin.

She faithfully takes the antibiotic, but after a week is no better and returns to the emergency room. This time the chest X-ray shows expansion of the left mid-lung infiltrate and a new right upper lobe infiltrate. She is admitted to the hospital. What is the admission diagnosis? It's community-acquired pneumonia. After all, she has evidence of pneumonia, and it occurred outside of a health care setting, so it is, in fact, a community-acquired pneumonia. This time she is treated with moxifloxacin, and, after four days, she is stable and discharged

to complete her antibiotic course.

Two weeks later her fever and cough have not subsided so she returns to the emergency room. The infectious diseases consultation service is called to see her. They take a history! Among the information that is quickly obtained with just a few questions is the following: Her cough and fever had been present for almost two months before she made her first trip to the emergency room; she had lost nine pounds since the illness began; she had night sweats almost daily; and she resided in a recovery home for former drug users where another resident has had a bad cough for a few months. What is the diagnosis? Tuberculosis seems very likely. She is hospitalized, isolated, and a sputum sample has acid-fast bacilli and later grows *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

What should we make of this story? If one were to present the case of a patient with two months of cough, fever, night sweats, weight loss and a pulmonary infiltrate, any third-year medical student would consider the diagnosis of tuberculosis. Yet fully trained physicians missed the diagnosis but on three occasions. Why? We believe it is the tyranny of the term "community-acquired pneumonia." All one needs is a cough, fever, and an abnormal chest X-ray and no further information is required. We have a diagnosis and a course of treatment. What could be simpler? Yet the hazards of this approach are obvious. Language matters. The way we frame an issue, and the words we use to indicate it or describe it can dictate the way in which it is handled. The term CAP has eliminated thoughtful

The Pharos/Spring 2011

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# Carolyn L. Kuckein Student Research Fellowship

- One award annually per chapter
- Clinical investigation, basic laboratory research, epidemiology, or social science/health services research
- \$5000 in funding
- 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students are eligible
- [More information available on the AOA Webpage...](#)
- Opportunity will be advertised in [the WeeklyWire](#)

# Kuckein Awardees

- 69 recipients awarded in 2018
- Past LCOM Recipients:
  - Lauren Donnelly, Class of 2020 – Awarded 2017 Fellowship
  - Michael Ursiny, Class of 2015 - Awarded 2014 Fellowship
  - William Ares, Class of 2012 - Awarded 2011 Fellowship

# Helen H. Glaser Student Essay Awards

- Creative narratives or scholarly essays relevant to medicine
- Cash awards of \$2,000 for first place, \$800 for second place, and \$550 for third place. Winning essays will be published in The Pharos.
- [More information available on the AOA Webpage...](#)
- Opportunity will be advertised in [the WeeklyWire](#)

# Glaser Award – Past Student Recipient

- Daniel Liebowitz, class of 2014
  - Honorable mention in 2011
  - “Carlos Finlay, Walter Reed, and the Politics of Imperialism in Early Tropical Medicine.”
  - The Pharos Vol 75 No 1 p16-22.

# *The Pharos Student Poetry Competition*

- **Purpose:** To encourage medical students to write meaningful poetry related to health or medicine.
- The criteria by which poems are judged are:
  - Imagery and use of language
  - Poetic structure and technique
  - Emotional appeal
  - Relevance to Pharos readers
- Prizes
  - Cash awards of \$600 for first place, \$350 for second place, and \$200 for third place will be given out to three students. The three selected entries will be published in The Pharos.



# *The Pharos Student Poetry Competition*

- Eligibility:
  - Must be enrolled at medical school with active AΩA chapter, **but need not be members of AΩA.**
  - Only one entry may be submitted by each student.
- [More information available on the AOA Webpage...](#)
- Opportunity will be advertised in [the WeeklyWire](#)





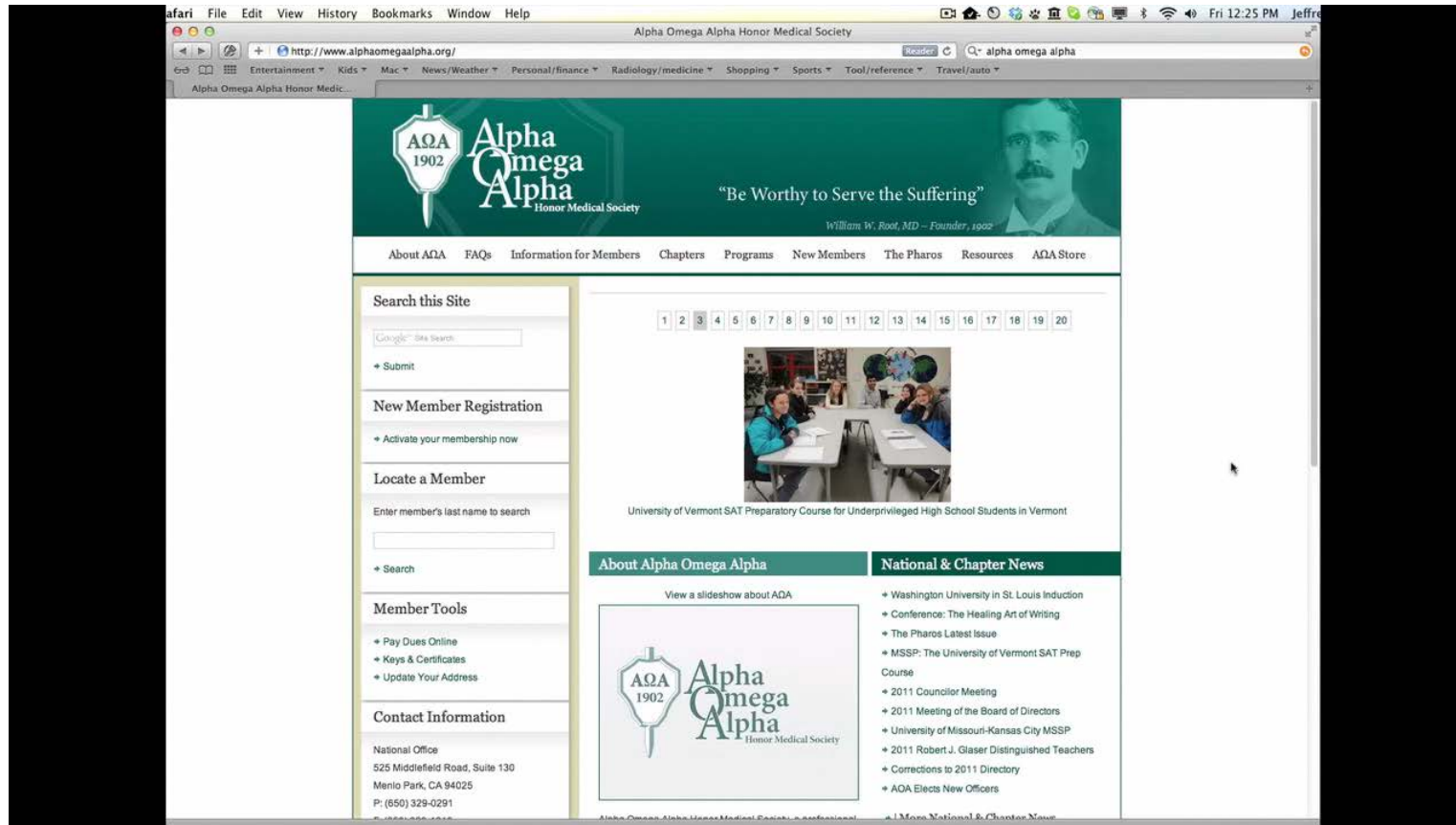
# Medical Student Service Leadership Grants

- Service project by medical student(s) benefiting the medical school or the local community
- One proposal per school with AΩA chapter
- Up to \$5000 per year, renewable for a second year up to \$3000 and a third year up to \$1000 on review
- [More information available on the AOA Webpage...](#)

# Service Grants – LCOM Awardees & Submissions

- Kristen Carr, Class of 2015
  - “The Migrant Worker Health Booklet” – 2014 Submission
- Prabu Selvam, Class of 2014
  - “SAT Course for Underprivileged Local High School Students” –  
2011 Recipient

# Service Grant - SAT Course, Prabu Selvam LCOM '14



# Postgraduate Award

- Residents or fellows at institution with active AOA chapter
- Projects must fall into one of five categories
  - Research
  - Service
  - Teaching and education
  - Leadership
  - Professionalism
- \$2000 award
- [More information available on the AOA Webpage...](#)

# Postgraduate Award – UVMMC Recipient

- **Andrew Ross, MD (ΑΩΑ, Oregon Health & Sciences University, 2009)**  
University of Vermont College of Medicine  
University of Vermont, Fletcher Allen Health Care  
Project category: Research  
[Benefits of a Pre-Natal Ultrasound Program in Rural Uganda](#)  
Kristen DeStigter, MD, mentor  
Jeffrey Klein, MD, councilor

# Robert J. Glaser Distinguished Teacher Award

- Presented annually at the AAMC meeting
- Recognizes outstanding contributions to medical student education by four faculty at LCME-approved schools of medicine
- Awardee receives a \$10,000 prize. The awardee's nominating institution will receive a grant of \$2,500 for teaching activities, and the AOA Chapter will receive a \$1,000 grant for support of its activities.
- Winning institution ineligible for next 3 years
- [More information available on the AOA Webpage...](#)

# Glaser Distinguished Teacher Award Recipients

- 2002 Recipient:
  - Lewis R First, MD (AOA, University of Vermont, 1997, Faculty), Professor and Chair, Department of Pediatrics, University of Vermont College of Medicine

# Volunteer Clinical Faculty Award

- Community physician who contributes to the education and training of clinical students
- Need not be AOA members; won't become AΩA members
- Nominations by all students; election by AΩA members
- Framed certificate from AΩA for recipient
- [More information available on the AOA Webpage...](#)



# Volunteer Clinical Faculty Award – LCOM Recipients

- 2018 - Theresa Mahon , M.D., Norwalk Hospital, Dept. of Ob/Gyn
- 2017 - Cornelius Ferreira, MD
- 2016 - Elizabeth Hunt, M.D.
- 2014 - Jane “Jenny” Lowell, M.D.
- 2013 - Francis Cook, M.D.
- 2012 - Karen Leonard, M.D.



# Alpha Omega Alpha – Visiting Professorships

- Each AΩA chapter can host one VP each year
- Funding by national AΩA
- Chosen by councilor/members/faculty
- One full day of clinical rounds, research discussions, interactions with students and residents, & opportunity to present a lecture
- Invitees rotated amongst clinical departments
- [More information available on the AOA Webpage...](#)

# AΩA Chapter – Contact Information

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Kiersten Hallquist, Administrative Support, [Kiersten.Hallquist@uvm.edu](mailto:Kiersten.Hallquist@uvm.edu)

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The University of Vermont  

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