Hot Spots in Dermatology is a very unique annual seminar put on in Hawaii by Dr. David Elpern and Dr. Doug Johnson. For more than 20 years David, a dermatologist formerly at the Wilcox Clinic on Kauai and now practicing in Williamstown, Massachusetts, has been able to get together a small group of local, mainland and international attendees and speakers to not just discuss clinical and research aspects of Dermatology but the Art of Dermatology. He has also started an art/science/history of Dermatology web site at Dermanities.com. This free online journal produced with Benjamin Barakin M.D. of Edmonton, Canada emphasizes “patient care, physician experiences and the interplay of medicine with the social and psychological sciences.” And this is what the attendees at the Hot Spots get every year.

The August 2004 Hot Spots held on Kauai was no exception. Subjects presented included Contact Dermatitis updates, Botox Hawaii: personal experiences as well as confessions of a nihilist and Miranda’s Promise.

Miranda’s Promise: a student intern’s dermatology diary, January 22, 2004, was presented by Caitlin Elena Stiglmeier, who spent a year in Dr. David Elpern’s office in Williamstown. Her presentation was truly impressive, received a standing ovation from the audience (not usually done at a medical meeting) and was published in the International Journal of Dermatology 2004, 43: 915-916. It is reprinted with permission of the International Journal of Dermatology on page 18.

When I asked Caitlin for her bio to introduce Miranda’s Promise, she sent another literary masterpiece printed on page 19.

David, mahalo for stimulating Caitlin in her year with you, and continuing to encourage her in medicine. One person, a mentor, can make a phenomenal impression on a student like Caitlin Stiglmeier.

Caitlin being attentive to the last patient of the day.