

Medical Alumni Association Scholarship

Purpose:

These scholarships are supported by gifts and pledges from UK College of Medicine alumni. The association's goal is be able to provide four scholarships for each class.

Scholarship Recipients:



Joshua Vernon Wright
2015
Bowling Green, KY

Degree: B.S. in Chemistry and B.A. in Mathematics, Western Kentucky University

Why I want to become a physician: I say the person who has inspired me the most--a person who I would like to model myself after when I become a physician--is Dr. James Loden, an ophthalmologist in Nashville and its surrounding areas. After he married my cousin, Heather, several years ago, I was a witness to his strong work ethic. He would be called to a trauma on Thanksgiving or Christmas, work long hours during the week then stay for staff meetings, and travel across the country to attend or present at a conference, yet never complain along the way because he loves his profession and all it entails. He constantly strives to refine his craft for the betterment of his patients. When I would shadow him throughout a day of clinic hours or surgeries--sometimes leaving at 4 AM to trek to an underserved area--I would prod him with questions to make sure I was ready and willing to start down the path of becoming a physician. Of course, he would acknowledge difficulty and stress, but also that nothing has ever made him regret his career choice.

After I began tossing around the idea of pursuing medical school, I considered Dr. Loden's long hours and his sacrifices. I listened to residents and other physicians recounting their worst days, but nothing deterred me. Instead, my own passion for the profession took shape. Like Dr. Loden, I too want to serve my community through clinical practice and through charitable contributions. My best glimpse into the power of giving came when I volunteered at the Free Clinic of the Medical Center at Bowling Green. I was only one of several faces the patients would see during their visit, but I did

my best to develop a trusting relationship with them as I chatted about their background information and placed them in rooms. From there, I would either assist in the in-house pharmacy, when needed, or shadow the physician volunteering that night. Although I was enjoying every minute there, I couldn't stop thinking that it was only the tip of the iceberg; that I had business to attend to (i.e., medical school, residency, then fellowship) before I could provide a truly significant contribution. It has been a blessing to know Dr. Loden and I look to keep in touch with him along my quest to become a great physician.

A note of appreciation: I have a while before I begin loan repayment, but the piece of mind in knowing that my monthly payments will be drastically less as a result of this scholarship is incalculable. The donated funds have done a great job of allowing me to focus on school instead of getting caught up in whether or not my debt will be manageable in the future. Thus, I have the donor(s) to thank, in part, for my academic success up to this point in my first year. One of the many reasons why I wanted to come to the University of Kentucky was because I felt so welcome through every interaction with the faculty and with the admissions team. Then, being chosen as a recipient of this award multiplied that feeling ten-fold. I am extremely grateful for your generosity and your choice to invest in the education of a young medical student. Thank you.