

Berea College grad receives prestigious Phi Kappa Phi fellowship

September 11, 2020 by [Steve Rogers](#)



BEREA, Ky. (WTVQ/Berea College Public Affairs) – Jennifer Bentz, a Berea College alumna from Maryville, Tenn., received a \$8,500 fellowship from The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation’s oldest collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

Bentz, who received a bachelor’s degree in biology from Berea College earlier this year, is one of 58 people nationwide to receive a Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship.

As a Phi Kappa Phi Fellow, Bentz will pursue a doctor of medicine at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

“I am so honored and grateful to have been awarded this fellowship,” Bentz said. “I knew when I chose to pursue a medical degree that it would entail both hard work and some significant financial burdens, and I really appreciate that this fellowship rewards the first and lessens the second.”

An outstanding student at Berea College, Bentz was one of the student Vice Presidents of Berea Chapter of PKP, maintained a 4.0 GPA, scored in the 98th percentile on the MCAT, and was one of only four students ever to earn an A+ in a particularly difficult anatomy and physiology class.

As an undergraduate, Bentz spent three summers engaged in research and internships, including participation in Vanderbilt’s Aspirnaut program.

Phi Kappa Phi Fellowships are part of the Society’s robust awards program, which gives nearly \$1 million each year to outstanding members and students on chapter campuses through study abroad grants, dissertation fellowships, funding for post-baccalaureate development, member and chapter awards, and grants for local, national and international literacy initiatives.

“We are proud of carrying on the strong representation of Berea students in receiving this fellow-ship,” said Dr. Cindy McGaha, Berea’s PKP president. “Jennifer served as one of our student vice presidents for two years and always represented PKP in a strong light. We were all so happy to see her win this award that she so justly deserves.