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## UM Pharmacy Student Awarded Phi Kappa Phi Scholarship

Meghan Walker is university's second straight fellow of the honor society

JULY 21, 2016 BY SYDNEY SLOTKIN



Meghan Wagner. Photo by Kevin Bain/Ole Miss Communications

OXFORD, Miss. – **University of Mississippi** pharmacy student Meghan Wagner has been named a 2016 fellow of the **Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society**, which recognizes academic excellence in higher education.

This marks the second year in a row that an Ole Miss student has won a fellowship from Phi Kappa Phi, which is the oldest honor society that recognizes all academic disciplines. The honor society honors 57 students a year from around the country with fellowships.

Wagner, who is entering her second year of the **Doctor of Pharmacy** program, also receives a \$5,000 scholarship as part of the fellowship. The Grenada native plans to use the award money to pay for books and class fees, and to lessen her need for student loans.

"I was extremely grateful to be chosen for this fellowship," Wagner said. "I know the list of potential candidates was stellar, so to be first chosen by the university, then by Phi Kappa Phi, I felt honored.

"For me, to have such a distinguished group of people find my hard work to be worth the recognition and financial support helped validate that I have been working hard in the right direction."

Applicants must first apply within their local chapter of Phi Kappa Phi in hopes of being selected as the university's sole applicant to the national chapter.

Michael L. Warren, clinical assistant professor of pharmacy practice and a former president of the university's Phi Kappa Phi chapter, knows Wagner through a course she took with him in the pharmacy school.

"She is a gifted student with a positive attitude and professional demeanor," Warren said. "Meghan is actively engaged in community service, both on- and off-campus. She is passionate about having a positive impact on children's lives after graduating from pharmacy school.

"I cannot speak for the national committee, but her passion to help others was likely evident in her application materials and led to her selection."

Wagner hopes to go into pediatric pharmacy.

Past Phi Kappa Phi fellows include notable names such as poet Rita Dove, YouTube co-founder Chad Hurley and two NASA scientists. Marcus Daniels, who earned a bachelor's degree in biological science in 2015, was last year's fellowship winner from UM.

"My dream job would be to work in an oncology wing of a pediatric hospital as a clinical pharmacist, and I am very grateful to both the school of pharmacy and Phi Kappa Phi for supporting me in this endeavor," Wagner said.

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