

## First Lipscomb Pharmacy Trainee Welcomed BY ELIZABETH TURNER

The Vanderbilt LEND Program has seen a bit of change in the past 2 years: the retirement of LEND director Terri Urbano, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.N., the welcoming of new LEND director Tyler Reimschisel, M.D., and assistant director Evon Lee, Ph.D., as well as the addition of the program's first Psychiatry trainee, Danica Denton, D.O. This academic year, LEND has seen even more growth with the addition of the first Pharmacy trainee, Katie McLaughlin, who also is LEND's first trainee from Lipscomb University.

McLaughlin has a background in biology, having graduated from Morehead State University in Kentucky. Pharmacy drew her interests in undergraduate studies, so she is continuing her education as a second-year pharmacy student in Lipscomb University's College of Pharmacy. McLaughlin works part-time as a pharmacy intern in the Vanderbilt Medical Center. She also serves as vice president of membership for Lipscomb's chapter of the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP).

"Dr. Reimschisel actually piqued my interest in the LEND program," said McLaughlin. "I also am involved with the Vanderbilt Program in Interprofessional Learning [VPIL]. I am in Dr. Reimschisel's Pediatric Neurogenetics and Metabolism Clinic every Wednesday afternoon along with a Nurse Practitioner student and a student in Medicine. We stay in the Clinic for 2 to 3 years as a part of the VPIL program. All three of us chose to participate in the LEND program together because of our experience with the patient population we have interacted with in the Clinic over the past year.

"I think that pharmacy has mixed well with the other areas of study that have classically been a part of the LEND program," she continued. "I feel that any time you add a new perspective or outlook, it enriches the ability of the group to learn from each other. Pharmacy is also a relatively recent inclusion to the approach of



COURTESY KATIE MCLAUGHLIN

Katie McLaughlin

interprofessional patient care, so I feel it's appropriate to incorporate this aspect in the LEND program."

Since the beginning of the semester, McLaughlin has had opportunities to work with other LEND trainees and to gain perspective on the fields that improve the lives of individuals with disabilities.

"I have learned so much from the other LEND trainees already. I had no idea all the different specialists it sometimes requires to care for a child with neurodevelopmental disabilities, particularly outside of the clinic setting," McLaughlin said. "I feel my pharmacy background has brought a different aspect to the other trainees. Putting children on medication can be very frightening, especially for parents. Even when medications are necessary, such as seizure medications, parents often are concerned about the possible dangers and associated side effects. That is exactly the type of training that pharmacists receive and can bring to the table." ■

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