

Wesleyan Wednesday

Joseph Lewis '11

Our #WesleyanWednesday feature this week is Joseph Robert Lewis '11. Joseph is a Glasgow, KY, native who enrolled at Kentucky Wesleyan to major in biology after his mother took him on a visit. "She didn't think a big university was the right place for me – she was afraid I would get distracted. I'm certain now that she was 100% right." After receiving a one-on-one tour of Wesleyan, Joseph found himself optimistic. "I compare the feeling of that day to finding your first house. It just feels right, and you are excited to get to work."

We asked Joseph to recall some of his fondest memories of his time at Wesleyan and he was quick to share two very different ones: "Educationally, the AEDs (Automatic External Defibrillators) on campus were part of a grant from Owensboro Health that I co-wrote.



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We got \$10,000 to furnish the campus with the AEDs. Then, socially, I got all the RAs to pool their student life budget together to have 'Wet N' Wild: Quad Style'. It was AMAZING! I'm sad to say that this type of arrangement has since been banned." Made for a good story though, right, Joseph?

The Owensboro Health grant wasn't the only project that kept Joseph busy. While a student, he got to present at the United Nations with Dr. Kimberley Garth James on 'Women's Health in The Developing Nation' and propose a model for mosquito net distribution using the Coca-Cola delivery system in Sub-Saharan Africa. He was a member of SGA, Sigma Phi Epsilon and was an RA. He also interned at the World Bank, Boeing-UCLA International Energy Summit, Owensboro Cancer Research Program and Athgo International during his summers and breaks. "The opportunities [at Wesleyan] are endless, and the friendships are a lifetime."

If you're anything like us, you're probably wondering what's next for Joseph after this last year of residency. Don't worry - we asked. "After finishing this year, I will be doing a fellowship in Surgical Critical Care at Orlando Regional Medical Center. I plan on my practice consisting of General Surgery, Trauma, Endoscopy, Robotics, and Surgical Critical Care. I am currently seeking a job for August 2021 – we can let this serve as an advertisement."

As we parted ways, we asked what life lessons Wesleyan taught Joseph, and why he'd recommend our alma mater to prospective students:

“Wesleyan taught me that friends are family...the friends I made there have lasted through the years. I've got to watch them get married, give birth to beautiful children and go on to have successful careers. It has been an honor to know each of them and be part of their lives. I love them dearly and I am thankful that Wesleyan brought us together.”

As far as why he'd recommend it to any prospective student, he said the answer is simple.

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