

**2020 UNCW PREMEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT:  
MISS JOANMARIE LEWANDOWSKI**

Each year, since James Hundley, MD spearheaded the effort in 1989, New Hanover-Pender County Medical Society has awarded a premedical scholarship to a rising senior student at UNCW who aspires to become a physician. A committee made up of three physicians (all UNCW graduates) and three UNCW professors make the selection from applications, recommendations, and, except for 2020, in-person interviews. Physicians worked, hard, to forge the scholarship into one that truly makes a difference. Contributions came from individuals, practices and the community in honor of friends and colleagues and in memory of beloved friends and family members. The Scholarship is now endowed at the University so that the monetary stipend is one of significance.



Born and reared in Hendersonville, Tennessee, the 2020 Scholarship recipient, Joanmarie “JM” Lewandowski, is the daughter of Tom and Marybeth Lewandowski. She has a sibling, Steven. Her brother, Michael, died at age 13. His and his family’s battle against neuroblastoma ignited a burning passion for learning and healing in his younger sister. At a very tender age, Joanmarie experienced the toll a life-threatening illness takes on every aspect of family life. Her own family’s tragic loss plays an important role in her belief that she will become a skilled and compassionate physician.

A near-perfect student, grade wise, Joanmarie is an NCAA Division I athlete, a prominent member of

UNCW’s Beach Volleyball Team. Involvements with Cape Fear Clinic, Cape Fear Clinic Pharmacy, Alcami NHMBL, Camp Happy Days & Special Times, Brigade Boys & Girls Club, Habitat for Humanity, and time spent working in Dr. Art Frampton’s UNCW lab and shadowing active physicians in pediatric specialties all add to her interest, background and resolve to continue to medical school.

To quote Joanmarie: “. . . I completed a paid, full-time internship researching and developing biopharmaceuticals for a local company. . . . I learned an immense amount about the development of drugs, clinical trials, and workings of a research lab. . . . Through this internship, I identified my love of people and need for human interaction. Research fulfilled my passion for working with health and medicine, but I yearned for direct patient interaction. From there, I was completely decided on being a physician. . . . My determination has allowed me to become a successful collegiate athlete, thriving college student, and prepared pre-med student. . . . My grit will ensure that I can withstand any obstacles faced in the trying curriculum of medical school. I am fully prepared and determined to successfully complete medical school. . . . My life experiences will allow me to be a physician that understands aspects of medicine that cannot be taught in a classroom: emotional tolls, finances and social restrictions.”

It is with pride and confidence that the Medical Society announces Joanmarie Lewandowski’s selection as recipient of the 2020 New Hanover-Pender County Medical Society Premedical Scholarship. We expect her plans to be carried to exceptional fruition.

