Department of Physics
Alum of the Month: Jeff Maltas (’12)

Jeff attended Miami University – Ohio for his Master’s degree in Physics, and is now in the PhD program at the University of Michigan. At Miami, he was named the ‘Outstanding Graduate Student Researcher’ for the 2013-2014 year. He was also the recipient of the ‘Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher’ award!

About his undergraduate experience: “My preparation at Marquette allowed me to immediately jump into the most advanced physics classes offered at Miami. I believe the small class sizes and open-door policy of the physics professors at Marquette provoked discussions that led to deeper understanding of the material, and ultimately resulted in better preparation than many of my peers. My support from Marquette’s physics department didn’t stop when I graduated, either. My advisor, Dr. Kunz, has helped me numerous times! Whether it was advice, a letter of recommendation, or simply an "e-pat on the back" I can always count on him. I think that is a unique trademark of Marquette's physics department - reliable and supportive professors.”

About his research at Miami: “My work at Miami University focused on how pressure alters a cell's metabolism, or the way it produces energy. Originally that meant developing an analytic tool capable of discerning small spectral peak and width changes reliably, so we could monitor metabolic fluorescence. Afterward, I modified and characterized a high pressure cellular flow system. Using these two tools in conjunction I was able to study a cell’s metabolism under pressure.”

About his current research: “I recently began my PhD program at the University of Michigan. My current research focuses on studying heterogeneity in cancer tumors and its implications for optimal treatment strategies. I'm excited to show them what a graduate of Marquette's physics program is capable of!”