Department of Physics
Alum of the Month: Kelsey Meinerz ('14)

Kelsey began her PhD program in Physics in the Fall of 2014 at **Washington University** (Wash U) in St. Louis. She will receive her Master’s in Physics at the end of her second year, and will defend her thesis three to four years later to receive her PhD.

In addition to her course load this semester, she is excited about her position as a Teaching Assistant for an Optics lab. She also plans to conduct research with Dr. Mark Conradi this summer. Dr. Conradi’s research uses NMR (Nuclear Magnetic Resonance), and Kelsey may join his newest research efforts in imaging the lungs using hyper-polarized gasses and MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging). Dr. Conradi has already used this technique to image adult lungs, and now he is working with a group on the medical campus of Wash U to bring his technique to the neonatal unit to see how premature babies’ lungs develop. While that research project is a year away, her research this summer will be a smaller-scale related project to prepare her for more NMR work.

Kelsey says she is grateful for her undergraduate experience at Marquette because the Physics department gave her many opportunities that she wouldn't have had at other schools, such as becoming a Teaching Assistant. She feels confident that she can be a successful graduate student TA knowing that she has two and a half years of experience under her belt.