

LEEANN BERGER

Can You Hear Her Now?

Leeann's Journey through Graduate School to Become a Doctor of Audiology

Graduate: Class of 2002 Occupation: Graduate School Student, Audiology

While most people typically graduate from college between the ages of 20 and 22, Leeann Berger, a 26 year old, still goes to school! To get the degree that she has long pursued, Leeann currently attends graduate school to further complete her education. Many people go to college, but how many can say they have attended for eight years? Leeann most certainly can answer yes when she graduates once more in 2010.

With her hometown in Bretzville, Indiana, Leeann certainly kept busy in many Forest Park and community activities such as tennis (where she received the most improved and MVP awards), soccer, cheerleading, dance, volleyball, Beta, National Honor Society, and Spirit Club. She has many fond memories: traveling to Germany with her classmates, hosting several exchange students, and winning at band state finals. During marching band season, she served as captain of the color guard her senior year; however, she also played clarinet during concert band season. German I award and Advanced German awards, Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance, Presidential Scholar award, WFIE Leadership Scholarship, and Deutscher Verein scholarship demonstrate some of the many awards and accolades she has received.

Honing many skills from her extracurriculars, Leeann believed that she could best utilize her self-discipline, multi-tasking, and communication skills in a healthcare setting. Her experiences have taught her to “take advantage of every opportunity to explore your future career options.” Leeann continues, “Your career choice may not be an obvious profession initially, and you cannot rely on others to determine your projected success and lifelong goals.”

Upon entering her first semester of college at the University of Louisville, she encountered a “bump in the road” when she realized they no longer had her major. Leeann then became a Boilermaker and went on to get a Bachelor of Science degree in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences, as well as a minor in Psychology. She graduated from Purdue University in December of 2005-with distinction, placing her in the top ten percent of those graduating from the College of Liberal Arts.

After the University of Louisville accepted her into their graduate school, she began classes there in August 2006, and became a Doctor of Audiology candidate. “I knew how to direct my undergraduate studies and get the most of my education prior to entering graduate school. It not only saved money, but valuable time considering that I've never been out of school-currently in grade 20!” joked Leeann about how her success became reality.

Depending on the semester, an average day in the life of Leeann consists of either attending class or working professionally as a graduate clinician from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 pm. At the end of her work day, coursework and presentations await her immediate attention. She partakes in school hearing screenings and practices her skills in the surrounding community; in addition, she works on her own personal research project while completing her coursework at UofL. Someone who savors practical experience, Leeann says, “You learn more by observing and doing than by reading all about it. Reading gives you the fundamental knowledge or basis of understanding, but the real deal is when you see it clinically.”

Leeann's love for learning extends beyond her academic education. From Maui to Destin to Chicago, Leeann loves to travel on her own adventures. One of her most memorable vacationing moments came when her boyfriend and high school sweetheart, Scott Berger, proposed to her in Central Park, New York City. Scott works as a Aircraft Engineer at United Parcel Service. Married on June 3, 2006, they currently reside in their own home in New Albany, Indiana. They have a furry cat named Seags-however, they are expecting their first child in July.

Demonstrating a distinguished example of endurance and determination, Leeann will graduate from the University of Louisville in 2010. Along with her many successes, she hopes to someday open her own audiology practice back home. Maybe someday you will need to have your hearing checked. Now you know whom you can contact.