

REBECCA ANNE SCHMAELING

Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to Spain



A member of the University's Honors Program, Rebecca Anne Schmaeling earned a bachelor's degree, summa cum laude, in political science with minors in Spanish, history and communication. She received the Timothy H. Scully Award for Excellence in Political Science at commencement.

In addition to her main focus of teaching English as a foreign language an American Culture in Spain, Schmaeling plans to pair her service experience with the inspiration she found studying abroad in Morocco and working at the University's Jane Kopas Women's Center to work in a Spanish women's center, aiding local immigrant women.

Schmaeling volunteered extensively during her years at Scranton, serving as an English-as-a-second-language teacher and a food pantry volunteer for United Neighborhood Centers. She also served as a board member for Habitat for Humanity and spent two of her spring breaks volunteering for urban assignments in Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia.

On campus, she worked at University's Jane Kopas Women's Center and as a peer tutor for the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence.

Schmaeling excelled in the classroom, becoming a member of Pi Sigma Alpha (the political science honor society), Alpha Lambda Delta (the national freshmen honor society) and Alpha Sigma Nu (the national Jesuit honor society). She was a dean's list student for each of her semesters at Scranton. She researched and presented her honors thesis on "The European Asylum System's Response to the Arab Spring."

Schmaeling's future plans include pursuing a graduate degree in international relations and working for an international, non-governmental organization. She would ultimately like to earn a Ph.D. and teach at the university level.

A graduate of St. John the Baptist High School, Islip, N.Y., she is the daughter of John and Suzanne Schmaeling.