



KATHLEEN LAVELLE

FULBRIGHT TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP TO SPAIN



A participant in the University's Special Jesuit Liberal Arts (SJLA) Honors Program, Kathleen Lavelle graduated magna cum laude as a double major in biochemistry, cell and molecular biology and Hispanic studies, with a minor in philosophy.

In addition to teaching English and science at a secondary school in Madrid, Spain, Lavelle plans to supplement her future career in medicine by volunteering at a medical clinic in the local community.

Lavelle believes two aspects of her University experience in particular will aid her as a teacher in Spain: the rigorous course requirements of the SJLA Honors Program; and her service as a translator for Spanish-speaking patients at the University's Leahy Clinic for the Uninsured, a free clinic on campus.

"As a medical translator, I encourage patients to ask questions and to correct me if my translations are ambiguous," said Lavelle.

In addition, Lavelle served as a teaching assistant in the University's microbiology laboratory and as a tutor in math for the University's Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence.

"From my experience as a translator and as a tutor, I have found that not only is each student different, but every student can teach you something different about yourself," said Lavelle.

A dean's list student, Lavelle is a recipient of the University's full-tuition Presidential scholarship. She served as vice president of Alpha Sigma Nu (the national Jesuit honor society), and as an editor for the journal published by Phi Sigma Tau (the philosophy honor society). She is also a member of Alpha Lambda Delta (the freshman honor society).

Lavelle also served as vice president of presentations for the Health Professions Organization, visited local elementary schools to conduct the Science Games with students, served as chairperson for EFFORT (the Excess Food for Others Recovery Team), and spent spring break 2009 on a service trip in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, providing help with flood relief. She accompanied medical alumni from the University on a mission trip to Haiti earlier this year.

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In addition, Lavelle participated in research projects at Scranton and is awaiting publication review on a journal article she co-authored titled “A Real-time PCR Assay for *Burkholderia gladioli*.”

In January 2010, Lavelle studied abroad in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Upon her return to the U.S., Lavelle plans to attend medical school, hopefully one whose affiliate non-profit programs and clinics service Spanish-speaking communities.

A graduate of Scranton Preparatory School, Lavelle is the daughter of Ann Kennedy of Avoca and Patrick Lavelle of Punxsutawney.