



SARAH FITCH

FULBRIGHT ENGLISH TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP TO MALAYSIA

Sarah Fitch has traveled far from home during her time at The University of Scranton. But her Fulbright will take her to one more far off place that she has never been before: Malaysia.

“Through these experiences, I realized, by engaging with people from other cultures, you can learn a lot about the world,” said Fitch, a Candor, New York, native who will graduate in May with a bachelor’s degree in strategic communication and a minor in business, and as a member of the University’s Business Leadership Honors Program.

During her first year at the University, Fitch explored the mountains of rural Guatemala as part of a volunteer trip with the International Service Program. That first service trip altered her perspective of the world and ignited a new interest for her to experience different cultures, see distant places and help people abroad.

As a sophomore, she studied abroad in South Africa for a semester, where she volunteered as a nursery aide in an impoverished town with young children whose native language is Xhosa. She learned to overcome the challenging language barriers by connecting with the children in different ways, through emotion and singing, and by teaching them to act out what they wanted to say, similar to charades. Even though it was initially difficult, she succeeded.

“I learned how to become comfortable in uncomfortable situations,” Fitch said. Soon the students would scream, “Teacha Sarah! Teacha Sarah!” as soon as she walked into the nursery. She has also volunteered in Ecuador and studied in Uganda.

During her Fulbright year, Fitch will teach English to eager learners in a Malaysian middle school. She also plans to put her communication background to use by creating a media club. This will help her better integrate with the Malaysian community.

At the University, Fitch was inducted into Omega Beta Sigma, the women's business honor society. She also volunteered at the Language Learning Center. She received the University’s Provost International Study Grant and served as a peer facilitator and fund raising intern for the University’s International Service Program.

Fitch also spent last summer as a marketing intern for C-SPAN in Washington, D.C.

After the Fulbright, Fitch is considering a career in international development, working with a nonprofit with a global reach in their public relations or marketing department.

The Fulbright will cap off her experiences abroad thus far, with surely many more to come.