

## Amelia Rude—Outstanding Senior Award

It is my pleasure to introduce the recipient of this year's Outstanding Senior Award, Amelia Rude. Amelia has all the characteristics one would expect of our Outstanding Senior. She's very bright (she will graduate with a double major in Criminal Justice and Political Science and a 4.0 GPA). She is self-motivated, passionate and mature beyond her 20 years. She is articulate. She writes beautifully, and she is thoughtful and engaging in the classroom.

As impressive as these characteristics are, there is much more to Amelia than described above. She grew up in Dayton, Ohio and began taking college classes at the age of 14. She came to IU with an interest in law and a belief in the importance of public service, and she will depart from IU to attend the University of Pittsburgh Law School on a Public Interest Scholarship in the Fall. In between her courses, she works as Probation Assistant for the Monroe County Probation Department. Her experiences in both the classroom and the probation office motivate her toward a future in law with the intention to help humanize the legal and criminal justice systems. She describes herself as empathetic, perhaps overly so (her words), and she has been deeply moved by her exposure to specialty courts. She hopes to continue her involvement with problem-solving courts in particular, where the focus is reoriented away from punishment and toward a holistic approach to finding solutions to assist those in need.

Remarkably, there is even more to Amelia than described above. She is an artist who designs and sells her own line of jewelry. She holds a third-degree black belt in Taekwondo and has served as an instructor in this difficult martial art. While attending high school during the day and college courses at night she somehow found the time to volunteer in one of the local soup kitchens in Dayton.

From all of us in the Department of Criminal Justice, thank you Amelia, for who you are and what you believe in. Thank you for representing the Department of Criminal Justice and Indiana University in both the classroom and in your community service. We are proud of you and we wish you the very best as you move forward in your promising career!

Kip Schlegel  
Professor