

Abby Porada, 21, hails from a city that is often referred to by some as “the mistake by the lake,” Erie, PA. She has three siblings; a brother, Jeff, a sister, Katie, and a dog, Zoey. Abby graduated from Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy in 2008 where she was captain of the varsity soccer team and participated in ski club. Abby is now a senior at Robert Morris University studying Communication with a concentration in Public Relations and a minor in Business. At school, Abby holds a work study position working in the campus mailroom; over summer and winter breaks from school, she works at Saint Vincent Health System in Erie as an associate in the Food and Nutrition Department.

While sometimes shy at first, Abby has a strong and outgoing personality. Being a natural-born leader, Abby usually finds herself taking on leadership roles but enjoys working in team environments and being able to collaborate with others. Abby, being a self-proclaimed perfectionist, is very organized and detailed-oriented. Abby is extremely determined and passionate in all facets of her life, particularly with her career plans. Abby has taken on many challenges in hopes to learn more about the field of public relations. One of these challenges was becoming the president of RMU’s Public Relations Society with no prior experience in order to plan meetings and workshops to learn more about public relations and how to develop the needed skills.

One of Abby’s favorite pastimes is spending time with her two-year-old niece, Ava. When she is not with her niece or spending time with the rest of her family, Abby enjoys spending quality time with her family, friends, and boyfriend, going to the movie theater to indulge in popcorn, taking in Pittsburgh’s nightlife, and shopping. Since she was a little girl, Abby has always had a strong love for animals and hopes to one day have her own rescue shelter to help endangered and neglected animals.

In the summer of 2010, Abby interned at Saint Vincent Health System in the Foundation Department and worked closely with Children’s Miracle Network. There, she assisted with the organization and implementation of various charity events including a live telethon, celebrity baseball tournament, and gold tournament to name a few. Abby then interned for the Marketing Department at

Scott Enterprises in the summer of 2011. At Scott, Abby assisted in marketing strategies for Splash Lagoon Indoor Water Park, several hotels, and over 15 restaurants. Abby also assisted in the organization of two restaurant grand openings. In more recent endeavors, Abby will be acting as the Publicity Chair for the Special Olympics in Moon Township, PA.

Abby will be graduating from RMU in May 2010 and hopes to make Pittsburgh her permanent residency and begin her public relations career working for a non-profit organization.