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Neuwar Named GAYC Student of the Year

April 13, 2017



Senior child and family development major Salena Neuwar was named the 2016 [Georgia Association on Young Children](#) (GAYC) Student of the Year at the Together for Children Conference for her outstanding work as a student and the positive impact she has made in her field of study.

To be considered for the award, Neuwar had to be a GAYC member, a student studying child development or a related field, considered an outstanding student in her program and be nominated by an instructor in higher education.

In addition to the GAYC Student of the Year Award, Neuwar has been honored with the Betty Lane Family and Consumer Science Award, the Georgia Southern Honors Program scholarship and the Susie Frances Whitener scholarship.

In between studying and working, Neuwar enjoys working with children. She has volunteered in Costa Rica, where she worked with local children in an educational setting, and South Africa, where she worked at a school for children with disabilities through an adaptive surfing program.

"My time with the adaptive surfing program was about building relationships and enabling the children to do something they enjoy which improves their overall well-being," said Neuwar.

With her degree, Neuwar plans to continue to work with the early intervention program [Babies Can't Wait](#) of the Coastal District where she is currently interning; she then plans to attend graduate school. Ultimately, she would like to work for Babies Can't Wait as an occupational therapist.

"I am glad that I was recognized for my academics, but most importantly my volunteering and passion that I have for all the children I work with," said Neuwar. "I hope to be able to grow with the families and children I service in my new career in early intervention."