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Angelika Foucher wins International Studies Award

August 19, 2013

Angelika Foucher is this year's recipient of the Georgia Consortium for International Studies "Outstanding Student in International Studies" Award for research she conducted for her honors thesis, "When Cultural Narratives Collide: The Role of the Homosexual Community in Defining French Identity."

Foucher, who graduated in May with her degree in International Studies, was able to conduct research into this topic while on a study abroad trip to Nantes, France in fall 2012.

"From my research, I concluded that the right-wing politicians try to maintain a narrow idea of what French identity is. They focus on external issues rather than internal which results in strict inclusionary and exclusionary policies in the country," Foucher said. "The change in the political arena, as the Socialist Party took majority and presidency, has given the LGBT community in France hope for equality and inclusion to the French nation." conduct research into this topic while on a study abroad trip to Nantes, France in fall 2012.

Her mentor, Danielle Smith, Study Abroad and Academic Coordinator in the Center for International Studies, nominated Foucher for the award and sent her thesis to the consortium.



"It was clear from the beginning of Angel's project that she was working on something unique and timely," Smith said. "Angel's dedication and hard work have made her a standout amongst her peers, as this is a theoretically complex and challenging topic to broach. It's excellent to see that she is receiving state-wide recognition for these accomplishments."

Foucher plans to complete a year-long French language program at University Nantes starting in the fall to prepare her for the French-efficiency test that will allow her to apply to a master's program at Nantes.

She is also thinking about submitting her thesis for publication, and has plans for expanding the research.

"I think that my research could expand tremendously because of the motion to legalize marriage equality happened in France," she said. "A lot of people were upset about the decision but then again many happy same-sex couples now have the same freedoms as their fellow Frenchmen. There will always be opposition to same-sex couples and the reaction to this change in the future will be interesting to pay attention to. Maybe other countries, like the USA, will makes changes as well. I loved my thesis topic because the research is endless."

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