University Honors Program News

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Georgia Southern University

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Senior Spanish and French major Emily Pressler has been awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) in Spain for the 2019-2020 academic year. Pressler’s placement will be in Galicia, Spain, and she will assist primarily in English classes for students who speak Spanish, Galician, and English. She is the first Georgia Southern student to be awarded a Fulbright ETA since 2014.

Pressler is a student in the University Honors Program, and she recently completed her honors thesis, “Hispanic Stereotypes in Contemporary Film.” Her coursework in Spanish and French gave her insight into language-learning and a variety of approaches for engaging language learners in the classroom.

“I am really excited to start teaching. I have had experiences tutoring and volunteering as a teaching assistant, but this will be a real chance to see how to organize and to teach a class, working closely with the teacher,” she said.

Pressler also is no stranger to embracing new surroundings. She is originally from Southold, NY on Long Island and came south to attend Georgia Southern. She also participated on the Honors Program’s alternative break trip to Costa Rica and spent summers studying abroad in Spain and France. She said she is very much looking forward to exploring the Galicia region in Spain’s northwest corner.

“I was hoping to have my Fulbright ETA placement in Galicia because I completed research on the area for one of my classes, and it seems like a beautiful place with a unique culture, including their own regional language,” she said. “Listening to it, I can pick out a few words here in there, but it really is unique from Spanish. I hope that I can teach the students just as much as they can teach me.”

After her time as a Fulbright ETA, Pressler plans to enroll in a master’s program for teaching Spanish, with the goal of teaching Spanish, and possibly French, at the high school level.