

Dr. Barbara Fischer Education Award presented by Dr. Traci O'Brien to Raegan Lemmond on behalf of AGP.

I have the honor tonight of awarding the AGP Dr. Barbara Fischer Education Award. The award is named after the late Barbara Fischer, a Professor of German at the University of Alabama and a founding member of AGP. A native of Germany, Dr. Fischer dedicated her life to building bridges between Alabama and her native country. She was one of the first recipients of the AGP Education Award and she also received the AGP Rainer Bauer Award, making her the only person to receive both awards and the only woman to have received the Reiner Bauer Award.

Tonight we have a very worthy recipient of the Dr. Barbara Fischer Education Award: Raegan Lemmond. Raegan is a native of Alabama and received her BA and MA in German from the University of Alabama, during which time she also studied abroad in Erlangen, Germany. While a student, she received an award for Outstanding Graduate Student in German. After graduation, she worked as a German instructor at Auburn University for seven and a half years. During that time, I got to know Raegan very well. We collaborated on teaching projects, conference presentations, and taking students abroad together 4 summers in a row. We have remained good friends – even after she left Auburn for a position at Alabama. For almost 8 years, Raegan has been a German instructor at the University of Alabama, where she has distinguished herself not merely through outstanding teaching, but an impressive range of service activities – and I can attest: Raegan is the kind of person who always asks: How can I help?

Due to time limits, I cannot describe all of her activities in detail, but let me mention as many as I can briefly. Every year she organizes the UA German Day, which brings hundreds of Alabama high school students to campus for a day of competition and activities. A mammoth task. She also organizes and leads the annual UA in Germany summer program, a 5-week program in Berlin and München. She is faculty liaison for UA's German House, a living-learning community where students speak German in their dorm. She is faculty adviser to UA's German Club and attends all the activities, such as a regular Stammtisch, movie nights, and last week's Karneval celebration. Raegan works closely with the Goethe Zentrum in Atlanta and with AGP to bring cultural events to our state. Last year, for example she brought the Goethe Institute's traveling WanderbUS as part of the Wunderbar Together campaign, and also the German author Cornelia Franz, sponsored by AGP. Just last month, she arranged for the visit of the German crime fiction author, Max Annas. Raegan is also very active in professional organizations and,

impressively, has served as part president of the Southeast Association of Language Learning Technology.

AGP is happy to bestow the Dr. Barbara Fischer Award on such a deserving individual. The fact that Raegan was a former student and friend of Dr. Fischer makes the award even more meaningful for all of us.

Congratulations!