

Bush School Student Awarded the Robert Bosch Foundation Fellowship

Written by student intern reporter, Julia Paslavska, April 28, 2009

As the graduating class of the George Bush School is gearing up for full-time careers in fields such as national security, international economic development, non-profit, and public administration, one student has slightly different post-graduate plans. Aurelia Figueroa, a second year International Affairs Masters student has been accepted into the Robert Bosch Foundation Fellowship Program – a nine-month professional development program in Germany.

Established in 1984, the Robert Bosch Foundation Fellowship Program is a distinguished transatlantic project that each year offers 20 accomplished young Americans the opportunity to live and work in Germany. The goal of the highly competitive program is to create a new generation of American leaders who have firsthand experience in the political, economic and cultural environment of Germany and the EU.

During the intensive nine-month fellowship, participants complete two work phases at leading German institutions, both customized to each participant's professional expertise, and attend three seminars with key decision-makers from the public and private sectors, located across Europe. Bosch fellows have education and experience in various sectors, some of which include business administration, journalism, law, public policy and closely related fields.

The program is fully funded by Robert Bosch Stiftung, one of the largest foundations in Germany. The fellowship is a once in a lifetime opportunity to gain an insider's perspective on the German working world, make contacts with decision-makers both in Germany and through Europe, and better understand German and European views of global problems. In the past, participants attended seminars in Brussels, Budapest, Madrid, Paris, and Warsaw, where they were introduced to the complexities of the European Union.

Looking at Ms. Figueroa's past accomplishments in both the academic and professional field, it is no surprise that she was among the 20 chosen Bosch Fellows. Ms. Figueroa holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with a minor in journalism from San Jose State University in San Jose, California. She also completed graduate coursework and research in the history and philosophy of science, and British literature at Cambridge University in Cambridge, England. At the George Bush School, Ms. Figueroa is a recipient of the Graduate Diversity Fellowship and is highly respected for her outstanding work ethic by the school faculty and student body.

Ms. Figueroa's professional achievements are also anything short of exceptional. In 2002, she co-founded The American Youth Scholarship Foundation - a non-profit organization established for the betterment of community through assistance in educational pursuits. She currently serves as the Executive Director of the Foundation. Another highlight of Ms. Figueroa's career was her summer internship with the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, an experience that led to a full-time offer with the prestigious institution.

Most recently, Ms. Figueroa attended an orientation in Washington D.C., designed to prepare the Bosch Fellows for their year-long adventure in Germany. During the orientation, all 20 Fellows met with the Ambassador of Germany to the U.S., the German Political Minister and Economic

Minister, each of whom spoke about key transatlantic issues. The orientation was also a way for the Fellows to learn about the German culture before they depart for their assignments on May 29th.

The overarching aim of the Robert Bosch Stiftung is to contribute to the long-term stabilization and growth of German-American relations. The program strongly believes that those Americans selected to participate are likely to become leaders in their professional fields and will continue to foster the Foundation's main purpose – greater transatlantic understanding. And those who have had the opportunity to work with Ms. Figueroa know that she will become a leader in her professional field and fulfill all the goals that the Bosch Foundation has for her as well as the goals that she has for herself.