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Herzog headed to Kennedy Center

Summary: Alyssa Herzog has received an all-expense paid trip to the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., to attend the American College Theatre Festival.

(March 3, 2006)-Alyssa Herzog, a University of Minnesota, Morris junior from Montgomery, has received an all-expense paid trip to the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. Herzog will attend the American College Theatre Festival, a conference sponsored by the Kennedy Center. Herzog's dramaturgical work for "The Merchant of Venice," a UMM theater production performed in fall 2005, was submitted for the competition. Her work contributed in a major way to the success of the UMM production. Herzog also won the Region V Excellence in Dramaturgy Award at the regional conference in Fargo/Moorhead in January.

"Alyssa's award is a tremendous accomplishment and a wonderful reflection on the UMM theatre discipline," said Ray Schultz, UMM professor of theatre arts. "Her work on 'The Merchant of Venice' was invaluable to me as a director and stands as one of the finest pieces of undergraduate research undertaken in our discipline to date."

Dramaturgy is the role in theatre production of a researcher who looks at all the details behind the plot, setting and history of the play. The dramaturg researches the time period in which the play is set and what the cast members should wear to be historically accurate. Herzog also compiled a study guide of main points and interesting facts, which she gave to everyone involved in the production. The guide was also sent to area high schools and others who attended the play.

Herzog's responsibilities included compiling the research information and editing the text, with assistance and guidance from the play's director, Ray Schultz, UMM professor of theatre arts. Schultz gave Herzog assignments to complete and discuss with him. Schultz and Herzog bounced ideas back and forth, and determined what would work best for the production and cast based on the research she conducted.

Herzog said, "I am so thankful to Ray Schultz and Gretchen Minton (UMM English faculty) for all their help and influence. Their guidance brought my experience working on this production to new heights and made it enjoyable and worthwhile."

Photo: Alyssa Herzog [photo by Nicole Herberg '07, Rockford]

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