Major: Women’s and Gender Studies

Educational Highlights: My academic standing has been my primary focus these past four years, and, in my opinion, my greatest accomplishment thus far. I have been honored to be a part of the women's and gender studies community. Their constant support and motivation has been incredible and the reason I have been academically successful. Coming into the College, I was honored to be one of the recipients for the Ketner Leadership Scholarship. In the spring semester of my freshman year, I was nominated by one of my professors to be a peer facilitator in the Center for Excellence in Peer Education. This entailed working side-by-side with a professor to facilitate a class of freshman in helping them become successful college students. One of the most fulfilling opportunities I had in my college career was studying abroad. My semester in Spain broadened my scope and opened my mind in a way that I had never felt before. In my final semester, I was honored to be an intern for the College’s Women’s Health Research Team. The research team conducts interdisciplinary research through grants to better understand issues related to women’s health and uses this information to help educate the community. Being a part of this team has been a rewarding and challenging learning experience, and I hope to continue facilitating my interest in women’s health.

Research Focus or Project: My research interests are extensive. For my capstone research in women's and gender studies, I focused on the importance of personal narrative within feminism and how the feminist movement has made and continues to make the personal political. I examined the connotations around the word “feminist” to understand why women become feminists, why they do not, and why claiming the label of “feminist” is important to advance gender equality. A second major area of interest for me is women’s health and comprehensive sex education, both of which I was able to address through my internship with the Women's Health Research Team.

Future Plans: Each of the opportunities I've had at the College of Charleston greatly influenced my interaction with the College, my view of the world, and my understanding of who I am. I hope through each of these networks I can find a career that combines activism, women’s health, and traveling. My next step is to apply to a master's program in social work. I hope to get a deeper understanding of how to adequately use research within activism and to find which path in activism I am best suited for. I know that no matter what I do, I will always work to destigmatize the “feminist” label and bring awareness to the structural inequality, not only in the form of sexism, but, in all forms of discrimination.