Educational Highlights: I feel immensely fortunate to have had such an enriching four years at the College of Charleston (CofC). It has been an honor to work so closely with the faculty, staff, and other students at CofC. These relationships have truly cultivated my passion for education, affording me memberships to the Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society, Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society, Sigma Delta Pi National Spanish Honor Society, and Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society. My educational career at CofC has also benefited from extracurricular engagement, such as serving as the Editor in Chief of CofC’s student-run news source and magazine CisternYard News, founding a chapter of a non-profit organization on campus, acting as an English as a second language tutor for Hispanic women in the Charleston community, and being a peer facilitator for First Year Experience seminars for the past two years.

Research Focus or Project: For the past two and a half years, I have been studying the psychological outcomes of post-conflict governments, specifically in Cambodia and Vietnam. I completed an independent study with Dr. Chris Day, which led to a fully funded Student Undergraduate Research Grant under Dr. Jen Cole Wright in the Department of Psychology. The research I conducted this summer in Cambodia and Vietnam informed my bachelor’s essay, which I presented at the William V. Moore Conference at the end of March. I would be remiss not to extend my sincere gratitude to both Dr. Day and Dr. Wright for their continued encouragement and support.

Future Plans: I will be spending the summer traveling, first in Cuba and then in Eastern Europe. I am applying to serve as a volunteer in the Peace Corps, after which I intend to go to graduate school for either social work or public administration.

This award presented by Jerold L. Hale, dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Department of Political Science at the College of Charleston on the 12th day of May, 2017.