Educational Highlights: The interdisciplinary nature of the Women’s and Gender Studies major has enabled me to pursue studies in various departments within a feminist framework. Under Dr. Katie Hladky in the Religious Studies Department and I conducted independent research on the United Order of Tents, a local fraternal order composed entirely of women dedicated to democracy, education, and the advancement of the African-American race. In the Classics capstone, I studied the role of rape in the founding of Rome and the establishment of the Republic with Dr. Noelle Zeiner-Carmichael. The following semester, I served as her teaching assistant for an introductory Women’s and Gender Studies course, with an emphasis on a non-Western approach to feminism and the function of activism. As a Ketner Emerging Leader Scholar the emphasis on integrated scholarship and activism has shaped my academic and career goals.

Research Focus or Project: My capstone research focuses on the prevalence of sexual violence at the College of Charleston. Given the widespread preponderance of sexual assault on college campuses across the country, gender violence has garnered national attention and prompted a series of federal initiatives. Inspired by Linda Ketner’s encouragement to take action, I chose to research this topic in an effort to make meaningful changes within our own community. This paper critically analyzes the College’s response to incidents of sexual assault from a legal perspective, and questions the institution’s compliance with federal legislation.

Future Plans: Over the course of the following year, I plan to work on my graduate school applications for programs that focus on gender, violence, and law. In the meantime, I have applied to work at the U.S. Embassy in Paris in a project-based research position.