HSS Scholar

Catherine Marshall

Major: Anthropology
Minor: Spanish

Educational Highlights: During my years at the College of Charleston, I was a student in the Honors College and anthropology department. I was able to study abroad in Barcelona and Guatemala, allowing me to center my studies on the Spanish language, Central American history, political science, environmental studies and anthropology. Living, working and studying there introduced me to a rich indigenous culture, as well as the challenges people face in underdeveloped nations. This, together with my studies at the College, led me to pursue and further study how economic development can be achieved along with environmental and cultural sustainability of indigenous populations.

Research Focus or Project: I completed two large research projects during my undergraduate career. The first, funded by a SURF grant, looked at factors leading to successful legal status among immigrants from Central America and Mexico. My Bachelor’s Essay focuses on the impact of Mount Pleasant’s Highway 17 on the Sweetgrass basket-makers.

Future Plans: I am in the process of applying for a Rotary Grant to enable me to pursue a master’s degree in environment and development at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. This program will enhance my understanding of how to achieve economic development in the face of environmental conservation along with cultural protection of indigenous populations. I plan to use my knowledge and skills to work in the field of sustainable resource management, partnering with indigenous groups, non-governmental organizations and local governments. I believe that we must not lose either environmental or cultural diversity and that it is possible to sustainably achieve economic development and prosperity.

This award presented by Maureen Hays, Interim Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Department of Sociology & Anthropology at the College of Charleston on the 10th day of May 2013.