Educational Highlights: Double-majoring in both economics and urban studies has been a highlight in itself. While the Urban Studies program focuses on the policies and people who shape cities around the world, my economics coursework has allowed me to dig deeper and discover the market forces that support policies or prevent them from being successful. The mixture of economic and urban theory has changed the way I look at cities and the people living within them.

Research Focus or Project: As a double-major, I have always sought to combine both disciplines as much as possible. This was especially true when I worked with a local prominent developer to study the parking environment for several Charleston-area neighborhoods. Together we examined neighborhood characteristics that affect parking demand, and how residents adapt through time. The project culminated with an in-depth parking study which the developer will use for future projects, policy recommendations, and permit requests. The hope is that someday, policy makers, residents, and developers will recognize that too much parking in a suburban area is a major contributor to suburban sprawl. Policy makers and developers must work together to address this issue, and better allocate parking resources in the future.

Future Plans: After graduation I will assume the role of executive director at the Bastiat Society, a nonprofit economics group based in Charleston. I will be responsible for the daily operation of the organization as well as the development of independent chapters around the world.