HSS Scholar

Bennett Jones

Major: Urban Studies
Minor: Geography

Educational Highlights: When entering college my interests were scattered and my ability to sit down for long periods was nonexistent. High school had not prepared me for the rigor that was necessary to succeed in college, to not only look at the words on the page, but also to think critically about those words. My GPA is inconsequential in comparison to the abilities I have gathered here at the College of Charleston. ‘Reading comprehension’ is a catch-phrase, just like ‘critical thinking’, lost in the mix of other educational jargon that the linear federal public education system places into ‘silly’-bi. I am thankful for the faculty at the College of Charleston for pushing me to take education seriously, and to explain to me, not directly, why higher education is important to the human experience.

Research Focus or Project: Interning at the Charleston Music Hall in downtown Charleston, South Carolina has shown me that the urban landscape is more entwined and confusing than ever imagined. It is one thing to talk about how civic engagement affects a community, it is another to try to affect that community directly. The Music Hall is unsustainable, as with most things in the modern era, but through systems theory and my knowledge gained in the classroom I have tried to help develop a more sustainable community in Charleston.

Future Plans: The ultimate goal is to gain a Ph.D. in either urban studies, urban geography, geography, or political geography. As is obvious, the future holds many options. My most solid plan is to visit Chicago and check out some graduate schools this summer as well as catch some live music.

This award presented by Maureen Hays, Interim Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Urban Studies Program at the College of Charleston on the 10th day of May 2013.