Educational Highlights: I have enjoyed four wonderful years studying in the English Department and Creative Writing Program here at the College of Charleston! I am a member of the International English Honor Society of Sigma Tau Delta and the honor society of Phi Kappa Phi. This year I was awarded one of the Hall of Leaders awards from the Higdon Student Leadership Center for my work in Miscellany, the College of Charleston’s literary and arts magazine.

Research Focus or Project: My research throughout this year focused on J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter series and how it follows in the tradition of other fantasy tales such as C.S. Lewis’s The Chronicles of Narnia and J.R.R. Tolkien’s The Lord of the Rings and shows, as those series’ do, Biblical influence, reference, and concepts. My paper looks intently at Tolkien’s essay “On Fairy-Stories” and references his term the “eucatastrophe” or “happy ending” as a means for arguing how fairy-tales work in a Biblical longing for the afterlife. I focused primarily on how Rowling emphasizes the power of human love, strength in weakness and humility, “deep magic”, free will and choice, and the power of remorse and mercy that allows Harry to ultimately defeat Voldemort.

Future Plans: I plan to teach English and writing eventually at the university level. And, I plan to attend graduate school in English and continue my study in fantasy literature hopefully taking it on as a larger project and promoting it as a valid field for academic study. I also want to continue writing poetry and reading as far and as wide as humanly possible.