Educational Highlights: I have been a member of the Honors College at the College of Charleston throughout my collegiate career, maintaining a GPA above 3.4. I participated in a study abroad program in India through Emory University that focused on Tibetan Studies and acted as a synthesis of my interest in philosophy and religious studies. While abroad, I conducted an independent research project on the role of compassion in Tibetan Buddhism, culminating in a substantive paper that combined ethnographic research and philosophical inquiry.

Research Focus or Project: During fall 2010 and spring 2011, I composed a bachelor’s essay with the help of the Department of Philosophy at the College of Charleston. My essay explores various conceptions of personal identity offered by different schools of Buddhist philosophy. I analyzed primary texts from two ancient philosophers and traced varying interpretations of those texts through history. The paper, “Constructing and Deconstructing the Self: Personal Identity in Buddhist Philosophy,” concluded by comparing Buddhist notions of the self to later accounts given by Western philosophers. Comparing and contrasting such diverse perspectives proved to be mutually illuminating, providing further questions and insights into both Eastern and Western philosophical traditions.

Future Plans: My career as a student of Philosophy and Religious Studies has fostered a sense of curiosity in me that I hope to satisfy through extensive travel. In the near future, I will appease this curiosity with a post-graduation trip to China. I have also been encouraged to consider the world through a variety of perspectives and I hope to interact with other cultures that can bring those perspectives to life. These desires have motivated me to want to participate in the Peace Corps and eventually return to the U.S. for graduate school.