Educational Highlights: As an undergraduate, I have found that a balance between political activism and scholarship is essential to a deeper understanding of both the sciences and humanities. The drive to make an impact in my community has translated into motivation to engage with and develop current feminist theory, particularly biofeminism and disability studies. The Women’s and Gender Studies community has been critical to my development as a citizen and scholar, and I am extremely proud and honored to be a graduate from the program.

Research Focus or Project: My academic interests are in feminist science studies and the use of biology and medical technology to influence feminist theory. During my senior year, my research focused on the delineation of disease and disability, specifically in relation to anorexia nervosa. My paper, “Disabling Disordered Eating: Anorexia Nervosa, Autism, and a Need for Feminist Theory,” explores the implications of recent research suggesting that the eating disorder is linked to autism spectrum disorders. It also asks that feminist scholars consider the possibility that anorexia nervosa is a cognitive disability and that an association between the two can benefit disability theory.

Future Plans: Next year I will begin my graduate career in the Gender Studies Department at Indiana University. I will be pursuing a Ph.D. with a concentration in medicine, science, and technologies of the body.

This award presented by Cynthia Lowenthal, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Women’s and Gender Studies Program at the College of Charleston on the 11th day of May 2012.