COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

HSS Scholar

Devi Raheja

Major: Women’s and Gender Studies

Educational Highlights: During my time at the College of Charleston I had so many incredible experiences. Through the sculpture program I was able to find empowerment, not just through feminist theory! I learned how to weld, as well as some basic carpentry skills. In 2011, I engaged with the Department of Probation and Parole as an intern. Another high point in my education has been my involvement with the Diversity Advocates. I also really enjoyed participating in experimental courses that expanded my notion of education, like “Cognition and Connection in the Contemplative Mind” and “Dialogic Approaches to Gender.”

Research Focus or Project: My college education has led me to a deep interest in self-care, art therapy, decolonization, independent media production, and community organizing. During my senior year, I was engaged in a multimedia project that utilized sculpture, feminist theory, zine-making, and music and community organizing. The intention of this project was to create a decolonized narrative, as well as to document myself. The sculptural component of the project was a composition of 70 plaster lotuses I cast and distributed among my community via a “lotus giveaway” gathering. I also left lotuses in grocery stores, parks, and other communal spaces. I asked folks to take a lotus, make a tiny shrine inside of it, and leave it in a public space. Another portion of the project was a zine centered around art therapy and radical self-care that had several exercises, similar to The Artist’s Way. I have really enjoyed exploring these topics through art and my community.

Future Plans: To get better at taking care of myself, build community, and plant a lot of vegetables.

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