HSS Scholar

Abbie Kline

Major: Communication and International Studies

Educational Highlights: My membership in the Aiken Fellows and International Scholars cohorts of the Honors College have been instrumental in my academic, professional and personal development. From being trained in networking and necessary professional etiquette, to engaging in full cultural immersion during two study abroad opportunities, I have had a robust and enriching undergraduate experience. The mentoring and support of faculty, staff and professors have encouraged me to seek out and take advantage of remarkable opportunities, and to believe in myself during those experiences. These experiences include numerous communication and marketing internships; prestigious awards, scholarships and fellowships; a transformative summer spent in Italy; and various leadership and development roles in campus and community organizations. While my academic experience has been enriching and rewarding, I could not have dreamed of a more robust and influential extracurricular record.

Research Focus or Project: My bachelor’s essay has evolved into an ethnography on leadership and entrepreneurship in the emerging business model of social enterprise. I have become as researcher-as-participant to complete this study, as I am observing and collecting data about the leadership styles and entrepreneurial vision of Susan Hull Walker, with whom I work closely in my internship at the Ibu Foundation. The Foundation is the nonprofit arm of the Ibu Movement, founded by Walker to elevate artisan women by providing them the resources and market needed to make money from the work of their hands. My participant-research is helping to shed light on the specific characteristics needed to succeed in a unique business environment.

Future Plans: While I am still deciding between numerous national service positions, including AmeriCorps and Teach for America, I am certain that my career will be in the nonprofit world, allowing me to utilize my resources, skills and experience for the benefit of others. I dream of working on the Development team of a charitable organization, raising funds and mobilizing support for a cause much greater than I.

This award is presented by Gibbs Knotts, interim dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Department of Communication at the College of Charleston, at the end of the spring 2020 semester.