



COLLEGE of
CHARLESTON

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES

HSS Scholar

Elizabeth Burgher

MAJOR: HISTORY

**MINOR: LEADERSHIP, CHANGE,
AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Educational Highlights: During the summer of 2017, I had the amazing opportunity to study abroad in Ireland. While studying Irish history and film, I fell in love with the country's lively culture and breathtaking landscape. Through the History Department, I was to return to Ireland by becoming an intern at Marsh's Library, an Enlightenment-era library in Dublin, the following summer. This was critical for my professional development, as it gave me real experience with the daily operations of an institution devoted to historical preservation. In a centuries-old library that had seen the likes of Bram Stoker and James Joyce walk its halls, I was living a historian's dream. I have also had the opportunity to work for an amazing local company, Gold Creations, a family-owned and run jewelry store on in the Charleston Market, since summer 2019. As their copywriter, I have been able to combine my love of Charleston's history and culture with my written communication skills to create evocative messages that convey the company's unique message to various audiences.



Research Focus or Project: In my research, I have studied the transformation of Southern white masculinity during the American Civil War. Going to school in Charleston definitely inspired the topic of my research. Having spent years in one of the key locations during the antebellum and Civil War eras, I became very interested in the 19th century culture that created Charleston's beautiful architecture and its history that I have studied in class. As I read through Southerners' personal documents from before and after the war, I noticed a significant change in the letters' sense of masculine identity. My bachelor's essay studies how Southern masculine identity transformed to accommodate the South's loss of the war and the immense numbers of Confederate dead.

Future Plans: I plan to stay in Charleston for the next year. I will continue my work with Gold Creations, and I plan to apply for internships at Charleston's historical institutions during the next year.

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