



COLLEGE of
CHARLESTON

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES

HSS Scholar

Hillary Clark

MAJOR: HISTORY

Educational Highlights: When I began my studies at the College in fall 2018, I was a 26-year-old transfer student who was not at all decided on my major or my future goals beyond completing my undergraduate degree. However, my indecision quickly disappeared in that first semester after I declared as a History major, and the department truly became my academic home as I got to know my professors and fellow majors. I am a founding co-president of the Medieval Society, which is an interdisciplinary campus organization with a scholarly focus on its eponymous era. Also, I am honored to have been inducted into Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Alpha Theta, and Phi Eta Sigma.

Research Focus or Project: My capstone project is focused on Puritan iconoclasm during the English Civil War in the 1640s. Through my research, I have uncovered evidence that the assumption that all Puritans during this period were ideologically unified against images that they considered superstitious and idolatrous, and thus driven to destroy all images in sacred, public, and private spaces, is incorrect. In fact, there was dramatic disagreement among even the most prominent and zealous Puritans over the contention that some images could be acceptable, and implementation of Parliamentary iconoclastic policy was hardly uniform or total. I have primarily concentrated on the history of medieval Europe in my studies, and I am also strongly interested in ecclesiastical history and art history, so working on this early modern era project has expanded my intellectual horizons and pushed me to hone my historical skills further.

Future Plans: I plan to pursue a Master of Library and Information Science degree at the University of South Carolina. My goal after completing this graduate degree is to begin a career in historical reference librarianship.



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.