Educational Highlights: My highlights have been becoming a part of the philosophy community on campus with my professors and peers. I have been able to study something which I love and grow creatively through my minors. I have enjoyed my independent work including my independent study and bachelor’s essay. My opportunity to be an intern for a summer institute on self-knowledge was one of the biggest highlights which enabled me to meet philosophers from around the world and have a greater focus on my own projects.

Research Focus or Project: My first project, the independent study, focused on self-consciousness and its genesis. I was curious about why we are able to be aware of ourselves in a way that is very different from other living beings. My philosophy of mind classes enabled this curiosity. The body became a big aspect of my work and continued to be in my later research project. The focus of my bachelor’s essay was a skilled bodily awareness. It intrigued me and I wanted to learn more about how this kind of nonconceptual bodily awareness becomes present in our lives and if it is more prominent than we might think. This was a very rewarding project, because it involved a thoroughly thought through idea which took lots of time and research to be made clear.

Future Plans: I am not quite ready to continue my education at a graduate school and want to be sure about this decision before committing. My current plan is to apply to jobs in Atlanta and move there for the foreseeable future. I hope to do something creative, perhaps involving animation or publishing, for which there are many more opportunities in a larger city, but I am excited to start any career of my own.

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