Nathaniel Dabbs

Major: Anthropology
Minor: Russian Studies

Educational Highlights: I came to the College of Charleston as a biology major, but quickly fell in love with anthropology and the Russian language. Dr. Irina Erman, my minor advisor for Russian Studies, has been an invaluable guide to me throughout my time at CofC, and I owe a great deal of my success to her. In 2017 I won the award for Russian Scholar Laureate from the American Council of Teachers of Russian. In spring 2018, I began volunteering at St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church on King Street, teaching English to speakers of other languages. I absolutely loved it and became determined to teach ESOL professionally in the future. In fall 2018, I studied abroad in St. Petersburg, Russia with Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE). It helped boost my confidence in many ways, but especially with travelling and my Russian language ability. St. Petersburg is an enchanting city, and I would love to return there some day for work or maybe even graduate studies. Since then I have kept improving my Russian by tutoring the language in the Center for Student Learning (CSL). I love working with the students there and continuing to further my knowledge of the Russian language.

Research Focus or Project: A lot of my research for my linguistics classes and volunteer activities have focused on English as a Second Language. I am fascinated by the different dialects of English spoken around the world and the cultural and economic impact of learning English across the globe.

Future Plans: I was accepted into the Peace Corps to teach English in the Kyrgyz Republic, but that has been delayed due to the pandemic. Hopefully, I will get the opportunity someday. I would really like to teach English abroad some day after the pandemic, with Peace Corps or otherwise. In the meantime, I’m going to move back home and try to save up some money to go to graduate school for Russian Studies.

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