2022 HSS Scholar

Declyn Drejza

Major: General Studies
Minors: Hospitality and Tourism Management, Leadership for Sustainability

Educational Highlights: As a transfer student to the College of Charleston, who began in January of 2020, I made the best of having a large portion of my educational experience online. It allowed me to be a full time employee in the hospitality industry while also learning about it in class. Having both the technical and practical knowledge strongly enriched my learning experiences both in the classroom and at work. Being immersed in a city so heavily influenced by tourism has been crucial in my learning about Hospitality and Tourism Management but has also amplified my passion for sustainability as I constantly thinking about ways to improve upon current systems. I am also thankful to my amazing advisor, Dr. Stephen Litvin, who guided me through the process of changing my major to something I strongly identify with and feel passionate about.

Research Focus or Project: One of my most intensive research projects was for my capstone class, which built upon research previously conducted by hospitality professors here at CofC. This research focused on the development of Upper King Street as an entertainment zone. I analyzed many locals’ opinions on the changes that have occurred on King Street over the years. The influx of bars on the street tremendously influenced the area in a number of ways from safety, to impacts on tourism, to quality of life for locals.

Future Plans: After graduation I plan to travel and enjoy life while I am still young. I am not rushing to pursue higher education or a ‘dream’ career because I believe this will only come when the time is right. Ideally my future will involve making a positive impact on the environment through sustainability in some capacity. Whether this is through entrepreneurship, art, or a corporate position, I am not certain.

This award is presented by Gibbs Knotts, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Department of General Studies at the College of Charleston, Spring 2022.