Hunter Harder

Major: Anthropology
Minor: Linguistics

Educational Highlights: Although I transferred to the College in the midst of the COVID-19 shutdowns, my experiences with the school and with my professors have been extremely fulfilling and rewarding. In the Fall of 2021, I began my internship with Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach on John's Island, gaining first-hand experience with teaching English as a Second Language (ESL). Since then, I've transferred to their after-school tutoring program to help elementary students hone their reading and writing skills. I was named for the President's List in Fall 2021 for my academic achievements, and my performance in Anthropology has earned me a place in the College of Charleston's chapter of Lambda Alpha, the National Anthropology Honors Society. In addition to the HSS Scholar Award, I have received awards for outstanding performance in both Anthropology and Japanese Language Studies. I will be graduating with Latin Honors, Summa Cum Laude, this Spring.

Research Focus or Project: In Fall 2021, I had the privilege of conducting an ethnographic study for Dr. Dalyan's Cultural Anthropology course. I spent weeks observing and conducting interviews with teachers of ESL with the goal of determining how much their unique linguistic and educational backgrounds influenced their practices. I found that, while each teacher was equally skilled, their perspectives on teaching ESL varied depending on their status as either monolingual, multilingual native speakers of English, or multilingual non-native speakers of English. The project has filled me with a newfound fascination for second language acquisition and its impact on people’s lives.

Future Plans: After graduation, I intend to take a year or two off to gain some work experience and further my studies of Japanese as a second language. After that, I plan to attend grad school in pursuit of a PhD in Anthropology.

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