2021 HSS Scholar

ALISON CRAIG

Major: Urban Studies, concentration in Sustainability
Minors: Sociology and Environmental Studies

Educational Highlights: Declaring my major late into my sophomore year, I found a space for myself and my enthusiasm in the Urban Studies Department at the college. Enjoying the interdisciplinary aspect of the major, I have connected my summer employment, volunteer experience, and community engagement to pursue my passions. For my urban sociology class, I completed an ethnography where I assessed the college’s Stern Garden; this assignment piqued my interest in urban resilient design. As a sophomore I began getting involved in grassroots organizing working on the Arctic Refugee Defense Campaign; from there I worked on the Santee Cooper Clean Energy Campaign. Most recently, I completed my urban studies practicum with the Charleston Climate Coalition.

Research Focus or Project: The most meaningful work I have done while at the college has been focused on grassroots organizing. As the Climate Alliance Campaign Coordinator with Charleston Climate Coalition, I’ve organized different sectors in the Lowcountry under the banner of climate action. Learning about the different farms, restaurants, green businesses, breweries, etc. that are leading sustainable practices in the Lowcountry and seeing their organic connections is rewarding. I also helped to put on the coalition’s Tour de Earth Day Event; we gathered 40 community members to bike around the peninsula and hear from speakers of other organizations about their work. In general, my focus as a sustainable urban studies student has been the important interconnections between human and physical infrastructure.

Future Plans: Upon graduating in December 2021, I plan to stay in Charleston and continue my role working with the Charleston Climate Coalition. In the future, I hope to work with local organizations to create equitable change in the community. As I gather more work experience and narrow down what I’d like to pursue academically, I am evaluating graduate school programs.

This award is presented by Gibbs Knotts, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Urban Studies Program at the College of Charleston, Spring 2021.