2023 HSS SCHOLAR

GAVIN MARKOVIC

MAJORS: PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE, AND SOCIOLOGY
MINOR: CRIME, LAW, AND SOCIETY

Educational Highlights: During my time at the College of Charleston, not only was I able to triple major while maintaining above a 3.95 departmental GPA across all three majors, but I served as an HSS Ambassador, tutored philosophy at the Center for Student Learning, assisted students with resumes and job applications as a Peer Career Advisor at the Career Center, and advocated for student mental health as a member of Students 4 Support. During my junior year, I was the recipient of the Tomo Cook Scholarship, which is awarded to a deserving student majoring in philosophy each year. I also won the award for “Best Undergraduate Paper” at the 2022 South Carolina Society for Philosophy Conference.

Research Focus: In my junior year, I completed an independent study under the guidance of Dr. Thomas Nadelhoffer, which was titled, “Retributivism, Rehabilitation, and Public Policy.” The research centered around the view that the criminal justice system is built upon the backwards-looking idea of retributivism, which is the view that we ought to punish offenders because, and only because, they deserve to be punished. It is assumed that offenders are completely responsible for themselves physically, emotionally, and morally while committing a crime. However, I argued that a rehabilitative approach is less metaphysically problematic and more effective than retributivism and should therefore be the standard when it comes to how society responds to criminal behavior.

Future plans: After graduating from the College of Charleston, I will be going to law school for the fall 2023 semester. I plan to study either business or environmental law.