2021 HSS Scholar

JAYNE PARDYS

Majors: Anthropology and Dance
Certificate in Cultural Sustainability

Educational Highlights: My academic experience at the College of Charleston has been shaped by my professors, who are passionate about teaching and the intellectual growth of their students. My professors have provided me the tools to be successful in higher education. With their guidance, I am proud of my academic accomplishments and the student I have become. I will be graduating with Latin honors, Summa Cum Laude. This year I am the recipient of The School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) Scholar Award and Distinguished Student in Sustainability Literacy Award.

Research Focus or Project: During the summer after my sophomore year, I had the opportunity to study abroad with Dr. Quinn (Professor of Anthropology). When taking extensive anthropology in Ireland, I studied the people of Ireland from ancient to contemporary times. Exploring topics such as Ireland’s archaeological background, its Celtic landscape and the experiences of nineteenth century Irish emigrants fascinated me and sparked my ambition to study cultural and social anthropology. This experience also influenced my final research proposal of exploring the cultural traditions of Irish dance in four communities; Irish Travelers, Irish American Travelers, Irish and Irish Americans. Research in dance is imperative to understanding how culture reflects identity and patterns of behavior. Dance functions to reinforce ethnic identity and this is seen in dances associated with rituals, ceremonies and rites of passage. This trip and research proposal was very meaningful to me and I gained a deeper understanding of Irish and Irish American Studies.

Future Plans: I will be attending the University of Pennsylvania to pursue a Masters in Education, Culture and Society. This individualized program of study focuses on understanding education as a social, cultural and historical phenomenon in the U.S and around the world. Penn GSE was recently ranked as the #1 Graduate School of Education. An interdisciplinary approach to education is essential to implementing innovative solutions and responding to current challenges. I am excited to continue my education at the graduate level to foster my curiosity and critical thinking to understand our dynamic world.

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