



COLLEGE of  
CHARLESTON

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND  
SOCIAL SCIENCES

2021 HSS Scholar

# JONATHAN DATTILIO

**Majors: History and German**  
**Minor: German Studies**

**Educational Highlights:** The highlight of my career at the College of Charleston was the semester I spent abroad at the Otto Friedrich University of Bamberg in Germany. Over that six months, I was awarded the opportunity to improve my foreign language skills while exploring a new culture and meeting new people. During that time, I was able to take a class about the German Empire taught in German with other German students. The experience in this course was very meaningful to me because it confirmed to me my ability to study history in another language at the collegiate level. This confidence helped me to return to the College the next semester and work as a dramaturge under the German Department's Dr. Morgan Koerner in his GRMN 468 class's production of *2Faust 2Furious*. The performance, which centered around resisting and recontextualizing Goethe's *Faust*, helped me continue to grow my writing and translation skills while also allowing me to be creative.



**Research Focus or Project:** My research has centered mostly around the exploration of a niche pulp magazine titled *Der Orchideengarten* or *The Garden of Orchids*, which ran bi-monthly issues of bizarre stories with uncanny imagery from 1919 to 1921. Turned onto the subject by Dr. W. Scott Poole, *Der Orchideengarten* is fascinating because, despite coming from Weimar Germany, a very popular topic in German studies, the magazine is practically nonexistent in historiography. While flipping through the issues of the magazine, I drew connections to the other works of Weimar art and literature, while also noticing stark differences to their prewar predecessors. The subject of my bachelor's essay became the study of *Der Orchideengarten*'s eerie stories and themes and the snapshot they offer of the Germans' broken and disjointed psyche in the aftermath of the Great War and early Weimar political instability.

**Future Plans:** After graduation, I plan to take a year off to improve my German and Italian language skills. After I achieve the proper certifications, I will be applying to the master's programs in Germany, specifically the University of Potsdam's Modern German History and War and Conflict Studies programs in 2022.

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