2021 HSS Scholar

MARIANA GLENN-TOLOND

Major: Psychology
Minor: Crime, Law, and Society

Educational Highlights: As a student in the Honors College, I was exposed to interdisciplinary learning during my freshman year at the College. This introduction to a multifaceted approach to academics has inspired many of my academic and community engagement pursuits. On campus, I have served as a Peer Counselor with Students 4 Support, Student Ambassador for the Office of Admissions, Executive Board Member for Mental Health in Melanin, and an Honors Liaison for the Honors College. Likewise, in the Charleston community I have served as an academic mentor for Kids on Point, an undergraduate intern at MUSC’s National Crime Victims Center and Fresh Start Visions. Additionally, I am a member of Phi Kappa Phi and Omicron Delta Kappa honor societies. Essentially, during my time at the College I learned to diversify the way I approach academics and have strived to apply this principle to the community opportunities that I have explored.

Research Focus or Project: Research has indicated that the unemployment rate for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is ten times higher than the national unemployment rate. My bachelor’s essay explored whether diagnostic disclosure improves job interview outcomes for individuals with ASD. We found that individuals with ASD were rated more favorably than individuals without ASD in transcripts from interviews. However, individuals with ASD were rated less favorably than individuals without ASD in videos from interviews. Additionally, we found that sharing an ASD diagnosis does not help or harm interview ratings. Our findings support the notion that diagnostic disclosure may improve ratings only when the rater possesses ASD knowledge. As someone who has served on interview committees, our findings have prompted me to be more diligent about the knowledge I possess on developmental conditions in addition to reminding me to be mindful of whether I am evaluating the style or substance of someone’s performance.

Future Plans: I ultimately aspire to obtain a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and become board certified in Forensic Psychology. However, I plan to take a two-year gap period between my undergraduate and graduate education. During this time, I hope to obtain employment as a case manager or research assistant.

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