Educational Highlights: I am a student in the College of Charleston Honors College. I have consistently been on the College of Charleston’s Highly Distinguished Honors list, maintaining above a 3.80 cumulative GPA throughout my education. I received the Udall Scholarship in 2014, a nationally competitive award given annually to fifty students entering environmental fields, and was the first College of Charleston student to receive this award. I belong to Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society and Pi Sigma Alpha, the Political Science honor society.

Research Focus or Project: I am completing a Bachelor’s essay in the Department of Political Science, examining the relationship between farm size and farm worker conditions in South Carolina. My interest in the subject stemmed from my amazement at the lack of awareness of farm workers in America and the lack of discussion that revolves around agricultural laborers within the food movement itself. I was, and am, perplexed by the fact that issues of animal rights, nutrition, and GMOs, for example, dominate the food movement conversation before labor or human rights comes into play. I have also interned with the Office of Sustainability for multiple semesters. The first project I conducted with the Office was a feasibility study of composting in dining halls on campus. As a result of the information I gathered, both dining halls are now composting their food waste, as are many of the other dining locations on campus.

Future Plans: Starting in August, I will begin a 13-month position with Green Corps, a training program in grassroots environmental organizing. Through this program I will have the opportunity to direct multiple campaigns throughout the year in different locations around the country. I am anxious to learn and apply organizing skills throughout the year and beyond. As of now, I plan to devote my career to sustainable food systems and look forward to this year-long program helping to determine where, within the food movement, I best fit.

Presented by Jerold L. Hale, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Department of Political Science at the College of Charleston on the 15th day of May 2015.