HSS Scholar

Ethan Davis

Major: Political Science

Educational Highlights: My educational experience at the college has been nothing short of liberating. I came to college with an objective of learning and a desire to transform into an active, engaged, and conscientious citizen. This journey began with the Bonner Leader program, an intensive program that explores leadership development and civic engagement. It was furthered by courses within my two majors, African-American studies and Political Science. I was given the tools to not merely accept ideas, but to question and challenge in the search for deeper understanding. Outside of the classroom, I have created a meaningful and fulfilling relationship with Metanoia, a community developer in North Charleston. I had the opportunity to study abroad in South Africa while taking advantage of international excursions that led me to Peru, Zimbabwe, Thailand, Laos, and Viet Nam. I have attended conferences and participated in alternative break experiences through the center for civic engagement. While I learned the facts in the classroom, my experiences allowed me to find deeper meaning and situated understanding within the spaces I occupy.

Research Focus or Project: I continually found myself wrestling with the idea of identity politics and feelings of belonging. For my political science capstone, I explored identity politics in the post-colonial state and how that often leads to violent group conflict. The most interesting element of this project was recognizing the absence of rehabilitation following the colonial project. For my African-American studies capstone, I explored needs-based versus capacity-focused problem-solving approaches and how they relate to sustainable community building. I explored various tools to harvest the wisdom from within the community.

Future Plans: Immediately following graduation, I will be moving to New Mexico to teach high school English Language Arts with Teach for America. I will gain tools and practices for the purpose of learning how to combat educational inequities. I am most looking forward to exploring an entirely new social context through situated learning and active listening.

This award was 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 18th day of April 2019.