Alumni Spotlight - Margaret Pilarski, National Editor & Charleston Editor of skirt! magazine

**Education/Work History**
In 2007, Margaret Pilarski was one credit short from graduating with a Political Science major and minor in Women’s and Gender Studies. Through her minor, Margaret connected with skirt! magazine and interned with them a few hours a week to earn her single credit hour. “I love skirt!,“ says Margaret, “because of its commitment to feminism and involvement with the community. Depending on the page, we’re daring, serious or silly.” As the internship was wrapping up, she told them how much she wanted to work there and a week later they offered her a job.

Four years later Margaret technically holds two positions, National Editor and Charleston Editor. skirt! has a total of eight magazines across the Southeast and as National Editor Margaret manages the monthly editorial production cycles of the other editions. She says, “when I’m not wrangling copy and photos from other cities, I’m interviewing fantastic Charleston women (plus the odd man every now and then) and learning about new things going on in the city. I also work with our founder and publisher, Nikki Hardin, to produce editorial content.”

**How the political science degree helped get her to where she is today.**
“What I so enjoyed about political science was that I was actively being pushed to look for answers, to form opinions. In political science, you become the type of person who is never done digging. That is something that I continue to use today. skirt! is an office where you’re expected to work independently and get things done without having to ask someone else 36 questions before you get started. I am able to come to the table with an idea, a plan B, and the answers to the first 15 questions you’ll have for me!”

**Advice to current political science students**
“My advice to all current students is to get out of your dorm rooms! Honestly, I didn’t plan to stay in Charleston after graduation because I was sure I was a big city girl at heart. I wasn’t looking around my own town. There are all these nooks and crannies in Charleston, fantastic people and events, and it is possible to enjoy this city on a student budget. Network, make a name for yourself, seek out mentors. It is easy to get stuck thinking you’re just a student – but you do a disservice to yourself by thinking small. You are more than a student. Go to Pecha Kucha, Sale Soiree, Art Walk, make it to a Spoleto event, carpool to a Battery game, support the roller derby team! If you can’t afford an event, ask if they need volunteers. Politically, Charleston has been an amazing city, too. I’ve been to mayoral debates, rallies, the primary debates, and started handfuls of petitions. Go to those things!”