Educational Highlights: I knew from my first semester at the College that feminist activism and research were central passions of mine, so I was very excited to be a part of WGS major where I learned and grew very much both as a volunteer coordinator for the Charleston Women’s Medical Center, and as the facilitator of a feminist media literacy initiative for fourth-grade girls in North Charleston. And, my Religious Studies interest was piqued during my first semester, when I took “Women and Religion” with Professor Louise Doire. This class was where I first explored the intersection of my majors, and where I had the opportunity to research the sacred feminine and its many incarnations.

Research Focus or Project: I worked on the creation and implementation of a critical, feminist media literacy initiative for underserved girls at the Chicora School of Communications in North Charleston. With the guidance of Dr. Leigh Moscowitz, I undertook an intensive, year-long independent study and internship that investigated the impact of a production-based, feminist critical media literacy initiative on systematically disadvantaged 8-and 9-year-old girls. I’ve been lucky to present our findings at few conferences. Also, I wrote a research paper exploring evangelical Christian fashion and beauty ministries for pre-teen and teenage girls. I investigated the ways evangelical women and girls conceptualize and negotiate traditional and conservative Christian ideologies concerning bodies, power, and religious meaning under the auspices of a larger, hyper-mediated and-commodified Western culture.

Future Plans: Right now, I am helping out with Girls Rock Charleston, but in August, I’ll begin working as a special education teacher in Charlotte, N.C., through Teach for America.