

# COLLEGE of CHARLESTON

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES  
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

*HSS Scholar*

## Kristen Thompson

**DEPARTMENTS:** Political Science and  
Communication

**MAJORS:** Political Science and  
Communication

**Educational Highlights:** I received the Bishop Robert Smith Award, the highest honor given to an undergraduate student at the College of Charleston; it is for the senior student who best exhibits commitment to leadership and academic excellence. In addition to HSS Scholars, the Political Science Department awarded me with Departmental Honors, an Outstanding Student Award, a Pi Sigma Alpha Best Paper Award, and an Alexandria Dengate Scholarship. I have been a member of Phi Eta Sigma, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and Pi Sigma Alpha. Throughout my college career I have been an Honors College student and maintained a 4.0 GPA in both of my majors.

**Research Focus or Project:** Working with three faculty members on independent studies has been a highlight of my undergraduate career at the College. I worked with Political Science faculty members Drs. John Creed and Claire Curtis exploring topics such as international terrorism and grass roots organizing, respectively, and I teamed up with Chair of the Communication Department, Dr. Brian McGee, to develop performance pieces for the forensics team and study the history of speech and debate at the College.

**Future Plans:** I received a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship for the next school year, and I will use the scholarship to pursue further education in political science at the University of Cape Town in Cape Town, South Africa. My desire is to study international relations or human rights in one of the many prestigious programs at the University. As part of the award, I will also work with local Rotary clubs in South Africa to enact various community service efforts and projects. Eventually, I hope to pursue a doctorate in a sub field of political science.



*This award presented by Cynthia Lowenthal, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Departments of Communication and Political Science at the College of Charleston on the 8th day of May 2009.*