

COLLEGE of CHARLESTON

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

HSS Scholar

Tyler Ray

MAJORS: PHILOSOPHY AND
RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Educational Highlights: In the spring of 2011 I was fortunate enough to be chosen as a Ronald E. McNair Scholar by the College of Charleston, a program designed to help first-generation American and first-generation college students gain the skills to become more qualified advanced degree candidates. At the same time, I decided to study abroad through CofC in China with Elijah Siegler (CofC) and Livia Kohn (Boston University Emeritus). On the trip I became enamored with the culture and language. So the next summer I traveled with Columbia University to participate in their intensive summer Chinese language program. For two months in Beijing at Minzu University, we studied Mandarin for 6 hours a day/five days a week.



Research Focus or Project: During the summer of 2011 I participated in the McNair Summer institute. The following fall semester I worked on an independent study project with the religious studies chair, Dr. Zeff Bjerken, that focused on applying conceptual metaphor theory on the texts of Ancient Daoist medicinal and philosophical texts, specifically, the Huang Di Nei Jing and the Zhuangzi. I presented this project at a regional conference in Asian Studies in Greenville in January of 2012. The following summer, with the help of Dr. Larry Krasnoff, I reworked the piece for *Chrestomathy*, and focused more on the use of metaphor in the Zhuangzi. I also presented this paper last March, at the South-East Regional AAR meeting in Greenville.

Future Plans: I have decided to take some time off before applying to graduate schools and will be living in Charleston for the next year applying to teach English or Philosophy at a school in China. During this time in the states, I will continue to study Mandarin and gain further teaching experience.

This award presented by Maureen Hays, Interim Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Department of Philosophy and the Department of Religious Studies at the College of Charleston on the 10th day of May 2013.