Some high school students aren’t that serious about history,” Nick says. “That’s only because they don’t really understand how important and relevant it is to the present. At the College, when you take a history course, you get an entirely different experience from what you’ve had up to that point. The people who teach it really care about the material they’re teaching. They bring it to life, and at some point you realize that studying history puts you in the act of discovery – like reading a text that hasn’t been touched in years, or finding something others have overlooked.”

What really interests Nick is the medieval period. The first group outing he arranged as president of the History Club was a trip to Medieval Times, a themed resort in Myrtle Beach. “I wasn’t sure that our faculty advisor would support this, but he did. Ultimately it was a fun, educational experience.”

Nick feels fortunate to be in a department that not only supports such outings, but also endorses an interdisciplinary approach to whatever the subject matter is. “In history, establishing context is important. And here, at the College, you have art historians and religious studies professors who also work in the medieval era. Having access to these different people, along with resources from the library, really enhances my work.”

To further his studies in this area, Nick took courses in historic preservation, medieval Latin, the Hebrew bible and even political science. “I needed a basic government overview. It’s important to understand how governments work, even if I’m applying that knowledge to past governments of the medieval period.”

In a research seminar, he focused on religion in the medieval era. “The requirement in that class is that you do original work, so it’s got to be more than an analysis of the literature. For me, that’s great, because the paper I wrote can be used as a writing sample. You know the work is polished because you spend a whole semester on it, but it’s also original work, and that can really distinguish you.”