Neda Kikhia, third year religious studies major, enjoys exploring the world, one course at a time.

“From the professors, to the course content, to the approach the department takes on studying religion, the department really pushes students to develop personally and intellectually in the way the students understand the world,” Kikhia said of the religious studies program.

In addition, Kikhia is majoring in communication studies. She attributes her broadened knowledge and worldview to a diverse liberal arts curriculum.

“Each time I take a new course, I'm exposed to a whole other way of looking at the world,” she said. “Common themes always arise, but the beauty with that is education and humanity as a whole overlap in many ways if you look at them from certain angles. Diverse knowledge and experiences gained in these classes better equip me to make more knowledgeable decisions and question how I perceive the world.”

Kikhia serves as VP of Alumni Relations for the AHSS Student Advisory Council (SAC). Earlier in the year she stepped in as the interim president of SAC while the president was studying abroad.

“In this role I did a lot of organizational and overall planning tasks that got our group of students on campus focused, ready and excited with a vision for the rest of the year,” she said.

“I’m more excited than ever to have the opportunity to get to know people, their experiences and the knowledge they bring to the world,” Kikhia said of her position in SAC. “My liberal arts education has made me curious, hungry and comfortable with ambiguity of the world around me. I just get to explore it even more!”

Kikhia has been involved on the DU campus from the start. She currently serves in the Pioneer Leadership Program and DU Service & Change, a student organization engaging the DU community in diverse opportunities that facilitate positive change for the greater public good. She also works in the Public Achievement program through the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning (CCESL).

“Public Achievement is my work study position where I work with high school students on a service-learning and community organizing curriculum to implement change they want to see in their community. I know for a fact I wouldn’t still be on campus if it wasn’t for the community and support I found in CCESL,” she said.
Although she is still a couple of years away from graduation, Kikhia looks forward to working in a variety of fields where she can explore options for graduate school. “I look to the future with a civic-engagement lens and am passionate about contributing to any community I become a part of,” she said.