

## Honors Program

Shippensburg University  
1871 Old Main Drive  
Shippensburg, PA 17257-2299



[www.ship.edu](http://www.ship.edu)

Office: 717-477-1604  
Fax: 717-477-4096  
E-mail: [honors@ship.edu](mailto:honors@ship.edu)

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Contact: Dr. Kim Klein, 717-477-1604 or [kmklei@ship.edu](mailto:kmklei@ship.edu)  
<http://webspace.ship.edu/honors>

### Council Publication Features SU Student's Article

A Shippensburg University Honors Program student studying in the Dominican Republic for the spring semester recently contributed an article to a publication of the Council on International Educational Exchange.

Annamarie McCormick, a junior elementary education major from Sinking Spring, is enrolled at Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra in Santiago, where she is pursuing her interest in bilingual elementary education.

McCormick's article, published in the February 2009 CIEE newsletter "Monumental Moments," is titled "In—But Not the Way I Had Expected: A Special Experience Study-Abroad Story by Annamarie." The newsletter is circulated to the more than two dozen home universities of the students involved in CIEE's Latin American program.

"I love my host family, my classes are great, and I have made some really good friends among the other CIEE students," McCormick writes in the article. "But it is outside of these experiences, through 'stepping outside my comfort zone,' that I stumbled upon the great fortune that makes me want to call the D.R. home."

McCormick, 20, goes on to describe how she was offered the opportunity to join a Dominican Republic triathlon training group. The result has been "practicing my Spanish in ways that I never expected and making real Dominican friendships that I would not otherwise have been able to make"—a true cultural immersion experience.

"Nearly 40 students from Yale, Pitt, Amherst, and other institutions are studying in the Dominican Republic through CIEE, but Annamarie was the only student chosen to share her reflections," said Dr. Kim Klein, SU Honors Program director. "We're proud of her accomplishment and her academic studies abroad."

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The Shippensburg University Honors Program is made up of more than 150 undergraduate students of diverse backgrounds who are accepted to the program based on academic achievement, intellectual curiosity, and evidence of leadership and community service.

The Honors Program offers small, dynamic classes with outstanding instruction; opportunities for research projects, internships, and study abroad experiences; and cultural events, social activities, and service projects.