

SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY

The Honors Program
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Shippensburg University Students Chosen for Study Abroad Program

SHIPPENSBURG, Pa. — Two Shippensburg University Honors students were part of a select group of young adults who studied in China this past summer as part of an annual program of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

Joe Livingston, of Tyler Hill, Pa., and Katie Putz, of Jefferson, Md., joined 26 other Honors students and three professors in traveling to China from May 15 to June 4. As part of their coursework, the students spent several days at Bloomsburg University learning the basics of Chinese language, history, and culture. The three weeks of fieldwork in China followed.

“It was somewhere I didn’t think I’d ever have the chance to go,” says Putz, a 20-year-old history major. “The university and the Honors Program basically gave us a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

“Travel really does open your eyes and your mind,” adds Livingston, a 21-year-old geoenvironmental studies major. “Variety is the spice of life, and this trip wouldn’t have been half as amazing if it weren’t for the people who went and the people we met.”

Each summer, two Honors Program students are selected from each of PASSHE’s 14 universities to participate in a study abroad experience. This summer, Livingston and Putz were chosen from a group of eight Shippensburg University Honors Program applicants.

Their adventure in China included visiting the booming city of Zibo, where the group stayed at Shandong University of Technology and spoke with Chinese students about how they view the world; Qingdao, where Putz and Livingston witnessed firsthand an emotional time of mourning one week after the devastating Sichuan earthquake; and Beijing, home of the Forbidden City and Great Wall. They also spent time in Yunnan Province, where nearly half of China’s 56 minorities live, and Shanghai, where they were able to see some of the most magnificent skyscrapers in Asia.

Among Putz and Livingston’s unique experiences in China were eating scorpions in a street alley and teaching an assistant dean at Shandong University how to play ultimate Frisbee. But one of the most memorable parts of the trip was their interaction with the Chinese people.

“They seemed genuinely happy to have us there,” says Putz. “Even the beggars on the street were smiling. We live in a very small world these days, and too many people just don’t go anywhere. We need to embrace the differences between us.”

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

The Honors Program offers small, dynamic classes with excellent instruction and high levels of energy and participation; opportunities for research projects, internships, and study abroad experiences; and cultural events, social activities, and service projects. For more information, contact Dr. Kim Klein, Honors Program Director, at (717) 477-1604 or kmklei@ship.edu.



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