Honors Students Hold Fundraisers to Benefit Literacy Project in the Dominican Republic

SHIPPENSBURG, Pa. – Students in the Shippensburg University Honors Program have been busy coordinating a number of fundraisers to support “Reach Out,” the Honors Program’s international service-learning project in the Dominican Republic.

In the Reach Out project, Shippensburg Honors students have partnered with a school in Santo Domingo, the capital of the Dominican Republic, and they are developing a literacy and leadership curriculum for students in the school. The Honors students are also working to raise funds to build a new school to help relieve overcrowded conditions in the current school.

Of the upcoming fundraisers on Reach Out’s schedule, the Honors Program would like to extend an invitation to all community members to participate in a Zumbathon® at the Shippensburg University Recreation Center on Sunday, December 5 from 2-4 p.m.

Zumba® is a fun, fast-paced, cardio-intense dance workout that provides an opportunity to get in shape by dancing to international music. Zumbathon® fundraisers are held routinely in gyms that offer Zumba® programs. Shippensburg’s Zumbathon®, which requires no previous experience, will cost $5 for Ship students with a valid Ship ID and $10 for non-students – a discounted price from normal Zumbathons® and classes, which can cost $20 and up.

“The workout we’re holding the weekend after Thanksgiving is a fun and healthy way to burn off those extra calories from the holiday,” certified Zumba® instructor, history professor and event organizer Dr. Gretchen Pierce said. “It’s also being ‘healthy for a cause’ as all of the money raised will go towards supporting the Honors Program’s Reach Out project.

Preregistration is recommended to ensure your spot in the limited space at the ShipRec’s courts A and B. Registration information can be found on the Honors Program Web site at http://www.ship.edu/honors. Registration will also take place at 1 p.m., an hour before the event begins.

Students involved in Reach Out have held several other fundraisers to support their project this semester, including a 5K Fun Run on October 17. “We were able to run the event at no cost,” Honors junior Abby Montler said. “All of the money raised went directly to support Reach Out’s efforts.”
To stay up to date on all of Reach Out’s activities, visit their Web page at http://www.ship.edu/honors/reachout.

The Honors Program at Shippensburg University provides an outstanding undergraduate experience that emphasizes scholarship, leadership, and service. The program is made up of 150 students who are chosen based on academic achievement, intellectual curiosity, and evidence of leadership and civic engagement. Students benefit from small classes, outstanding instruction, exciting research, study abroad, and internship opportunities, and special social and cultural activities. For more information, visit http://www.ship.edu/honors.