

Honors Program

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



www.ship.edu

Office: 717-477-1604
Fax: 717-477-4096
E-mail: honors@ship.edu

For Immediate Release: September 24, 2013
Contact: Dr. Kim Klein, 717-477-1604 or kmklei@ship.edu
<http://www.ship.edu/honors>

Shippensburg Honors Student Awarded U.S. State Department Critical Languages Scholarship

SHIPPENSBURG, Pa. — Ethan Goldbach, a Shippensburg University Honors Program student, is one of approximately 610 undergraduate and graduate students nationwide who have been awarded U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarships (CLS) for 2013. The CLS Program is part of a U.S. government effort to increase the number of Americans studying and mastering languages considered critical to U.S. national security interests.

Goldbach, a senior from Greencastle, PA, is majoring in history and international studies and minoring in anthropology and music. He was selected to participate in the CLS Program at Yonsei University in Wonju, South Korea in summer 2013. Because CLS recipients are expected to continue their language studies beyond the term of their scholarship, Goldbach decided to study at Soonchunhyang University in Asan, South Korea during the 2013-2014 academic year.

Although Goldbach had previously studied Spanish, his experience in South Korea has been quite different from learning a language in a U.S. classroom setting. “Language learned in its host-speaking country comes much faster, and for a reason,” he notes. “It’s sink or swim.” “We were not allowed to speak English in the classroom, in the hallways, in the cafeterias, in the dorms, while at our internships and other activities . . . we were forced to pantomime and use broken words and phrases for the first weeks,” he says of the CLS Program’s intense beginning.

Goldbach says that his time in South Korea has given him a deeper understanding not only of language and culture, but of himself. “Being a true minority shows you aspects of your character that you may have never previously identified; you gain greater independence, patience, and even comfort in knowing that sometimes you won’t always understand everything.” He encourages all students to consider studying abroad and applying for the CLS Program.

The Honors Program at Shippensburg University provides an outstanding undergraduate experience that emphasizes scholarship, leadership, and service. The Honors Program involves approximately 175 students who are selected based on their academic achievements, intellectual curiosity, and evidence of leadership and civic engagement. SU Honors students benefit from small classes; outstanding instruction; Honors research and study abroad opportunities; and special cultural and recreational activities. For more information, please visit <http://www.ship.edu/honors>.