SU Honors Student Studies in Peru

A Shippensburg University Honors Program student is spending the fall 2012 semester studying in Cusco, Peru at the Universidad San Ignacio De Loyola.

Julia Saintz, a sophomore history and geoenvironmental science major from Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania had always wanted to experience different cultures. At the Universidad San Ignacio De Loyola, Saintz is enrolled in classes that explore the biological diversity, history, language, and society of Peru.

Working on volunteer projects in the local community has been an important part of Saintz’s study abroad experience. “Friday is project day. We travel to a local village and either garden, build patios, or build cleaner burning stoves. Volunteering has allowed me to see some of the problems of that Peru faces and the types of solutions that may be effective,” observed Saintz.

Saintz has also had the opportunity to travel extensively throughout Peru. “We take many field trips, especially around Cusco.” Cusco, the former capital of the Inca Empire, “has more history than anywhere I have ever been,” Saintz said. She has also visited other important Inca historical sites throughout the Sacred Valley and as well as experiencing the biodiversity of the jungle of Manu National Park.

“I would definitely suggest a semester abroad,” said Saintz, “especially one like mine that incorporates volunteering. It’s great because you get to see the non-tourist side of a country.”

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