

Angie Escamilla -- Honors Program Spotlight Feb 20, 2019

My name is Angie Escamilla and this is my third and final year of study at UCCS. I am currently earning a bachelor's degree in Biology with emphasis on wildlife and a minor in Geography and Environmental Studies. I was born and raised in North Carolina and moved to Colorado three years ago to embark on my academic journey at UCCS. My greatest passion is, and always has been, wildlife. Growing up, whenever I was not busy training for triathlons or competing in soccer tournaments, I was searching for animals to rescue and rehabilitate. My hobbies include any outdoor activity related to respecting wildlife and the environment, such as exploring new trails (getting lost) on my bike. I also enjoy watching people's reactions when they find out my homemade mac-n-cheese does not contain any animal products, yet is still the greatest thing they have ever tasted.

What fascinates Angie about the Honors Program

The Honors Program creates an environment for students to build social and academic connections. It offers a sense of community and encourages its members to continuously strive for academic success. This program values hard work and provides support for students who may be struggling to surmount the challenges of academia. I find it helpful to participate in something that pushes me toward my goals and I believe the Honors Program enriches my academic drive.

Angie's Future Plans

I plan to further my education by pursuing a Master's degree in Wildlife Conservation Biology, with a focus on animal behavior. I then plan to work in conservation, dedicating my life to protecting wildlife and the environment.

Acknowledgements by Angie

There are many people who have inspired me and made it possible for me to pursue my dreams. To name a few, I would like to thank Jane Goodall and Steve Irwin for being not only my personal heroes, but also influential figures within the world of conservation. I would like to thank Margie Richard, JoAnn Tall, Wangari Maathai, and Greta Thunberg for their advocacy for environmental justice. Thank you, Robin Wall Kimmerer, for creating one of the most artistic pieces of literature I have ever had the pleasure of reading and for teaching me an entirely new way to view the natural world. Thank you, Jasmin Paris, for exuding strength and determination by setting a world record and beating every runner (including males) in the 2019 268-mile Montane Spine Race, even while taking breaks to breastfeed her child. I would also like to thank the many groups of female anti-poaching rangers, such as the Black Mambas, who are a true representation of pure bravery. Finally, I would like to thank Mama Earth, for forgiving humans for their lack of reciprocity and showing me the definition of endless beauty.



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