

LGS Students Ensure Affor

On August 18 and 19, 2008, Levermore Global Scholars Program(LGS) students participated in a community service event that focused on environmental conservation. These students lent a hand at Habitat for Humanity's construction site in Roslyn, New York. After learning about the organization's work on Long Island, the students visited the Water Pollution Control Center in Wantagh. This community service event raised awareness about the importance of eliminating wasteful water and set the theme of promoting environmental justice for the rest of the academic year.

Community Service Day with Habitat for Humanity

By John Campana '12

My first experience with the Levermore Global Scholars Program was attending a community service trip to the Roslyn, New York, construction site manned by Habitat for Humanity. After leaving Adelphi at roughly 9:30 a.m., we were briefed on what the day would entail. Our first objective was to go to Roslyn and help Habitat for Humanity build a

100 percent "green" house. When we arrived, construction manager Thomas Baccarella explained that the house was being constructed solely by volunteers. These included retired construction workers, members of college sororities

and fraternities, and even some retired chief executives. While there, we met a retired couple who volunteered at the site three times a week.

First, we learned about ways to cut electricity and gas costs throughout the year. One way to do so is by installing solar panels. We also learned about other techniques, such as covering the inside of the roof with aluminum foil and filling walls and

the roof with construction foam, which help make the house environmentally friendly.

After learning these tricks, we got our hands dirty as we helped with the construction. Our main task was to break rocks for rubble and pile the rubble in the basement. Once our manual work was complete, we had an opportunity to question Mr. Baccarella about Habitat for Humanity's mission and aims. We learned that the organization is based on the concept of "barn raising," where a community gets together to help a family build an affordable house, and the family then joins the community to help build another family's house. Habitat for Humanity enables people who might not have been able to afford a house to do so. The homeowners must pay all of the costs associated with the construction and log at least 500 hours of manual labor before they can move in.

We then headed back to Adelphi for a brief lunch break and then continued on to the second part of the day, visiting the Wantagh water treatment center.



Habitat for Humanity project manager Thomas Baccarella with the LGS crew: John Campana '12, Lendelle Raymond '12, Jean Castano '12, Laura Pashayan '12, Michelle Consorte '11, Hara Stephanou '12, Alejandra Singh '12, and Matthew Sanfilippo '10



Alejandra Singh '12, Lendelle Raymond '12, and Michelle Consorte '11, explore the solar panels on the roof

ustainable Housing and Ecological Viability



Environmental Studies Professor Deborah B. Swartz, with LGS Director Maciej Bartkowski and students Richard Santer '12, Rebecca Benison '11, Faizan Sheikh '12, Stephanie Farkash '11, Christopher Imbriano '12, and Paige Hall '12, stare at miles and miles of complex pipelines

One Thirsty Planet

By Matthew Sanfilippo '10

Water, water everywhere, with less and less to drink. It is a valuable resource that is diminishing at an alarming rate. Industrial and agricultural uses of water are two of the top three contributors of water consumption, along with drinking water for survival. Everyday water is continually used for millions of other jobs, including washing cars and taking showers. While cleanliness, agricultural production, and industrialization are all important for the continued survival of humankind, we ultimately need clean water to drink.

Ninety percent of our bodies consists of water, so when we drink contaminated or dirty water from a tainted source, our bodies absorb harmful chemicals and elements. Water becomes contaminated from multiple sources, such as pollution from unregulated industrialization and public waste management increases. Our tour guide at the Wantagh water treatment plant gave us a lesson on how this center manages

Long Island's waste, cleansing the water of such harmful elements as chemicals, sludge, and sewage. The process is very complicated, consisting of the removal of solids down to the atomic level with the help of micro-bacteria. We toured the water treatment plant, visiting the many smelly stations where different stages of the cleaning process took place.

This trip was truly an eye opener. We were introduced to the process of waste management, but more importantly, we addressed the issue of water scarcity. We now know the importance of protecting natural sources of drinking water and cleaning contaminated water. The trip inspired LGS to start an awareness-raising water initiative, which will examine how drinking from plastic bottles not only contributes to environmental pollution, but also discourages the public sector from investing in public water works. Furthermore, the initiative raises awareness about how bottled water is sometimes no healthier than tap.