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LGS Express!

SPECIAL EDITION: GLOBALLY ENGAGED!

Dear Scholars,

This issue of the *Express* includes many reflections from fellow scholars studying and traveling around the world. Please read through to get updates about upcoming events, and to see what other scholars have been doing. Don't forget to contribute to later issues of the *Express* as well. Enjoy!

Upcoming Events:

8th Annual Conference for Peace and Human Rights

Sustainable Peace and the Western Sahara
Thursday, March 21 - 10:45am-12:30pm

Join the Adelphi Community for a panel discussion led by Dr. Thornburg.

LGS at the UN
Friday, March 22 - 9:00am - 6:00pm

This special day at the United Nations will include a guided tour, as well as admission into briefings.

To reserve your spot, email
Jennifer Ganley at jganley@adelphi.edu.

Global Kitchen

Friday, April 12 - 1:00pm - 6:00pm

Join LGS as we visit the Global Kitchen Exhibit at the Museum of Natural History. Take a journey around the world and through time exploring food and culture.

To reserve your spot, email
Jennifer Ganley at jganley@adelphi.edu.

Did You Know?



Did you know that 80% of the LGS freshmen class has studied, traveled or lived abroad.?

Did you know LGS has students from Lebanon, South Korea, Vietnam, Egypt, Netherlands, Canada, Norway, and many other countries...



Did you know there are special *scholarships* available to study abroad?

If you're interested in studying abroad this summer or fall, please contact Dr. Barry Stinson, Director of the Center for International Education at bstinson@adelphi.edu.

LGS Student Reflects: India and Pakistan



Reaz at the Golden Temple.



Reaz at the Taj Mahal.

Mark Twain once wrote “travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness.” As an International Studies major, this is embedded in my personal philosophy and is the only way, in my opinion, to understand and fully grasp the world and its diverse and vibrant ethnicities, faiths and ways of life. This intersession, for purposes of leisure, I was able to travel to both India and Pakistan to see sites of a wide number of different traditions integral to understanding South Asian cultures and religions. In such a journey, it was important to stay open-minded and learn to be comfortable with one’s surroundings. Many suffer paranoia just by going into an unfamiliar town that borders their own. Imagine taking the next step and going to an opposite end of the world, immersing yourself in a different culture for three weeks. This intersession, this was me: ready for adventure and excited to see a world familiar to me only through a Western lens of exoticism and experience of my own culture.

My own travels have taken me to see this land, considered to be a cradle of history and magnificence. I landed in New Delhi and saw major sites in the area from times of great Hindu rule to the later Mughal influence. I also visited Agra (where the Taj Mahal is located), Jaipur (known as the ‘Pink City’), Haridwar (where the Hindu holy river the Ganges flows), and the Sikh holy city of Amritsar. From there, I was able to cross by land into Pakistan and see one of its premier cities lined with gardens, Lahore. As a global scholar, I was able to utilize my skills of compassion and empathy while traveling. Getting out into the world is the only way to see it and this experience proved just that. I witnessed a society based on escapism; temples with breathtaking architecture visited by people that live in slums. Movies that depicted lives that the people who watch them could never even imagine. South Asia, in my opinion, was a land of contradiction, but of course this is me as an outsider looking in. It is important to take what we learn from our travels and work vigorously against that very injustice on the local level. As agents of change, this is the only way we can have the sizable impact we aim to have to transform the world into a better place.

-Reaz Khan
LGS Senior; International Studies Major

LGS Student Reflects: India



visiting all of these locations, I gained information about another culture. It was an opportunity of a lifetime!

Visiting the Shanti Bhavan School was a memorable event for me because I was able to see how an education system can alter a child's entire life. In the United States, we go to elementary, middle and high school, but have lives at home and in our communities, which these children do not. The children, who all come from the 'untouchable' families, live at this school from ages 4 to 17 so that they can have a better future than what they would otherwise have if they stayed at home with their families.

The school is supported by the organization ASTEP, which is also the organization that we raised money for through our performance at Opus. Opus is a local entertainment hot spot, restaurant, and bar. We had a wonderful time working in collaboration with Meghna Das, an Odissi Classical Indian Dancer, to create a performance with both of our styles of dance. We had a great audience, over 100 people in a small venue! It was a pleasure to work with Meghna and her two friends as well as Professor Lawrence and Professor Wetherill to produce a show bringing together music and dance from the U.S. and from India.

In addition to all of the outreach opportunities that we participated in, we also did some sightseeing. The temple that I enjoyed visiting the most was the Sharavanabelagola Temple. It was located in a small town a few hours outside of Karnataka (the area in Bangalore where we were staying) and was quite an adventure! To get to the temple, you have to climb up stairs built into the side of a mountain, which, when we counted, amounted to about 800 stairs. After climbing up all of the stairs and shaking the hands of the many Indian schoolchildren that were astounded by our light skin color and American accents, we finally made it to the top and were able to take in the beautiful details of the temple as well as the views of the town below. This trip was too amazing to describe in words; it helped me learn so much about the Indian culture as well as myself. I learned more about discipline, learned how to live in a non-materialistic world, and learned how lucky we are to have what we do. Now seeing their world, I will be more grateful for what I have and for what I work for, and look forward to giving back to communities like these in the future.

-Maegan Garvey
LGS Sophomore; Dance Major

LGS Student Reflects: Dubai

Only one word can describe my experience in the “Land of Dreams” — breathtaking. My travel to Dubai for two weeks was truly an escape away, into the land of pure fascination and adventure consisting of strict business, meaningful encounters, and the exploration of Arab culture and language.

On an educational front, I explored the United Arab Emirates (EAU) and studied Dubai’s unique connection with the world through marketing. I learned about Arab culture and language, doing business in the Gulf, and benchmarking (the process of comparing business operations to the best practices in the field). In addition to remarkable lectures by Middle Eastern entrepreneurs, I visited sites and met professionals involved with logistics linked with DP World and Jebel Ali (the aviation industry), Dubai World Central (the DWC project including the building of the new airport), Al Maktoum (the Dubai International Financial Center Courts focused on small claim tribunals), the Dubai International Financial Centre, the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry, banking in the Middle East including the evolution of Emirates NBD. I also studied how Dubai and its banks were hit by the global financial crisis, examined the stock market performance, and learned how consumer confidence relates to direct investments. Also, I attended lectures about Culture and Media in the Middle East through the lens of Hani Soubra, Dubai Business Law, FedEx in the Middle East connected with duty charges and value thresholds. Also covered was Intercultural Intelligence based on a comparison of the Middle East with the rest of the world. Lastly, we also discussed sponsorship, capital markets, free zones, taxes, and Sharia Law in regards to starting a business in Dubai with Emirate sponsorship. Education in Dubai touched a special part of me due to my deep love for learning. However, I was deeply astonished by the westernized and modern world held in this small, but remarkable land. The opportunities are nothing but endless and worthwhile.

Despite being such a modernized world, culture is everywhere and this is the most beautiful part of Dubai, in my opinion. By visiting the old and gold souks, smoking shisha in the Jumeriah Beach Resort, wandering off in the Mall of the Emirates, skiing on artificial snow in the Dubai Mall (when it’s almost 95 degrees outside), eating Shakshouka for breakfast, jumping in taxis and struggling with trying to tell the driver to take me to the Burj Al Arab, I felt a bit of culture shock mixed with the modern world in the best way possible. Through riding and almost falling off a camel, sand-boarding on the huge sand dunes in the middle of the desert with no landmarks in sight, going to concerts to see famous celebrities at Meydan Racecourse, and going to the top of the Burj Khalifa and taking in the view, it was all just so surreal. In addition to standing so close to the dancing fountains, watching the beautiful patterns of fireworks on New Year’s, wearing the abaya and sheila to enter Sheik Zayed's Grand Mosque, and (of course something I didn't miss for anything) riding the world's fastest roller coaster at Ferrari World, my heart raced at every experience. I thought nothing could top this experience until I had a once in a lifetime encounter: meeting Sheik Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum's cousin. However, each and every moment I had in Dubai was well spent only due to the company I had. I have to admit I was able to form friendships with people whom already mean the absolute world to me. I wouldn't trade the “Land of Dreams” for the world!

-Shelly-Ann Rohitsingh
LGS Junior; Biology Major



LGS Student Reflects: Israel



Israel was not a place I had likely envisioned travelling to. Prior to my visit with Caravan for Democracy, Israel — according to the media — was a country surrounded by a dark cloud of conflict. The only information I received about Israel was based on the Palestine-Israeli conflict, and there was never much more. After being referred by a friend to apply for Caravan for Democracy, I decided it might be a great way to experience a new country and meet other student leaders from across the country. In retrospect, my naivety is laughable, as I never could have imagined the vast, colorful, complicated, marvelous land that is the focus of so much discussion in the media.

Caravan for Democracy is in its second year, and it encourages college leaders all throughout the United States (including non-Jewish students) to explore the diverse culture and rich history of Israel. The Jewish National Fund (JNF) sponsored the trip for 25 handpicked students, two of whom were from Adelphi University. The sponsors and administrators at JNF executed a ten day itinerary that spanned the entire country. We began our journey in Galilee, visiting the Church of Beatitudes and Capernaum and sailing on the Sea of Galilee. In Haifa, we met with students and faculty at Technion University, referred to openly as the MIT of Israel. In the same day, we went from Haifa to Jerusalem, where we experienced a walking tour of the Old City of Jerusalem and trekked through ancient aqueducts in the City of David tunnels.

We visited the Western Wall, climbed up Mount Masada, ate dinner at a Bedouin village, visited the Holocaust museum and much more — all in a matter of a few short days. To help us put the experience in perspective, we met with experts, journalists, rabbis, and artists. There was never truly enough time in the day. As you could imagine, the experience revealed a whole heap of strong emotions on opposite spectrums. It took me some time to begin to process some of the wonders I had seen and the remarkable people I had met — much of which I am still processing. However, my preconceived notion of Israel was quickly torn apart and reshaped into a new appreciation and enlightened position.

I am still trying to piece together my experiences from the trip. It was transformative and it reaffirmed the reasons why I am an International Studies major. I am a firm believer that experience is by far the best teacher in life, and visiting Israel has taught me to be a better listener. Overall, I was emotionally, physically and intellectually challenged, and I am happy to have been afforded such a momentous opportunity in such an abundant, truly holy land.

-Janae Cummings
LGS Senior; International Studies Major

LGS Students at the ...

Written by: Gabriella Ali-Marino
LGS Junior; Political Science Major

On February 4, 2013, I had the opportunity to visit the United Nations Headquarters and attend the UNA-USA Members' Day and 2013 Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference, along with a group of students in the Levermore Global Scholars Program. The overall theme of the day was "The U.S. at the UN: Opportunities for Renewal." Topics discussed included the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development, global economy and its relation to education and youth, and finding solutions to stubborn conflicts in the international arena. The morning sessions were also live-streamed to the LGS Lounge on Adelphi's campus and American College of Norway, which allowed even more students to participate in the conference virtually.

In between these interesting panels, we were privileged to listen to keynote addresses by UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson and Kathy Calvin, President & CEO, United Nations Foundation. Individual remarks from UNA-USA Southern New York Division President Jeanne Betsock Stillman, UNA-USA Executive Director Patrick Madden, and 2012 UN Youth Observer Brooke Loughrin were reflections on just how much work the United Nations does around the world and why it is so important to support such a vital organization working for global peace.

Extremely well-versed and well-qualified panelists answered questions regarding carrying out UN goals logistically, the most important aspects of negotiating for peace between warring parties, and how to conquer the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), just to name a very small fraction of the topics covered by the Conference.



...United Nations!

Kathy Calvin (President and CEO of the United Nations Foundation) was particularly inspirational to me because of her assertion that changing societies for the better around the world must begin with the advancement of women. This is a fact that has been reiterated to me throughout my studies in the Levermore Global Scholars Program since my time at Adelphi, and it is something I truly believe in.

Women are often left home around the world to take care of children and household chores. By educating women, they are able to care for their children in a way that takes into account sanitary conditions and good health practices. Mothers who have had schooling are likely to encourage their children to go to school, stay in school, and continue to the highest degree of education available to them. These educated children will go on, theoretically, to get jobs that benefit society in some way, and benefit the state's economy.

There is an old Chinese proverb, "Women hold up half the sky." But for those of you familiar with the Half the Sky Movement, you know that many women around the world are denied access to education, which is extremely important for the development of the individual, the society, and the world. How can we, as a species, pretend that we are advancing toward our fullest potential when it is clear that we are denying half of the population the opportunity to contribute to this advancement?

This is a question that I have found myself pondering, and one that I am inspired to explore further. Unlike many of my fellow young women on this planet, I have the opportunity to do something concrete to alter this injustice.

I am grateful to have been able to take part in the UNA-USA Members Day and 2013 Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference, and what it has done to expand my consciousness of big issues going on in the world around me. Special thanks to everyone involved in the planning and fulfillment of the Conference, especially the Administrative Director of the LGS Program, Professor Peter DeBartolo, who acted as an enthusiastic and informative chaperone, and LGS Administrative Assistant Jennifer Ganley, for all of the behind-the-scenes work that goes into organizing any group of college students. It was a truly memorable experience, and one I'll carry with me for some time.

LGS Student Reflects: Costa Rica

During the winter intersession, I was privileged with the opportunity to travel to Costa Rica with the Levermore Global Scholars program. This trip was a faculty-led excursion and allowed the participants to earn three credits in a course entitled “The Sustainable Society.” The course was led by Professor DeBartolo and focused on strategic methods to limit negative externalities on the environment and ultimately promote sustainable living for future generations.

Before the trip, our small group met through pre-departure orientation sessions in which we discussed the purpose of our trip while simultaneously observing some of the methods that Costa Rica has used to create a more sustainable society. Through readings and discussions, our group became more enlightened about the concepts of peace, development, and sustainability.

While in Costa Rica, I realized how happy most people were. Though Costa Rica may not be as wealthy as the United States, their happiness exceeds the average American in most cases. In fact, Costa Rica currently is the happiest planet in the world according the Happy Planet Index (published by the New Economics Foundation). This observation led me to reevaluate how I perceive happiness. Initially, I associated happiness with wealth. However, Costa Rica has a large middle class, small upper class, and small lower class. This leads me to believe that tons of money does not necessarily create happiness. Instead, the ability to provide for one’s basic needs is all a person essentially needs to be happy in terms of wealth.



Our group got the opportunity to participate in lectures and group activities at the United Nations University for Peace, discuss law and human rights issues with one of the top attorneys in the country, visit the Doka Coffee Estate, spend a few nights in a self-sustaining community within the rain forest, and much more. The amount of valuable information on methods to reduce negative externalities on people and the environment was immeasurable. Not only were we taught about sustainable peace and development, but we were also able to practice it in the world’s happiest country.

One of the highlights of the trip was our visit the Doka Coffee Estate. While visiting this coffee estate, I began to really think about globalization, and realized the importance of exporting coffee from Costa Rica. The exportation of coffee from Costa Rica is an integral part of the Costa Rican economy, but they must find ways to do this sustainably. Therefore, their ability to export high quality coffee, while protecting the environment and respecting workers’ rights, has a direct effect on their economic development as a country. We were able to witness the process in which coffee is produced in Costa Rica, and even bought some on our way out.

Overall, my visit to Costa Rica taught me a lot about various methods to address conflict, promote sustainable societies, and create happiness in one’s life. I have truly developed more as a person through this experience and would encourage anyone to participate in this wonderful opportunity.

-Nahtahniel Reel
LGS Junior; Physics/Civil Engineering

Pictures from Abroad!!!



Contributions Welcome!

To contribute articles, cultural reviews, commentary, photos, or feedback to the *LGS Express*, please contact Nahtahniel Reel, LGS Student Editor-in-Chief and Student Staff Writer at NAHTAHNIELREEL@mail.adelphi.edu, or Jennifer Ganley, LGS Administrative Assistant, at JGANLEY@adelphi.edu Thank you!

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