

LGS EXPRESS

SPRING 2015

A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE



Students in front of the American Museum of Natural History on March 28th.

Countdown to Zero: Defeating Disease in the 21st Century

A lot can be said about the evolution of disease through the years. The Countdown to Zero exhibit at the American Museum of Natural History outlined many popular diseases worldwide. Although cures have been created for some of the most infectious illnesses, we are far from being in a disease free world. Many initiatives are in place to distribute treatment medications and preventative measures for those living in under-developed areas with little access to health resources.

As a new generation rises to roles of leadership and innovation, we must work together to eradicate deadly diseases and end the painful suffering that occurs from preventable and treatable sickness. It might seem like an ambitious goal, but the benefits from its success will be extremely valuable.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Save the Date

LGS End of Year Celebration Catered Reception!

Tuesday May 12th,
6:00-8:00pm , UC Ballroom

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SEMESTER IN SENEGAL

ERICA WHITE '15

This past semester, I studied abroad in Dakar, Senegal under the umbrella “Development Studies” program through CIEE. While there, I lived with a local host family and studied topics including public health, environmental practices in developing countries, and African politics. I also had an internship with a local NGO that works with neglected and abused children. One of my main programs was translating an informational booklet on Ebola from French to English and, later, into Wolof (one of the local languages).

Spending a semester in Sub-Saharan Africa was the best experience of my life. Whenever anybody asks me about my experience studying abroad, I don't know how to adequately express how life-changing it was. Not only did I learn just how much I take Western comforts for granted, but I also learned how much I really don't need them to begin with. It was surprising how quickly I adjusted to a “new normal” of living with a host family, with little access to electricity or running water. My host family spoke Wolof and Jola, and only a few of my host siblings spoke fluent French. No one in my new family spoke any English, but I quickly learned enough Wolof for conversation.



Photo credit: Erica White

While abroad, I also lived with a current Peace Corps volunteer in Matam, on the border of Mauritania. There, I shadowed a volunteer who worked in the health sector, and I was able to visit a local middle school where I talked to some of the girls who were being awarded a scholarship through Peace Corps. I was beyond impressed with how integrated the volunteers were in their host communities, and it inspired me to apply for the Peace Corps myself.

Out of the many life lessons I learned from my time in Senegal, I would say that the most important one would be understanding that the “West” has a completely inaccurate view of Sub-Saharan Africa as a whole. Before I left, whenever I told anyone that I would be studying abroad in Senegal, their initial reactions were along the lines of “Why *Africa*?” and “*Is it safe there?*”. Many people have a skewed perception of Americans going to Africa primarily to “help” but I was in Senegal with the sole purpose of being in an academically challenging environment and being able to experience things that I would not have been able to experience if I stayed in the United States.

In my own small way, I want to encourage people to stop having this perception of going to Africa. Senegal is only a small microcosm of the overall continent, and while there are certainly shortfalls within the country, for the most part, Senegal is fully capable of solving its own problems. I saw with my own eyes the detrimental cycle that simply giving aid can be, and I encourage people to take a stance similar to the Peace Corps when discussing Africa as a whole: **you must become an ingrained member of the local society and work together with local communities to collaborate and find innovative solutions.**



Photo Credit: Erica White

Senegal is a vibrant country with rich cultural traditions and strong communal ideals, but daily life there is not surprisingly distinct from daily life in the West. I gained a new appreciation for some of the traditions we have here in the United States, but I also opened my eyes to new ways of thinking, and I met some really great people along the way. **I encourage other students to consider studying abroad in Senegal or other countries in Africa so we can communally begin to see Africa in a new, more well-rounded light.**

A COSTA RICAN WINTER

ROCHILE KHAN '18

My first study abroad experience was absolutely wonderful. I went to Costa Rica for two weeks in January as part of “The Sustainable Society: Peace, Human Rights, and Development” program. This course was provided through a partnership of Adelphi University with the University for Peace, which was the first university founded by the United Nations with the purpose of promoting peace and education worldwide.

This university was strategically placed in Costa Rica – a country without a military. The money that would usually be put into a military is instead invested into education and healthcare programs for their people. As students we were able to learn so much about this beautiful country and culture. **It was amazing to see the contrasting environment of the mountainous cities and diverse rainforests, as compared to the concrete jungles of New York City.** The most memorable times were the days when we lacked an internet connection. Seeing how naturally the people of Nacientes Palmichal and Rancho Mastatal lived, and being able to experience the exotic wildlife that exists there was both breathtaking and eye-opening. I learned a lot through this course and I’m so thankful to have had this opportunity.



Photo Credit: Kaila Galinat

“There were so many firsts on my trip, from riding a horse, to ziplining, and even seeing real sloths in the rainforest!”

Jua Son '18

In front of the buttress roots of an indigenous tree in the tropical rainforests of Puriscal County during our hike at Rancho Mastatal.

“Costa Rica brought me back down to Earth and made me realize how beautiful and amazing the world really is.”

Renita Jagmohan '17

“What was most important were the people we met. Finding so many people passionate about social justice and ecological and environmental stewardship and how people are actively working to change their communities was both humbling and empowering.”

Daniel McElroy '18

SPOTLIGHT ON CAMPUS EVENTS

It's On Us

On February 23rd, a panel discussion was hosted as a collaboration between the Student Government Association and the LGS Student Council. Organized as an open forum, panelists discussed topics surrounding sexual assault on campuses and the issue of violence against women. Students shared their own experiences relating to the subject and offered advice to the audience, stressing the importance of taking action as a bystander. It's On Us to create a safer environment for ourselves and our peers.

*****Upcoming Event:** To bring further awareness of the issue of sexual assault on college campuses, join Adelphi as we "Take Back the Night" on **Wednesday, April 22nd**, at 6:00pm in the UC Ballroom.

Eddie Huang at Adelphi

Eddie Huang came to Adelphi on March 4th and shared his inspiring story to an audience of students and faculty. As the celebrity chef of Baohaus restaurant in New York City and creator of the new TV show "Fresh Off The Boat," the authenticity of his presentation about the challenges he faced throughout life was greatly appreciated. Seeing how far he has come as a first generation American — managing to reach his once seemingly unrealistic dream and accomplishing so much more beyond that — just goes to show that only time can tell what's in our own futures.



Picture from the Eddie Huang pre-lecture reception. Photo Credit: Willson Lee

A Celebration of the Arts:

The Cost of Conflict, The Price of Peace

"A Celebration of the Arts" will take place on **Thursday, April 30** in the UC Ballrooms and will consist of a gallery of visual art and scheduled performances of performance arts. Come out to support this year's theme of The Cost of Conflict, The Price of Peace, along with the university's theme of the Changing Nature of War and Peace. There will be an award ceremony after the presentation to give cash prizes to the top three entries in each category.

LGS AT THE UNITED NATIONS



Photo Credit: Peter DeBartolo

Adelphi students attended the UNA-USA Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference held at United Nations Headquarters on February 20th, 2015. Discussion topics of the day included climate change, human rights, global health, and relations with the Middle East.

Attending the United Nations Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference was an opportunity to gain insight about the UN's work and progress towards achieving a sustainable and peaceful society. Through many panel discussions and opportunities to inquire about both current and future projections, we learned more about their efforts firsthand. As UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon stated, **“You should feel a responsibility as citizens of the most resourceful, richest country in the world. You should have a global citizenship.”** It is necessary to reinforce people’s participation in pushing for progress and taking care of the world in which we live. Personally, I was awestruck and amazed at the presentation of this conference, in addition to recognizing how imperative collective involvement and collaboration is to affect change.

-Sharmila Samwaru ‘15

Climate Change: Looking at the Past and into the Future with Dr. Timothy Weiskel

Co-hosted by the Alumni Associations of Central European University (NYC Chapter)
and Bard College Globalization and International Affairs Program

Jua Son '18

The issue of Climate Change is not a recent one. It has been debated, argued, and protested for longer than I thought. About thirty-five years have passed since the first world climate change conference in 1979, but companies still continue to emit carbon dioxide and pollutants that aggravate the rising global temperature at the cost of many lives, and we are still struggling to change regulation. Lately, we are hearing more about the global climate change crisis. Over 400,000 people came from all around the world to participate in The People's Climate March in September 2014 and the United Nation has declared "sustainable development" must be on its agenda, as an effort to address this issue. **People are becoming more aware of this imminent threat as we increasingly experience the destructive power of major natural disasters around the world both directly and indirectly.**



Dr. Weiskel giving his presentation on Climate Change at Bard College's Globalization & International Affairs Program with Professor Peter DeBartolo as Moderator.

Some people argue that the rising temperature is a part of a big natural cycle that the Earth has been through many times before. Dr. Timothy Weiskel's data disputes that whole argument. Although there has been a regular pattern of ups and downs in the global temperature throughout the history, the "up" that we humans are creating is more than ten fold of what the normal cycle has previously been. The latest spike of the graph is unarguably abnormal. **It was disturbing that I did not know the seriousness of the change despite the fact that all of the data that Dr. Weiskel used in his presentation was open to public.**

It is also disturbing that some people choose to expedite the process of global warming. Dr. Timothy stressed the importance of awareness and small life changes. We cannot change the policies of government and corporations overnight, however, if we start by teaching what we know to others and do the small things within our ability, the change will slowly show, and the changes we make will lead to a bigger change. The clock is ticking. Ignorance cannot be an excuse – not anymore. **As mentioned at the lecture, there is no second Earth. We only have one, and we are all on the same one. It is up to us to make the small changes towards the bigger change to create a better world for all.**

Spring Break: Rural and Migrant Ministry

Alicia Canas '16

Sometimes, when I mention what I am studying in college, or the work I do for a non-profit, I am asked about why I am "trying to change the world" if it's not my responsibility. I am asked about how can I expect to make any change because I am "just one person" and I am told that there will always be poverty, prejudice, and other forms of oppression. **I have always tried to explain that even the smallest action can have a positive impact on someone else's life. The experiences I have had during Rural and Migrant Ministry's (RMM) Alternative Spring Break have solidified this belief.**

Every speaker that visited us was working to fight the injustices facing farmworkers in NYS, and every farmworker we spoke with told us about how they had been positively affected by these types of actions. A couple of years ago, farmers were finally required to provide clean drinking water and sanitation facilities to farmworkers. This may be only a small victory, but farmworkers still directly feel its impacts. When we visited a local high school to talk with students about college life and the realities of being a child of a farmworker, these students were aware of the importance of their actions and "a better life" was frequently cited as one of their motivations to go to college.

One of the speakers who visited us, Librada Paz, told us how no one gave her help or support while she was earning her degree in mechanical engineering from Rochester Institute of Technology, raising a child and working two jobs at the same time. She won the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award in 2012. Just imagine what the students we met could now accomplish with the support and resources provided by RMM and other organizations. These students should not have to struggle in order to create a better future for themselves and their families in the same way that their previous generations of farmworkers and farmworker children have.



Photo Credit:
Alicia Canas

Farmworkers are the driving force behind the economy and the source of our food. They deserve to have minimum wage, collective bargaining, a day of rest, and all the other rights that they are excluded from. **At RMM's Alternative Spring Break, I learned about the many ways that one person can work together with others to contribute to the same cause, and I saw that creating a more just reality is always possible.**

Picture taken with Jazmine Javier '16 and Alicia Canas '16 at an apple processing center.

****Please contact Professor Maggie Gray (gray5@adelphi.edu) if you'd like to learn more about how you can become involved in social justice and human rights work addressing migrant labor issues.***

LGS ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW



Janae Cummings, '13 is now an elementary school English teacher at the International School of Choueifat in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

While at Adelphi, she majored in International Studies (Political Science Concentration) and minored in Sociology. Janae was awarded the LGS Sue Levering Scholarship for Social Justice, the National Newman Civic Fellows Award, and the Sadie Nash Leadership Project Award. She founded Adelphi's "New York to New Orleans (NYtoNO)" Initiative and worked with local communities on the ground after Hurricane Katrina. Janae was an extremely active member of the Levermore Global Scholars Program and is continuing to explore new global horizons as an alumna.

Reaz Khan '13 is currently an English Instructor at New York Studio of Languages in Istanbul, Turkey, and previously was a Classroom Teacher in English & Social Studies at the International School of Choueifat in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates.

At Adelphi, he majored in International Studies (Political Science Concentration) and minored in Latin American Studies. Reaz served as President of the Muslim Students' Association, and was named a National Newman Civic Fellow for founding and organizing the LGS Inter-faith Initiative.



He represented LGS/Adelphi at the United Nations Youth Assembly at UN Headquarters, interned at the National Urban League through Adelphi's Community Fellows Program, and participated in the South Korea Scholarship Program, sponsored by CIEE and Korea Foundation. He also participated in the prestigious Pathways for Mutual Respect Program at Yale University and the Interfaith Youth Core Leadership Institute in Philadelphia, PA.

Announcements

Editor's note

Hello Everyone!

Hope you enjoyed this season's issue. I would like to thank all the students who shared their stories. It's always nice to learn about all the cool things our peers are doing and the many ways we positively impact the world we live in.

If you have any questions about LGS or would like to provide suggestions for future articles, please feel welcome to contact me at rochilekhan@mail.adelphi.edu

I wish you all the best in your personal endeavors :)

Sincerely,

Rochile Khan '18

Maki Lahori '16 has been awarded the LGS 2014-2015

Sue Levering Social Justice Scholarship!



Maki has excelled in her academics as a Nursing major interested in global public health. She has done a fantastic job representing LGS/Adelphi as an official delegate at various high level activities at the United Nations Headquarters, such as the 65th Annual UNDPI/ NGO Conference and UNA-USA Mid-Atlantic Conference.

She also has actively supported many LGS activities and campaigns on campus, which have addressed a wide variety of topics, including cross-cultural body image, sustainable development/clean cookstoves in Haiti, and human rights in Bosnia, Cambodia, Rwanda, Western Sahara, and Nigeria. As a member of the Muslim Students' Association and Amnesty International, she also has helped plan awareness campaigns on global injustices and assisted in organizing inter-faith dialogue initiatives.

"Through the Levermore Global Scholars Program I have been able to grow and prosper as a person with more understanding and knowledge of what each of us individually can do to advocate for civic participation and global justice."

- Maki Lahori



LGS congratulates **Julianna Claase '15** on her acceptance into the

2015 United Nations Intensive Program, during which she will study at Seton Hall University's School of Diplomacy and International Relations this summer!

A round of applause to everyone who participated in Relay for Life! Through combined efforts, the **Global Relay Walkers** were awarded **Platinum Team** for raising the most amount of money for the American Cancer Society at this year's event at Adelphi.



The Levermore Global Scholars (LGS) Program is an innovative honors program in which students have the unique opportunity to expand their global knowledge, civic awareness, and leadership abilities.

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