

KUNSHAN INNOVATION SCHOLARS PRESENTATION

TIME: 17:00-19:00, MONDAY, 5 JUNE 2017

VENUE: AB 1079

*FINGER FOOD PROVIDED

Three Duke Kunshan students in the GLS program, Niranjana Menon, Brian Grasso and Larissa de Paula have been awarded the Kunshan Innovation Scholarships for their innovative research or practical programs. We are delighted to invite you to attend this presentation, where they will share their project ideas and outcomes.

Niranjana Menon : Cultural Determinants of Microfinance Borrowing and Success in China

ABSTRACT:

Since the discovery of microfinance, it has proven to be one of the most lucrative forms of credit for the poor and the underfinanced. However, China continues to experience low prevalence and low repayment rates of these loans. This research aims to discern the cultural and social factors affecting microfinance in China using preexisting literature and interviews with socioeconomically weak members in urban China.

BIO:

Niranjana Menon is an undergraduate at Mary Baldwin University and now is in her GLS exchange study at DKU. She studies economics and mathematics and is a junior in college. She has interned at ESAF, microfinance organization which created her interest in microfinance usage for economic development.

Larissa de Paula : Promoting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at DKU

ABSTRACT:

Have you heard about Women's Week at DKU? From April 17th to April 22nd, the United Nations Club brought this week-long event to campus in order to engage students and staff in the UN Global Goals, in particular SDG5: Gender Equality. All of this was made possible by the pioneer Kunshan Innovation Scholarship. In this presentation, KIS recipient Larissa de Paula will talk about how the UN Club and Women's Week came about, the challenges and successes of the events she promoted on campus, and the legacy and perspectives left for the future of DKU.

BIO:

Larissa de Paula is a GLS student, and her home university is Bryn Mawr College, where she majors in Political Science and Urban Studies. She has been involved with NGOs in the United States and Brazil, attending the first United Nations CSW Youth Forum, and interning in a Global Justice Organization that focuses on women's economic empowerment. At DKU, with the Kunshan Innovation Scholarship, she founded the United Nations Club, which organized Women's Week, a week-long event to celebrate women and raise awareness about gender equality on campus. Larissa will be spending next summer in Brazil researching about the integration of women into the Brazilian military with a Hanna Holborn Grey Fellowship.

Brian Grasso : Achieving Prosperity and Good Health in Kunshan

ABSTRACT:

Kunshan's rapid economic transformation in the last thirty years is well-known. Since the early 1980s, foreign investments improved manufacturing in partnership with the government, and more recent increases in the service sector have made Kunshan one of China's richest towns. How have these dramatic changes manifested themselves in Kunshan's health sector? Has growth in the city's GDP per capita resulted in improvements in health for the typical citizen of Kunshan? My research combines qualitative interviews of Kunshan residents, global health and economic literature, and city-level data. I trace the historical development of healthcare in Kunshan since the onset of economic globalization and rapid development in 1984 when the city's government established an economic and technological development zone. Finally, I offer recommendations and humble suggestions for Kunshan to meet its newest health challenges.

BIO:

Brian Grasso is a sophomore student at Duke University studying majoring in global health and economics. This semester at DKU as a GLS student, he has taken courses on comparative health systems, the social determinants of health, and globalization in China. He has utilized knowledge from these courses as well as interviews in Kunshan and tours of Kunshan's hospitals to conduct his research for the DKU Innovation Scholarship. He is interested in the role of development economics in reducing health inequities around the world and hopes to work for an international NGO after Duke.

This event is open to all and entry is on a first come, first served basis. For any queries email yg73@duke.edu or call 3665 7149.