



Where are they now?

Demetra Tsiamis
New York State Winner
2007

Removal of Arsenic from Water
Using Ground Clam Shells



What are you doing now?

I graduated in February 2013 from Columbia University with a Masters in Chemical Engineering and a Masters thesis in Environmental Engineering. I currently work as a Research Associate at the Earth Engineering Center at Columbia University. I have a Bachelors of Engineering in Chemical Engineering and a Minor in Environmental Engineering from the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art.

How did the SJWP competition effect, or influence you?

The SJWP Competition influenced me very much in both my academic and professional career. The research that I conducted on groundwater de-contamination for the SJWP competition peaked my interest in the environmental field and I knew I wanted to further expand my knowledge in this field in my undergraduate studies. Specifically, I wanted to explore the chemical engineering applications in the environmental field. Therefore, in college I majored in chemical engineering and minored in environmental engineering. At graduate school, I wanted to further pursue my interest in the environmental field so I volunteered to do a Masters thesis with the environmental engineering department at Columbia.

SJWP launched my successful research career. At the SJWP national competition, I got the opportunity to present my research to professional engineers and scientists and I got to learn about the research projects of my SJWP peers. Furthermore, my SJWP paper was published in the SJWP's journal. After the SJWP national competition, my paper was published as a technical publication in the New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA) Clear Waters journal and I presented my paper at the NYWEA technical conference. To have my first technical publication at the age of 18 is something that I am very proud of and I owe it to the SJWP. My experiences at the SJWP national competition and NYWEA conference helped me realize that I loved presenting my research and I wanted to continue this in my academic and professional career.

I had the opportunity to present my Masters thesis, which focused on converting non-recyclable plastic waste into fuel, at the North American Waste-to-Energy conference in April 2013; my thesis was also published on the web as a technical publication in the Spring of 2013. Now, in my professional career as a Research Associate, I am conducting research for a private company on a state-of-the-art commercial waste technology that converts waste into ethanol fuel.

I believe that all of the wonderful opportunities and experiences that I've had in my academic and professional career wouldn't have been possible without my SJWP experience. It is what opened doors for me and helped me realize what I was passionate about in engineering and science.

Would you care to give a testimonial about the SJWP?

I am so grateful to have been part of the SJWP experience. It was both a fun and educational experience that shaped my future in engineering. I am very proud to be an SJWP alumnus.

