Freshmen Honors College student, Alina Pargamanik, won this year’s Cook Library Information Literacy Award for her paper “What Can Be Done? – Delhi’s Water Conservation Initiatives.” Alina originally wrote the paper for her TSEM 190 course with Dr. Fehskens. We asked Alina about her research and her experience with Dr. Fehskens’ seminar in this week’s installment of Spotlight.

HCW: Give us a brief summary of your paper and research.

AP: My research paper focused on whether or not Delhi's government is taking enough initiatives to cope with the city's clean water deficit. Local bureaucracies in Delhi are implementing new initiatives to address their water issues including availability and value. Through my research, I concluded that the initiatives currently in place are not enough to withstand the unprecedented urban growth of the city and the large percentage of residents who live below the poverty level and cannot afford water.

HCW: Why did you choose this topic?

AP: I chose this topic after reading an excerpt from Charles Fishman's The Big Thirst. That particular excerpt compared how Americans view water compared to those living on the other side of the world. That lead me to wonder why such differences exist.

HCW: Tell us about your experience in TSEM 190.

AP: My experience in TSEM 190 was nothing less than amazing. Dr. Fehskens made a class about a very simple subject, water, incredibly fascinating. Everything from the novels we read to the discussions we had made me excited to go to class. I also feel so much more prepared to write college-level research papers after taking this class.

HCW: Were you surprised to find out you had won the award?

AP: I was definitely surprised to find out that I won this award! It feels great to know that if you choose a topic you truly feel passionate about, you can write something that spurs others' interest in your work. The award made an already great start to the spring semester even better!

Keep up the great work, Alina!

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