New York Post, Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Green believers
Stern students turn campus eco friendly

ALTHOUGH their official Business School color is purple, NYU Stern MBA students are advocating green.

"I've always had an interest in the environment. When I got here, it seemed like the perfect opportunity to help create a more socially-minded atmosphere," says Stern student R.J. Panda.

The second-year MBA candidate has been busy spearheading a school-wide "greening initiative" aimed at changing the mentality of his fellow students, teachers and faculty towards a more eco-friendly one.

Joint support and effort comes from the Social Enterprise Association, an on-campus, 150-plus member student club. A committee made up of NYU Stern undergraduate and graduate student, faculty and administrators convene to decide whether to greenlight funding for a particular project.

For example, while recycling has always been in place at NYU, more recycle bins were added around NYU grounds this year. "Our goal is to try and make it easier and more convenient to become part of the initiative," said Panda.

One key project was instituted among first-year MBA students during pre-term this year. "They put more of their documents on UB Flash-drives, which reduces the amount of paper necessary," claimed Panda.

In addition, "All first year students were given reusable water bottles." In conjunction, water bottle filling stations are available at all the school's water fountains.

To save electricity, motion-sensored timer lights were also installed in pilot areas, including certain study rooms, bathrooms, conference rooms, and offices.

A printing cap was also introduced this year. "Now, 2,000 sheets is the quota per student, which is generous. But people become so much more aware when they have to start paying for pages," said Panda.

Up the road, much larger projects are of interest.

"More educational outreach programs are slated. Longer term, we hope to serve as a role model for other schools," said Panda.

Erika Prachtler