

## Newest Noble Laureate Addresses Sustainable Development Class

When Prof. Esther Duflo (Professor, MIT) lectured to Lehigh's sustainable development students on September 24<sup>th</sup>, few probably appreciated the importance of her work. On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, Prof. Duflo was awarded a share of the [2109 Nobel Prize for Economics](#) for her groundbreaking research on experimental approaches to alleviating global poverty. According the Noble Prize committee, "this year's Laureates have introduced a new approach to obtaining reliable answers about the best ways to fight global poverty. In brief, it involves dividing this issue into smaller, more manageable, questions – for example, the most effective interventions for improving educational outcomes or child health. They have shown that these smaller, more precise, questions are often best answered via carefully designed experiments among the people who are most affected."

Prof. Duflo provided a lecture about "leveraging data science in fighting poverty" in *Foundations in Sustainable Development* (SDev/ES-310/410). This course represents a collaboration between Lehigh University and the United Nation Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN SDSN). The course is hosted by Lehigh University and is streamed live by LTS to over 35 global network partners around the world. The course is a key element in the *Global Masters in Development Practice*, which is supported by the UN SDSN.

According to Prof. Morris (Director of Lehigh's Environmental Initiative and the Sustainable Development Program), this course is a great opportunity for our students to learn from and interact with global thought leaders in the discipline of sustainable development. Our partnership with the UN SDSN has also given tremendous global visibility to Lehigh's leadership in the area of sustainable development.