



EWB PITT

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD:

Hello everyone and welcome to another issue of EWB PITT! We are excited for this coming semester full of new projects and great memories.



1st international meeting

International Project

By Amanda Zelnis and Makenzie White

Although this previous summer proved to be quite a rollercoaster with our international project in Nicaragua, things are looking very promising for the year to come. The summer started with some intense planning and preparation for an assessment trip to the community of Ococona. Ococona is located in the northern tip of Nicaragua and is home to about 400 people. Our partnership with the community is focused on water distribution and supply to all of the community members. Unfortunately, the assessment trip originally planned for August of 2018 had to be postponed due to civil unrest mainly located in Managua, the capital of Nicaragua. We are currently waiting for EWB-USA to lift the travel ban in Nicaragua so we can proceed with the assessment trip. In the meantime, we are keeping busy with both internal and external research. Internally, our members are delving into the public health aspects of the project.

Externally, we are working with EWB's In-Country Nicaragua Office to collect technical data and information in Ococona. We are committed to the project in Ococona, and we are hopeful that this upcoming year will result in strides of progress.

In other news, the membership and involvement in the international project has increased significantly over the past year. We are excited to welcome so many dedicated members that are willing to set aside so much time to the service of communities around the world. Because of the influx of dedicated members and the current state of the project in Ococona, Nicaragua, we also decided to apply for a new project partnership in Bolivia. This project is located in the community of Carijana which is near the city of La Paz. This community of 250 people is seeking a EWB chapter to work with them on a sanitation project. After researching Carijana and talking to Engineers in Action, the NGO partnered with the community, we truly feel like this project in Bolivia is a good fit for our chapter. With all that is going on, we couldn't be more excited about the year to come.





Hamlet lot in South Oakland

Local Project

By Evan Marohn

The long summer months allowed our local project teams to regroup and decide what new projects we will partake in this semester. In addition to two ongoing projects from the spring, we have introduced a new project, in which we will attempt to improve recycling and proper waste disposal practices around Oakland. This project will involve research and lots of careful planning, and the results may not be immediately visible, but we are prepared to put in lots of hard work in order to make a healthy difference in the way our community operates.

In addition to this new project, we are continuing work with the vacant lot on Hamlet Street in South Oakland, in conjunction with the Oakland Planning and Development Corporation. We are considering various options to accompany this project, such as educational workshops on rain gardens and a possible expansion of the project to include other vacant lots in the nearby areas.

We are also keeping in mind the importance of volunteering locally in any ways we can. Our volunteer team will soon be hard at work organizing and leading events for our organization and others to participate in to provide service in smaller, but not less

important, ways. We will be participating in Pitt Make a Difference Day (PMADD), National Chemistry Week at the Carnegie Science Center, and the Engineering an Impact day of service, as well as volunteering with Grounded Strategies on their various community initiatives.





Engineering an Impact

By Samantha Schloder

Engineering an Impact is a planned day of service for engineering students from the Swanson School of Engineering. During this day students will have the opportunity to get their noses out of the books and into the communities of Pittsburgh. Our partners for this day include Habitat for Humanity, Computer Reach, Tree Pittsburgh, Y Creator Space, Global Links, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Red Lantern Braddock, and Grounded. With all these partners we plan on having 155 volunteers total with a mixture of the volunteers being graduate and undergraduate students.

Volunteers will be meeting at 8:30 on Benedum Patio and volunteer from 9-12. After volunteering, students will meet back at Benedum patio for a delicious lunch provided by FeelGood Pitt.

This event is sponsored by Engineers Without Borders, Engineering Graduate Student Organization, EBA, RAS, IISE, Phi Sigma Rho, Theta Tau, and IEEE.

Grants Team

By Tim Wroge

The Engineers Without Borders International Project Grant was submitted! We will be waiting to hear back on the status of the grant in the coming weeks. In the meantime, we are busy writing new project grants from places like the United States Government, professional engineering organizations and local companies for our projects in Bolivia and Nicaragua.

In order to get the EWB club more involved in how the grants in our chapter are funded and written, we've started this year by hosting weekly grant writing meetings! If you are interested in graduate studies or would like to get to know how the international, local projects and public health teams work in a larger context, come every Tuesday at 8:30 pm where we will discuss the methodology in grants and work together to apply to grants that will allow the international and local projects portions of our club operate and grow.





Failure Forum at Harvard University

National Conference

By Katrina Haidari

We are very excited to be sending three presentations to this year's National Conference in San Francisco. We will be speaking about our work here in Pittsburgh, our past project's case study on Tapagem, Brazil, and how an interdisciplinary chapter can help make project teams even more successful. We are also excited that Angela Rees, Evan Marohn, and Samantha Schloder have all been awarded scholarships to attend the conference from the Northeast Region; congratulations to all of you! We cannot wait to hear back from the attendees about all they learned.

Other News

By Angela Rees



Now that we are all back at school, adjusting to campus life can be difficult. When you have a full day of classes, it is hard to convince yourself to carry around a reusable coffee mug or to take the stairs when the elevator is just a button away. Still, what's most important is that even if you fail at living a completely sustainable lifestyle, you should still try to make little adjustments in your everyday life. By buying fresh produce at Pitt's Farmer's market on Thursdays, shopping at Thriftsburg, using reusable food containers when buying food from the William Pitt Union dining area, and biking to class and utilizing the free maintenance services offered by Posvar Hall, you can really make a difference on Pitt's environmental impact.

If you want to get more involved with sustainability opportunities on campus, be sure to check out the Student Office of Sustainability in the William Pitt Union building. Meetings between similar groups and like-minded people are held on the first Thursday of each month. For more information, check out the SOOS facebook page. And while you're there, check out the Engineers Without Borders facebook page to ensure you are informed of any events we host this upcoming year!