



ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS USA UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE CHAPTER

Spring Newsletter:2018

MALAWI: PROJECT UPDATE

The spring semester has brought many exciting new challenges to the Malawi team! Most notably, EWB-UD is preparing to implement a sustainable solution to Chilimani's potable water needs this August. Our partner community, Chilimani, is a village with a population of approximately 1,500 people that rely heavily on subsistence farming to make their livelihood. Because the community covers such a large geographic area, the community members face long travels to collect water. The last semester has been dedicated to working towards identifying a solution that most amply satisfies the unique needs of this community.

Using information collected during an assessment trip last summer, as well as feedback from community members and professional mentors, the team completed an alternatives analysis process. This led to the unanimous decision that installing two borehole wells with hand pumps is the most appropriate solution for Chilimani's needs. The team is now leveraging their member's multidisciplinary expertise in order to finalize technical designs, create education-

al modules about sanitation and water usage to share with Chilimani members, and create a sustainability plan for the lifespan of the project. The Malawi team is very excited to be in communication with a new drilling company in Malawi that we believe will be a great resource both for the current project and future projects to come.

In addition to implementing in Chilimani, EWB members will be returning to visit our friends in Mphero to perform monitoring and evaluation on the borehole well installed by EWB-UD in August 2016. The Malawi team is very excited to be continuing our partnerships and building relationships within the Sakata region, and to keep you informed on our travel plans and progress. We appreciate the continued support of our donors that has allowed us to empower these communities through sustainable engineering solutions. For more information on our implementation in Chilimani, please visit our website during August to read the Malawi travel blog, which will document our journey.





PHILIPPINES: PROJECT UPDATE

In January 2018, the Philippines team sent a small travel team to Ubujan. The purpose of the trip was to establish connections with local contractors, perform water tests on the borehole well, and catch up with the community. We enjoyed their famous hospitality, and were immediately greeted at the dock by the Capitan, the leader of the village, and water council members with a large banner. Throughout out the trip we worked and traveled together with members of the community, learning more about the Philippines, and their way of life. Before we left the community, they threw us party to celebrate, providing us with a feast of traditional Filipino food and karaoke. The trip was an overall success and we are moving forward with contractors and making final decisions on the design. The community is continuously engaged and excited for the project, ready more than ever to participate in the construction. The construction is set to begin in the next month, with a team of students finalizing construction and completion of Phase 1 over the summer.

ReachOut Updates



This Spring 2018 semester, EWB-UD ReachOut has started some exciting opportunities! We are assisting the Early Learning Center at UD with renovating their outdoor learning space for their students. Collaborating with Landscape Architecture department at UD, EWB students are planning the renovation. Additionally, ReachOut has been assessing the condition of the Solar One house, a building that used to be the model of sustainability before a period of poor maintenance left it in a state of disrepair. Outside of these new activities, ReachOut has continued its partnership with the Downes Elementary Safe Routes to School program with “Bike to School Week” happening May 7th-12th this year. The Delaware Center for Horticulture has also provided opportunities for EWB students to volunteer at their Wilmington Tree Giveaway and Rare Plant Auction events, while the NCCL School in Newark was happy to have EWB participate in their annual Kids’ Greenfest with a filtration table activity. EWB-UD ReachOut is excited to be involved with these new projects and to continue work with our existing partnerships throughout our community!

EWB Benefit Dinner 2018

This year, EWB commemorated another successful year through our 11th annual benefit dinner. This event is a way to connect our community supporters to the students and the mission of EWB. This year, the event was held on April 19th at the Executive Conference Center in Newark. We were fortunate enough to hear impassioned and reflective speeches from Dr. Babtunde Ogunnaike, Dean of the College of Engineering, and Dr. Saleem Ali, a Blue and Gold Distinguished professor of Energy and the Environment here at UD. We also got to hear from some students as they gave updates on our projects in the Philippines and Malawi, along with our local work here in Newark. We would like to thank everyone who attended the event to support EWB – we hope to see you again next year!



Letter from the President

I would like to offer my personal thanks for your continued support of our organization. This has been a year of building and progress for our chapter, and we are looking forward to the next stages of our work. I am so proud of all that we have accomplished – not only have I seen the impact that our work can make on international communities, but how it affects our community at home. Over my time at the university, I have watched EWB-UD inspire students, teachers, and professionals alike in a way I could never have imagined. This is because the mission of Engineers Without Borders is so moving, interdisciplinary, and brave that it can unite all people across a common front.

Being a part of EWB has empowered me to reach beyond my comfort zone in my engineering skills, allowed me the opportunity to grow as a leader, and challenged me to constantly incorporate a global perspective in my work. I am so thankful for all the opportunities that EWB has provided me with – traveling to the Philippines, attending conferences on behalf of the organization, and allowing me to constantly brag about my favorite part of UD. I am so sad to leave this chapter as I graduate, but I know that EWB and all it has taught me will always be a part of who I am.

As a final farewell, I am pleased to announce our new president, Ashley Gold. Ashley has been a dedicated member of EWB, serving on our Executive Board since her freshman year. She has held a great variety of roles within EWB, including serving as Technology Chair and Vice President, and being a part of the Malawi 2017 travel team. I have complete faith that EWB will continue to flourish and grow under her leadership, and I am excited to see what the future holds!

Best,

Lia Dawson

EWB-UD President 2017-2018

