



# EWB QUARTERLY

northwestern chapter

## EWB-NU RETURNS TO KENYA



### by Jacob Morgan

This past month, Engineers Without Borders Northwestern Student Chapter (EWB-NU) returned to Kimuka, Kenya to monitor our past-implemented water distribution system and assess the need for a new project in the community.

The travel team consisted of EWB-NU President Jacob Morgan, Project Lead Isaac Rassmussen, new team member Jacob Webb, and travel mentor Bruce Niemen. Once on the ground, the team was pleased to find that the water system was fully operational. However, complications left it in disuse.

The first complication was caused by the cost of water at the tap. In order to pump water from the borewell, up the 3 km pipeline, and to our tank, a booster pump was necessary.

After the addition of the booster pump, the water bill for filling our tank was upwards of five times the cost of filling the tank at the borewell. Our team met with the community water committee, Kenya Power, individuals in the community, and our non-governmental organization in order to better understand this problem.

In addition, construction on the East African Railway project travel-

ing through Kenya recently began in Kimuka. The Chinese company that oversees construction set up base in the community, adding over 1,000 people to the population, and will be present for the next three years on contract. There has been conflict between the workers and community members but, despite poor relations, the company is currently supplying free water at two distribution points.

In three years, the land that the railway workers work on will be returned to the land owners.

It is the job of our technical team to create a solution that will be both cost-effective and sustainable for years to come.



# EWB QUARTERLY

page two

## MENTORING AT MCCUTCHEON

by Audrey Angelos

This quarter, EWB-NU's mentorship team has been going to McCutcheon Middle School in Chicago every Wednesday to help out with the "\$TEM+" club.

Gerard Kovach, a teacher at McCutcheon Middle School, and Rogelio Botello, a retired engineer, started the club. The two wanted to create an after school program with Mr. Botello as the sponsor.

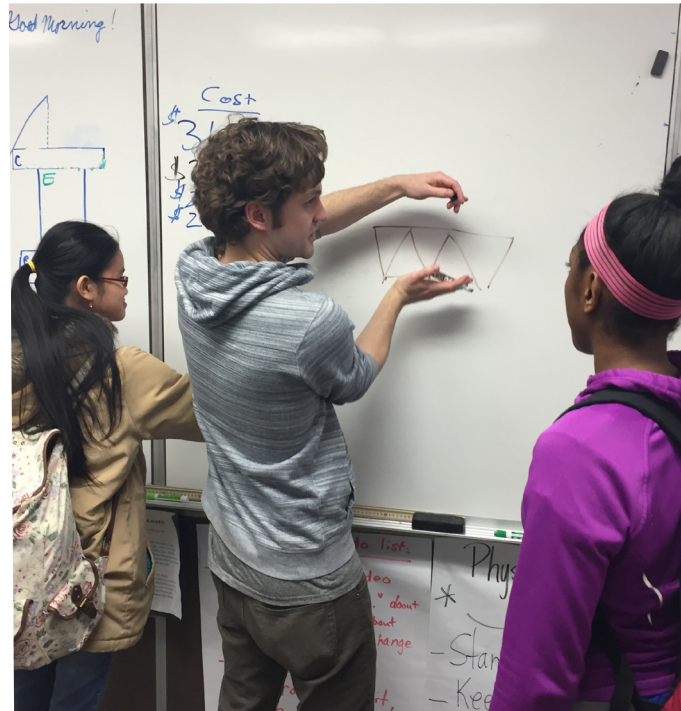
"We want to instill in [the students] practices about learning about STEM, but at the same time learning about financial literacy as well," said Mr. Kovach.

The club meets once a week, and provides not only a place for students to learn about STEM and financial literacy, but also

a safe place for students to socialize and spend time after school.

"Some of the kids have tough lives at home, and

one extra hour and a half a week [in the club] is another hour and a half of security for them," said Mr. Kovach.



Last quarter, EWB-NU members helped students with their projects for the "Future Cities Competition" held at University of Illinois at Chicago. A few weeks later, EWB-NU's technical team presented its upcoming projects abroad to the club.

As a member of the mentorship team, I can personally say that it is such a good weekly break from campus to spend time with students in the club. I am always impressed by the students' creative ideas, and I'm excited to see how the students grow over time.

The EWB-NU mentorship team is looking forward to continuing its partnership with McCutcheon Middle School and the \$TEM+ club in the future.



by John Martin

Engineers Without Borders Northwestern is excited to announce that we will be embarking on a new project based in Guatemala, in the community of Los Llanos.

Currently, Los Llanos is an isolated community and because of this, travel to and from surrounding communities can be very  
**cont. on page 3**

# EWBQUARTERLY

page three

## MEMBER PROFILE

by Leah Borgsmiller & Andie Gomez-Patron



Jacob Morgan, the newly appointed chapter president, is a junior studying Product Design and Entrepreneurship Engineering, a major he designed. He hopes to help preserve the planet through sustainable product design and a passion for photography.

After joining EWB-NU fall quarter of his freshman year, he has been an active member ever since. Throughout his EWB-NU career, Jacob has been to Kenya twice, working on assessment trips and serving as a project lead.

His most impactful experience with EWB-NU thus far has been seeing the club's impact on the communities it serves: "We want to go [to the sites] because the community needs it and they know they need it, and they know how to solve their problems, but they don't have the skills to do

it," Jacob said. "So, seeing that we successfully implemented this project that was benefitting the community was really big."

Jacob wants to continue past presidents' work and specifically, he'd "really like to see all of our members walk away with skills that they're both proud of learning and skills that they can market."

Although EWB-NU achieves a lot in the technical field, it's also a community. Jacob hopes that the club "becomes both larger and tighter at the same time."

Looking to the future, the recent undertaking of the Guatemala project has been very exciting for both the technical and outreach teams to continue to work together to bring more change through the organization.

## WHAT'S COMING UP:

- "Damnation" documentary showing
  - May 15, 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Ford ITW
  - Food provided!
- EWB-NU Bonding Bonfire at the Lakefill
  - Date and time TBA

## PROJECT GUATEMALA continued

challenging.

To confront this issue, the community requested a vehicle bridge to facilitate inter community trade and travel. Starting this quarter, EWB-NU will be working to implement a vehicle bridge in Los Llanos to address this issue.

McCormick freshman Raj Patel will be the Project Lead for the new Guatemala project. In defining his goals for the quarter, Raj said he hoped to "get ahead in a lot of the planning for the trip."

Shifting his focus to the future, he also expressed interest in making "an onboarding plan" for transitioning new members into the project next quarter. Closing on a positive note, Raj emphasized that "hopefully [they'll] have fun along the way!"

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