

# EWB QUARTERLY

— *northwestern chapter* —

by Maria Perez-Villa

As soon as I started at Northwestern, I knew I wanted to be a part of our chapter. I've always had a passion for engineering and social impact, and was thrilled when I discovered that I could work at the intersection of my interests at Engineers Without Borders' chapter at Northwestern (EWB-NU).

I am definitely a quiet person, and consider myself more of an observer; I take action but only after I've analyzed all possible scenarios. However at EWB-NU, I've grown by learning how to lead and take on more responsibilities. For instance, stepping up and becoming the club's president was nerve-wracking, but I gladly accepted the role because I truly feel at home here. I knew I understood the basics of the club, having been involved since freshman year and serving as the Kenya project co-lead in the Spring. I also got to know most members thanks to the emphasis on collaboration and group bonding we developed last year. EWB-NU is like a family and I knew they would support me in this transition.

This year at EWB-NU, I aim to continue fulfilling our mission through all the projects we do. We recently confirmed the establishment of a new project, for which several of our members will be traveling to Guatemala this spring to implement. We'll also hopefully complete our water distribution project in Kenya (fingers



crossed).

I am also excited to increase our presence on campus by working with our incredible marketing and events team to get the word out and raise awareness of our efforts. Sustainable funding for our future projects is something I've been giving a lot of thought to, which is why I want to establish a fundraising/funding five-year-plan that aims to achieve that.

Finally, I want to make sure we are still creating strong connections: within

the club, the Northwestern community, the EWB network, and with our community partners abroad. We can do this by promoting campus events, raising discussion about international development projects, and making sure the club is regularly communicating with our partner organizations abroad so that everyone is on the same page.

Overall, I am excited about the fun and productive year ahead, and looking forward to maximizing our efforts locally and abroad!

## COMING UP FOR EWB!

- Chipotle Profit Share 12/2 (4-8 PM) Church St. and Sherman Ave.
- Retreat to Starved Rock National Park (Sat. 11/18 - Sun. 11/19)
- Mentorship Trip on Thursday, 11/6 to McCutcheon (Contact Patrick for more info)



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## A BRIDGE

## IN GUATEMALA

by Raj Patel

Good news this quarter! EWB-NU's Guatemala team, a new initiative that began Spring of this year, will be going on their first assessment trip from December 9th to 16th. The Guatemala team was founded this year to work on a potential vehicular bridge project near Joyabaj, Guatemala. The student team, led by sophomore Raj Patel, consists of senior Brandon Tanner and sophomores Taylor Reyes, Kelly Davis, and Celia Chagnovich. The REIC, or engineering mentor, for the project is David Corr, a Clinical Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Northwestern.

For the first assessment trip, our team will be meeting with the local community in order to assess the need

and desire for a bridge. The meeting will provide the team insight and set standards for the working relationship EWB-NU will have with the community. In addition to the meeting, EWB-NU will be there to collect survey data from community members on topics ranging from economic to demographic data. Additionally, EWB-NU will investigate two potential bridge locations and collect technical data there to assess the feasibility of a bridge.

EWB-NU, from just one water project in Kenya, has expanded over the past year to work two different parallel projects. With the first Guatemala assessment trip only a few weeks away, the future has never looked brighter for EWB-NU, and its trajectory is only going up.

by Audrey Angelos



Recruitment season for the 2017-2018 school year has officially ended! This year for recruitment, EWB-NU held two information sessions followed by a meet-and-greet. The information sessions gave prospective members a general overview of what EWB is all about. The meet-and-greet allowed interested students to learn more about the specific teams within Outreach and Technical, and which team they could see themselves joining.

This year, we are excited to welcome a total of 41 new members to our club! There was a strong interest in the new Guatemala project, as well as an improved interest in Mentorship from last year.

The general meetings since the addition of our new members have been full, exciting, and productive. It is fun to see the enthusiasm of all of the new members. We are really excited to see what our new members will bring to EWB in the coming quarters!

# RECRUITMENT UPDATE