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Engineers Without Borders-USA, University of Maine Student Chapter Newsletter

Engineers Without Borders

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Engineers Without Borders, "Engineers Without Borders-USA, University of Maine Student Chapter Newsletter" (2011). *General University of Maine Publications*. 378.

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EWB-UM students and mentors with Dulce Vivir community members on the assessment trip taken in August 2010.

Mission Statement

University of Maine Engineers Without Borders strives to foster a worldwide cultural awareness and a strong sense of volunteerism in today's future leaders through sustainable and community-driven engineering projects.

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Student Executives

- **President:** Dan Gerges
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- **Treasurer:** Mary Beth McDonnell
- **Membership Coordinator:** Josh Hallett
- **Project Lead:** Rita Cooper
- **Web Masters:** Ryan Boisclair & Nate Reimensnyder

Address from the President

Since EWB-UM's founding in 2007, hundreds of students and mentors alike have contributed countless hours to alleviate the problems associated with overflowing latrines in Dulce Vivir de Copan, Honduras. We are proud to say that the implementation is finally under way! Over Spring break, five students and three mentors traveled to Honduras to begin the construction of the EWB-UMaine-designed septic system for this impoverished community. The final phase of the construction will take place in March 2012, so we are finalizing the system construction plan and raising the rest of the money needed to pay for this project.

We want to send our sincere thanks to all of those, both corporate and personal, who have donated to this cause. In addition to improving this community's quality of life, your contributions are providing students with the opportunity to learn and apply their education in a very powerful and meaningful way. We also hope you enjoy reading our first newsletter and project update.

Thanks again for your support,

Dan Gerges, EWB-UMaine President



Meet Our Mentor: Brendan McGuirl



Brendan McGuirl first joined EWB-UMaine in 2008 as a student member while working on his degree in Construction Management Technology and has continued to work with the group as a mentor since his graduation in December 2010.

Brendan has travelled to Dulce Vivir three times and brings continuity and a wealth of experience to the project. He has worked for 15 years doing site work and building construction, and is currently a project manager with Nickerson & O'Day. His resourcefulness has saved the day more than once in Honduras when things didn't go quite as planned!

Brendan initially got involved just to do something different, but when he met the people he felt connected and wanted to help. He says: "It's a good country. People don't have much, but they scramble, and work hard, and come up with creative ways of getting through life." As a mentor, he also helps students gain a better understanding of the many skills they will need to be effective engineers.



Luis, son of the President of Dulce Vivir, playing with a measuring tape.