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

Engineers Without Borders

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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.

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Hello EWB Friends and Supporters,

Thank you for your continued interest in the University of Maine chapter of Engineers Without Borders. As some of you may know, we completed our project in Dulce Vivir, Honduras in March of 2013. Last fall we began the exciting process of exploring a possible new program in the village of La Y de la Laguna, Ecuador. La Y is distinctly different from Dulce Vivir and will present a new set of technical and social challenges for our chapter to learn from. Fortunately, we have an enthusiastic group of members and mentors working together as we move forward in our relationship with La Y. Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and re-familiarize yourself with EWB-UMaine as we begin this new and engaging endeavor.

Sincerely,

Laura Donovan
President, EWB-UMaine

Photos below from left to right: Biological Engineer student Spencer Traxler in a classroom in Ecuador, a view of La Y de la Laguna, and 2014 Chapter photo of EWB-UMaine



2014 Assessment Trip

In August 2014, EWB-UMaine went on its first assessment trip to La Y de la Laguna, Ecuador. La Y is a rural farming community of about 300 people and lacks water during a five month dry season. The travel team, which included six students and two mentors, met with community members and assessed water accessibility and cleanliness. We plan to return to La Y in the spring or summer of 2015.

Dulce Vivir, Honduras Update

In March 2013, EWB-UMaine returned to Dulce Vivir de Copán for what became (for now) our final visit. On this trip, a shed was constructed to house a tank, trailer and equipment needed to maintain the community septic system we designed and built with the community. The operations and maintenance community team was trained, and health and water quality data were collected. Overall, the system has had a very positive impact on sanitation and the community is happy with the system. We have not officially closed this project but are unable to return to the community due to security concerns in Honduras. We continue to stay up-to-date on the condition of the project through regular phone contact and we hear that the system is working well.