

# Engineers Without Borders

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology



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## What is Engineers Without Borders?

EWB-RHIT is part of the national Engineers Without Borders USA organization. EWB-USA is a non-profit humanitarian organization established to partner with developing communities worldwide in order to improve their quality of life. Since its founding in 2000, EWB-USA has run more than 80 projects in 35 countries. The projects we work on are initiated by and completed with contributions from the host community, which helps ensure that our work will be maintained after we leave.

Our **VISION** is a world in which the communities we serve have the capacity to sustainably meet their basic human needs and that our members have enriched global perspectives.

Our **MISSION** is to support community-driven development programs worldwide by collaborating with local partners to design and implement sustainable engineering projects, while creating transformative experiences and responsible leaders.



Student member, Paige Rinker, making friends with a local boy from Gomoa Gyaman, Ghana

## In this Issue

We are looking forward to an exciting year with changes in the project EWB-RHIT will be working on. After working in Gomoa Gyaman, Ghana going on years we are very proud of the work we have been able to complete thanks to amazing support from faculty and technical mentors. We have had fun starting off the new school year getting to complete several local service projects. Our chapter also had the opportunity to send four member to the EWB National Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



## The EWB-RHIT Team

### Co-Presidents

Camille Blaisdell

Sr., Biomedical Engineering  
Hometown: Barrington, Illinois

Rachel Broughton

Sr., Engineering Physics  
Hometown: Libertyville, Illinois

### Engineering Team Manager

Zsolt Truckai

Jr., Mechanical Engineering  
Hometown: Libertyville, Illinois

### Fundraising and Marketing Team Managers

Namuunaa Nadmid

Soph, Biomedical Engineering  
Hometown: Louisville, Kentucky

Cydney Ogan

Soph, Mechanical Engineering  
Hometown: Fishers, Indiana

### Treasurer

Emma Brewer

Soph, Biomedical Engineering  
Hometown: Linton, Indiana

### Secretary

Andrew Snyder

Sr., Civil Engineering  
Hometown: South Bend, Indiana

### Local Outreach Chair

Dale Conrad

Jr., Biomedical Engineering  
Hometown: Bel Air, Maryland

## Thank You Jed & Project Update

Our technical mentor, Jed Holt, has traveled with us to Gomoa Gyaman on three implementation trips. Not only was he there for us when we needed last-minute design changes and kept us on task during the daily meetings, but he also created lasting relationships with the community and travel team members. To thank him for the time he has put into our chapter, members of past travel teams met Jed and his wife in Indianapolis for dinner. We all enjoyed good food and reminisced about our trips to Ghana with him.



EWB-RHIT members attended a thank-you dinner for our technical mentor, Jed Holt, for all his dedication to the Gomoa Gyaman sanitation project.

The EWB contract with the community of Gomoa Gyaman, which was signed at the beginning of our partnership in 2011, stated that we would continue our partnership for five years. The chapter also decided that the needs of the community of Gomoa Gyaman are expanding beyond what we can offer. At the close of our contract and in order to fulfill the mission of EWB-USA, we have decided that closing out the program is the best option. There are currently two latrine structures that have been completed, one of which is open for public use. Jed has expressed interest in traveling with us on the monitoring and evaluation trip in February and we are thrilled to have him as part of the travel team once again. On this upcoming trip, we will assess the effect of the completed sanitation project in the community. We will conduct additional hand-washing lessons and complete maintenance tasks as needed. As we wrap up the project, our goal is that the community will continue to maintain and use the bathroom facilities that have already been implemented.

Closing out the project in Gomoa Gyaman enables our chapter to open a new program. Over the past few months, we have been working on finding another project in a new area. We are excited to start working with a new community at the beginning of 2018.



Latrine facility completed in Gomoa Gyaman that is currently being used by community members.

## New Member Cook Out

We began the school year off on a high-note by hosting a cookout to get to know prospective chapter members! New and old members gathered to talk about what EWB-RHIT is all about—our goals, values, and current and past projects. Current members had the opportunity to share their favorite parts about being an active member. We enjoyed many laughs over food that our Co-Presidents, Camille and Rachel, expertly grilled.

After eating and talking, the club took to the sand volleyball court and spent the afternoon having fun playing against each other. Overall, this event was a great opportunity to get to know new members and catch up with old mem-



EWB Rose-Hulman member enjoyed playing volleyball and enjoying the summer weather before classes were in full-swing

## Day of Service 2017

Day of Service is a campus-wide event that mobilizes hundreds of Rose-Hulman students of different organizations to tackle a variety of service projects across the Terre Haute area. Our project was to help the Council on Domestic Abuse (CODA), a group in Terre Haute that works towards the elimination of domestic abuse and sexual assault. CODA runs an emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence. Our task was to create an expanded parking lot behind the facility. We began by clearing the area of debris, and then we spread gravel evenly across the ground using shovels. After the event, members attended a luncheon on the importance of volunteering and learned about some of the issues that food-insecure families face in the Terre Haute area.



EWB Rose-Hulman volunteers shoveled gravel to create an extended parking lot for a CODA facility in Terre Haute

## Highway Clean Up

On Saturday, September 19, 2017, a group of Engineers Without Borders members went to a three-mile stretch of Highway 40 that the club adopted last year. This part of the highway is in a residential area east of campus. The members walked along either side of the road with bags to collect the trash scattered alongside the road. While picking up the litter, the team members entertained themselves by creating elaborate stories connecting each piece of trash they found. As the team members made their way along the stretch of highway, several residents of the area voiced their thanks, while others waved or honked their car horns. As a whole, this experience allowed members to help beautify the community surrounding Rose-Hulman while also having fun and getting to know one another.

## EWB Conference Reflection

Our chapter had the privilege of attending the 2017 EWB-USA Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin this past October. Members Andrew Snyder, Cassidy Schichnes, Cydney Ogan, and Namuunaa Nadmid were accompanied by faculty mentor, Dr. Gardner, in the Rose-Hulman chapter's first attendance at the national conference. Not only did the members participate in many lectures and workshops about projects and chapter success, they also had the opportunity to network with other chapters across the nation. Of the various lectures offered, we learned about water resourcing in Guatemala, solar-power implementation in Madagascar, and successful fundraising. During the poster presentations, we discussed experiences and lessons learned from different chapters' projects, all while enjoying delicious desserts to lighten the mood. As our chapter begun the process for selecting a new project, the information gained from the national conference was very valuable and we look forward to attending another EWB-USA conference in the future.



Team members Cassidy Schichnes, Andrew Snyder, Namuunaa Nadmid and Cydney Ogan at the EWB National Conference

### Student Spotlight: Andrew Snyder

Andrew Snyder is a senior civil engineering major who has been a part of EWB at Rose-Hulman for the past two years. Andrew originally joined EWB because he saw it as a civil engineering club and wanted to take a more active role in the campus community. After seeing what it truly was and the mission of helping others, Andrew decided to stay because he fell in love with the people and wanted to take a more active role in helping shape the world for the better. He began going to SAWs and Habitat for Humanity builds, along with helping out at the Basketball tournament and other fundraisers. Later that year, he was elected as the chapter's secretary and was able to take on an executive position in the club. As a senior civil engineer he hopes to take on an active role in the new, upcoming project and provide the Engineering Team President with as much guidance as he can.



## EWB-RHIT Mentors

### Technical Mentor

Roger Ward

Professional Engineer  
EWB-Indianapolis

### Technical Mentor

Jed Holt

P.E. (retired)  
President Emeritus, Bowen Construction

### Technical Mentor

Liam Sawyer

P.E.  
Kimley-Horn

### Faculty Mentor

Dr. John Gardner

Spanish Professor  
Rose-Hulman Inst. of Tech.

### Faculty Mentor

Dr. John Aidoo

Civil Engineering Professor

## Fundraising

Fundraising is vital to our ability to continue using our Rose-Hulman education to impact developing communities worldwide. The cost of travel and construction materials is extremely high, but both are necessary for our chapter.

Through school organizations, such as the Student Government Association, we are able to raise some funds for our projects. This only covers a fraction of the total amount needed to complete our projects—especially for international air travel. We rely on private donors like you to support our projects and make a difference in third-world communities.

## Donating to EWB

Contributions can be made to “Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology”, directed to “Engineers Without Borders” in the memo.

For more information, contact Cydney Ogan at: [ogancj@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:ogancj@rose-hulman.edu)

## Contact Us

Please contact us at [broughra@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:broughra@rose-hulman.edu) if you have any questions or would like to become more involved.

More information can also be found on our website at: <https://wordpress.rose-hulman.edu/ewb/>



Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology  
5500 Wabash Ave  
Terre Haute, IN 47803

## Alumna Testimonial: Ally Atkinson

I graduated in May 2017 with a B.S. in Civil Engineering and International Studies. I now work for Abonmarche Consultants, Inc. in Valparaiso, Indiana on local, municipal and community based projects. In some ways, they are similar to those we worked on in Engineers without Borders.

I was an EWB member for four years and travelled twice; once on a monitoring trip to the Dominican Republic and once on an implementation trip to Ghana. When I joined freshman year and started researching types of latrines, I quickly created grandiose plans to spend my spare time learning Twi/Fanti and building a composting toilet in my parents' backyard. I soon learned that spare time doesn't exist at Rose and neighborhood codes don't allow outhouses. However, through EWB, I learned ways to utilize and improve that type of comprehensive thinking, and I really enjoyed seeing all parts of a project, from research and design, to working with people in different majors and from other countries, to actually getting to help build the project. That's something you don't really get either in class or an internship.

Through Engineers without Borders, I began to really see the value of 'small projects'. Even something as deceptively simple as a latrine required hours of calculations and research and learning to understand a culture quite different from our own. The long meetings spent debating the amount of open space for lighting, purchased or constructed stall doors, and a CMU or poured concrete substructure stretched my mind to use the technical material I was learning in class to fit cultural constraints and material availability.

The summer before senior year, our contact in Ghana sent pictures of the latrine. The community members had painted it and built privacy wall in the front. It was really neat to see the community really take ownership of the project, and reminded me of what I think the power of Civil Engineering really is: Understanding how people interact with their environments, meeting the needs of both in a way tailored to the site and the clients, and designing and constructing a base infrastructure in which community members take pride.

From trying Dominican chicken-foot stew, to watching a septic tank reinjection well become unplugged, to finally figuring out how African women carry baskets and platters on their heads, Engineers without Borders made my world a bigger place. When your world becomes a bigger place, or you learn a new way of thinking, you become able to see the possible. This was my most defining 'takeaway' from Engineers without Borders, and the sort of impact I am beginning to understand I would like to have with my work and through my life.



# ENGINEERING A MORE SUSTAINABLE WORLD—ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME

