



EWB Portland Maine Newsletter

February/March 2010

Issue 2

EWB Portland Maine is Official!

As you may have read in previous email correspondence or press releases, we were approved in early February as an established professional chapter of EWB-USA. EWB-USA's Communication Department will be providing us with our own chapter logo.

Our chapter interim officers are:

President:	Brandon Newman, EIT	bpnewman@mactec.com
Vice President:	Kyle Coolidge, PE	kcoolidge@woodardcurran.com
Treasurer:	Shanta Keller, EIT	shanta.keller@tylin.com
Secretary:	Katherine Kern, PE	katherine.kern@tylin.com

If you are a member of EWB-USA and want to update your profile to become affiliated to our chapter, please log on to EWB-USA.org and choose "Portland Maine Professional". (Note: Portland Professional is the Portland, OR professional chapter.)

EXPANDING ROLE FOR OUR INTERIM PRESIDENT

With the rapid growth of professional and student chapters across the country, EWB-USA's National office has been overwhelmed with its duties. Regions (divided according to EPA Regions) have been created to facilitate networking and resource-sharing between chapters. This aims to support both new and established chapters with projects, growth, fundraising, and other chapter-specific goals. In order to achieve these goals EWB-USA has selected State Representatives (State Reps) at the regional level to help in facilitating communication between Chapter members of the respective states.

Our very own Brandon Newman has been selected as the new State Representative for Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. As a State Rep, Brandon will:

- communicate with the Professional and Student chapters in these states;
- aid the chapters with information regarding professional mentoring and available resources; and
- assist in planning for training seminars as deemed necessary.

Congratulations, Brandon!



MEETINGS

We have held two chapter meetings – our first was held on Wednesday, February 10th at the home of Kyle Coolidge in North Yarmouth, and our second was held on Monday, March 8th at TY Lin’s office in Falmouth. Interest is growing – we’ve had new faces join us at each meeting.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, April 5th from 6:00-7:30 PM at Woodard & Curran’s office at 41 Hutchins Drive in Portland.

PROFESSIONAL CHAPTER PROJECT UPDATE

At our March 8th meeting, Shanta Keller and Jake Jacobson gave a very interesting presentation about Ghana and the infrastructure challenges there. In 2007, Jake did mission work at an orphanage in Ve-Deme. Shanta, a 2009 UVM grad, has been there a couple of times with one of his UVM professors and his best friend, who are both Ghanians. Shanta has been reaching out to his former professor and has made some incredible connections with very influential individuals, including the president of the Community Directed Development Foundation (cddf.org), an NGO that was created in 2002 to promote innovative partnerships for development in Africa. CDDF’s strategy is to build bridges between experts and organizations that do not traditionally work well together and create the orderly, structured environment needed to encourage local people to take ownership of intervention programs as a means of stimulating sustainable socio-economic development. CDDF is preparing a list of potential projects for us to consider as we evaluate the possibilities of pursuing a professional chapter project in Ghana.

INTERACTIONS WITH STUDENT CHAPTER

Brandon and Kyle have participated in conference calls with EWB-UM students to discuss the ongoing Dulce Vivir project and how EWB Portland Maine can support them. Kyle has been a dedicated mentor to the students, and will likely accompany them on their implementation project trip, perhaps as soon as June.

EWB-UM’s co-presidents Dan Gerges and Rita Cooper attended our March 8th meeting to meet us, provide an update on their project, fundraising activities, and to discuss how we can assist them with this project. There are two students currently in Honduras obtaining survey and health data. The students are working hard to complete the EWB 525 Pre-Implementation Report (the design) which is due to EWB-USA on March 14th for Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) review. They most need additional help with fundraising and grant writing. They have raised \$13K of the \$30K they will ultimately need to complete the project. They have reached out to personal connections and Maine engineering firms for donations. If you are interested in helping the students, please contact Kathy Kern or contact Dan or Rita directly at president.ewb.um@gmail.com



INTERACTIONS WITH EWB-USA

- **NORTHEAST REGION**

Brandon's new role as ME/NH/VT State Rep for the North East Region will provide our chapter with a key connection to folks who work for the North East Region, what other chapters are doing, interesting projects, new initiatives, lessons learned, etc.

- **EWB-USA 2010 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, MAR 18-21
DENVER**

Building a Better World: Blurring the lines of professional disciplines to gain tools that affect change

The conference will provide an in-depth look at how a multi-disciplinary approach to sustainable development work and the changing field of engineering connect. By blurring the lines of disciplines and encouraging philanthropy and creative educational practices, a new professional can be developed and equipped with the capacity to make a significant and lasting difference in the lives of others.

Shanta Keller and Kathy Kern will be attending the conference. We look forward to their feedback!

FUNDRAISING

We will be fundraising in earnest this spring – to help sustain our chapter and to subsidize project work. Some great ideas have been presented...if you have a suggestion(s) to help raise funds, or are interested in assisting, please contact Kathy Kern.

GETTING THE WORD OUT

We will continue to get the word out about our chapter and EWB initiatives via monthly meetings, our newsletters, and continuation of brown bag presentations to interested audiences. If any of your friends or peers at other companies or organizations would like to host a brown bag, please contact Brandon Newman or any of the interim officers.

YOUR SKILLS AND INTERESTS!

We want to find out about our members' backgrounds, skills mix, and interests as they pertain to EWB. This information will be key in helping us determine what members are most interested in doing to support our chapter – this will help us grow, serve future projects, provide support to EWB-UM, etc.

Brandon will be sending out an email with a brief form we'd like folks to fill out and return. It'll just take a couple of minutes...we thank you in advance for your input!

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WEBSITE

Our website is up and running at www.ewbportlandmaine.org. We hope you visit us there! The site may receive some minor tweaking in the next couple of months. If you have website design experience and would like to help, please contact Brandon Newman.

A project website has been established through Google to provide easy connection to the students' project at <http://sites.google.com/site/ewbportlandmaine/>. The EWB-UM Project Coordinator is Brendan McGuirl; he can be reached at brendan.mcguirl@gmail.com.

INFORMATION SHARING

EWB Portland Maine newsletters and meeting minutes will ultimately be posted to our website, with notification emails sent to our mailing list with a link to the document(s). For the near term, they will be attached directly to emails.



Engineers Without Borders – USA (EWB-USA) is a non-profit organization established in 2000 to help developing areas worldwide with their engineering needs, while involving and training a new kind of internationally responsible engineering student. The projects involve the design and construction of water, wastewater, sanitation, energy, health care and shelter systems. These projects are initiated by, and completed with, contributions from the host community, who is trained to operate the systems without external assistance. In this way, EWB-USA ensures that its projects are appropriate and self-sustaining.