EMPOWERING OUR STUDENTS TO SERVE THE WORLD

Applied Global Business Learning (AGBL) is a unique volunteer organization that works to assist communities in developing nations. With students providing solutions, it is the hope of the organization to foster sustainable business practices while preserving cultural ideals. Applied Global Business Learning is an international faculty-led educational program.

This table shows a breakdown of the colleges served by Applied Global Business Learning:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Sciences</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Sciences</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty (from 7 different departments)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dear Friends of Applied Global Business Learning,

It’s been an exciting year for our program at Marquette University. AGBL sent its 100th student on a trip last March to our newest partner in the Dominican Republic. Overall we now have partners in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and India. We also have an opportunity to work directly with the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, the origin of microcredit and an inspiration for myself and many of our students.

From an administrative perspective we have been working hard to increase the legitimacy of the program beyond the walls of the College of Business. We have been lucky enough to have a great number of faculty volunteers to lead our trips and to make the experience even more beneficial to the students and the entrepreneurs. The program is part of the tradition of service learning at MU and carries three credit hours for all participants.

Each program is slowly developing its own character. As I will lead the India trip for the first time next winter, I have left that write-up to Dr. Clark. The Guatemala trips have centered around the Caritas organization in Quiche, the second poorest state in the country. We have written several papers to help them with fundraising efforts abroad. This past January we also visited a community to help them identify a community business. We held an entrepreneurship seminar for the organizations to help them see the process for business creation. During this seminar and subsequent conversations, we learned of the lack of legitimate microcredit organizations in the region.

Our second trip to El Salvador was as successful as the first. Our partner in El Salvador is the Center for Interchange and Solidarity which provides microfinance loans to female-run businesses. They have selected the entrepreneurs from their applicants. The group worked with women who use traditional indigo dyes to make beautiful clothing.

Aside from putting together a business plan for the indigo dying business, the center decided to write up a plan for a day care center that a second group of women could use to apply for a new loan helping even more members of their community.

The program continues to attract some of the best students MU has to offer and as we navigate through the next five years of AGBL, I hope that our reach will continue to grow.

-Heather Kohls, Director

El Salvador, January 2013
Reflections on Serving
Katharine Braunschweiger, Guatemala 2013

Being in Guatemala opened my eyes to a whole new reality: everything there revolves around water. Water is a basic human need and so many Guatemalans are without it. It was such a great experience going to three rural indigenous communities and hearing the wants and needs everyone has for their family and community. I was touched by the stories I heard about women walking 45 minutes one way to get clean water, only being able to bath twice a month during seasons of draught and children missing school several times per month because of water-borne illnesses.

During our trip, I was especially touched by the individuals of Xabillaguach, the waterless community we interviewed. Everyone was extremely eager to speak with us and although this community had the least to offer financially, our group was welcomed with an overwhelming amount of love, hospitality and respect. Halfway through our meeting, members of the community started distributing bottles of water and wafer crackers. Initially our group felt a sense of embarrassment and shame that Xabillaguach had spent money to give us clean water when they themselves do not have access to such luxuries. However, what I learned in that moment was how selfless the people of Guatemala are and the love that they share with everyone is endless.

Also while in Guatemala I enjoyed learning the differences between the indigenous communities throughout Guatemala. I was impressed with the women's ability to weave without looking down and the men's dedication to supporting their families. It was interesting to notice the variety of leadership roles in the community and how that affected the way things were run and the priorities of the town.

Additionally, the entrepreneurship workshop our team facilitated in San Andres fascinated me. It was neat to put the business principles I have learned throughout my four years of college into tangible real-life examples. The workshop was designed to spark conversation about potential business practices for the community members and then evaluate the steps needed to make the vision possible. This day proved to be more challenging than I had anticipated. The community had great ideas of businesses and they were enthusiastic about helping. However, they were also apprehensive because they knew water was needed for every project, a fundamental necessity to which San Andres has limited access. This is a challenge we never discussed in class, it was usually more the finances, manpower, design and promotion aspect of entrepreneurship. I found myself feeling the helplessness of the people and I shared in their frustration, as I too could not think of solutions to water scarcity.

But most of all, I will always remember how warm and welcoming the people of Guatemala were to us. I returned from my trip with a renewed sense of gratitude and appreciation.

Recap: India - Winter Break 2013

Check out our website to read about the trip to India: http://go.mu.edu/india2013
LOOKING TOWARD OUR 2014 TRIPS

Quiche, Guatemala: Microcredit
January 2014

The students will conduct an audit of a small microcredit organization that has been highly recommended. We will learn about the sad state of microcredit in Guatemala and how this organization is trying to do things differently. The students will then help decide if the organization really is doing things differently. We have a small group of women who have requested assistance in applying for a loan, so the students will do a brief business plan with them and work with the microcredit to see the process.

India
January 2014

We will spend some time with the new leadership team at Xplant and visit Dediapada to continue to watch their progress with prior recommendations. We are also turning our focus away from Delhi for a year to work with a Jesuit group in Jaipur.

Dominican Republic
March 2014

The Batey Relief Alliance will once again host our students as we work with their cooperatives to strengthen their efforts to distribute food and provide income for their farmers.

Bangladesh 2015?

Prior to the India trip, Dr. Kohls will spend a few days in Bangladesh to determine how a brigade to the country would be structured. Would it be possible to visit the great models of microfinance in your junior year and venture to Guatemala to apply those lessons in your senior year?

To donate please contact Charles Ries, University Advancement, 414-288-7212 or send a check directly to AGBL at Marquette University, P.O. Box 1881, Zilber Hall, Suite 321, Milwaukee, WI 53201. Charles.Ries@mu.edu

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