



ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS USA

Stevens Institute of Technology Chapter



FALL 2024 Leaps and bounds

As the year draws to a close, the EWB-SIT Project Team can look back on an incredible journey of growth. The team's hard work manifested in our first project trip in the Peru program, a major milestone for our chapter. In August of this year, EWB-SIT was able to send five students to the Andes mountains of Peru to visit the Chua Chua community and perform survey data collection and interviews as part of the Assessment Phase of our irrigation project.

Building on the success of this trip, the team has been hard at work developing solutions to address agricultural water insecurity during the dry season. We've developed a phased implementation plan to address the community's needs effectively and sustainably.

Currently, the Project Team is refining alternative solutions and preparing for our next visit to Chua Chua, where we aim to begin the implementation phase.

We are excited to see what lies ahead for this team as we push forward into the new year and incredibly grateful for your support of this great work.

VINCENT MENICELLI
PROJECT
DEVELOPMENT
CHAIR

**EWB @
STEVENS**

In this newsletter
you can expect:

1 Trip Review

2 What's Next FOR in
Project Development

3 Fundraising Updates

4 PR Updates

5 How You Can
Contribute





The Assessment Trip: Four Days in Chua Chua

From August 11 to 18, five of our members travelled to Peru for the Assessment Trip, the first major trip to the country for our ongoing water project.

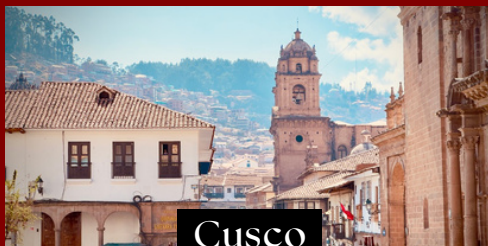
Accompanying us on our journey were Katie Byrnes, our mentor and an EWB multi-trip veteran, and Linda Tello, founder of the nonprofit Whole Earth Engineering and a longtime supporter of Chua Chua.

After assembling in Miami, the travel team flew into Lima, then to Cusco, where they had the opportunity

to meet Chua Chua native and trip guide Elisa, as well as their beloved driver, Alfredo. A tour of the Inca site of Tipón provided engineering and cultural inspiration for the entire team before the bulk of work began.

The days in Chua Chua were like none other we've experienced. The cold, altitude, and intense inclines made our brief time there difficult, but our important work and the good friends we made in the community made it rewarding. The team thanks all those who donated their time to make the trip the success it was.

Trip Spotlights



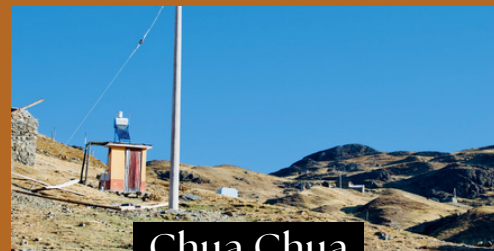
Cusco

A hostel here was our home for three nights. In that span of time, we experienced the rich culture, saw the stunning architecture, and met the vibrant people of this historic city.



Tipón

We saw a complex network of water canals which sustained a series of crop terraces. EWB teams can learn from many surprising techniques employed by the Inca.

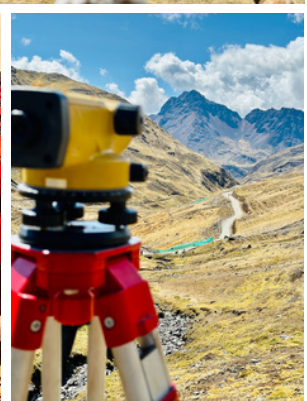
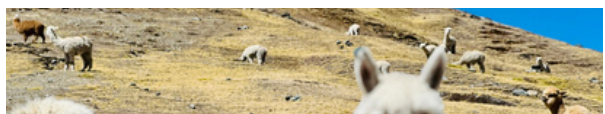


Chua Chua

When we arrived in Chua Chua in the late afternoon, it felt like we had reached the ceiling of the world. Before any work began, we were treated to dinner by the residents. Chua Chua lacks material abundance, which makes their limitless hospitality all the more special to us.

On our first full day in the community, through struggling to acclimate to 15,000 feet of elevation, we attended our first community meeting and took part in the Despacho ceremony.

On our second day, interview work and survey work was completed concurrently and sooner than expected. Throughout the experience we made connections and were touched deeply by the people of Chua Chua.



Just Getting Started

Things haven't settled down now that we've travelled to Peru. On the contrary, this has been our busiest and most active semester in years.

Membership has exploded since September, and for the first time since the pandemic we have dedicated committees working full-throttle on Fundraising and Public Relations. As a result, we've had our most successful on- and off-campus fundraising events in memory as well as a big rise in visibility on campus.

The Project Development (PD) committee completed an excellent Post-Assessment Travel Report, laying the groundwork for the Implementation Trip scheduled for next summer. The PD Committee, led by Vincent Menichelli and Savannah Isacson, is putting its mechanical and environmental engineering expertise to work. With the foundation of the data collected by our assessment team, alternatives are being designed to address the water retention problem in Chua Chua.

Constant communication and feedback from our growing network of supporters, advisors, and stakeholders, as well as the community itself, is how the team thrives.



This picture-annotated map was created by the travel team to depict different key locations in the community



Project and Trip Review

We hit the ground running in the beginning of the semester to expose everyone to the project. This allowed everyone to get their hands dirty and see what we do at PD meetings.



PD Design Challenge

Teams were given a project-specific topic to design, factoring in cost, labor, and feasibility



Weekly PD Meetings

Here you can see the PD team hard at work during a Saturday meeting!



A bigger club needs more funds

Building on the surge of interest following our successful trip to Peru, the fundraising committee saw record participation this semester. This enthusiasm enabled us to raise \$1,675 through local events, both on and off campus, and strategic outreach efforts – securing the necessary budget for our implementation trip to Peru in Summer 2025. We are deeply grateful for the generous support we have received so far. Your continued contributions will help sustain this momentum and ensure the success of future project phases.

BRANDON GILMAN FUNDRAISING CHAIR



A new level of recognition

The Public Relations committee has seen a large increase in participation and recognition of the club on campus after our club’s recent visit to Peru. The trip was not only productive for the project but also impactful in other ways, allowing us to gain more interest and connections with Stevens students. The committee meeting and event attendance have skyrocketed compared to past semesters. Students are eager to hear about the interesting experiences we had and all of the knowledge we gained on the trip, which leads to more general interest and relevance of the club. With this momentum, we’re committed to building on our achievements and growing the club further. Thank you to everyone who made this journey possible—let’s keep the excitement going!

CLAIRE DEATRICK & MIKAYLA MINTON PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRS



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

Barbara Jean Menichelli	Jill Schmid
Dana Franznick	Lana Marr
Karen Spitzner	
James Franznick	...and all our Double
Liz O’Connell	Good fundraiser
Margaret Rispoli	participants!

How to Contribute

Please check out our [donation website!](#)
(Click for the link)



To the friends of Stevens EWB-USA:

What an incredible year it has been for Stevens EWB-USA! This past semester, we sent a project team to the Chua Chua community in August, welcomed a new class of passionate students in September, and launched project alternative analysis in October. By November, we held chapter elections, and in December, we celebrated a successful semester full of growth and impact. These achievements reflect the hard work, dedication, and vision of our members.

I am proud to share that our project is on schedule and fully funded for 2025, thanks to the unwavering support of our technical mentors, stakeholders, and the incredible contributions from friends, family, and advocates of the Stevens EWB program. Your generosity makes our mission of building a better world possible.

As we enter 2025, a milestone year marking our 20th anniversary, we are eager to deepen community partnerships, strengthen relationships with the Stevens administration and campus organizations, and provide our student members with even greater opportunities for leadership and professional growth.

Thank you for your continued support of the Stevens EWB program and the mission of Engineers Without Borders USA.

“PARTNER WITH COMMUNITIES AND DEVELOP LEADERS TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD.”

WILLIAM FRANZNICK
PRESIDENT-ELECT



Thank you to the graduating eBoard!

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