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Environmental Chem Student Extends the Link

By Makenzie Horrigan

Think globally. Act locally. That is the mantra of Extending the Link (ETL), a student-run documentary team that makes films on under-told social justice issues. ETL members document issues that apply to the CSB/SJU community, but they also look at these issues from a global perspective. ETL also implements an “Act Local Initiative” which is a project that encourages the CSB/SJU, St. Joseph, and greater Minnesota communities to take action at home.

Grace Lindquist, Chem '18 is a senior environmental chemistry major at CSB/SJU and co-director of ETL. Of the twenty members of the 2017-2018 ETL cohort, there are nineteen different majors and minors represented. Lindquist's role as a chemistry major was to give a technical and chemical perspective to the issue chosen for this year's documentary: water.

This year's film, “Nibi Eteg: Where the Water Is,” looks at water through a spiritual lens, rather than as a commodity, in order to encourage change in the way people interact with water. When communities respect water, conflict regarding water use is reduced.

ETL began brainstorming social issues for this documentary in April 2017 and gained initial inspiration to address the spirituality of water during the Dakota Access Pipeline protests in 2016. The members then spent the summer doing literature research and organizing visits to filming locations. By the time fall semester began, ETL was ready to market and fundraise for the production of the year's documentary, and traveled to the Red Lake Indian Reservation in Red Lake, MN over fall break to explore local water crises.

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Lindquist and crew visit the Red Lake Nation

ETL: India, MN, and H₂O

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Over winter break, Lindquist led several of the members across the globe to Calcutta, India. Indian culture reveres Mother Ganga, the Ganges River, as the spirit and life of India. Unfortunately, the vitality of the Ganges is often overestimated, and is therefore abused. Even though the oxygen levels of the Ganges are at an all-time high, the river is dying. As important as the environment is, other matters are often seen as requiring more urgent attention. Factors like government corruption, poverty, and low literacy rates often take precedence over concerns about the health of the Ganges.

Lindquist said the spirituality ETL documented both at Red Lake and along The Ganges was eerily similar.

“The Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians told us about the Medicine Wheel, which is divided into four sectors which each represent water, earth, fire, and air while the circular nature is symbolic of never-ending life,” Lindquist said. “Then in India, the Hindu culture has the same idea, but their circle contains five sectors which represent water, earth, fire, air, and space/atmosphere. Both cultures told us, nearly verbatim, how the circle needs balance in all of its sectors to make a healthy earth, and when one sector is out of balance, every other sector suffers as well.”

ETL also hosted a Water Week on the CSB/SJU campus in partnership with multiple other clubs to address the interdisciplinary nature of water social justice issues during April 22-28. Events included a sunset canoe with the Peer Resource Program and ocean acidification demonstrations with Chemistry and Climate Action Clubs.

Finally, after a year’s worth of work, the documentary premiered April 19 in the Stephen B. Humphrey Theater at SJU.

“Nibi Eteg: Where the Water Is”, as well as all of ETL’s previous documentaries, can be found on Facebook or YouTube.

Anna McKenna, Popular Professor, Retires

Dr. Anna McKenna has announced that she is retiring after the 2017-2018 academic year.

McKenna is a graduate of Clemson University in her native South Carolina, where she earned both a bachelor's and master's degree. She came to CSB/SJU with experience teaching high school. Intent on securing a permanent position, which required a Ph.D., she began conducting experiments in the chemistry lab. Eventually, she took a year's leave of absence to return to Clemson and finish graduate work.

McKenna taught general chemistry as well as non-majors chemistry for first-year

students. In addition, she taught upper-division inorganic chemistry.

Retirement is sure to bring peace and relaxation. McKenna and her husband have bought a retirement home near their alma mater, in the foothills of the Appalachians. They have been season ticket holders for Clemson football for a number of years, and plan to celebrate autumn Saturday victories for the indefinite future. The couple also has a summer cottage on the north shore of Lake of the Woods.



McKenna



Postcards from Abroad



"That is Mount Vesuvius behind me, a volcano that blew in 79AD and covered the ancient city of Pompeii and many others around it in ashes." - **Austin Hill, Bchm '19, Greco-Roman.**

"This was taken in Camp Nou, the FC Barcelona stadium. We were lucky enough to go to a game and Barcelona won 5-1!" - **Ellen Arnold, Bchm '19, Spain/Segovia.**



"I decided to go to a group side trip to Coquimbo and La Serena, cities up north of Chile. Where I am is Coquimbo when the sun was setting and we had viewed the big religious cross there." - **Evelyn Perez, Chem '19, Chile/Valparaiso.**

Students Raise Money for Cancer Research



Will Gillach, Bchm '19, goes under the razor to fight cancer

A group of biochemistry students were part of a CSB/SJU team that organized a fundraiser last October for children's cancer research. **Austin Hingtgen, Bchm '20**, was the principle organizer for the event, conducted through the St. Baldrick's Foundation. The national organization sponsors head-shaving events, in which donors pledge money to see participants take the barber's chair. The CSB/SJU group almost doubled their original target, raising nearly \$10,000.

Hingtgen recruited other students to help with the event, including **Allie Grodnick** and **Nicole Newman, Bchm '20**, as well as biology sophomores Cecilia Lovinger, Maddie Curtis, and Taylor Billion. Planning began in June and went into high gear once the semester started.

Other contributors to the event included St. John's Senate, which gave seed money for a fundraising dinner. The venue was provided by Sal's of St. Joseph.



Hingtgen (left) and his father after a close shave



Chemistry Honors Outstanding Students

The CSB/SJU Chemistry Department announced its annual student awards for Academic Year 2017-2018. The **Rick Jochman** Award for proficiency in organic chemistry went to **Taylor Loth, Bchm '20** and **Jack Matuska, Chem '20**. **Delane Passenheim, Bchm '19** was selected for the **S. Rogatia Sohler** Award for an outstanding CSB junior. **Mitchell Thelen, Bchm '19** won the **Glen Arth** Award for an exceptional SJU junior. American Institute of Chemists Awards went to **Shelley Peterson, Bchm '18** and **Brandon Thauwald, Chem '18**.

Other awards recognized proficiency in the lab. **Ana Grace Alvarado, Chem '20** and **Jherian Mitchell-Jones, Chem '19** shared the **F. Matthew Kiess** Award for laboratory skill. **Allie Grodnick, Bchm '20** was selected to receive the **F. John Klassen** Award for summer research.

Additional award winners appear on the department Facebook page, CSB SJU Chemistry Department.

Alum Notes

Gerard Henry, Chem '91 completed an MD at UNC-Chapel Hill and residency at Duke. He has been the lead author on over a dozen peer-reviewed papers in the field of urology.

Dustin Hansen, Chem '10 is finishing a residency in pediatrics at U MN; he starts a fellowship in pediatric critical care at Johns Hopkins this summer.

Tom Nilles-Melchert, Chem '17 has been working in the health center at the Benedictine Abbey in Hanga, Tanzania. This spring, he began teaching math to First Form (7th graders); his Swahili is improving! He has also had some down time to see Lake Victoria, the Nile River, and Mount Kilimanjaro.



Sanusi Takes Flight *A Career in Software*

by Alex Messner

It isn't every day that a part-time hobby can turn into a full-time job. But when that opportunity arose for **Lukman Sanusi, BChM '12**, he couldn't turn it down.

Sanusi fell in love with iOS development during the summer of his sophomore year at Saint John's. At the time, it was just a hobby while he prepared for medical school. One of his first applications—which could create calendar events on either odd or even days—garnered the support of family and friends which would eventually lead him to postpone medical school and find a job as a Junior iOS Developer at Atomic Axis in Austin, TX following graduation. At Atomic Axis, Sanusi learned what it was like to work as a team on a project rather than as a lone developer.

Following a recommendation from a friend, Sanusi found himself in his current company, ForeFlight, where he has eventually worked to become the Senior iOS Engineer. ForeFlight was started over 10 years ago by two pilots who wanted to streamline planning, flying, and logging into one application. Today, ForeFlight has been downloaded by countless pilots in business, commercial, and general aviation who use the application every day.

Sanusi spends much of his work day writing code to create or improve features of the application. Because it is a group effort, he is consistently in meetings, both as a leader and as a participant, where he and his team try to create innovative ideas to enhance users' experiences even further.

When asked what his favorite aspect of working at ForeFlight is, Sanusi responds, "To see a feature you spent days and sometimes months on come to life...It is amazing when a customer writes about how stellar the product is."

When he isn't writing code, Sanusi enjoys hiking, biking, and exploring the world. To wind down while at work, he can often be found dueling his coworkers on the ping pong table. Despite not going into a chemistry-related field, Sanusi says that the curriculum certainly prepared him for his current career through its emphasis on problem solving. But for Sanusi, it goes much deeper than that.

"It's not just about solving a problem, but to do so in such a way that improves the lives of users we touch."



The Cavendish Chronicle

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