In May 2012, Civil & Environmental Engineering students traveled to San Pedro, Philippines to help in a developing country and to gain experience seeing, first hand, the practical application of civil engineering. Students helped repair flood damaged squatter homes and prepare them for the upcoming rainy season. A new drainage system for sewage around a local church was also designed and built.

When the group was not working on projects, they executed outreach programs for the children who lived in the squatter settlement. The students explained what it means to be an engineer and spoke of the future of engineering. The children then constructed and tested bridges made of spaghetti and glue to demonstrate the basic principles of engineering.

“As a student interacting with people with different cultures and skill sets, I can better understand how an engineer works in the field. In the same way I worked with others to solve problems in the Philippines, I can work with others to find better solutions to problems as an engineering professional. The experience helped me see how people live and work in other parts of the world and has inspired me even more to be an engineer.”