Students from Civil & Environmental Engineering and Mechanical Engineering traveled to San Pedro, Philippines in May 2011 to make improvements to water infrastructure and homes damaged by typhoon storms. Student designed a water pump station to provide clean, safe drinking water to local residents. Students created the pump station to meet the year round needs of the community by constructing the platform above ground to make it accessible during the rainy season which normally floods the town. Adjustments were made based on the limitations of the site as well the team’s limited supply budget.

To meet the residents’ need for a centralized sanitary sewage system, the students built a common toilet for the Landayan District community. The new common toilet addressed issue of raw sewage flowing into the streets when ditches overflowed from the heavy rains.

In addition to the drinking water and sewage projects, students also worked with locals to address damage from the 2010 typhoon by reinforcing or rebuilding their homes.

“This experience taught me much about engineering in a different cultural context than my own. The opportunities I had to practice problem solving, resource management and cross-cultural communication were irreplaceable.”

Sarah Zakrajsek
CEE - Class of 2013
In May 2012, Civil & Environmental Engineering students traveled to San Pedro, Philippines to not only help in a developing country but to also gain experience seeing, first hand, the practical application of civil engineering. Student helped repair flood damaged squatter homes and prepare them for the upcoming rainy season. A new drainage system for sewage around the church, the student’s host, 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 is means to be an engineer and spoke of the future of engineering. The children then constructed and tested basic 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 engineering 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.”

Christopher Ejiofor (far right)
CEE - Class of 2013