

# LAFAYETTE COLLEGE ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS



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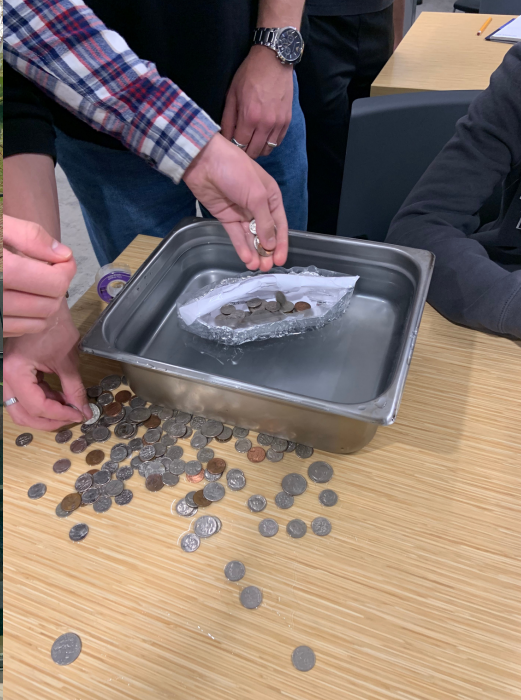
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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

WRITTEN BY MICHAEL ARONSON

Engineers Without Borders has had another successful year and has persevered through the stress and limitations that COVID-19 has provided. I have been so fortunate to serve as the club's president this past year. I have truly enjoyed my time and am so proud of all of the hard work the executive board, project leaders, and all of the club's members have continued to dedicate to the club week after week. This amazing collection of students has made my job easy and allowed the club to flourish.

I took over the presidency from Sasha Neefe my sophomore year. I had previously served as the campus outreach chair, and as a project leader. Both experiences helped prepare me for the daunting task of leading an emerging and successful club as a sophomore. An added pressure was that I was following Sasha, who had dedicated the majority of her free time here at Lafayette to restart and get the club to the place it was when I took over. (full letter continued on page 6)



# Advisor Acknowledgement

WRITTEN BY JED ALTERMAN

Professor Toby Rossmann brings energy, organizational know-how, and a tremendous understanding of the campus to EWB's advisory board. His insights enable the club to be more productive and his support pushes the club's leaders to explore uncharted territory. Through weekly meetings with club leadership and new project contributions, he has played an integral role in the chapter's success. Thank you, Professor Rossmann, for the passion you have brought to the group.



## CLUB NEWS

WRITTEN BY LEXI GOULD

EWB was very excited by Lafayette College's decision to return to in-person learning and to allow in-person club meetings, after two semesters of holding weekly meetings virtually, via Zoom. During the fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters, we often began meetings with discussions about current events in the engineering world or with presentations from club members about research they have taken part in at Lafayette. These talks were very informative and interesting, but we were very excited by the ability to do more hands-on activities at the beginning of meetings. At our first general body meeting of the semester, we put together an egg drop challenge in which students were tasked with creating a device/container that could protect a raw egg from cracking when dropped from a height. At subsequent meetings, club members took part in what is often called the "Marshmallow Challenge" in which they attempted to create the highest tower possible from raw spaghetti and marshmallows and to see if it could support any weight, and in creating aluminum boats and testing their ability to hold coins in water (All pictured above). The ability to begin meetings with these fun, engaging activities is one of the aspects of in-person meetings that EWB loves most.

# CLUB NEWS

## Big Bench Build

WRITTEN BY LEXI GOULD

EWB has high hopes for the Spring 2022 semester! Back in May 2021, a project team within EWB designed and built two benches for the Easton Urban Farm, a community farm in Easton. Pictured here are photographs taken during the build. The build was very successful and has inspired us to plan a larger scale event in which EWB members and other engineering students at Lafayette can take part in building benches (utilizing the same bench design as used in the May 2021 bench build) for other Easton community partners who have also expressed interest in receiving benches. As of now, the plans are to build two benches each for The Children's Home of Easton, The Meuser Library, and Presbyterian Senior Living (The Easton Home), for a total of six benches.



The “big bench build” is still in early planning stages, but the following are some of our hopes:

- Train interested board members prior to the event so that they can serve as supervisors during the event. We hope to have the machine shop help put on this training.
- Reach out to professional engineers, maybe members of the Lehigh Valley Professional Chapter of EWB, to invite them to the event.
- Have sign-ups occur prior to the event so that we can keep the event organized. We also hope to make a video of our practice build and write instructions outlining how the build will go that we will send out to the participants prior to the event,
- Have smaller side events, besides just the building of the benches. We would love to partner with other engineering clubs and/or art clubs on campus for these events/activities as we want this to be more than just an EWB event.
- We would love for an event like this to become an annual event that provides engineering students the opportunity for hands-on building experience.

# CLUBS NEWS

## Hoff Awards

WRITTEN BY LEXI GOULD

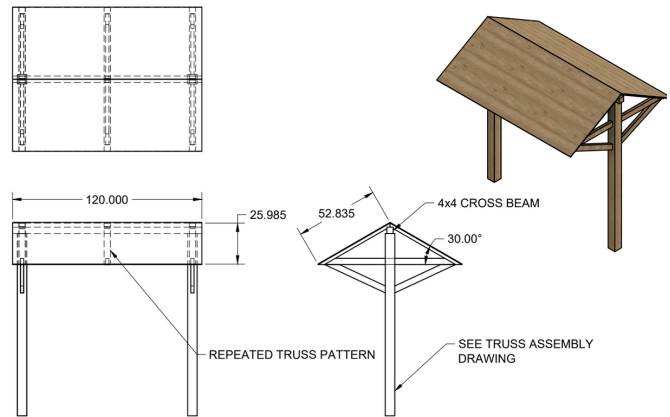
In May of 2021, EWB received the Student Organization of the Year Award (Serving Beyond Membership) at the 2021 Aaron O. Hoff Awards, recognizing their progression of growth, particularly throughout the 2020–2021 academic year. Pictured on page 1, three members of EWB's executive board, Michael Aronson (left), Jessica Landry (middle), and Lexi Gould (right) attended the Hoff Awards ceremony in order to receive the award on behalf of the club. Receiving this award validated the hard work that the executive board put into obtaining projects that the general body could become involved in, putting on research and current event presentations during weekly meetings, and overall, continuing to put on engaging programming and maintaining membership during a year of remote learning.



# Project Updates

## DELAWARE CANAL STATE PARK PICNIC CANOPY

Starting during Spring 2021 and continuing into the Fall 2021 semester, our team has been working on designing a canopy for picnic tables for the Delaware Canal State Park, just minutes from Lafayette's campus. The canopy is meant to protect both the table and patrons from inclement weather as well as provide shade. During Fall 2021, our team was able to finalize our design, with the goal of implementing it on-site in Spring 2022. The State Park has also asked to use our design to build more canopies in the future!



## EDUCATION OUTREACH

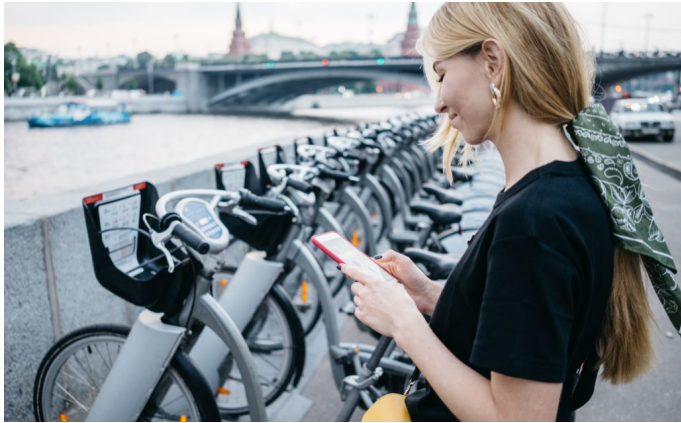
The Education Outreach team typically partners with another club on campus, LafKidConnect, to create and execute an engaging lesson for local middle school students. This goal was set back for the Fall 2021 semester as LafKidConnect was unable to have as many club activities, so the Education Outreach team focused on preparations for a successful lesson in the spring semester.

## MICRO FOOD PANTRIES

Starting this Fall 2021 semester, the Micro Food Pantries team had been tasked with exploring project possibilities in relation to Easton's needs. We ran a feasibility study on our original project idea of a Micro Food Pantry similar to the Little Free Libraries Organization (pictured right). Our plan for next semester is to continue planning out our project design through contacting the Easton neighborhood center, and other similar organizations. These organizations would be able to give us strong insight into what the best final design would be.



# Project Updates

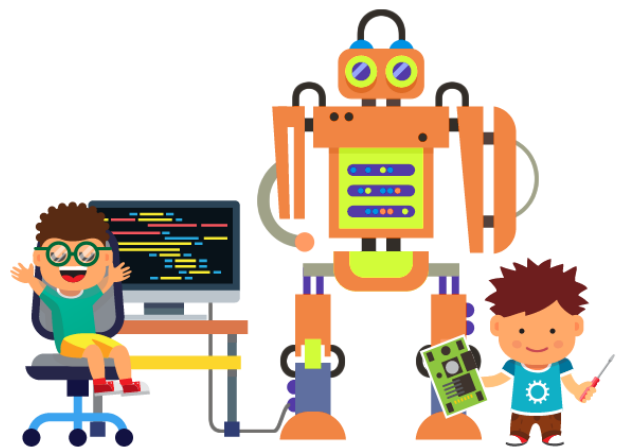


## COMMUNITY BIKE SHARE

During this past semester the bike sharing project team has worked to secure the next steps in continuing our project. Over the past semester we have reevaluated our heading and now with this upcoming semester we are looking to move forward to making a proposal of the system to the Lafayette leadership to secure funding. This proposal will be made in conjunction with the city of Easton so that our side of the bike sharing system and theirs work fluidly with each other.

## ROBOTICS ADVISING

During the fall semester of 2021, EWB worked closely with the Easton Area Highschool First Robotics Club to advise them about how to prepare for their robotics competition and aided in the development of their fighter robot. Their robot incorporated a dodgeball launcher with retractable arms that could extend and latch onto cylinders and other surfaces. Additionally, we helped the students in the club learn how to use CAD and other software that would teach their robot how to perform several battling and defense maneuvers. EWB taught them the importance of solving design problems and calculations, working together as a group, and listening to every idea that was presented to them in each meeting's brainstorming sessions.



## EASTON SKATE PARK

The city of Easton tasked the EWB club with implementing small skateable features into their Pocket Park Vision plan. Our Pocket Skate Park team has met with local leaders to further understand the project's vision and the role EWB will play in creating and implementing skateable features. In addition, this team has involved the new Skate Club at Lafayette College to help create designs that cater directly to skateboarders' needs. For the upcoming semester, this team hopes to survey the pocket park locations and create skateable designs in these parks that serve varying skill levels of the Easton skateboarding community.



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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**WRITTEN BY MICHAEL ARONSON**

Her countless hours of effort and dedication put into the club was something that everyone could feel the impact of. Under her leadership, the club went from nothing to a well-organized and highly functioning club. Following her and all of the success she had was daunting. I wanted to live up to the standard that Sasha had set.

Sasha was a great mentor for my leadership style. One of the biggest takeaways I have learned from Sasha was that engaging the executive board was crucial. Engineers Without Borders has the unique situation of being a club that demands a significant amount of time and effort from its executive board all while being in a volunteer position. This means that as soon as executive board members lose any motivation the progress slows. Sasha did a great job of creating an environment at our executive board meeting that was fun, engaging, and in turn, every member showed up and participated. This was something that I wanted to incorporate into my term as president. Leading and engaging over zoom was definitely not the easiest task. Fortunately, we were able to have in-person meetings again in the Fall of 2021. This allowed us to provide fun activities to start the general body meetings like an egg drop and an aluminum foil boat competition. It was amazing to see the club's members in person and not just their heads in small rectangles on the screen. By the end of the semester, we were able to elect another fabulous group of dedicated members to the executive board. To help build the start of an engaged and fun executive board both the newly elected board and the previous board went bowling to start the transition process. It was a huge success and allowed the newly elected members to get to know the rest of the group informally.

I decided to not run for president again for this upcoming year and I am beyond happy to pass the honor onto James Galbraith. Nevertheless, Engineers Without Borders can't get rid of me yet. I was elected as an Outreach chair for the upcoming year. This will be my third term on the executive board along with Jed Alterman, Fayth Wisheart, and Lexi Gould. We are all excited to work with the three new members of the executive board. I am excited to have an executive board consisting of both experienced and new members. I cannot wait to see all of the new ideas and progress the new board will make.

Over the past year, I have tried to follow Sasha's level of dedication. I led an executive board meeting weekly, led our advisor meetings weekly, and attended the Engineering Student Council meetings bi-weekly as an Engineers Without Borders representative. This level of dedication was matched by the rest of the leaders of the club. The rest of the executive board helped run general body meetings, and project leaders strongly led their teams every week.

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The members of this amazing organization were not the only ones putting in this amazing amount of effort every week. For another year Professor Arthur Kney was an invaluable resource. The club's advisor team was able to grow significantly this year with the addition of Sandy Snead our professional mentor, and Professor Toby Rossmann. This group of three was one of the main reasons for all of the club's success. They showed up to all of the weekly advisor meetings ready to hear what progress the club had made that week and provide guidance on how to proceed. I can not thank them enough for this. They drastically reduced the workload I had as president and propelled the club forward faster than any of us could have imagined. Professor Kney will be going on a year-long sabbatical starting in the Fall and losing him on our advisory team will be a significant loss. The whole club thanks him for all he has done for us over the past two years and hopes to see him back on the advisory board upon his return. Even with Professor Kney's departure, the advisory board is incredibly strong and I know that they will continue to guide the club to yet another successful year.

Upon students being able to return to campus and in-person classes in the Spring of 2021 Engineers Without Borders was recognized by the College during the Hoff Awards. The club received the distinct honor of being named Student Organization of the Year: Serving Beyond Membership. Being able to walk across the stage with two of the club's other executive members to receive the award helped solidify that all the work that had been put into the restarting of this fantastic club was being recognized. This award was earned by Sasha, our advisory team, the club's dedicated executive board, and all of the work our general body does weekly. Every member deserves appreciation for their work in this achievement. Also at the Hoff Awards, two of Engineers Without Borders's executive board members received honors. Jed Alterman and Emily Ross both received the Emerging Leader Award.

I am so proud to be a part of Engineers Without Borders. The club has allowed me to grow as a person and a leader. I have been able to learn so much from not only the challenges I had to overcome to run the club but also the amazing people who chose to volunteer their time to be a part of the club. I am honored to serve as president this last year and look forward to working with the new executive board as an Outreach Chair. The future of Engineers Without Borders is so bright and I cannot wait to see where it goes and all of the good we will be able to do for the community.

Sincerely,  
Michael Aronson  
Class of 2023  
President, 2021



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