



Stephanie Fleckenstein is a local water resources engineer for the consulting firm HDR. She is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer and is currently serving as a mentor for the Colorado School of Mines Engineers Without Borders project in Los Gomez, Nicaragua. Her Peace Corps service in Peru as a Water and Sanitation Volunteer brought projects of improved stovetops, pour flush bathrooms, water filters, and extended water lines to provide in home water taps.

ENGINEERING PEACE: EXPECTATIONS AND EXPERIENCES OF AN ENGINEER SERVING IN THE UNITED STATES PEACE CORPS

By Stephanie Fleckenstein

This discussion is intended to share my own (hopeful) expectations and (truthful) experiences as well as provide an opportunity to answer questions related to performing development work as an expatriate. I would like to share lessons learned through two major evolutions; as a student becoming a humanitarian engineer, and a volunteer becoming a private consultant.

Background

Three months after receiving her BS in Civil Engineering, Stephanie began a two year assignment to improve water and sanitation infrastructure to a tiny agricultural community in the dusty, water starved region of Ica, Peru. Preparation included downsizing her life, practicing foreign language, and reading every blog, book, or article written by more experienced volunteers. Despite her dedication to hit the ground running, the transition from book smart and technology savvy college grad to a respected professional foreign authority on all things engineering continued to produce obstacles and challenges.

This event is a collaboration with
EWB/B2P

Humanitarian Engineering Lecture Series

Fall 2014

**THURSDAY
9.11.14**

12.30 – 2.00 PM

HILL HALL 202

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