Honors Self- Designed Proposal – Emily Piatt

Complete this proposal **prior** to your experience’s start date and upload it in the UHP Database (<https://webapps.uc.edu/uchonorsstudent>). Create an experience (“Add a new record”) in the “Tracking Project” tab and upload your proposal document as an attachment. The deadline for [submitting proposals](http://www.uc.edu/honors/experiences/experiencesubmission.html) is the 5th of each month (excluding July).

Proposals are intended to be well developed plans for your experience. However, experiences are exploratory in nature, and we are flexible with changes throughout the experience. If your experience changes after receiving approval on your proposal, contact your honors advisor to verify the changes still satisfy the requirements of an honors experience.

**Basic Information**  
Full Name: Emily Piatt

Title of Project: Engineers Without Borders Nyambogo Assessment trip

Thematic Area(s): Global Studies and Community Engagement

Expected Start Date: March 21, 2016

Expected End Date: March 27, 2016

**Guidelines**

1. Proposal submission timeline: Proposals should be submitted at least one month prior to the expected start date of the experience. International experiences require at least two months’ notice. Contact your honors advisor immediately for any exceptions.
2. Proposal length: While the quality of the proposal is most important, strong proposals are typically 3-4 pages single-spaced.
3. Proposal format: Please maintain the proposal format (e.g. headers, layout)
4. Time commitment: Experiences should consist of at least 75-90 hours of preparation, execution, and reflection. This is approximately equivalent to the commitment of honors seminars and pre-approved experiences.

**Requirements for International Travel**

All self-designed international travel experiences require two months’ notice and must be at least one week in length. You will need to provide a detailed itinerary (dates, locations and activities). If participating in independent travel (not with UC faculty, staff or student group), you must also fill out a [Worldwide: Honors Experience application](http://studyabroad.uc.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=10217) via UC International.

Additionally, the [Student Travel Policy](http://www.uc.edu/content/dam/uc/about/docs/university_policies/student_travel_policy.pdf) restricts UC-sponsored travel to countries under a [U.S. Department of State Travel Warning](http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings.html). Those who wish to visit a country with a travel warning must seek an [exemption](http://www.uc.edu/international/study-abroad/applying-to-study-abroad/travel-restrictions---exemptions.html) through UC International. Students traveling without a faculty or staff leader must individually request an exemption. ***We cannot allow you to count this travel as an honors experience nor can we give you a grant without an approved exemption.***

1. **Abstract**

*Briefly describe the experience. What makes this experience personally meaningful? What goals do you have for this experience? What is your timeline for this experience?*

*\*If you are proposing an international experience, provide an itinerary.*

*\*\*If you are developing this experience from an existing opportunity (class with a study tour, campus organization, co-op, etc.) that is not already an honors seminar or pre-approved experience, how will you differentiate your experience from what is already required of other students?*

I have been working with the Engineers Without Borders organization since the beginning of my college career and have been getting more involved with the organization since then. I am currently a member of the Nyambogo Committee of the organization and we are working on creating a water system for the people of Nyambogo. We are also currently in the process of building a schoolhouse that will fill the community’s needs. The water system is currently serving many members of the community, but is not serving enough members to be self-sustaining. This means that the well is not making enough money for the people of the community to pay the workers. In order to make this project self-sustaining, the group will need to explore ways to lay pipelines in order to provide more community members with the opportunity to purchase the water. The assessment trip will provide us with more information about the best places to lay the pipeline and it will tell us how the well is working. This trip will also explore the possibility of finishing the schoolhouse project so that the group can focus their energy on the pipeline.

This experience is personally meaningful to me because I am very passionate about service. I have always tried to do my best to help others and provide them with what they need. This project will provide a community with a reliable source of clean drinking water and will provide more jobs to the community. This experience will allow me to interact with the people that we are helping through our project and will give me the opportunity to see the world since I have never been out of the United States. The goals that I have for this experience are to learn more about the culture in Nyambogo, assess the progress of our project, and find ways to improve the water system.

This experience will occur over spring break of 2016. Each day the group will talk to community members about the project to see what they think about the water system. This will happen through a series of interviews with the community members and the well workers. One day will be spent in Bosthwana in order to assess the schoolhouse project.

A tentative itinerary for the week is as follows:

**March 21st**: Fly from Cincinnati to Tanzania. Travel by car to Nyambogo.

**March 22nd**: Complete travel to Nyambogo and get settled in the housing facility.

**March 23rd**: Visit the local community and visually assess the current water system and Conduct interviews with the community members.

**March 24th**: Conduct interviews with the well workers.

**March 25th**: Travel to Bosthwana to assess the progress on the schoolhouse.

**March 26th**: Meet with the group to discuss any outstanding questions and finish assessments.

**March 27th**: Depart Nyambogo and return to Cincinnati.

As with all service trips, there is an element of ambiguity in the itinerary, and therefore I have written it as a “tentative” itinerary for the week.

I will differentiate my experience from what is already required of other students by reflecting further about the culture that I will be in and look to understand further the people who are living there. This reflection will allow me to have a deeper meaning for the project we are working on and it will enable me to further appreciate what I have.

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Must Include:  Brief description of the experience  Personal connection to the experience  Identified goals for the experience  Timeline from start to finish  \*Itinerary (international experiences only)  \*\*Explanation of differentiated experience from what is required of other students | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

1. **Experience Advisor**

*Identify an experience advisor and provide their contact information. Explain why you chose this person and how you plan to utilize your advisor for this experience.*

Note: Advisor(s) should have knowledge or expertise in an area related to the experience. Honors advisors, undergraduate students, and family members cannot be experience advisors.

# John K. Kalubi

Title: Associate Teaching Professor  
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Tel: 513-556-4232  
Email: [john.kalubi@uc.edu](mailto:john.kalubi@uc.edu)

I chose Dr. Kalubi for my experience advisor because he is very knowledgeable and passionate about African culture and will help me to better appreciate other cultures and will be a valuable resource for further studying the culture of Nyambogo. Dr. Kalubi was very eager to go on one of the assessment trips to see what we are working on and he is planning to accompany us on this trip. I plan to engage with my advisor by talking to him about the African culture and asking him questions throughout the trip.

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Must Include:  Experience advisor name and contact information  Description of why advisor was selected  Specific plans to engage with advisor | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

1. **Connection to Learning Outcomes**

*List 3* [*learning outcomes*](#ThematicAreas) *from any thematic area(s). Provide specific activities you plan to engage in to help you make progress towards the chosen learning outcomes. Describe how you expect each activity to help your progress. Include an estimated time commitment for those activities.*

* Demonstrate a sense of empathy, respect, and appreciation for others to build meaningful cross-cultural collaborations toward mutual growth and prosperity.

This learning outcome will be achieved on the trip because we will be interviewing people about the success of the well and how the water systems can be improved. This will occur throughout the week that we are in Nyambogo. By spending time with these people and finding out more information about their lives, I will begin to have a greater understanding about the best way to work with them to accomplish the common goal of providing the community with a reliable source of drinking water. This will also be achieved by speaking with my advisor and learning more about the African culture, which will better enable me to respect the people that I meet while on the trip.

* Identify and differentiate multiple ways to contribute towards the development or achievement of the community’s goals.

This learning outcome will be achieved throughout the course of the project because the purpose of the project is to identify the needs of a community and then use our creativity as engineers to work towards a solution that will work best for the people living within the community of Nyambogo. This project constantly involves communicating with the leaders of the community about their goals and then talking about those goals in our weekly meetings and brainstorming different solutions that would meet all of the goals of the community. By doing this we are able to find different ways for the community to achieve their goals. The meetings that involve this discussion occur once a week for approximately one hour throughout the school year.

* Develop a thorough understanding of the world view, beliefs, experiences, self-consciousness, or history of community members through collaboration.

This learning outcome will be achieved by traveling to Nyambogo and interacting with the people. This project relies heavily on working with the community in order to create a self-sustaining water source for the people that live there. By interacting with the people, I will be able to collaborate with them and learn more about their background and experience. This will allow me to better understand different world views and the history of other cultures. This will also be achieved because, while I am in Nyambogo, I will be fully immersed in the culture. Our group members will all be living with members of the community and we will eat meals and spend our free time with them. This will allow me to fully understand how they live their lives and will give me an idea of different beliefs and backgrounds other than my own.

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Must Include:  3 learning outcomes explicitly identified from any thematic area(s)  Examples of activities and explanation of how each will assist the progress towards the chosen learning outcome  Estimated time commitment for each activity | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

1. **Academic Resources Connected to the Learning Outcomes**

*List 1-2 academic resources you plan to use to enhance your understanding of the learning outcomes. Explain how each resource connects to your learning outcome(s) and helps you execute your experience. Please include the title and author/creator for each resource.*

Note: Academic resources are professional works that can be used to assist your understanding of the topic. Some examples are books, documentaries, videos, or research journals.

1. *Culture and Customs of Tanzania*, author Kefa M. Otiso.

This book explains the culture of Tanzania. I think this will be a valuable resource because it will help me better understand the place to which I will be traveling. This relates heavily to the learning outcomes; demonstrate a sense of empathy, respect, and appreciation for others to build meaningful cross-cultural collaborations toward mutual growth and prosperity, and develop a thorough understanding of the world view, beliefs, experiences, self-consciousness, or history of community members through collaboration. These learning outcomes can be achieved by gaining a greater understanding of the culture of a community and I believe this is what the book will enable me to do. I believe this will also help me during my experience because I have never been out of the country before so I do not have much experience with different cultures. This book will help give me some idea of what to expect when I travel to Nyambogo.

1. Collaboration, author Morten Hansen

This book helps explain the importance of collaboration and how to execute it effectively. This relates to the learning outcome that will enable me to identify and differentiate multiple ways to contribute towards the development or achievement of the community’s goals. I believe that this learning outcome fits well with this book because the only way we will be able to find ways to meet the community’s goals is to work closely with the people who live in the community. By working with my team and the community, I will be able to help find ways to meet the goals that have been set, but this can only be achieved through hard work and collaboration. This book will also help me to execute my experience by teaching me the best ways to work with others effectively, which is a big part of this project.

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Must Include:  1-2 academic resources connected to the learning outcomes  Title and author of each resource  Description of how resources will help make progress towards learning outcomes and execution of experience | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

1. **On-going Reflection**

*The on-going reflection should help you process the experience and progress toward your chosen learning outcomes. Describe your method for reflecting throughout the experience. Indicate specific reflection questions/topics you plan to use to guide your reflective process.*

Note: A variety of methods can be used for on-going reflection. Some examples are videos, drawings, blogs, songs, and journals. Reflection topics to consider include your ideas/insights about the experience, connection to other areas of involvement, and your progress towards the learning outcomes.

My method for reflecting throughout the experience will occur in two parts. The first part of my reflection will involve taking pictures throughout my experience. I believe this will show my immersion into the culture and my interaction with the people of the community. My pictures will focus specifically on the people in Nyambogo that our project will be affecting and any specific customs that I witness while I am on the trip. The second part of my reflection will involve a daily journal about the trip. Each day of my drip I will answer the following questions and write about my overall thoughts of the day:

What?

* What did I do today?
* Who did I talk to?
* What new things did I experience?
* What did I work on for the project today?

So What?

* Why were my activities today important?
* Who did I help?
* What did I think about the new things I learned today?

Now What?

* What issues came up today that will need to be solved in the future?
* How can I find out more about what I learned today?
* How can we make our project better using what I learned today?

These questions will be used as a guide for my reflections and will help me to think more deeply about what I am experiencing while I am on the trip. It will also help me to look at the project in a different way when I return home because I will have thought about the project deeply and related it to the things that I learned while in the community that we are helping.

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Must Include:  Method for ongoing reflection  Reflection questions/topics clearly specified | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

1. **Sharing Your Learning**

*Describe how you plan to actively share what you’ve taken away from this experience with a targeted audience. Explain why you chose this specific audience.*

Note: While social media can be an effective platform for sharing, only posting on your personal learning portfolio or social media account(s) does not reach a targeted audience.

I plan to actively share what I have taken away from my experience by posting some of the pictures that I take from the trip on the UC Engineers Without Borders Facebook page. This will allow me to reach my targeted audience of other members of Engineers Without Borders as a way to inspire them to go on a trip and learn more about the people that we help. I hope that I will also be able to appeal to people who are interested in joining the organization so that they will be able to see what the organization does, and the amazing opportunities that it provides.

I also plan to share my experience by presenting the findings of the trip to the Nyambogo Committee when I return from the trip. This is important because it will allow me to communicate what still needs to be done on the project and what we should work on next. It is very important for me to share the finding of the trip with others that are working on the project because they might be able to generate new ideas and help to find more ways to achieve the goals of the community.

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Must Include:  At least one method to actively share take-aways/learning from the experience  A specific audience and why the audience was selected | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

1. **Budget (if applicable)**

*Provide an itemized budget and indicate your source for cost information.*

*\*If you are engaged in an unpaid internship or research, please indicate the number of weeks and hours per week you plan to participate.*

The cost of my trip includes the following:

1. $2,000 for transportation to Nyambogo which includes airfare. This information was found on the website for flight tickets.
2. $1,000 for food and living arrangements. Food will be provided to us by the people that we are living with. This cost was given by the people we will be staying with.

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| **Advisor Feedback** | | |
| Notes:  Detailed budget of expenditures with sources to justify budget estimates  \*Indicates the number of hours per week and number of weeks of participation | Required Revisions: | Effective: |

**Thematic Area Learning Outcomes**

**Learning Outcomes for the Community Engagement Thematic Area:**

By engaging in this thematic area, you will make progress towards learning how to…

* Identify and differentiate multiple ways to contribute towards the development or achievement of the community’s goals.
* Develop a thorough understanding of the world view, beliefs, experiences, self-consciousness, or history of community members through collaboration.
* Articulate the purpose of service on a social issue or public policy and how service mutually enhances individual growth and the common good.
* Explain how education, advocacy, mobilization, or public policy can influence social issues and transform communities.

**Learning Outcomes for the Creativity Thematic Area:**

By engaging in this thematic area, you will make progress towards learning how to…

* Discover new techniques to gain knowledge, consider options, make new connections, and ask questions.
* Explore a new creative competency/medium or seek new ways to engage an existing competency/medium.
* Understand and optimize the use of people, technology, physical resources or community in a creative process.
* Articulate the broader significance of a creative project and the value of its contributions.

**Learning Outcomes for the Global Studies Thematic Area:**

By engaging in this thematic area, you will make progress towards learning how to…

* Develop practical travel skills that promote safe, stimulating, and productive travel throughout your life.
* Summarize the interconnectedness of geography, history, cultural traits and world issues.
* Articulate the interdependence of professional fields to address current and impending global issues such as technology, the environment, human rights, or politics.
* Demonstrate an understanding of cultural diversity by acknowledging the impact of their own identity and the experience of social norms, customs, or beliefs that are different from their own.
* Demonstrate a sense of empathy, respect, and appreciation for others to build meaningful cross-cultural collaborations toward mutual growth and prosperity.

**Learning Outcomes for the Leadership Thematic Area:**

By engaging in this thematic area, you will make progress towards learning how to…

* Formulate and manage a shared vision and develop goals towards its achievement.
* Motivate and collaborate effectively with others towards completion of shared projects or goals.
* Develop strategies to identify and respond to challenges and obstacles.
* Identify personal strengths and areas of growth and evaluate opportunities to maximize skills and abilities.
* Synthesize the current trends related to a specific issue or field and evaluate how thought-leaders are currently addressing them.

**Learning Outcomes for the Research Thematic Area:**

By engaging in this thematic area, you will make progress towards learning how to…

* Demonstrate the ability to locate, interpret, and critically evaluate primary sources appropriate to field.
* Identify and apply appropriate methods to collect and organize data for analysis.
* Analyze and interpret the meaning of results.
* Produce dissemination appropriate to the field in order to share the results or impact of the research.
* Articulate the broader significance of the research project and its relationship to other fields, research and ideas.