

## Students to present work at global conference...cont.

Ivan Martynenko, a sophomore civil engineering major from Kazakhstan, and Ben Reith, a senior civil engineering major from Mount Pleasant, Mich., will present details of their work as members of Valpo's chapter of Engineers Without Borders to bring water to a rural village in Tanzania on the eastern slope of Mt. Kilimanjaro.

"By presenting our work, we want to show how the power of education has helped us to help those living in the village of Masaera," said Martynenko. "We hope that our story will inspire everybody to think of ways to use this gift of higher education for the sake of help to others who are deprived of it."

Martynenko and Reith have worked with other members of Valpo's Engineers Without Borders team on the water project in Tanzania that was launched in 2009. The group recently returned from a two-week implementation project in Masaera, where they have been working with villagers to rehabilitate their 75 year-old dilapidated canal which waters their crops.

Reith said working with Engineers Without Borders has enabled him to combine his technical engineering skills with a passion for serving others.

"I feel I've gained more from the trip than did the people of Masaera," said Reith. "The opportunity to visit such an economic and culturally contrasting region also really helped me put life into perspective and made me realize how truly blessed I am."

Since the inception of Valpo's EWB chapter in 2003, members have successfully installed 11 windmill-powered water systems in a village in the heart of northwest Kenya where the inhabitants had been facing one of the worst droughts in recorded history. With climate change causing warmer temperatures and diminished winds, the team was called back to Kenya in 2008 and installed two solar panels and a pump system.

Chapter adviser Elizabeth Gingerich, an associate professor of business law, said the work in Tanzania allows students to witness poverty in another section of the world, realize the power of their own gifts and talents, and to partner with people different from themselves in the common goal of affecting change.

Martynenko said that he looks forward to not only presenting his work, but hearing about the humanitarian projects that other attendees are working on around the world.

"I'm looking forward to listening to their stories and learning from their experiences, and I strongly believe that this event will help each of us find new friends and people who in the future will be helping us make all these great initiatives continue to happen as we begin our post-college lives and careers," said Martynenko.

The conference will take place April 16 to 18 at the University of Miami.

More information about Valpo's Engineers Without Borders chapter and its work in Tanzania and Kenya can be found [online](#).

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## **Kenya ambassador to speak to campus...cont.**

Peter Nicholas Rateng Oginga Ogego, Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya for the United States, will present "Policy and the Role of Policy Makers in the Emerging Market on the African Continent" in the Christopher Center for Library and Information Resources, Room 205, from 3 to 4 p.m. The event is free and open to the public, but reservations are requested and can be made by calling Valpo's Graduate School at (219) 465-5313.

Ogego also will meet with Valpo administrators to continue discussions about cooperative ventures between the University and Kenya.

Ogego previously has been involved in Kenya's HIV/AIDS awareness campaign, and has worked with organizations including Action Aid, the Department for International Development and UNICEF Kenya. The ambassador holds a first class honors degree in political science and international law from Makerere University in Uganda, and a master's degree in public organization and management from the same university.

The discussion is sponsored by Valpo's Graduate School and is a part of an International Commerce and Policy program in global studies.

More information about Valpo's Graduate School can be found online at <http://www.valpo.edu/grad> and more information about its International Commerce and Policy Program can be found at <http://www.valpo.edu/grad/icp/>.

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