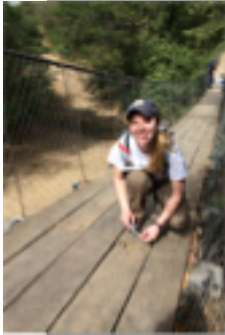


Alumni Spotlight



Name: Savannah Washlesky
Chapter: University of Notre Dame
Bridges worked on: Las Pencas, Nicaragua

Savannah is now a structural engineering master student at University of Virginia.

How did you get involved with EIA?

I heard about Bridges to Prosperity in high school while applying to Notre Dame and it was one of the things that got me excited about studying engineering. I knew it was something I had to be a part of. I was accepted to the NDSEED team as a non-traveling member my junior year and had the opportunity to serve as the Project Manager my senior year. I also conducted footbridge research with Maria Gibbs during my junior year. She was working on her PhD on the wind-induced vulnerabilities of B2P suspension footbridges and had been around the B2P world for a few years. Learning more about the technical aspects of B2P bridges while working with such an inspirational person drove my passion to stay involved with this type of work.

What is your favorite bridge memory?

Celebrating with the community on our last night in Las Pencas. Our bridge wasn't going to be completed until after we left, so this was our version of an inauguration ceremony. So many people came for the party - even some from the communities over an hour away - to say their goodbyes and dance all night. We stayed up until midnight (we usually went to sleep at 8 pm!). It was so beautiful to share those last moments with the community members and made me feel blessed to have worked on this project with my team.