Scholarship Proposal
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During Fall 2014, I was a member of Cal Global Architecture Brigades, a club that sends volunteers to collaborate with rural communities in Honduras. Through sustainable designs and construction plans, we provide improved economic opportunity and social well being in these communities. This semester, I am on the executive board to further my involvement because I am passionate about affordable housing and human development issues. I have always been interested in pursuing humanitarian work; I thought it would be difficult to find volunteer opportunities as a student, but the real challenge is finding the perfect organization. GAB allows me to combine my love for design and architecture with development work.

A few summers ago, I volunteered teaching English to children in a Vietnamese primary school. After seeing the living conditions of the rural villagers, I questioned how I could improve their lives through my studies. Though the houses were modest concrete blocks with four walls, a roof, and a couple windows, they leaked and flooded constantly. As I talked to them about why repairs were never prioritized, I realized residents should not have to decide between feeding their family and fixing their home. I knew I wanted to make an impact through architecture because infrastructure is often overlooked in humanitarian work. The forests of Honduras require innovative and traditional designs, both of which I am excited to learn. Though I have enjoyed my classes here at Berkeley, I believe in active participation because textbooks and simulations are limiting. Through this summer brigade to Honduras, I am looking forward to learning practical design and construction skills as well as fostering relationships with community members.

Volunteers design and build based on community desires, whether it is a health center or small-scale home project. This is more than just a service-learning trip to build for these Hondurans. Stable infrastructure will create safer communities to raise a family and offer economic opportunity. We are building with the people, not for them, by giving them an extra hand and stimulating further sustainable construction. This form of social architecture fosters communication between community members and the volunteers, something more important than just building infrastructure. I look forward to learning from the locals and hopefully teaching them something in return. This brigade is about sharing information and creating relationships across language borders. I do not want to be a successful architect; I want to be a compassionate human able to create aesthetic solutions.
Global Architecture Brigade Build Program
Schedule- Honduras

Detailed Brigade Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival and Project Orientation
Global Brigades staff will greet volunteers upon their arrival at the airport. After traveling to lodging facilities, the students will be introduced to the current project, the community, and the factors that determined the design of the current project in order to better understand the reasoning behind the project.

Day 2 (Build Brigades): Introduction to the Community and First Day of Construction
The students travel to the work site to see current progress and go over the goals for the week. Safety sessions will be administered based on the tasks that the students will be performing. With the help of the local experts, there will be a training session for each task, so that students learn all of the different skills required for their week of construction.

Day 3, 4, 5 (Build Brigades): Construction
Students continue construction on the project, rotating to the different workstations to experience multiple aspects of rural construction.

Day 6 (Build Brigades): Education/Culture Day
On the last day, the students will host educational lessons and activities for members of the community. Students will receive the topics for their lessons and a basic guideline for the lesson plan before the brigade and will have ample time to prepare for the education activities. There will also be a cultural exchange with students in the local school this day, which could consist of traditional dances, etc.

**Day 7: Airport Departure**

After a successful brigade, students return home to share their experiences. Transportation will be provided to airport.