D-Lab Development

2009.09.09

Introduction of Staff by Amy Smith

- An alum of MIT (80s)
- Was frustrated by engineering opportunities at the time
- Peacecorp
- Beekeeping
- Desire to apply engineering to development
- This is the class Amy would have always wanted to take when she was a student

D-Lab History

- Bish brings a bit of theoretical/macro level discussion to the class
- Excited by the grounded thinking of D-Lab
- Studied Architecture
- Came to realize the vulnerability of the construction workers in India
- Got to working in Zambia learning about the situation there.

Introduction of Staff by Amy Smith

- Derek Brine (TA)
    - Environmental Engineering
    - "in charge of your grade"
- Dennis Nagle
    - Shop Manager
- D-Lab Interns
    - Nathan Cooke
    - Jessica Huang

D-Lab History

2002 had 20 students
2009 has 200 students

D-Lab Offerings

Development
Design
Dissemination

Course Goals

- Hands on skills + theoretical background
- To empower students to work in communities around the world
- To be an experiential class
- Learn a toolkit of skills

Projects

- Evolve over time
- Can continue over time
- Return to communities to see the impact of interaction
- Microfinance? There are a range of opportunities to apply your skills to a community
- Everyone has the option to go on a trip

Example/Case Study

- Shelling corn by hand
- From Maya Pedal (Guatemala)
    - via Jodie Wu
    - to Tanzania
    - Mobile maize sheller
        - Allowed entrepreneur opportunity to buy device and earn money to pay for it in a few months

EC.701J / 11.025J / 11.472J D-Lab I: Development

Fall 2009