Hands on experience

The trip mostly consisted of students working in groups to diagnose and repair damaged hospital equipment. Issues spanned from electrical to mechanical and from simple fixes to large scale replacements.

Students were provided with a general tool kit and a spending allowance to purchase specific tools at local shops near the hospital. Some hospitals had their own equipment available for use but critical thinking and resourcefulness became important for the student without such resources.

While in the hospital, students received a room to work out of and hospital staff frequently visited with damaged devices. Damaged equipment ranged from anesthesia machines to printers. Some of the equipment simply couldn’t be fixed. Due to the availability of supplies, machines that could have been fixed easily had to be abandoned until the next year class could return with those specific parts. In other cases, the damage done to the machines were focused on the motherboard and repairing the machine would have taken time away from other machines with faster repairs.

New Cultural Experiences

This winter, nine RIT students met up with three George Mason students to repair hospital equipment in under resourced areas of Guatemala through Engineering World Health (EWH). We all landed in Guatemala City and were transported to Quetzaltenango. After a week of training, a weekend cultural exclusion was planned before three groups of four.

Training consisted of two daily sessions of five hour classes. In the morning, students practiced spanish with local tutors based on their fluency and in the afternoon a circuitry course was taught in groups by a local technician. Both classes helped us develop the ability to quickly diagnose and repair equipment as well as to efficiently communicate the error with hospital staff.

For more information on how to get involved contact Dr. Asllani icabme@rit.edu
Office located in INS-3105

Bringing it home

Upon coming back home, the EWH class of 2018 is working hard as ever to begin training the next generation

Student interested in participating can chose to learn more about EWH and medical equipment in he EWH club. Run by RIT students, participants can chose to focus on skills they deem necessary to further their educations. Should students wish to then apply these skills, then can join BIME-395, which is a class dedicated to learning skills specific to fixing hospital equipment as well as how to adapt to a foreign country. From this class, students can choose to sign up for a winter trip to countries such as Guatemala where they can use the skills they learned to help those in need.

Special thanks to EWH