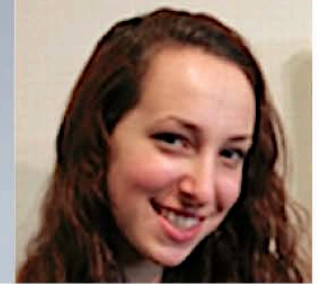


EcoExplorers Reloaded

In June 2017, four EcoExplorer alumni - Jack Hyland, Maggie Lemak, Ian Crowley, and Kira Appelman - traveled to Gabon to assess potential interest of the people in Lambarene, Gabon in using ceramic pot water filters to produce clean drinking water.



Jack and Kira remained longer to work with OELO - a local NGO that focuses on biodiversity education, developing sustainable fisheries, and ecotourism. How did this come about?



After their experiences with EcoExplorers in Gabon, these undergraduates had all stayed involved in with REFRESH efforts. During this 2016-17 school year, these students worked with Prof. Joe Trumpey and John Leyland of Stamps School of Art and Design, in collaboration with Prof. Lut Rasking of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE), CEE PhD student Matt Vedrin, and ChemE master's student Anna Hayden, to develop the capacity to make ceramic pot water filters and create materials for teaching people about water, sanitation, and hygiene. Ceramic pot water filters see wide-spread usage in resource-constrained locations across several continents, being a low-cost product capable of filtering bacteria from water.