The end of the fall 2011 semester brought more than a break from classes and exams for a few Biology research students who were privileged to be a part of the College of Science and Math’s very first international mission trip. The team, lead by Dr. Christina Eddy, traveled to India in December to share clean drinking water as well as spiritual living water with the Indian people. For the past two years, Dr. Eddy has been directing research on a plant called the Moringa tree, the seeds of which have been reported to coagulate particles in water. After years of experimentation, the team developed a method to purify contaminated water with Moringa seed that could be applied on the mission field in developing countries.

Dr. Eddy had been praying for years that God would allow her to use her passion for Biology to share the Gospel on an international mission trip, so when the opportunity arose for the Moringa team to travel to India, it was clearly God’s direction. While the team was there, they were able to share the water purification method they had researched with a remote village called Pardi. Moringa trees grow naturally in the hot and dry Indian climate, and the students were excited to find a Moringa tree right in the middle of the village, perfectly accessible for the villagers to collect seeds to perform the water treatment. The people of Pardi rely almost completely on a small river that runs close by for all their water needs, including for drinking water. During the monsoon season, the river is typically very muddy and high in bacterial content, which can cause illness. The Moringa water treatment can remove ninety percent of dirt and bacteria, so the method has great potential to reduce water-borne illness in Pardi. The villagers did not speak English, but the team was blessed to be able to share with them some Christian songs in the official language of India, Hindi. At the end of the day, the village leaders were very impressed that the team had come all the way from North Greenville to show them how to clean their water. By their love for the Indian people and obedience to God, the researchers were able to demonstrate the love of Christ to the village.

After two weeks in India, the mission team returned home full of spiritual zeal, new research ideas, and inspiration for future trips. Stay tuned for more missions opportunities to come!
**So where are they now?**

Lauren Metts recently caught up with Anna Ruffner (University of South Carolina MAT program) and Christopher Bailes (University of South Carolina Medical School). Here’s the latest in their lives!

**Question: What do you miss most about North Greenville?**

Anna: I miss living near and with my friends 24/7, eating in the caf, close bonds with fellow students and professors in my field of study, and the beauty of the mountains on campus.

Chris: Hanging out with the guys who were in my house.

**Question: What is the most interesting thing (or favorite moment) you have experienced in school post-North Greenville?**

Anna: I would say that it has been interesting being exposed to a secular big school environment. It has been a true test of faith stepping out of the Christian bubble and figuring out what my individual walk with the Lord looks like.

Chris: Moving to a new city.

**Question: What advice would you like to give current students?**

Anna: I would encourage current students to really invest in relationships with other people and to take advantage of the opportunities for Christian fellowship and mentorship while you have those available. It’s a whole different ballpark once you step out into the world.

Chris: Take advantage of the educational opportunities that you have at NGU.

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**What’s Happening In-Crain**

- **College of Science & Math Student-Faculty Poster Symposium**
  April 20 Crain Science building Room 213A 9:00 to 12:00pm
  For more information or to register your poster
  Contact Dr. Shannon Dobson at Shannon.Dobson@ngu.edu or
  864.977.7699

- The Health & Wellness program will soon roll out a new emphasis in Gerontology.

- **Crain Science Building Renovation & New Building Project**
  2.5 million dollars from NGU’s GIFT campaign has been earmarked to add a new edition and to renovate Crain. Work begins this summer. The office of Dr. Thomas Allen, Dean, is moving to the Younts Fitness Center for the summer during the renovations. The finished facility will boast eleven laboratories and three research areas in addition to twelve classrooms.

**Did You Know?**

The Biology department has added an option for majors to graduate with an environmental science curriculum emphasis. The environmental science option will allow students to prepare for wildlife, animal sciences, natural resource management, environmental policy, and the graduate degree programs that lead to those careers. Besides core courses in environmental science and ecology, the environmental option requires an internship that directly exposes students to an area of employment in natural resource related fields.

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Dr. Jeff French’s SP 2012 Ecology class on a field laboratory exercise at Blue Wall near Landrum, SC. The students were studying the differences between preservation and conservation as management approaches for public lands.