



## **Brett Wagner 2011 & 2012**

I was the Kansas winner of the Stockholm Junior Water Prize twice in high school, and I was able to compete in the national competitions in Chicago in 2011 and in Boston in 2012. I loved the time that I spent with SJWP because it gave me the opportunity to meet with students and professional who shared my passions for water and the environment. I first learned about the applications of Environmental Engineering at the SJWP competitions, and I ultimately chose my college major because of these experiences.



Now, I am a senior majoring in Civil Engineering with an Environmental Emphasis and minoring in French at the University of Kansas (KU). During my time at KU, I have become very involved in extracurricular activities. I was the President of our Engineers Without Borders chapter, and I am currently a co-leader in our Uganda project. Through EWB, I've constructed a spring box in a rural Bolivian Village, assessed a rainwater harvesting project in Uganda, and will construct that rainwater harvesting project in January. I am also involved with the senior honor society Mortar Board, Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity, Student Senate, Association for Water and the Environment, and Engineering Student Council.

Outside of extracurriculars, I conduct research on aerobic granular sludge wastewater treatment. My research team's work was presented at WEFTEC 2015 where I was able to meet and learn from other professionals in the field. I hope to continue this research in graduate school or hopefully in the Netherlands next year on a Fulbright grant. I am also a member of the SELF Engineering Leadership Fellowship at KU. The goals of the program are to develop engineering students to become leaders in the engineering industry. In the program, we develop our leadership, managerial, business, interpersonal, entrepreneurial, communication and engineering skills. We also attend lectures and network with engineering executives. Last summer, my cohort of fellows traveled to Seattle, Washington and Portland, Oregon to visit KU alumni and network with companies.

The Stockholm Junior Water Prize was an excellent experience that helped me get to where I am today. I met many awesome professionals and made many friends that I still have today. I was encouraged to pursue the water field and learned about the different job opportunities available. I am extremely thankful for the opportunities provided to me by the Stockholm Junior Water Prize and hope to give back to it in the future.

