



American Institute of Chemical Engineers
Dallas Section
February 2024

Join us for our upcoming meeting on February 27, 2024

Join us at 6:30 pm at our usual location:

Two Guys from Italy, 11637 Webb Chapel Road, Dallas, Texas

Our speaker: Jacob Niemeier, P.E.

Title: Uniting Entire Communities Around “One Water”: WASH Solutions & Sustainability in Rural Peru

Abstract

Vera Aqua Vera Vita (VAVV) is a Dallas-based organization that works towards implementing WASH solutions in rural Peru for communities that don't have access to clean water by utilizing a holistic approach that empowers communities to take ownership of their clean water solutions. This presentation will spotlight projects VAVV has implemented in Monte Castillo, a town in the Piura region of Peru. In Monte Castillo, VAVV worked with partner organizations to implement a filtration and disinfection system using source water from a nearby irrigation canal. Water is then distributed via an on-site tap and trucked delivery system at a water rate affordable to community members. From day one, the community was engaged in decision making regarding the treatment solution, and VAVV helped the community form a “Safe Water Committee” to operate and maintain the treatment system. This involved training, educating, and holding the community members accountable so they could take ownership of the solution. Having a “One Water” approach, VAVV then conducted a project, in partnership with a capstone team at Texas A&M, to help Monte Castillo map their wastewater piping system to identify capital improvement projects in the future and prevent contamination of their drinking water source. Lastly (but not least!) VAVV has developed a scorecard tool to

be able to track the success and sustainability of project implementation and continually improve the community engagement and project implementation process. At the end of the day, we have learned this simple, but profound lesson: engineering is the easy part – people are the real key to sustainable success.

Speaker bio

Jacob has his B.S. in Agriculture & Biological Engineering from Purdue which he completed in 2012. Also, in 2014 he got an Entrepreneurship Certificate from SMU. He has 10+ years of professional detailed domestic design experience in both water and wastewater systems. He has extensive international design experience and exposure to the Global Water Crisis which he credits as the reason he started Vera Aqua Vera Vita in 2017.



In his free time, as a family man likes to spend time with his wife, Fernanda Niemeier & their growing family, keep up with superhero TV shows and movies, fish, hunt, hike, camp, play basketball, play board games, and basically play any type of sport or compete in just about anything. He also loves his Catholic faith and regularly participates in various ministries at his church. Additionally, he is very passionate about craft beer and in his own words: "Beer = 95% Water | Water = Life | Beer = 95% Life!?!"

March Plant Tour

Save the date and make plans to join us for a plant tour on **March 22, 2024**. Please note that this will be on a Friday from 1:00 to 2:30 pm, and not our regular third Tuesday of the month.

Plant tour of **Rain Fresh Bottled Water & Wellness** plant in Garland, Texas.

Please confirm by email to aiche.dallas.section@gmail.com if you plan to attend. We will provide more details about the exact address, where to park, arrival time, etc. next month and in response to each confirmation.

Invitation to become a local member

If you are a national member of AIChE living in the DFW area, we will pay your 2024 dues to join the Dallas Local Section if you attend one of our meetings in person. Just let us know that you plan to attend one of our meetings by writing to fja@aguivel.com.

Ethics presentation

For those of you that have an interest, or need your 1 PDH in ethics to meet the P.E. license renewal requirements, you can register to online webinars offered by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. The next available webinars are on March 20 and 21, 2024. Registration opens about one month in advance and they fill up fast. For more details and to register (when the event opens), you can visit the following link.

<https://pels.texas.gov/webinars.html>

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