

em[POWER] STUDENT NEWSLETTER

Did you know, em[POWER] was first established by a group of 6 students: Ryan Integlia, Tiffany Tong, Salman Khan, Nasir Uddin, Dalia Nahol, and Faaez Ul Haq?

NEW UPDATES FROM THE NONPROFIT

We are now officially partners with the organization GiveSomething.com, which is free online donations collection site, to help bring in tangible donations.

em[POWER] was awarded \$5,000 by Becton, Dickinson and Company for winning the [2012 Henry P. Becton Volunteer Impact Awards](#).

Nike has officially included us in their employee giving and volunteering program through [Benevity](#).

em[POWER], represented by Nasir, competed and was selected as a semi-finalist in [Dr. Randall Pinkett's Campus CEO Challenge](#).

A. Photo of Nasir and the Campus CEO Challenge Team



STUDENT CHAPTER HIGHLIGHT

By: Naima Chowdhury, President of Rutgers Chapter



Em[POWER] has co-sponsored with PCRFB for their Spring Gala. We have also volunteered at the Salvation Army in Trenton where em[POWER] members helped pack survival bags for Hurricane Sandy victims. For Spring 2013, our main goal is to promote education and literacy, specifically in our project site in Bangladesh. Thus, we are planning an event for Spring 2013 where we can create an awareness among Rutgers students and encourage them to take part in our initiative to promote education and literacy.

BOARD MEMBER'S PROJECT UPDATE FROM TAMRA

By: Tamra Fakhoorian

What is your role & position?

Director of Communications for em[POWER] and Exec. Director of the International Lemna Association (aka ILA), a subsidiary of em[POWER]. For em[POWER], I network to bring in volunteer consultants and non-profit groups as em[POWER] partners. I help with news updates for the website and bring my expertise in aquatic species, bioenergy, solar energy, and sustainability practices to the em[POWER] table. As co-founder of the ILA, I routinely network with duckweed growers and researchers from around the world, and help our members find access to technology and gov't. resources to make commercially produced duckweed a reality.



Please briefly describe a current project.

Just got back from a three day unmanned aircraft systems conference in San Diego where I represented Turbine Biofuels- a company that is seeking to be a biomass supplier for the military. They intend to use duckweed as a premium biomass for a dry powder jet fuel.

What's been challenging?

Powering through the US mindset that duckweed is a nuisance plant by educating people on its immense value for animal feed, biofuel, fertilizers, and fresh water.

What's your current status?

Can I say, "Working hard for the ten years it takes for duckweed to be an overnight success." I am in the fifth year now. 😊

What's been awesome?

Getting to connect the dots to make synergies happen. Love this part of the process. Plus our em[POWER] and ILA members and volunteers are incredibly giving and visionary. My kind of folks!

Now, tell us a fun story... OR something we don't know about you:

I have nine kids, four of which are teens now and still live with me. They are quite used to the microscopes, aquariums, and beakers of test samples that make up my lab- in my bedroom. The kids don't blink an eye at all the duckweed growing in assorted containers in all the south-facing windows of our home. They've learned to tiptoe past while I host several conference calls a week about duckweed. While they don't share my enthusiasm, they "get" my vision around what duckweed can offer as a remediator of wastewater and a provider of feed, food, fuel, and fresh water. My kids rock. Think I'll take them out for pizza tonight. They deserve it!

TEAM SHOUT OUTS

Shout out to Nasir for representing em[POWER] and winning the \$5,000 award for our projects! –Tammy

Great job so far Naima, our new Rutgers Chapter President, for taking on the reins in a time of need. - Tammy

Ways to Stay Involved:

- Sit in on a Board Meeting! Next meeting – Thursday March 28th at 9pm. *Email Nasir for invite.*
- Volunteer for the upcoming Duckweed Conference in August! *Email Tammy for more info.*
- Become an Intern! *Email Tammy for more info.*