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Summer Service

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Setting up networks and computers is just a typical day at the office for a summer internship in information technology.

For University of Dayton senior John Ventimiglia, the work will be typical, but the venue is not. Ventimiglia, a computer science major from Fishers, Ind., leaves May 16 for a 10-week internship at Instituto Chaminade Marianistas, a Marianist technical college in Callao, Peru, where he’ll be installing 30 computers, upgrading the network and setting up a cache of electrical equipment. All of the hardware and Ventimiglia’s professional services come courtesy of the UD School of Engineering, an engineering alumnus and ETHOS, a UD academic and service club whose name is short for Engineers in Technical, Humanitarian Opportunities in Service Learning.

Chaminade Institute, a post-secondary technical school, prepares students for technical jobs in Peru’s developing information technology sector.

"The school is in a very poor barrio," said Brother Phil Aaron, S.M., an ETHOS adviser. "It trains students who are unable to gain university education because of the very limited number of places and the cost."

This will be the third time UD students have assisted the Peru school through summer internships.

ETHOS volunteers also will be serving at two Marianist schools in the west African nation of Togo. Electrical and computer engineering professor Malcolm Daniels, chemical and materials engineering major Theodore Bemis and mechanical engineering major Ali Hashemi will spend 10 weeks assessing technical needs and developing plans for future ETHOS service projects.

"We have the only stand-alone engineering school among all the Marianist universities, and we have to step up to our responsibility to help our Marianist missions all over the globe in any way we can," said Joseph Saliba, dean of the School of Engineering. "A true Marianist community is a community that is both gathered and sent. Engaging our students, faculty, and staff in experiential and service learning endeavors is our way of fulfilling our apostolic mission."

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