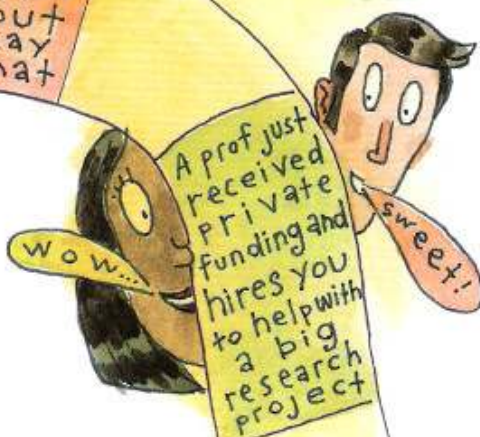


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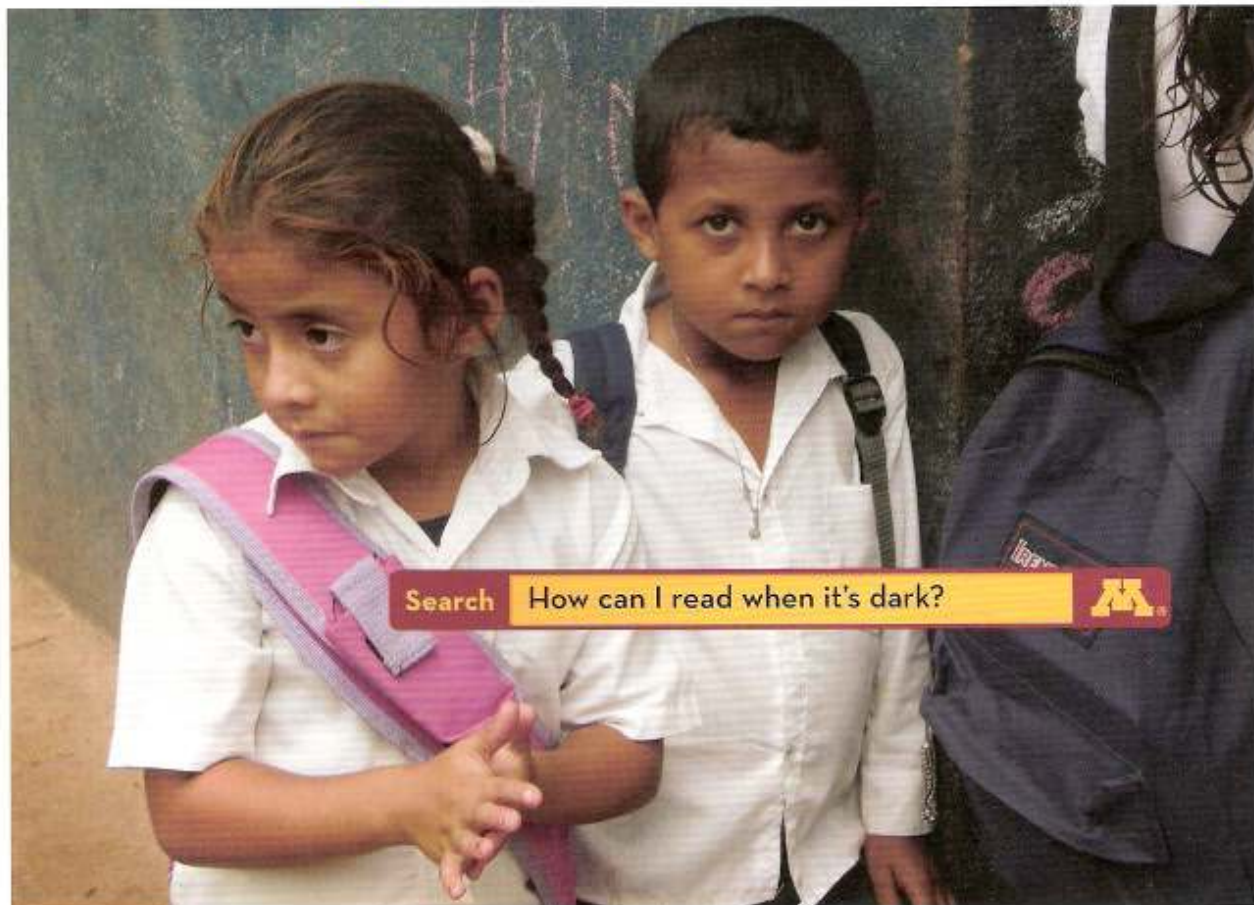
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By using a solar-powered lantern that charges up in the light. This bright idea was brought to Nicaraguan villagers by U engineering student Patrick Delaney, who was looking to make his senior design project a humanitarian effort. "Villagers repeatedly told me they wanted light, especially for children to read," says Delaney. A solar-powered light-source was much safer than the kerosene-filled bottles used in the villages, where electricity is scarce.

Delaney's vision has grown into a non-profit company, Bright New Ideas (brightnewideas.org), that he hopes will "truly benefit people around the world." Carlson School entrepreneurship student Trisha Qualy teamed up with Delaney to draft a business plan, a part of the project made possible by research scholarships for both students. Nicaraguan student Mario Aleman is also part of the team.

On his third trip to Nicaragua, Delaney brought 60 prototypes of his engineered lanterns, but their design didn't meet all the villagers' needs. He's now refining his design and looking for other ways to get light to the villages, including sourcing less expensive lanterns from China and traveling to India to learn how solar lanterns are made there. He will spend four months in India, in a factory. Delaney is determined to shed light on the developing world, one lantern at a time.

For a feature story on entrepreneurship at the U, see page 10.

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