Class of 2012/India:

India: When it all became real

aisha mitchell/12

This past winter term, a group of my Periclean 2012 peers and I had the opportunity to travel to Jamkhed, India where we worked closely with, and learned more about, our partner of three years: CRHP, Comprehensive Rural Health Project. We also helped host a conference on corporate social responsibility in Pune, India. Never in my life had I imagined a more rewarding experience. Before going to India I had been actively involved in Periclean Scholars, but it wasn’t until I went to India that everything we have been working on, fundraising for, and researching about, it all became real.

While in Jamkhed, in addition to preparing for the conference, we all worked on different projects. We built a house, volunteered at the organic farm and worked with the adolescent girls and boys programs. I had the pleasure of volunteering at the farm. Not only did I chop corn, feed the cows, weed, and plant vegetables, but I met a group of women who would unknowingly change my perspective on life and have a lasting impact. Interestingly, the organic farm also serves as a rehabilitation center for women with HIV/AIDS.

Learning traditional Indian dance, Marathi language, and how to make gooseberry candy are just a few ways in which I was invited into Indian culture with open arms. This experience truly humbled me because it reminded me to cherish the little things in life that give us so much joy, but that we often take for granted in the West.

Moments like spending time on the farm taught me the most about India. More often than not, I would find myself looking out the window of a bus or jeep on the way to, or from, a destination and ingesting every observation as if it were a foreign food that I had never tasted. These observations taught me more than I could ever have learned in a classroom or a textbook. I saw chaos and peace at the same time. People, goats, rickshaws, mansions and shanties. Nothing was hidden from the naked eye in India. All one had to do was open their eyes widely and without reluctance, and I did just that. The foreign dish that is India was difficult to chew, at times, but was infused with so many flavors, and ultimately went down easy, leaving a sweet after taste and a desire to have another bite. I hope that I will be able to travel to India again in the near future and continue our work with our Periclean partners.

I think I speak for my Periclean cohort in saying that going to India changed us all in some way or another. We are incredibly lucky to have had the opportunity to be immersed in a completely different way of life, as well as play an integral part in planting seeds for positive social change.
Class of 2010/Ghana:

Our Community Partnerships in Ghana:
An update post-winter term abroad

carly tustin/13

Twenty nine Elon students, six of them Periclean Scholars, recently returned from a January 2012 Winter Term in Ghana. Dr. Brian Digre, the program’s founder, and Dr. Heidi G. Frontani, Ghana Periclean class advisor, led this program. All of the students were able to visit the site of a Ghana Periclean Scholars project: a kindergarten school in Sokode, Ghana. A smaller group traveled to Kpoeta, Ghana to visit the site of a Health Center complex that is the product of a collaboration of the Ghana Periclean Scholars, the local community, and the Government of Ghana.

During the Winter Term program, the people of Kpoeta hosted a durbar (traditional ceremony including music, dance, speeches) on the chief’s front lawn for Periclean liaison Dr. Francis Amadah, his wife, Cecilia, Dr. Heidi G. Frontani, Eryn Gorang from the Appalachia Periclean Class, and Ghana Periclean Carly Tustin. The group presented the Ghana Periclean class’ gift of five duffle bags filled with medical supplies and informed them of the bulk medical items from Duke University secured by Ghana Periclean, Angela Sparrow (’10) that will be arriving in Ghana in late spring via a U.S. Navy ship.

Three years after its inception in January 2009, the Kpoeta Health Center complex stands on an expanding plaza at the center of town, which includes the Health Center with a small drug store, two completed housing units for the Health Center nurses and staff and two additional housing units under construction. All were funded by the Ghana Pericleans. Currently, there is a midwife who works at the health center once a month to provide prenatal care to women, as well as two full-time nurses and an administrative staff position. The newest additions to the facility include multiple bedpans, several shelving units, wooden benches, public health posters, and a wooden storage chest. Land next to the Health Center complex has been cleared by local schools for a soccer field and a crew has been out to the village to mark the ground for a cell phone tower. In late 2011, the road between Kpoeta and the nearest larger health care facility was graded/smoothed and widened, making the village much more accessible than in the past.

The village of Sokode also welcomed the Winter Term class with a traditional durbar, invited the students to a church service, and opened their homes for family visits. Students were given a tour of the village and even had the opportunity to “teach” a class at one of the existing schools.

The kindergarten, initiated by Ghana Periclean Bryce Little (’10), is still under construction, but when completed should be roughly three times the size of the current kindergarten. The Government of Ghana is funding a Technical Senior High School in Sokode which will be a larger campus with twenty small housing

continued on p. 3
Elon’s Ghana program enables students to have hands-on experiences with existing Periclean projects

units, a dining facility, and a, seventeen-room, two-story building for classes. Ghana Pericles, Winter Term Ghana Abroad and other Elon students have been collecting books on campus and these will all be going to Sokode on a U.S. Navy ship in the spring.

For more information about the Winter Term in Ghana, please visit Elon University’s Isabella Cannon International Centre website. To learn more about how to support the Ghana Periclean Class’ projects in Sokode and Kpoeta, please visit: http://org.elon.edu/pericleanscholars2010 or contact Carly Tustin (ctustin@elon.edu) or Hannah Barry (hbarry@elon.edu) about joining the Friends of Ghana chapter of the new campus organization, Elon Partners in International Development that is fundraising for the kindergarten project in Sokode.

Congratulations to all who have been involved with these successful projects, and thank you to those who have donated.

Class of 2012/India:

Sustainability: A primary focus of the 2012’s CSR-Nonprofit Summit

katie kenney/12

Sustainability lies at the heart of the Periclean Scholars program and represents a challenge every class must face. As juniors last spring, our class began to seriously consider how we could sustain our work with rural development and women’s empowerment in India. Our discussions led to several new and enhanced initiatives. One in particular became the overriding focus of our class efforts over the past year: the Corporate Social Responsibility-Nonprofit Summit, an international conference held in Pune, Maharashtra this past January.

Inspired by the precedent set by previous classes of Periclean Scholars, we first conceived of the CSR-Nonprofit Summit in partnership with Comprehensive Rural Health Project (CRHP) last spring. Our goal was to bring together corporations and nonprofit organizations in order to generate long-term financial support for rural development and women’s empowerment across India. The concept built upon an international push to promote corporate social responsibility initiatives. The United Nations launched the UN Global Compact to encourage the alignment of corporate interests with human rights in 2000, and last year, the Indian parliament introduced a national bill encouraging private corporations to donate.
Class of 2013/Mexico:

Fundraising Initiatives

rebeka bischoff//12

The class of 2013 is hitting the ground running this semester! We solidified our relationship with Periclean Alumna, Courtney Latta, and are working with her to develop a timeline for our three month long summer service project.

Over spring break, Dr. Ninehaus, Courtney Latta, Fiona Alfaro, and David Gagne are traveling to Chiapas to do a scouting trip. During this trip, they plan to build relationships with partners on the ground and determine the logistics of our summer project. Although we are still discussing exactly what this project will entail, we know that it will involve the positive deviance community health model that we mentioned in the previous newsletter.

This semester we are focusing our efforts on raising funds for the spring and summer service trips. Thus far, we have explored various grant opportunities and created a Chiapas fundraising card, similar to the 2010 Ghana Card. We will be selling the Chiapas Card for $5 after spring break, so let us know if you’re interested in purchasing one! We also have two profit shares coming up this week. On Thursday, March 1 we have a profit share with YoZone and on Sunday, March 4 we have one with Texas Roadhouse. Please come out and support our class!

Along with these fundraising initiatives, we decided to focus on researching topics pertaining to Mexico. Every member of the class chose a topic and is responsible for becoming an expert on that subject matter by the end of the semester. Additionally, we have reviewed Lateral Entry applications and are interviewing potential candidates to join our cohort. We also hope to develop our relationship with Hillcrest Elementary School in the coming months and potentially visit the 5th grade classes a few times this semester.

Finally, we are looking into speakers to invite to campus to discuss issues related to Mexico. We have plenty of work ahead of us in the coming months and look forward to all that lies in store for our class!
The Periclean Scholars of 2014 are in overdrive mode, planning and organizing the work that must be done for the year. We have planned multiple trips to Appalachia, worked as a class to organize ourselves into committees so that we can accomplish tasks more effectively and swiftly in all aspects of our program, and are doing in-depth reading on critical theory and the Appalachia Mountains.

Our symposium committee has been working diligently every Saturday, meeting to discuss who we are bringing in for the symposium, what we’re going to do, how we’re going to do it, and what everyone can expect in the fall from us. We’re planning to bring in some performers and speakers from the Appalachia region, so as Meredith Grace would say, “It’s very exciting stuff, no doubt.” In addition to this, the committee has begun writing a synopsis of the class and what we hope to accomplish during our symposium that will be sent to potential speakers and performers.

From the local outreach and fundraising side of things, we’ve begun planning possible opportunities for a Battle of the Bands, with a tentative date of sometime in April, that would allow bands from Burlington and Elon to perform. This would provide a chance for bands to share their music and for our class to raise a bit of money.

Additionally, local outreach has begun honing in on potential interests for local partners. Throughout the spring semester they are also planning on continuing bi-weekly service opportunities for our class.

To become more enlightened about where we are going and how we must go about doing what we’ve set out to do, we’ve been reading multiple articles on critical theory and have begun delving into Ann Pancake’s “Strange as This Weather Has Been.” Pancake’s novel is set in modern-day West Virginia and tells the story of a coal mining family living through the latest coal mining boom and dealing with its consequences that consequentially ruin their way of life. This novel deals with much of what our class will be facing and working with in Appalachia, and it is a wonderful chance to gain insight for the future.

To check out more of what we’ve been up to, you can visit our website at periclean2014.tumblr.com for more information.
A note from associate director:

Upcoming Events

Haiti is the country of focus for the Periclean Class of 2015. All of the members will begin their Periclean experience by reading Paul Farmer’s *Haiti, After the earthquake*.

We are very excited for our 10th Periclean Induction this April. In true Periclean fashion, we decided to spend an entire week, April 10-13, celebrating our 10th Periclean class with a “Week of Reflection on Human Trafficking”. Kevin Bales, Co-Founder and former President of Free the Slaves welcomed in our first Periclean Class and he will return this year to make this Induction a special occasion. We have decided to offer interesting and engaging activities throughout the week, including a video contest, a bench decorating contest, and an undergraduate research poster session. We hope that all of you take this opportunity to get involved. Everyone is encouraged to look on our main website for information about the “Week on Reflection on Human Trafficking” at http://www.elon.edu/e-web/academics/special_programs/project_pericles/humantrafficking.xhtml

We are also excited to welcome in an exceptional new Class into the Periclean program. All of you continue to set incredible goals and show how you can work together to meet these goals. Dr. Bud Warner has told me that he has been interviewing an amazing group of students and I can’t wait see how they will both follow in your footsteps and move the Periclean Scholars program forward with their vision.

In working toward your Class goals, don’t forget to think about our annual Pan-Periclean initiative. We look forward to our 2nd Annual Periclean 5K this spring. With all of our participation in this event, we can continue to show our dedication to our “glocal” partners.
A note from the director:

New Spaces New Places

Wherever in the world you are right now, I hope that this note finds you in great spirits and working hard on all of your partnerships, initiatives, and outreach activities related to your global and local issues.

I am exceptionally excited about this spring as we finalize our plans for our tenth Induction Ceremony. More about the induction can be found in the message from Associate Director, Dr. Crista Arangala.

A great deal has happened since our last newsletter, so I will use this space to make a few updates.

During my travel to the University of Monterrey in late January, I was able to meet with a comprehensive range of senior administrators, department lead staff, faculty, trustees, community partners, and, most importantly, students. As a background to this story, UDEM administrators visited Elon last fall, and after talking with me about the Periclean Scholars program, they invited me to visit their university. During my four day visit, I learned as much as I could about their philosophy and functioning, and in the end, I met with the president, vice presidents, and other leaders, including four trustees. While talking with them, I described in detail the vision for our program and how I felt that it could be retrofit to UDEM. In many ways UDEM is very similar to Elon, and the Periclean Scholars program is a logical extension of their current initiatives. I am pleased to report that their senior staff and trustees have decided to move forward with replicating our model and are actively working with Elon to seek external funding for their initiative.

As of the end of January, we now have a dedicated space for all things Periclean (with lockable storage!) in 209 Lindner Hall. We will use this space for our regular Steering Committee meetings and other pan-Periclean events. Each class will have a dedicated space to display pictures, mission statements, or other visuals that help educate passing students and staff about their initiatives. Many thanks go to Associate Provost Connie Ledoux Book, staff designer Holly Hodge, and program assistant Catherine Parsons for making this possible and for helping on the design and decoration. Thanks also go to the Department of Sociology and Anthropology for sharing some of the public space. The large photos that are in place are intended to add color to the space, and they are interchangeable. If you have a photo that you feel captures the essence of your class’s efforts, please feel free to send a copy to me or Catherine Parsons for processing.

Finally, I would like to encourage all of us to begin using the mash-up word “glocal” to describe our efforts. This word embodies the sentiment found in the observations related to me by US Ambassador Bute尼斯 last year in Sri Lanka, namely that “we can no longer talk about an ‘us’ and ‘them.’ Now there is only ‘us.’”

All the best for a productive spring semester.