The induction ceremony last week was a great experience. Free nachos, summer homework, Kevin Bales, a great MC, what more could we ask for? The class of 2014 really did an awesome job planning and putting together our induction. After the induction ceremony I began to understand what it really means to be a Periclean Scholar. Being a Periclean Scholar means being a part of something bigger and greater than yourself and I know it will be an experience that will help all of us grow in amazing ways that I have never imagined. I am so honored to be a part of an organization that has accomplished such remarkable things. Before the induction ceremony I didn't really know what to expect. The ceremony made me realize that my classmates and I all had something in common, we wanted to help people, particularly the people of Haiti. I loved hearing about all of the amazing things the Periclean classes have accomplished. Mexico, Zambia, North Carolina, Appalachia, India, the Periclean Scholars have touched the lives of so many people around the world. Listening to their stories made our project come alive in my mind and for the first time I realized that the people sitting in that room and I had the potential to change people's lives. Their stories proved that what seems like such a large and overwhelming task is actually achievable. I look forward to embarking on this journey and watching our project develop and grow. I can't wait to work with the class of 2015 and to see all that we are capable of achieving. I know that our class's talents are diverse and unique and that each one of us will bring a new dynamic to the project. I look forward to three years of heated debates, hard work, traveling, friendship and all the other things our Periclean classmates warned us about!
April 11, 2012 marked the five year anniversary of most of the class being inducted and April 18, 2012 marked the five year anniversary of Dr. Francis Amedahe’s charge to the class to build a clinic in his home town of Kpoeta. Who would have thought when we began that in five years not only would the clinic be constructed, but upgraded to a health center by the Government of Ghana, that there would be three government-paid staff, a completed nurses housing block, a small drug store, more medical staff housing and a kindergarten under construction, bulk medical supplies poised to be shipped via the US Navy, and the Kpedze-Kpoeta road vastly improved! PLUS all those ‘minor’ projects: 500 children’s books to Abor Elementary School, more than $10,000 for the Sokode grasscutter & honey bee project via Heifer International, school supplies to Sokode Schools, Footprints of Africa festival hosted, solar cookers sent, and more! We have surpassed our original goal of 10K raised and one clinic built in 3 years by A LOT. We now stand at just over $109,900 raised, 5 years, and MANY additional projects due to the ongoing engagement of our 29 alums (of whom more than 85% gave to our class projects/Elon during the most recent Ignite Campaign) and dedication of our on-campus members. MY CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF YOU! Dr. Amedahe also sends his congratulations and thanks.
The Periclean Scholar program was a defining pillar of my Elon journey. I remember graduating and saying, along with my fellow 2011 class members, that Periclean Scholars was always going to be something that impacted us. Now it's one year later, and my role as a Periclean continues to define my life and upcoming adventures. It is in large part thanks to my experience as a 2011 Periclean Scholar that I was recently awarded a U.S. Student Fulbright grant to Sri Lanka. I’ll arrive in country in October of this year and be there teaching for most of 2013. I am so excited to be returning to a country where members of my class and I have established so many great relationships. Though I’ll be working in Sri Lanka in a slightly different capacity than I have during past visits as a Periclean, I’ll be staying true to my Periclean roots as I work alongside many of our partners. And I am so looking forward to helping my class sustain our projects in Sri Lanka while I’m living there.

I really want to encourage the Periclean Scholars of current and future classes to have opportunities like Fulbright awards on their radar as they continue their journeys at Elon. To be able to return to a country where you already feel so invested is an incredible opportunity, and I wouldn’t be going back if it wasn’t for Periclean Scholars. I so hope that future Pericleans pursue similar opportunities and are able to keep experiencing the impact of this program long after graduation -- because it definitely doesn’t stop there!

Although hitting a roadblock early this semester with a potential partner in Chiapas, we have recently had a lot of success in the planning of our health project implementation in Burlington, NC this summer. We are currently negotiating a partnership with Centro la Comunidad (a Latino center in downtown Burlington) that we hope will result in a location and source of information for our summer endeavors.

This summer we will implement a community health project in Burlington based on the Positive Deviance Model. The goal of this project is to locate “positive deviants” -- that is, members of a community who have knowledge and experience on raising a healthy family that other members of the community may not have -- in order to facilitate the spread of that knowledge. We will be working with the Latino population in Burlington, specifically mothers, on promoting the exchange of healthy practices including: good nutritional choices and meal planning, how to shop economically for healthy foods, recognizing when a child’s symptoms require medical attention, gaining access to the healthcare system in Alamance County, and further topics suggested by participants.

The implementation of this model will include once or twice weekly lessons on different health topics. These lessons will focus on sharing practical knowledge and facts, and then developing realistic courses of action with participants based on their experiences living in Burlington. We will be working with participants not just to improve the health of their own families, but also to share existing and acquired knowledge with those around them. The ultimate goal of these trainings is to promote an exchange of knowledge that will have a tangible and positive impact on the health of the participants as well other Latino families in the greater Burlington community.

continued pg. 4
Working with us to implement this model is our Positive Deviance Coordinator, Courtney Latta, who has implemented this model in Haiti working with Children’s Nutrition Program with support from Save the Children and is familiar with facilitating the sharing of nutrition and health knowledge within a community. Along with her practical experience, she is currently studying at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health and has a strong understanding of the healthcare knowledge that underlies good practices. During the sessions she will serve both as a teacher and a facilitator, encouraging participants to share knowledge among themselves.

Over the eight week period from July to August 2012 that we will be holding these lessons, we hope to see at least 20 women through the program and to increase their skill set related to pertinent nutrition and health issues. In addition, because our organization includes many Elon students committed to working in Burlington this summer, it is our hope that this will help build a stronger connection between the Elon and Burlington communities.

Over spring break, Dr. Nienhaus, Courtney Latta, Fiona Alfaro, and David Gagne are travelled to Chiapas to do a scouting trip. During this trip, they built relationships with partners on the ground. 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!

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!

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**Profit Shares & Periclean Scholars: A Win-Win Situation**

**jessica zollinger/12**

Throughout our time as Periclean Scholars, we will unquestionably be involved in a “profit share.” These events allow students to partner with local businesses and restaurants to promote Periclean Scholars initiatives. Often, businesses will cut 10-20% of their profits from the night to donate to the Class. In return, students must get as many people to come to the profit share as possible, not only supporting the restaurant but supporting the Classes’ initiatives as well! Profit shares are an easier way to raise awareness about Class projects while raising money. In addition, the greater Burlington community has the opportunity to learn about Periclean Scholars by stopping by the information table at the restaurant. As Scholars, we are thankful to the Burlington community for allowing us to partner with them!
Class of 2014/Appalachian:

ethan smith/14

The Periclean class of 2014 is planning its first trip to Appalachia, and we'll be busy. While some members of the class went to Kingsport, TN and Dante, VA in the Fall of 2011, this is the first trip where we will be meeting and working with our partners in Appalachia for the next few years and many members of the class will be in attendance.

Our class will be leaving from Elon University on Sunday, May 20, and heading out to St. Charles, VA. Here we will be meeting Sister Beth and Dr. Van Zee to discuss healthcare and oxycontin in Appalachia. We will also be meeting with the Webb family, who runs the community center and will discuss coal mining in Appalachia with our class. St. Charles has a population of 159 people, and was once a booming coal town that was a center for commerce during the coal boom. After the coal industry considerably reduced its size, St. Charles fell into an economic depression in the latter part of the 20th century.

From St. Charles we'll be rolling out to Whitesburg, KY to explore Appalshop, a filmmaking and documentary shop where many films and documentaries about Appalachia originate. We will also meet the founders of Appalshop here and be given the privilege of staying in their house for the evening and discussing world changing events over dinner. Whitesburg is the biggest town we'll visit, with a population of 2,139 people. It is best known for Appalshop and its newspaper, The Mountain Eagle, which has won awards for its coverage of the happenings in Appalachia.

Next we head on over to Whitesville, WV, which is the hub of mountaintop removal coal mining in Appalachia. We will spend three days here, visiting and working on a mountaintop removal site to learn more about the process and how it affects the region. Hopefully this will give us inspiration to decide what our future projects will be, and we will also meet our partners in crime here to talk about the future of Periclean in Appalachia. Whitesville has a population of 520 people, and its story is much the same as St. Charles. All of these towns have been affected drastically by coal mining, and we look forward to visiting them.

After all of this, our time in Appalachia will sadly come to a close and we will return to Elon. Our class is pumped to be able to go to our focus region so early in our existence as a class, and hopes to connect and establish a good foundation with the people of Appalachia.

Class of 2012/India:

jessica zollinger/12

The Class of 2012 was privileged to host a Periclean-in-Residence, Mr. Sundeep Kapila, at Elon on April 19th. Mr. Kapila runs a social business in Mumbai called “Swasth,” which focuses on healthcare delivery in the slum communities. The social business is based on the model of microfinance that his company pioneered. Scholars got to interact with Sundeep and ask him questions when he came to our weekly Thursday class. Mr. Kapila was able to visit a global health class and discuss various approaches to improving healthcare in India. Our partner, CRHP, was also presented to the class so that the two models could be compared. Lastly, Mr. Kapila was able to meet with students from the Student Microfinance Club and discuss his model of social business. It was very beneficial to have Mr. Kapila at Elon and we look forward to continuing a partnership with him and Swasth.
The Periclean Foundation

jessica zollinger/12

On March 29th, 2012, the Periclean Foundation held its first official board meeting. Establishing the Periclean Foundation has been a goal of the Classes of Periclean Scholars since the very beginning of the program, and hard work by members of the Class of 2012 have finally made it happen. Jamie Milliski, Chris Carmichael and Tom Arcaro (incorporators) worked tirelessly to ensure the creation of the Foundation.

This entity will be parallel to, but legally and organizationally separate from, the Periclean Scholars and Periclean Scholars Alumni Association organizations that are part of Elon University. The purpose of the Periclean Foundation is to support, organize, and sustain initiatives and partnerships developed by the Periclean Scholars Program at Elon University. In addition, the Foundation looks to bring awareness, education, advocacy, social development, and financial support to the Scholars Program.

At the first board meeting, the bylaws were discussed and a Board was elected. The board members are as follows:

1. Tom Arcaro, Chairperson
2. David Higham, Class of 2006, Vice-Chairperson
3. Jamie Milliski, Class of 2012, Treasurer
4. Andie Diemer, Class of 2010
5. Voster Tembo, Habitat for Humanity-International, Zambia
6. Katie Swift, Class of 2010
7. Jill Medhus, Class of 2009
8. Crista Arangala, Associate Director
9. Chris Carmichael, Class of 2012
10. Trisha Franck, Community Member, Mother of Katie Franck (PS ‘07)
11. Natasha Christensen, Class of 2007
12. Katie Kenney, Class of 2012
13. Katie Dirks, Class of 2011
14. Jack Dodson, Class of 2012
15. Jessica Zollinger, Class of 2012

A website is in the works and will be launched soon (http://thepericleanfoundation.wordpress.com/). In the meantime, if you or someone you know would like to donate to the Periclean Foundation, please mail a check to (please designate which Class or program you would like to donate to):

The Periclean Foundation
2335 Campus Box
Elon NC, 27244
A note from the director:

New Spaces, New Places

tom arcaro/director

Some thoughts and updates...

I have been watching with keen interest the Kony2012 controversy unfold and have been generally pleased by the depth of conversation that has ensued as one writer after another has critically dissected the actions of Invisible Children. I recently read The Atlantic article by Teju Cole entitled “White Savior Industrial Complex” and immediately imagined how our program would measure up to his scathing observation that, “The White Savior Industrial Complex is not about justice. It is about having a big emotional experience that validates privilege.” As I reflected on how each Periclean Scholars Class–both past and present–I felt confident that each has lived up to our Periclean Pledge that, in my reading, is the demonstrative opposite of the “White Savior Industrial Complex.” Our program stands as an exemplar of a culturally mindful and rigorous approach to fulfilling our duties as global citizens and as meaningful partners to our friends and colleagues around the world. In Saviors and Survivors, Mahmood Mamdani provides a deep background behind the “Save Darfur” movement and foreshadows the Kony2012 controversy. From his introduction: “In contrast to those who suggest that we act as soon as the whistle blows, I suggest that, even before the whistle blows, we ceaselessly try to know the world in which we live— and act. Even if we must act on imperfect knowledge, we must never act as if knowing is no longer relevant.” (p. 6)

I feel confident that if either Cole or Mamdani were to examine our program they would see that we proceed in all cases with eyes open, ready to “know the world” and thus be true global citizens committed to the common good of all humanity.

Now for two updates. First, as you will see described in more detail elsewhere in this newsletter, I am happy to report that The Periclean Foundation has been established as a fully functioning 501c3 non-profit organization. I look forward to working with Board members in the coming months toward the goal of making this new Foundation a true force in support of the Periclean Scholars program and especially the partnerships both past and present Classes have established.

The induction of the tenth Class of Periclean Scholars prompted me to reflect on both the past and the future of our program. I have been working on a document entitled “Periclean Scholars 2.0: The Next Decade” and have begun sharing this document with the Steering Committee, select alumni and friends of the program, past and current Mentors, and my administrator, Dr. Connie Book. You can take a look at this very-much-in-progress document on our new web site (www.elon.edu/e-web/org/pericles/). Please let me know if you have comments or feedback.

All the best to everyone for a successful end of the semester!