Class of 2013/Mexico:

Jennie Proto ’13

The Periclean Scholars Class of 2013 has stayed busy over the past months in continuing our community group, Hogares sanos, and planning for our trip to Mexico over the upcoming Winter Term. Since October, Hogares sanos has been continuing to meet on Monday mornings with a consistent showing every week. We have been networking with many groups on campus and the outside community, in order to respond to members’ interest in learning more about identified family and community issues. In late October, John Pickett, Assistant Director of Scholar Support of Elon Academy, came to speak about the Elon Academy program and college access in general. After learning about what the Elon Academy program can offer high school-aged students, the women eagerly took several packets of information to bring home and share with their friends. Campus Recreation’s Christine Mavraganis and Allison Slatten taught Zumba at two separate sessions in November. These classes provided us with some fun and exercise—even our mentor participated! Also, Allen Blue, the Alamance County Gang Prevention Coordinator, came to speak about parenting and the teenage years. We hope to have Allen return in either January or February. Most recently, our very own Thomas Price (seen above) taught a computer class, which included how to perform searches on the Internet. In order to connect this session to previous ones, Thomas showed the women how to find the application for the Elon Academy.

In planning for our Winter Term trip, fundraising has played a central focus. Based on Alex Lake’s suggestion, Elizabeth Capel, our mentor, Dr. Nienhaus (seen above), and I collaborated with the Student Government Association’s treasurer, Scott Bishopric, in hopes of being awarded a special allocation fund. Elizabeth and I presented the idea to SGA at one of their Thursday evening meetings, while many members of our class supported us by attending the meeting with Periclean t-shirts on and proud smiles. We were awarded a total of $8,312 for our trip, which will be distributed amongst eight students. As both a Periclean Scholar of the Class of 2013 and a member of SGA, Alex played an instrumental role in our success, answering questions that we were unable to due to the utilized parliamentary procedure and guiding our central talking points. We are also eternally grateful for Scott’s continued support throughout the process.

Continued on page 2
After months of research and deliberation, the Periclean Scholars Class of 2015 has decided to concentrate their efforts on helping the staggering amount of Restavecs within Haiti. A Restavec, meaning “one who stays with” in French, is a child who is sent away by their family when they lack the resources to care for their child. Often, Restavecs work as a domestic servant for another household. In many instances, this practice is a form of child abuse—even labeled by the United Nations as a modern form of slavery. The class is now delving deeper into the Restavec problem, researching potential local partners, and beginning to draft a mission statement for the Class.

The group continues to become stronger and more effective as all Scholars become more confident and comfortable with the group. A room once full of strangers is now quickly becoming a tight-knit family. Recently, the Class of 2015 sat down for brunch in Lindner to enjoy some great food and company!
Class of 2010/Ghana:

Carly Tustin/10

This summer and early into the fall, the Ghana Pericleans extended membership to a few students, filling some of the empty spaces and adding the expanded cohort dynamic from the original class. The group now has nine on-campus members and continues to focus on its previous projects focused within Ghana’s Volta Region. During Elon’s International Education Week, which focused on West Africa, the Ghana Pericleans engaged in meal plan and Phoenix Cash swiping for the kindergarten currently under construction in Sokode, Ghana and also hosted a College Coffee table and a Read-In in Irazu, the coffee shop in Moseley Center. The Sokode Kindergarten Project was initiated by one of the members within the first class of Pericleans, Bryce Little (’10). When completed, the school should be roughly three times the size of the existing kindergarten in the village.

In previous years, the Ghana Pericleans have partnered with many local businesses to create a Ghana Card that is sold to raise money for projects in Ghana. This year, the Ghana Class partnered with the Mexico Class (2013s) to sell a collective Periclean Card, offering discounts at popular businesses such as The Root, Domino’s Pizza, and many others. The Ghana Pericleans are also in the process of formulating details to begin a formal partnership with ScholarCHIPS, a scholarship program that will allow a West African college student to attend school in the United States.

Most recently, the group received word and photos from Kpoeta indicating that the Health Services Planning Center’s second block of staff housing, which includes two one-bedroom apartments, was recently roofed. Medical supplies sent via U.S. Navy Ship also successfully arrived. This past spring, five pallets of donated books and one pallet of medical supplies were shipped to Ghana’s Volta Region via the U.S. Navy’s Project Handclasp. Currently the Ghana Pericleans and a student-run organization, Elon Partners in International Development (EPID), are continuing to gather books for the kindergarten and other Sokode schools. A 2010 alum recently donated over 140 children’s books, and EPID just received roughly four boxes.

In preparation for our Mentor, Dr. Heidi Frontani, to take leave for sabbatical in the spring, the cohort has started holding some of their own meetings on campus. An effort has been made to reach out to other individuals and groups on campus who may share an interest in Ghana and West Africa such as The Elon African Society, Elon Partners in International Development (EPID), and the founder of Education for Liberia. EPID co-hosted the College Coffee table with the Ghana Pericleans during International Week and also are meal swiping to contribute to the Sokode Kindergarten Project as in previous semesters.
Class of 2014/Appalachia

Ethan Smith/14

The Periclean Class of 2014 has been busy fundraising, road tripping, and planning a symposium. We recently held a grilled cheese and cookie fundraiser in Moseley’s Fireside Lounge, arming ourselves with a Phoenix Card swipe machine and a few George Foreman grills. Shamelessly promoting our cause; we raised over $250 for our Class’ initiative. This money will go toward building more bookshelves at the Boone-Raleigh Community Center in Whitesville, West Virginia.

Over Fall Break, seven members of our Class loaded up our cars and headed to Whitesville. After two long nights and some interesting driving, we managed to build three bookshelves from scratch for the community center. Lorelei Scarbro, who runs the community center, identified the need for bookshelves as a primary concern; therefore, our Class will be focusing on this until the job is done. Also while in Whitesville, we attended Larry Gibson’s memorial service in Charleston, West Virginia. Gibson was an activist against mountaintop removal who died at age 66 while working on his lifelong home, Kayford Mountain.

Before Fall Break, two of our Class members went to the center to help make apple butter – a tradition that happens every fall. They brought back more than a few helpings of their hard work for our class to sample.

Our fall book drive was a success, as we donated more than a few hundred books to the community center to help them begin building their library and filling the bookshelves.

We also had a pancake fundraiser at Applebee's on December 1st. We enjoyed the event and had a great turn out!
My Life Living Publicly with my HIV Status for Ten Years: November 30, 2002 – November 30, 2012

It has been a long road to freedom. Freedom from stigma and discrimination. During my journey, I met wonderful people from all over the Globe. Even without the support of some of my immediate family members, God sent wonderful people who blessed me in many ways. I was hopeless, wasted, with no future plans, but with the support especially of my colleagues at work in the Ministry of Gender Equality, my life was always full of hope and energy and the will to see another day come by.

My fellow HIV+ women who joined me to fight stigma and discrimination and those I joined in advocating for the speed up of the provision of ARVS in Namibia were also an inspiration to me. Through the support from my brothers and sisters beyond Namibia, I learn to plan for my future and the future of my children and the Orphans and vulnerable children living next to me.

It has been a long journey in which I met my very long good friend, Dr. Tom Arcaro and his beautiful wife and children, not to forget the Periclean Scholars who accommodated me at Elon University. Also the AAAA, Redwoods Group Foundation, UNC-CH, The Story with Dick Gordon, and all other stakeholders who made my stays in the USA in 2004 and 2007 pleasant and fruitful.

The production of three documentaries, “A Measure of Our Humanity,” “You Wake Me Up,” “My Name is Anita” have really helped us in creating awareness on HIV/AIDS in Namibia and the World.

Speaking of the present, I never dreamt of going back to school. Having lost my eldest daughter in 2010 August due to Carposi Sarcoma, I got this strong will of going back to university to study social work, the aim is to go back in the Community as a professional.

I am so blessed and so thankful to The Almighty for giving me brothers and sisters who support me physically, psychologically, and emotionally. Without your support I could not have travelled this long journey about fulfilling my dream of going back to school even being HIV positive for 17 years now. Currently, I am studying and volunteering with Organizations like the Young Women’s Christian Association of Namibia, and

Continued on Page 6
still in touch with NENAWOLA and TONATA in the North.

Life has been real since the day I went public on 30th November 2002. I never looked back, but kept on living like any human being, thanking God for the precious life he gave me and the chapter he opened in my life. I could see my children growing to become adults and today enjoy being with my two granddaughters and one grandson.

Meeting Dr.Tom and the Periclean Scholars was a gift from above. And I would like to thank all of you and pray to God that our relationship will stay the way it started.

“NDAPANDULA UNENE!!!!! KALUNGA NEMUYAMBEKE!”

---

Class of 2009/Zambia

Laura Veno /09

My four years at Elon University provided me with an opportunity not only for academic advancement, but perhaps more importantly, with the tools necessary to explore my passions- and it challenged me to discover my purpose. Elon’s belief that service is an integral part of the academic experience, as exhibited both through the academic curriculum and the availability of a variety of extracurricular programs, ultimately drove me to become a Periclean Scholar. My involvement in the Periclean Scholars program provided me with just this experience, and it opened many doors for me. It had a significant and lasting effect on both my academic and personal development, and it was a great motivation for me to join the Peace Corps last year. I am now a proud Peace Corps volunteer teaching English in a small secondary school in Ukraine. I love my work and, as most volunteers would agree, the rewards of this job are well worth the struggles and frustrations.

Next year, I hope to pursue a graduate degree in Global Development. As a Periclean Scholar, I was able to develop a capable understanding of what it means to be a global citizen. Indeed, the Periclean Scholars program challenged me to think creatively and critically and to reimagine what the world can be. I know that as I further my education in Global Development, I will continue to embody the principles that this program teaches, and am privileged to be a small piece of the Periclean legacy.
Toxic Charity

Lupton argues in *Toxic Charity* against several types of charity and service, not the least of which are unsustain-able service, service that does rather than does with, and service that does not work to preserve the dignity of those it seeks to help. A prime example of toxic charity is the billions of dollars spent on what Lupton calls “service tourism,” or the trips undertaken by churches and student groups to foreign countries in the name of service or religious missions. The biggest problem with this type of trip is that it does not empower the community it visits, instead creating a situation where the individuals are dependent on the service group’s continued assistance. Lupton sums up his issues with the toxic charity model of service by writing, “When we do for those in need what they have the capacity to do for themselves, we disempower them.

Perhaps the most moving -and stinging- part of Lupton’s observations is that which addresses the individuals doing the service. Lupton describes their intentions as good but their follow-through and understanding of the community as poor. Specifically, Lupton expresses disapproval of the idea that service benefits those serving and those receiving. Lupton explains that this notion allows service projects to do little good and only truly “serve” church members or student groups rather than the struggling communities. When rhetoric is used to promote the (initially well-intentioned) idea that service is for the benefit of those serving, no one is really served in a positive way.

In many ways I can commend my classmates for the way our local relationships, particularly with the health curriculum this summer, have been initiated and developed. Our program has taught women how to prepare healthy food for themselves and their families, and we have done so by asking them their needs rather than assuming what they are lacking. A primary issue to look out for in Chiapas is any overbearing we may have on communities and individuals in the region. Beyond that, it may be useful to look for ways that the toxic charity model has already been implemented -as well as any possibilities to end the cycle. For instance, Lupton describes churches in Mexico that are painted several times a year by one church group after another -hearing about these instances from individuals in the communities we visit is possible. If we do observe such toxic charity over Winter Term, it will be important to talk with individuals about the true needs of their communities as well as tools to communicate those needs to the groups that come to “serve” them. As we may have the capacity to take on small projects in the spring, it would be fruitful to pay attention to communities’ expressed needs while traveling in Mexico. Many of the projects we have taken on are based on our own perceptions of need in Chiapas, so this is our opportunity to respond to what the people of Chiapas themselves say is lacking in their communities. It is important to keep in mind, however, that whatever we take on in the spring will have to be via correspondence.
Sitting on the floor in a circle surrounded by ten Indian village kids with cameras every Monday and Thursday, I often have flashbacks to the times the girls, facilitators, and I sat outside the Burlington Housing Authority in the grass talking about how to visually represent something like family or success or about the importance of ethics in photography. When Hanumant shared photos of his role models from his village called Kusadgaon, my mind was drawn back to Deja’s picture of two women she admired in east Burlington. When I looked at the pictures the kids had taken of trash around Kusadgaon, I remembered Alexcia’s photo of an empty McDonald’s container discarded on the ground: “We can help our community by recycling and not littering,” she’d said. When I gave 22 girls in Burlington cameras and asked them to tell their stories, I never could have guessed that three years later I would be in India with two other Elon grads, working on my third Photovoice project and forming so many connections from over 8,000 miles away from where I started.

My experience with Photovoice, a methodology that puts cameras into the hands of community members and asks them to tell their own stories, has guided how I have developed my thoughts on community work as a Periclean and as an advocate. Initially, the Burlington Photovoice project was part of my research, but more importantly it was a way for me to better understand and grow closer to the girls we (the 2012s) partner with locally at BHA; to hear about their issues, hopes and achievements; and to see them in a very concrete way through their photographs. There is something very Periclean about Photovoice—it is about relinquishing any “power” you might hold as a researcher, teacher or community worker; it is about listening to and valuing the stories of those you’re working with; and it is about working together to discuss paths for positive change and walking down them together.

After graduation, two other Elon grads, Maggie Cisses and Meagan Harrison, and I decided that we wanted to see what more there was to learn through Photovoice and created an organization called Look Out Loud. We Kickstarted a project to introduce Photovoice in several communities around the world, with a focus on connecting participants with each other and with anyone we could get to listen back home. Our 14 Photovoice participants in India, nine young men and women from Kusadgaon and five Village Health Workers, just hosted two exhibitions in Jamkhed and Pune, which were covered by four different news agencies and seen by friends, family, locals, Australians, Germans, Ecuadorians, Yemenis, Sri Lanka’s Minister of Health and delegation, businessmen, photographers, social workers and more. Their stories speak so loud. As a year-long fellow here at CRHP, I will not be moving on with Look Out Loud, but Meagan and Maggie are currently getting started on our next project in the Philippines and will head to Guatemala in the spring. I would love for you all to follow the stories being told, reflect on them, and think about what stories you would tell, your class would tell and your partners would tell. Photovoice has taught me to never take for granted that everyone has a significant story and that when you stop to listen and reflect you discover something about your own story as well.
A note from the director:

tom arcaro/director

There are many important and exciting items on which to report.

First, my travel to Paris with alum Jack Dodson Thanksgiving week was significant. As you may recall from our previous newsletter, Elon University and the Periclean Scholars Class of 2012 have partnered with the city of Izmir, Turkey in their bid to become the host city for the World Expo 2020. This partnership is based on a mutual commitment to assuring “health for all”, which is both the theme chosen by the city of Izmir and the title of the documentary about health care in India produced by the ’12’s. A specially edited short trailer for the documentary was a key part of the 20 minute presentation by the Izmir team made in front of approximately 300 Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) delegates from around the world. After the video was screened Jack, Dr. Shobha Arole (seen below) from CRHP and I each spoke about the importance of the theme health for all and the visionary act of the city of Izmir to commit to building a training facility on the CRHP campus. It was truly humbling to talk in front of these delegates and represent our university and program. There are two more public presentation required of Izmir in their bid, the final one next November after which the BIE delegates will vote. I truly hope that Izmir wins the bid, but in any case CRHP is already a winner since the new building - construction to start soon- will not only provide a new facility for their training sessions but also, critically, provide a revenue stream that will last into the future.

Some shorter items:

The name change process is moving forward slowly and with careful attention to the gravity of this moment in the history of the program. We hope to come to closure in the very near future, and I will keep everyone informed as I continue working with Name Change Committee Chairperson Kirsten Holland, ’13.

Assessing our program is increasingly important as we move forward with efforts to replicate our model and to seek support from outside sources. All alumni will soon be asked to respond to a short survey that will ask them to reflect upon their experience as a Periclean Scholar and to comment on critical aspects of the program.

Professor Hector Gomez at the University of Monterrey (UDEM) continues to recruit the inaugural Class of Ciudadanos Globales and is now beginning to make plans for the induction of this cohort next spring. I remain in close contact with Hector as UDEM moves forward with this initiative.

Finally, I want to wish everyone a peaceful, joyful and restful Holiday Season. May we all renew our energies as we work toward a better world for all.