“what you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.”

Pericles

These words, presented by a speaker at the Training for Trusteeship (TFT) conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka, represent the importance and impact of environmental education, a theme that Periclean graduates Jesse Lee ’11 and Natalie Lampert ’11 experienced throughout their time at the conference.

Jesse and Natalie traveled to Colombo after graduation to learn more about environmental issues and advocacy, serve as ambassadors for Elon and the United States and to strengthen existing and create new Periclean ties.

The workshops and sessions at TFT focused on effective communication about issues such as sustainable development, the trusteeship of natural resources, volunteerism and organizing movements. It brought together students and post-grads from across South Asia and the US to contribute their own perspectives, experiences and solutions.

Natalie’s take:
“While the sessions were very interesting and informational, a lot of what Training for Trusteeship was about was encapsulated in what happened outside of the sessions. There were participants at this year’s TFT from eight different countries - Nepal, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, the Maldives, the U.S., and Sri Lanka…It was pretty incredible interacting with individuals who are already true leaders and visionaries in their countries…They’re spearheading initiatives and running organizations dealing with everything from opium use in Nepal to traffic accidents in Bangladesh to wheelchair ramp access in Pakistan. Continued on Page 6.
Class of 2011/Sri Lanka:

Ongoing Periclean projects send ‘11s to Sri Lanka

Class of 2010/Ghana:

Building lasting community partnership in Ghana: 2010s follow a project to an unanticipated turn, bringing healthcare to thousands of Ghanaians for years to come

Carly Tustin 2010

What the The Kpoeta Community Clinic in the Volta region of Ghana is developing into is beyond anyone’s wildest dreams when the Ghana Class of Periclean Scholars was inducted in the spring of 2007.

At the project’s beginning, those living in rural isolated Kpoeta who were in need of medical attention walked or were carried by others for seven miles to reach Kpedze, the only health facility for miles. During the region’s rainy season, the unpaved road leading to the Kpedze clinic became impassible and, in effect, the 10,000 people of Kpoeta were annually losing access to health care for months at a time.

In a joint effort with the people of Kpoeta, Elon University’s Periclean Scholars Ghana Class established and opened the Kpoeta Community Clinic in January 2009. Its inception initiated a more stable source of medical care and before most of the class graduated in May 2010, plans were instated to launch a drug store and to obtain additional staff for the clinic.

Although 29 of the original Ghana Periclean members have graduated from Elon and dispersed across the United States and the world, they have kept the global development initiative a dynamic part of their lives. Over the past three years, six students from the classes of 2012 and 2013 have become Ghana Periclean Scholars and joined Dr. Heidi G. Frontani, faculty advisor to the Ghana Pericleans, to support what was started by the 29 members of the 2010 class and sustain the partnership with the Kpoeta community. The younger members meet every other week and at their September 7, 2011 meeting, they became aware of news from the clinic in Ghana that took the group’s previous sustainability initiatives to a new level.

Ghana’s Ministry of Health had announced plans to upgrade The Kpoeta Community Clinic to a Community Health Planning Services Center, allowing the facility to add both a community nurse and a National Youth Employment worker to the existing staff, the ability to accept Ghana’s Health Insurance Card, and receive stocks of drugs from the Ghana Health Services for the facility’s drug store. The upgrade will be completed by December 2011. In the meantime, additional on-site housing for the new staff will be constructed and is expected to be completed by early 2012.

The upgrade to the clinic was celebrated with an official government ceremony and fundraiser (durbar) in Kpoeta on September 8, 2011. Congratulations to all who have been involved with this amazing project and thank you to those who have donated.

Photos from Natalie and Jesse’s blog: Stories from the Dusty Road

Stories from the Dusty Road: storiesfromthedustyroad.wordpress.com

building lasting community partnership in ghana: 2010s follow a project to an unanticipated turn, bringing healthcare to thousands of ghanaians for years to come

women from a village in ghana at the clinic — a project that just received recognition from the Ghanaian government.

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**Class of 2012/India:**

Connecting nonprofits to corporations — introducing the CSR-Nonprofit Summit

**Class of 2013/Mexico:**

Notes from a third semester in Periclean Scholars:

Class of 2013 begins research, hosts visitors and establishes partnerships

Jack Dodson, 2012

It’s been a few months now since it was official that the Class of 2012 was hosting a conference in Pune, India on January 20 and 21. But the details on things like this change frequently, as we’ve learned recently.

So we thought we’d take this opportunity to talk to you to see what we’re actually doing.

CRHP, the NGO helping to organize the CSR-Nonprofit Summit, has worked in villages in and around this area. Jamkhed, for 40 years.

The reason we decided to go this way was simple: it gave us the opportunity to set up sessions that would actually learn something from, while basing the conference in an idea that would be the most practical to everyone involved.

The quick summary of this conference is that it’s about bringing nonprofits and corporations together to talk about rural development issues and women’s empowerment. We hope to spark partnerships and strong discussions.

Some of our sessions include:

- Successful Models for Rural Women’s Development
- Challenges, Sustainability and Missions of Nonprofits
- Effective CSR-Nonprofit Partnerships

**WHAT IT’S ALL ABOUT:**

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Building local connections

Martha Kane, 2013

On September 16th, the Periclean Scholars Class of 2013 officially re-established its partnership with Hillcrest Elementary School in Burlington, North Carolina. Fiona Alfaro, Becca Goldstein, and I went to the school and spoke to the fifth grade teachers about some great lessons plan ideas formulated by members of our class.

Together, we came up with three course objectives from the North Carolina Standard Course of Study that would merge well with the study of Chiapas, Mexico.

In North Carolina, the fifth grade students learn about Mexico in their social studies curriculum. We hope to meet with the students three times before Winter Break and teach them about the Central American Independence, Day of the Dead, and family roles in Chiapas.

As much as we want the students to learn about the Periclean Scholars program and Chiapas, we also want to form relationships with them. We hope to get together with the students for a fun activity outside of school.

We are all looking forward to planning the lessons with more details and becoming more involved in this exciting local partnership.

We have been researching and discussing the idea of partnering with a local community group to implement a Hearth Model in Chiapas.

The purpose of a Hearth Model gathering is that community members with valuable knowledge and skills can be teachers to other individuals; the model is self-sustaining in that knowledge continues to be spread by the community. Also, we feel that it is important to implement a project that allows the community to empower itself, using the information and experiences already present.

We are in the beginning stages of communicating with the Luna Maya birth clinic about a partnership. In addition, we are initiating communication with Asheville Sister Cities (as San Cristobal, Chiapas is one of Asheville, North Carolina’s sister cities) about partnering with us to support our work in Chiapas. Presently, we are starting to fundraise for a much-needed ultrasound machine for Luna Maya.

Connecting to other classes

Jennie Provo, 2013

Very early on a September Tuesday morning, Periclean Scholar alumna from the class of 2009, Courtney Latta, came to our class. We had been discussing the idea of implementing a Hearth Model in Chiapas, and Dr. Arcaro pointed us in Courtney’s direction since she has extensive experience with this model in Haiti.

With this suggestion, our class knew that her expertise and insight would be valuable to us during this process. She provided us with a lot of helpful information and answered many questions about the nature of the model and its feasibility in Chiapas.

As she spoke it became more and more clear that we had discovered an incredible resource in her. We are thrilled to have connected with her, especially given that she is a Periclean colleague.

Currently, we are processing the information from Courtney as well as from our own reading and research through group discussions held twice a week, and we are hoping to meet with Courtney again soon. We have also been communicating with the Luna Maya birth clinic in Chiapas in the hopes of forming a long term partnership that would support the implementation of the Hearth Model in Chiapas. Most significantly on our minds, we still wonder how we as Periclean Scholars students fit into this plan. Knowing that each class has faced this challenge, we are slowly coming more confident that we can find a respectful, sustainable, and productive place for ourselves in Chiapas.
project pericles//

A week at TFT continues, brings new partnerships

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We are pleased to announce that the second annual Periclean Scholars Loaves & Fishes 5K Run will be held on Sat. April 21st 2012. After a very successful first year we are looking to double the size of the 5K Run and have set a lofty goal of raising over $10,000. All proceeds from the 5K will go towards this year’s graduating class of Periclean Scholars, as well as Loaves & Fishes Food Bank here in Alamance County. We are excited about this growing partnership and are excited to see where this year will take us. If you would like more information on how you can become involved in planning and supporting the 5K please contact Taylor Blackburn at tblackburn@elon.edu. Please also check out our website (PericleanScholars5k.org) in the coming months for race details and to register. P.S.

't06 alumni project provides HIV+ villagers with new bicycles

Natalie on her group's proposal:

This doesn't mean we should be visiting every 100-level class to talk about Periclean (though by all means, go as many as you want). Rather, we need to address the fundamental problem with recruitment: we're just not reaching enough people who have recently arrived on campus.

Last year’s 5K race, put on by the Class of 2011. Photo by Tom Arcaro.

project pericles

All classes/discussion:
Thoughts on expanding the reach on Elon’s campus

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For a long time — as long as I’ve been in Periclean — I’ve been told one of the strongest complaints about the program is how upperclassmen have heard about Project Pericles when they were freshmen, they would have joined.

Perhaps we could be posting more ads in Moseley. Maybe our communications committees aren’t working hard enough? (I say this as an active member of my own.) A suggestion: those elevator speeches should be played for all freshmen, somehow.

How should we craft our message, and what’s the best way to package it so that people will actually know what we’re about? These questions aren’t being asked enough.

And maybe that’s appropriate. Each Periclean class has enough on its plate, and so does Pan-Periclean. That makes it whose problem, then?

We can’t really talk about any of this without acknowledging something first: the administration, with huge thanks to Kushil Gunasekera, the founder of Foundation of Lanka, and have been invited by Kushil to continue their work and learning in Sri Lanka. After the conference, they stayed on to help Pericleans and inspire those that come after us get involved. And maybe, if we do that, we can watch the people we’ve inspired take the program to levels we can’t even imagine. P.S.

Thoughts on expanding the reach on Elon’s campus

//project pericles

Finally, videos with no elevators involved: 2011 elevator speeches

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It’s that time of year again. When classes strive to figure out how summarize their experience, when we get to see the ideas and mentalities of different Periclean groups come to fruition. It was funny that two years ago, when our class was first starting, the Ghana group seemed to hit the nail on the head with their (almost) daily elevator speech that featured two then-seniors sitting in an elevator for almost three minutes before getting to the actual speech: Caitlin Carlin ’10 kept saying, “Well, it’s just… It’s this class that… We do a lot of… No, it’s really cool.”

So that’s why we go through this process starting every mid-September.

Once a year, my class has gotten together to try to define what our experience has been. Each year it’s been an increasingly fulfilling process. (Full disclosure: our first video was in an elevator.)

It looks like, given this year’s incredibly strong entries, our class wasn’t the only one that benefited from a chance to define Periclean. So, if you haven’t already, rack up the hits on those various YouTube pages. You might be impressed.

// project pericles
A note from the director: Tracking Periclean’s reach

In light of a visit from Peter Buffett, tracking the reach of Periclean Scholars

Having the Periclean Scholars program highlighted as part of the visit from Peter Buffett and his aunt, Doris Buffett during Family Weekend was certainly exciting, especially for those of us who were honored to be part of the pre-performance luncheon and were able to meet more of our guests in a more intimate setting.

Many thanks to all of the Periclean Scholars at the luncheon and to all who came to Peter’s inspiring presentation. To my ears, Peter Buffett certainly sounds like Periclean Scholar material, and the work of his NoVo Foundation dovetails perfectly with the vast majority of our initiatives. In the ramp up to this visit, Dr. Crista and I accelerated our effort to produce an “accomplishments” page for each of the classes, past and present. Led by Catherine Parsons, administrative assistant for Project Pericles, many of us (thanks, mentors!) worked on these pages and our efforts are available to all online.

While working on these documents I began to reflect on the question about just how far — and how deep — the reach of this program has been. Everyone latches on to numbers, so I put effort into counting the numbers of lives we have touched over the years since the very first class. Year by year, the partnerships created by classes have touched many lives, and many examples came immediately to my mind:

- The catchment area for the health clinic complex made possible by the Class of 2010 reaches at least 10,000 villagers, and the impact of this and other projects by the ’10s cumulatively over the years is immense. To say tens of thousands is no exaggeration, and trying to put any exact number on the impact is an exercise in futility.
- The documentaries on HIV and AIDS produced by the Class of 2006 were screened dozens of times in Elon classes and in colleges classes all over the United States through Thomson Higher Education which distributed the DVD in their Introduction to Sociology and General Anthropology texts. They are still being used by the Peace Corps in Namibia as training films. Who could begin to count the number of people touched by the work of this class?
- I could go on and on with the impact of each class, each with their own story of outreach, each array of lives touched impossible to quantify. When I talk about our collective and cumulative impact I have started to use the phrase “hundreds of thousands” of people have been touched by our program.
- Hyperbole? I think not, staggering as it may sound.

We are making a difference in this world one meaningful partnership at a time. I am humbled to be a part of this program and am so proud to be a part of a team that is reaching out so meaningfully. Thanks go to you as we continue the struggle to create a more just world for all. PS.

Tom Arcaro is director of Project Pericles and mentor for ’06.
He enjoys hanging out in India, getting henna on his hands during his free time.

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