Class of 2012/India:

annie huth/12

When I first came to the Comprehensive Rural Health Project, our global partner in India, in the summer of 2010, I felt as if I had caught a glimpse of what I wanted to commit my talents and passions to long-term. It was the first time I had ever felt that way. The model of community work that I learned about made so much sense, and I experienced it working. One month ago, I boarded a plane to come back to CRHP for a third time, this time to stay for a year as the Elon Postgraduate Fellow, to continue our Class’ work and legacy.

I have learned and changed a lot since 2010. My perspectives on community work and empowerment have changed and matured as a result of my studies and experiences, but I continually discover that my views have changed to mirror CRHP’s mission and principles as well as the way that they approach community work. It is exciting to know that I will be working for an organization I am so completely behind and have much to learn from for this next year. Along with two other Elon grads, I will be continuing Photovoice here at CRHP as part of the Look Out Loud Project. I will be involved in many other projects here related to program and organizational development, but maintaining a strong connection with Elon and the Burlington Housing Authority, out local partner, will remain a priority for me. Already, I have had the opportunity to attend a follow-up and future planning meeting for the CSR-Nonprofit Summit our class co-hosted in January and to continue work on the science playground that Dr. Kamela started this summer.

The 2012’s have experienced CRHP in many seasons. We have been here in the sweltering dry heat of summer and in foggy January. Now, in the windy and wet monsoon season, I cannot help but be excited to see this place through a year. You can keep up with me on my blog this year at http://www.anniehuth.wordpress.com.

I send my best wishes to all of you resuming classes and moving forward in forming and strengthening your partnerships. I would like to leave you with a quote from Lao Tzu that is central to CRHP’s mission and vision; I hope it will guide your priorities as Pericleans this year:

“Go to the people. Live with them. Learn from them. Love them. Start with what they know. Build with what they have. But with the best leaders, when the work is done, the task accomplished, the people will say ‘We have done this ourselves.’”
The Periclean Scholars Class of 2015 has kicked off their four-year-long journey together as they begin studying their target nation of Haiti. In order to provide an in depth look into the Haitian world, the class read Paul Farmer’s *Haiti: After the Earthquake* during the summer. The powerful book left many inspired and anxious to learn more about this poverty-stricken and yet proud nation. Over the course of the next month, the class will be giving presentations on aspects of Haitian geography, history, and culture to further our understanding of the nation. If any students or faculty have any contacts that would be helpful in the Classes’ learning process, please contact Dr. Bud Warner at bwarner3@elon.edu.

Brittany Carroll graduated from Elon Class of 2011 with an International Studies and Political Science double major and Asian Studies minor. She spent the last year as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, teaching 600 students in two public schools alongside four Taiwanese teachers. Along with teaching, she served as the coordinator for a year-long mass pen pal exchange between two elementary schools in Kaohsiung with three American schools in North Carolina. She also fundraised and coordinated a carnival for special needs children residing at the Star Home in Taitung, Taiwan to promote community involvement and awareness of special needs education. At Elon, her research interests focused on oil relations between Asian and African nations, and international education for special needs children in Asia and Africa. She spent time in China both through a study abroad program and a summer internship, and has worked on honing her Mandarin Chinese skills. Outside of the classroom, Carroll remained active with the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., serving as its treasurer, historian and corresponding secretary. She was a member of the Periclean Scholars and was involved with the Elon University Orchestra. She has been inducted into two academic honor societies and has been consistently honored each year since 2008 with the Phillips-Perry Black Excellence Award. Brittany will be a feature speaker at the CELEBRATING Periclean Scholars event that will take place on Thursday, October 4.

**CELEBRATE/Periclean Scholars**

**dr. crista arangala/mentor**

**ELON PERICLEAN SCHOLARS**

**2ND ANNUAL HOMECOMING TAILGATE**

**WHEN:** SATURDAY OCTOBER 20, 2012

12:30-2:30PM

**WHERE:** MOSELEY GREEN,

LOCATED BEHIND MOSELEY,

ADJACENT TO THE

ELLINGTON HEALTH CENTER

**COME MEET UP WITH CURRENT PERICLEANS AND PERICLEAN ALUMS**

**PLEASE RSVP TO CCOLES@ELON.EDU BY OCT 12**
Hey Periclean friends! As a 2011 Periclean Scholar, I was deeply involved with projects in Sri Lanka, where our class traveled to and held an environmental summit in January 2011. From raising money to help support two Sri Lankan primary schools, to partnering with Rainforest Rescue International on a number of initiatives, to working with Graham Middle School in Burlington, N.C., our Periclean class had an incredible adventure during our time at Elon. I am thrilled to say that my Sri Lanka adventure is continuing! I was recently awarded a Fulbright grant and will be leaving next month to teach English literature for a year at the University of Sri Jayawardenepura, located just outside of Colombo, Sri Lanka. I would not be embarking on this journey if it wasn’t for Periclean Scholars and the relationships I formed with our Periclean and Sri Lankan partners along the way, and I am so excited for this opportunity. I need your help, though - I’m in the process of raising $1,500 to buy copies of books I will be teaching to my students, and while I am so close to my fundraising goal, I am not there yet! I would so appreciate your support for this initiative to buy novels that will go directly to my students and to the university library where I will be teaching. Here is the link to my fundraising page: http://www.gofundme.com/Adventures-in-Books. For more information or to send a check donation, please email me at natalielampert@gmail.com. Thank you so much for your support!

¡Hola! My name is April Post. I am a Senior Lecturer in Spanish for the Department of Foreign Languages, and am the mentor for the class of 2016 whose focus is on Honduras. I graduated from Elon in 2001 and received my Master’s from CSU-Sacramento in 2004. My sophomore year in Elon I lived in Ecuador and have been traveling ever since. I’ve spent time in 11 of the 21 Spanish-speaking countries and hope one day to have seen them all. I am looking forward to working with the next Class of Periclean Scholars and am sure we will have an inspiring journey together.
After several attempts to develop a project in Chiapas were unsuccessful, the Class of 2013 decided to redirect our efforts. Despite disappointment in having failed at establishing a partnership with a Chiapan community, we realized that the population and community that we endeavored to work with resided right here, in our own backyard.

The Mexican community in Burlington has a very valuable connection to the region that we have become acquainted with over the past two years, so naturally, we were eager to develop a partnership with these neighbors.

This summer, working alongside Courtney Latta, a Periclean alum and grad student at UNC Chapel Hill, we successfully conducted a six week nutrition and wellness program for mothers in the Burlington community. In the beginning of the summer our efforts were directed towards planning the details of the program and, most importantly, attracting participants. Having not yet established trust with this community, we found recruiting to be extremely challenging. However, after developing rapport with only a few attendants, their persistent word of mouth brought many more. By the end of the program, we had twelve participants total.

The participants were predominantly Spanish-speaking (most having originated from Mexico) so the sessions were conducted in both Spanish and English with the help of interpreters. The sessions were held at Centro la Comunidad in Burlington. We provided transportation, childcare, and a light meal for the mothers. Each session combined a lesson about nutrition or health related topics with a discussion involving all participants. The mothers were very active during these discussions, conversing with each other and asking questions of the facilitator. During the sessions, students from our class helped facilitate the lessons, participated in the conversation, or assisted with childcare in an adjoining room.

Our class is very excited about having established this partnership. After getting to know the participants and their children, we are very much attached to this project and hope to both expand and sustain what we have developed thus far. The women who attended the sessions this summer are also advocating for the continuation of the program. During the final session held at Elon, the participants decided that they would like to continue meeting and talking about various issues, both health related and not, that they are confronting in their community and within their own families. In an upcoming get-together with the participants, we will be brainstorming topics for future workshop sessions to be held at least once a month. We also hope to discuss the long-term sustainability of this program including the possibility of training previous participants to facilitate their own health or wellness related courses for new participants.
The Periclean class of 2014 ventured to Appalachia at the start of summer, marking the start of our journey in our focus area. On May 20, soon after classes were finished, the majority of our class loaded up the Moseley vans and set off for Pennington Gap, Virginia. A few bathroom breaks later, we arrived and met with Sister Beth as our introduction to the area. Sister Beth spoke with us about the history of the region and the relevant cultural issues that are still occurring today. One of the recurring themes on this trip was the combination of rich land and poor people. Due to the exploitation of outsiders and corporations, the people who own the land are the poorest. Coal companies are allowed to buy the mineral rights to the land, enabling them to mine within 300 feet of someone’s home, ruining any natural resources available.

From there, we went to St. Charles, Virginia, where we met Walter, Teresa, Ariel, Courtney, Bonnie, Rhonda, and Emily Webb – the family who runs the community center in St. Charles out of their own pockets. Walter has been a coal miner since he was 18 and now lives with black lung – a disease in which your lungs turn black from coal dust as the minute particles of coal coat the membranes on the inside of the lung. We spoke with them about issues in the community, the most prominent being the perpetuation of teenage pregnancy and drug abuse. Ariel, Walter and Teresa’s 18 year old daughter, told us that teenagers find themselves with nothing to do outside of school and resort to these activities as an escape from boredom. The family attempts to supply the community with living essentials such as furniture, food and clothing. They do what they can, but our class is planning to aid their efforts as much as we can.

After St. Charles, we drove to Whitesburg, Kentucky, home of...
Class of 2014/Appalachian:

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Appalshop, a non-profit multi-disciplinary arts and education center in the heart of Appalachia producing original films, video, theater, music and spoken-word recordings, radio, photography, multimedia, and books dedicated to the preservation of Appalachian culture. We spoke with Derek Mullins about what Appalshop does and what issues are affecting Whitesburg. One of the most haunting things he said affected his own family; he knew when his father was home from working in the coalmines because he could hear him breathing as he walked through the front yard. His father has black lung, which is a direct result of working in the mines. Derek also described to us the third world poverty occurring in the Appalachian Mountains, as described by Harry Caudill in Night Comes to the Cumberlands. Some folks living in Appalachia do not have running water, as mountain water lines have been polluted by runoff from coalmines.

From Whitesburg, Kentucky, we went to Whitesville, West Virginia, an area hit incredibly hard by the aftermath of coal mining. While staying here, we met with Lorelei Scarborough and Larry Gibson – two of the most active and influential figures in the fight against mountaintop removal. In order to meet with Larry Gibson we traveled up Kayford Mountain. The coal is so ubiquitous on this mountain that you can kneel down and pick up a chunk of coal the size of your face from the ground. There are 39 veins of coal in only 560 acres on Kayford Mountain. Larry’s family has occupied this mountain for generations, and he is the last man standing as the coal companies are practicing mountaintop removal just over the ridge beside his home.

Larry’s fight to keep his land does not come without consequences. A few days before we arrived, a group drove up his mountain, hung one of his dogs, shot the other, destroyed his solar panels, and shot at his house. Larry is frequently attacked, as coal trucks attempt to run him off the road while he drives and those against him threaten his life. Yet, this land is close to his heart, and he will do anything to protect it. Standing at barely five feet tall, Larry is a giant among men in the fight against mountaintop removal. Before we departed, we had a town meeting in Lorelei’s community center in what was once a bustling downtown of Whitesville. Lorelei expressed that she would like to purchase the building her center is in, as drug dealers live upstairs. Creating opportunities for younger children was also deemed essential, including heath awareness, music programs and books. After meeting for the majority of the day, we determined other projects for the next few years. Since most communities do not have running water, this issue is one at the top of the list. Bookshelves and books for the community center are in the works, and we are currently in the process of making it happen. All through September, our class is partnered with Barnes and Noble for a book drive in the store in Alamance Crossing.

While simply leaving an area that seems so troubled may sound simple for an outsider, people remain due to heritage, family health, and an attachment to the land. The people believe in the community and in themselves; when you are there, they make you feel right at home. After our trip, we continued to be as active as possible, conducting profit shares and book drives through the summer. We are planning more things to come, with a tentative date for our symposium to be in the spring of 2013. We are bringing our skill sets together and divvying up projects in groups to be tackled so that we can do all we can for the people of Appalachia.
Over the summer of 2012, the Ghana Pericleans engaged in community building through networking, academic endeavors, and two fundraising partnerships. We also added a new member (Jordan Thomas ‘14).

NETWORKING/ COMMUNITY BUILDING: Three Ghana Periclean alums/former Communications majors (Maggie Landy ‘10, Andie Diemer ‘10, and Dan Koehler ‘12) and faculty mentor, Heidi Frontani, met over dinner in New York City in July. All three alums are successfully working in media-related jobs.

ACADEMIC COMMUNITY: Over eleven weeks this summer, four founding members of the Ghana Periclean Scholars class (Amanda Brown ‘10, Jordan Frederick ‘10, Sarah Vavreck ‘10, and Lauren Taylor ‘10), two on-campus members (Greg Honan ‘14, and Cara McClain ‘14), and faculty advisor Dr. Heidi Frontani, posted their comments via Google Groups on Whistling Vivaldi, a book about stereotype threats and identity. The book was the third Ghana Periclean Common Reading since May 2010, when the founding Class members graduated.

FUNDRAISING PARTNERSHIPS: Each year, Jessica Peluso teaches an African Issues class at Sewickley Academy (Pittsburgh, PA), engaging her students in a week of awareness of Africa and urging students school-wide to participate in a Hunger Simulation, for which all proceeds go to a non-profit of choice. This year, students chose to support the Ghana Periclean Scholar due to their connections to them; Carly Tustin (‘13) graduated from the school and Sara Pasquinelli (‘10) taught there over one summer.

Dr. Brian Digre transported books and medical supplies gathered by the Ghana Periclean Scholars and others to a U.S. Navy base in Norfolk, VA this summer. The five pallets of books for the village of Sokode and one pallet of medical supplies for the Community Health Planning Services Center in Kpoeta will be shipped free of cost via the U.S. Navy’s Project Handclasp and will arrive in Ghana within the next few months.

We are looking forward to the fall term and our growing partnership with Elon’s Friends of Ghana chapter.
A note from the director:

I am honored to offer warm greetings to all Pericleans, alumni, partners, and friends. I hope this note finds you all engaged in meaningful work in the Periclean spirit of true humanitarian partnership.

As most of you know, Elon University was one of several US universities to be visited last November by a team of administrators from the University of Monterrey (UDEM) in Monterrey, Mexico. UDEM administrators were searching for models of engaged learning and civic engagement, and on their visit to Elon, they were exposed to the Periclean Scholars model. I was invited to do a site visit in January, where I met with a range of faculty, staff, senior administrators and trustees. Soon after that visit, UDEM requested consulting from Elon to replicate the Periclean Scholars’ program model on their campus.

Most recently, I traveled to UDEM a few weeks ago to meet with my counterpart, the faculty person who will serve as the founding director of Ciudadanos Globales. Dr. Hector Gomez de la Paz has already identified core members of his first cohort of scholars. Additionally, he is fully engaged in identifying and addressing the range of curricular, staffing, and organizational challenges in establishing this program. Ciudadanos Globales will induct the inaugural cohort in spring 2013. Dr. Gomez and his students are eager to learn from all Pericleans at Elon University and wish to make contact via Facebook, Skype, and e-mail. All Pericleans are welcome to join our Facebook group, Ciudadanos Globales, and to share your insights and suggestions on how the UDEM initiative might proceed. Though a majority of the UDEM students have a working knowledge of English, any communication in Spanish would be welcome as well.

I remain in regular contact with Dr. Gomez as he works through the process of getting Ciudadanos Globales from concept to reality.

All the best to everyone as we enter a new school year full of enormous possibilities.