

Periclean Scholars graduating class raise funds to support Ghana

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

As the class of 2010 Periclean Scholars prepare to graduate from Elon University, the impact they have on a small community in Ghana will continue long after they leave campus.

According to Heidi Frontani, professor of geography at Elon and adviser to the scholars, the class passed the \$80,000 mark in donations for their class project.

"The 2010 class of Periclean Scholars set an initial goal of raising \$10,000 by May 2010 to support the construction of a five-room community health clinic in Kpoeta, Ghana," she said.

The idea originated from Francis Amedahe, who came to Elon as the Visiting Fulbright Scholar for the 2006-2007 year, from the University of Cape Coast in Ghana. Amedahe's rural hometown is located near the Ghana-Togo border, Frontani said.

"The students jumped into fundraising and, within three and a half weeks of meeting Dr. Amedahe in April 2007, had raised nearly \$3,500," she said. "By the third week of their first semester of their official Periclean coursework, they passed the \$10,000 fundraising mark."

According to Frontani, the class continued its hard work and now has pledges and donations in excess of \$83,000. Many scholars also secured scholarships and other awards for use at Elon, including five Lumen Prizes and two Monroe Awards, among others. The prizes total more than \$110,000.

She said numerous donors have given large pledges to the project.

"Johnson & Johnson (gave) \$10,000 to start up a drug store in the now completed 10-room Kpoeta Community Clinic which is staffed by two Government

of Ghana-posted nurses," Frontani said. "The Strickland Foundation (gave) \$5,000 to support establishing a \$10,000 endowment that would allow \$500 to be sent to Ghana annually for maintaining the clinic and meeting other needs well after May 2010."

Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church in Tennessee also gave \$8,000 toward a Heifer International Initiative in Sokode, Ghana.

"The 2010s took on secondary projects after they were collecting so many funds so quickly for their main project, the Kpoeta Community Clinic," Frontani said.

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PROFESSOR OF GEOGRAPHY**

According to the scholars' Web site, these included supporting this Heifer International Initiative, hosting speakers and an African Culture Festival at Elon and purchasing more than 500 children's books for an elementary school in Ghana.

Frontani said the scholars also received grants from Elon's Fund for Excellence program and a Project Pericles course enhancement grant.

"Most of the other \$50,000 or so came from letter-writing campaigns to friends and family, donations of \$20.10, symbolic gifts for the 2010 class in honor of their graduation from Elon faculty and staff, Ghana card sales and from ARAMARK via meal card swiping," she said.

Though exact totals are not known, Frontani said she estimates ARAMARK has been the biggest donor with more than \$10,000 earned from them through generous students donating extra meal plans.

The Kpoeta Community Clinic officially opened in January of 2009, according to the scholars' Web site. Medical staff housing is currently being built.

NEWS BRIEFS

Bud Warner to serve as Faculty Fellow for Civic Engagement

Bud Warner, an associate professor for Human Services Studies, came to Elon University in 2006. In 2007-2008 Warner was selected as a Service-Learning Faculty Scholar and later he was the Service-Learning Faculty Development Fellow.

Elon senior recipient of Fulbright Teaching Assistantship

Molly McKnight Costigan will use the funds from the assistantship to spend a year in Spain teaching in an elementary school in Spain. She also received the Senior Spanish Award and was inducted into Phi Kappa Phi.

Elon ROTC Partake in SWAT Urban Training

Cadets in the Elon Army and Air Force ROTC, along with Burlington Police Department SWAT TEAM, participated in urban training May 11. Elon cadets conducted urban missions such as entering buildings, clearing rooms and breaching doorways.

Alumna featured on 'The State of Things'

2009 alumna Erin Barnett was featured on the May 20 broadcast of "The State of Things" at WUNC 91.5 FM. She is being featured for her documentary "My Name is Anita," a film about Anita Isaacs and HIV/AIDS activist in Namibia and former Periclean-in-Residence.

Department chair promoted to Associate Dean of Elon College

Angela Lewellyn Jones will assume the position of Associate Dean of Elon June 1. She previously was department chair of department of sociology and anthropology and served as the coordinator of women's/gender studies.

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