



Eleven Periclean Scholars traveled to India to work with local NGO, Comprehensive Rural Health Project. The students worked directly with the adolescent girls program by teaching the girls new skills and presenting educational material. They also observed the inner workings of the organization to help increase efficiency within. The majority of the group stayed in India for three weeks and completed internships during their stay.

Periclean Scholars implement lessons learned, teach others

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Editor-in-Chief

When Jamie Milliski first arrived in India, she had a henna tattoo drawn on her arm. But this wasn't just any henna tattoo, it was a piece of art that

Milliski was taking a tour of the adolescent girls program at the Comprehensive Rural Health Project and began interacting with a young Indian girl. After learning that this girl was deaf and mute, Milliski let the girl draw a henna tattoo on her arm.

"Throughout the rest of the week she would remember me," Milliski said. "I would point the henna on my arm and she would smile."

Milliski described this as one of her best moments while she was in India for three weeks. Milliski was just one of 11 total students who traveled to India for a few weeks with the Periclean Scholars class of 2012.

"I can't say emphatically enough how much of an impact they are making," said Tom Arcaro, a professor of sociology and the director of the Periclean Scholars program at Elon.

The trip was funded in part by the Carole and Douglas Bruns Endowment for International Service Learning funds scholarships, which helps funds students who are studying abroad and work or intern with a non-religious or non-governmental organization.

The Periclean Scholars class of 2012 consists of 33 students, and Arcaro said it is unheard of that already after their sophomore year, a third of the class has been on the ground in their target country.

According to the Elon University's Periclean Scholars Web site, "students who become part of the Periclean Scholars program take a series of courses (one per school year) culminating in a class project of global social change."

For the class of 2012, the is global impact includes working with the Comprehensive Rural Health Project.

"What CHRP does is their main programs is to train village health workers," said Martin Kamela, the class of 2012's advisor and associate professor of physics. "They come to the (CHRP) campus on a regular basis and get training."

For the 11 students who went and worked with this project, they did a variety of internships while in the country. Several students, including junior Brittany Moore worked with the adolescent girls program.

"The goal of the program is to teach them basic childcare, nutrition, menstruation, karate, job skills like making jewelry and their rights as women," Moore said.

While most students returned back to the states after three weeks in India, Moore is staying until July 1. She is currently working on a manual after spending the first three weeks of her trip observing the girls ages 13-18.

"They learn that they should not allow their parents to pay dowry to their husbands, that the legal age of marriage is 18 and other rights like that," Moore said. "They also have the opportunity to just be kids for once."

While several students worked directly with the adolescent girls



Junior Simone LaHood and other Periclean Scholars were invited to various cultural events while in India, including a traditional Hindu wedding. From the experience, they were able to learn more about the culture.

program, Millinski worked closely with helping CHRP create a database for its patients.

"Right now the hospital does patient records through paper records," she said. "They wanted to transfer that to computer so it could become paperless."

Arcaro said Millinski, an accounting major, did the project in a few days, which would have taken CHRP to do in weeks.

"Everybody is using the tool sets from their majors and learning

about the tool sets in their majors to contribute to this cause," Arcaro said "I can't tell you how clearly this class is living out the calling of the Periclean Scholars program."

The class of 2012 has raised more than \$30,000 and the class made a direct donation to CHRP.

"We are not only contributing financially to the program, but we are helping to design and assess and run the program," Arcaro said. "The class of 2010 represents the clearest model of a true partnership."



Above: Junior Katelyn DeFord engages with the local merchants. Top Right: Juniors Jessica Zollinger, Ellie Stratton-Brook and Jamie Milliski arrive for a traditional Hindu wedding. Bottom Right: Junior Chris Carmichael samples the local cuisine while at CHRP. Far Right: Junior Brittany Moore and the other Periclean Scholars traditionally traveled during their stay in India. Moore decided to stay at CHRP until July.

