



## Alumnus of the Month

### Erin M. Boyd, - WHS Class of 1995

When Dr. Seuss wrote *Oh the Places You'll Go*, he might have been writing about Erin Boyd, who was class president and graduated from Walpole High School in 1995. Erin matriculated to Holy Cross. While there, she took a semester abroad in Australia. She also crewed on the college team that won a spot at the Henley Royal Regatta in England.

Upon graduation from Holy Cross, Erin joined the Peace Corps in January of 2000, serving for two years as a Youth Development Trainer in Nepal. Erin was dismayed to find that the Nepalese women were woefully uneducated. This situation barred them from realizing a more fulfilling and productive existence. She determined to initiate a program that would help to raise funds to correct this inequity. The program involved the expertise and creativity of the Nepalese women who designed and created beautiful pillow covers. Erin brought home their handiwork, and sold the hand-made articles to friends and family. All proceeds from these sales benefited the education of young Nepalese women. Erin remains in touch with her Nepalese family and many of the Peace Corps volunteers from that experience.

Following her Peace Corps tour, Erin earned her M.S. in Food Policy and Applied Nutrition from Tufts University in 2004. As a Teaching Assistant, she became involved in more humanitarian work. (Subsequently, she has lived in Cambodia, Kosovo, Ethiopia, Darfur, and Haiti.) After graduate school, Ethiopia would be her home for several years where she worked for Oxfam International (Boston) and GOAL, an Irish NGO (Dublin). Working for these organizations, she was responsible for coordinating emergency response programs during humanitarian crises.

When her contract with GOAL was completed, Erin returned to the U.S. to accept a position with USAID in D.C. After a year of urging from UNICEF to return to Africa, Erin accepted a position with UNICEF as a Nutrition Specialist in Darfur. Because of the volatile political climate in Darfur, Sudan, this assignment offered an enormous challenge on many levels. Erin was involved in planning and implementing clinical research on the prevention of malnutrition in children under five. In fact, she took great pleasure in working with the children in the Feeding Camps and this is evidenced in photos of Erin with the children. She spent over two years in Nyala, Darfur



trying to fulfill her mission amid the human tragedy surrounding the genocide there.

Recently, Erin was recruited to serve as the UNICEF Nutrition Coordinator in Haiti. She was selected for this position because of her experience with nutrition in third world countries and her proficiency in French. She credits her strong French language skill to the fine teaching of Mademoiselle Cole, former WHS French teacher. Although she is sleeping in a tent in Haiti, she is excited about this new challenge and confident that she will somehow improve the situation for the children who have been affected by the earthquake.

Erin rekindles her spirit by pursuing athletic challenges. While in the Peace Corps, she climbed to one of the base camps of Mount Everest. Also, Erin, her brother Brian, and a Peace Corps friend climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro in 2006. She has completed two marathons in the U.S., as well.

Erin remains close to her friends from her Walpole High School days. Moreover, the teachers at Walpole High School should be justifiably proud of the ideals and traits that they helped to foster in Erin. She has demonstrated these ideals in her strong commitment and dedication to humanitarian causes, on many occasions.

Submitted by: The Boyd Family