

## Proctor's Social Activism Course Helps Out At AE/MS

### Proctor Academy press release

Each spring, Lynne Kenney offers a Social Activism course through the Social Science Department at Proctor Academy. This class, designed for juniors and seniors, explores current issues in human rights and how to create change in a society by taking a closer look at poverty, education, equality, and power.

One on-going outreach of the Social Activism class involves students' participation in Mr. Wiley's first grade class at Andover Elementary/Middle School. Kelsey Wilcox, a junior from Wilnot, and five classmates have spent each Tuesday afternoon in May working on reading and math skills with Mr. Wiley's students.

On May 4, Proctor's students led a tie-dyeing activity with the AE/MS students while playing phonics and math games. The weekly interactions have been thrilling for Proctor's students and have hopefully made a positive impact on the AE/MS students as well.

### I Am Proctor

As a culminating project for the Social Activism course, students must work to design their own theory of social activism. Kelsey worked with two partners, Megan Subsick ('11/Acton, Massachusetts) and Chris Allen ('12/Washington, DC), to create increased awareness of diversity and a perceived lack of tolerance within the Proctor community. The group's goal was to have a diverse panel of students and faculty share their experiences with tolerance on campus with the idea that the ensuing discussion among guests would be influential in creating awareness.

Due in large part to the group's

stellar organization, their "I Am Proctor" event on April 28 drew over 125 students and faculty to the Wise Center for the panel discussion. Kelsey commented, "We had a hundred more people than we expected, which really shows how big a concern respect is in our community, but I was also pleasantly surprised by how many people were willing to talk, share their thoughts, and work to break down stereotypes." Megan added, "Even those students who were not specifically asked to be a part of the panel requested to speak and opened themselves up to the audience without fear of being ridiculed or judged by the community."

This entirely student-driven event sparked invaluable, honest conversation among all members of the Proctor community. While cliques and social groups will never disappear in a high school setting, this event made significant strides towards building a healthier community.

Four-year senior and future Colby-Sawyer student Simone Songue ('11/Yaounde, Cameroon) provided perhaps some of the most insightful commentary of the evening: "We should not use the word 'tolerance' during these conversations. Why do we need to 'tolerate' one another? Why can't we accept one another and appreciate one another for who we are?"

Kelsey added, "I hope that people become more accepting and mindful of others in the community as a result of this discussion. Even if they clearly don't share the same views or interests, they can appreciate who each individual is and what they have to offer."

### Mailboxes to Mountain

## Proctor Transforms Nervous Freshman Into Adventurous Senior

By Megan Subsick

### Proctor Journalism Class

Four years at Proctor translates into 1,460 days; 35,040 hours; or 87,600 minutes. During that time, I have lived and breathed Proctor Academy. Every summer before starting another year at school, I would scan the mail for the little green tree on the corner of the envelope in the hopes I would get an inside look at what was going on within the Proctor community. Now, as I write this as a senior, there are only 107 days, 11 hours, 38 minutes, 30 seconds left before I can call myself a Proctor graduate.

Over the past four years at Proctor, I have grown in many ways beyond the six and a half inches I have grown in height. In my last term at Proctor, it's a perfect time to reflect and remember all of the times that have made me who I am today.

My first memory of Proctor Academy: new student orientation. I remember distinctly the excited feeling I had for the first day of Proctor. I could not wait to get to school, meet my roommate, go on orientation, and move into my dorm, Mackenzie House, which coincidentally would be my dorm for all my years at Proctor. I remember meeting Pinky Fifield from New London, a senior varsity athlete, for the first time and being shown the different locations around Proctor, such as the Health Center and the meeting house.

I also recall not being able to get my mailbox open on the first day of school. Pinky had to open my mailbox for me. I was smaller then, more nervous, and timid. Megan Hardie, my advisor and dorm parent, stated, "You were shy but not removed. It didn't keep you from

meeting people. You were definitely intimidated by some stuff when first getting to Proctor." That first year at Proctor forced me to make decisions that would ultimately change my relationships and form who I am.

During my sophomore winter, my decision to apply for the Mountain Classroom program (a semester spent driving cross-country, camping, and adventuring on wilderness expeditions) shocked a few faculty members, both my parents, and myself. Nobody believed I signed up, because I hated the wilderness orientation.

Megan clearly remembers thinking, "What is she doing?" and I remember the director of the program, Patty Pond, saying to me, "You know this is a mountain application, right?" I was ready to face the challenge, and from the day I found out I was on the list, I couldn't have been more nervous and excited.

There was the thrill of being off-campus for the first time, the fear of whether it would be a successful experience, and the worry if I would quit by the end of Day One. It was one of the best experiences of my Proctor career. I fell in love with living outside and learning about the US/Mexico border issues as we traveled in Texas. I became more comfortable with myself and found purpose in what I was doing.

Mountain Classroom instructor Adam Jones stated, "On Mountain, when you were responsible for something like leader of the day or cooking, it seemed expected that you would just work at your own level, but you always rose to the occasion and went to the next level."

I recall every day on Mountain, es-  
See Megan on page 44

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