

# PEACE CORPS CELEBRATION



Teaching 5th graders about Gender Roles in Kombissiri, Burkina Faso



Teaching a 5th graders about Reproductive Health in Kombissiri, Burkina Faso



Saying goodbye to my students on the last day of school, right before flying home to start my studies at Sargent!

## CHRISTINA LEE BURKINA FASO

My husband Steve and I served together in Burkina Faso from 2012-2014. I primarily served in the education sector, but I did a lot of work in the health sector as well. I partnered with a primary school in my village to provide math tutoring as well as after school clubs focusing on developing life-skills including leadership, gender equality, hygiene, reproductive health and malaria prevention. I also worked with the teachers at my school to implement a training called Doorways, which focused on empowering teachers to practice non-violent discipline techniques in school. I also had the opportunity to serve as the President of the Community Health and AIDS Taskforce during my second year as a PCV, during which time I lead a fantastic group of volunteers to implement country-wide malaria and HIV/AIDS education and prevention initiatives throughout Burkina Faso. I also had the opportunity to travel to Senegal during my service to attend the Stomping Out Malaria in Africa training in order to bring new knowledge, skills and project ideas focused on malaria prevention back to share with my fellow volunteers and host-country counterparts in Burkina.

I started the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Sargent only a few weeks after returning from Burkina Faso. Navigating reverse culture shock and getting used to speaking English again was not easy during my 4-week intensive immersion in Gross Anatomy at the beginning of the program! But I have adapted well to life back home and at BU and I am so thankful to have the skills and experiences I gained while serving in the Peace Corps now as I start my final year in the DPT program. The lessons I learned as a PCV in cultural competency and humility, as well as becoming fluent in French during my service, have helped me to work with patients of diverse backgrounds and belief systems during my clinical education.

Serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer is indeed “the toughest job you will ever love”, but going through the rigorous DPT program at Sargent has been a close second! I am so thankful for all of the skills and experiences I gained during my Peace Corps service, which have been instrumental to my experience at BU, and in helping me to develop my career aspirations.