

PERICLEAN NEWSLETTER

Zambia Summer Plans

This summer the Class of 2018 will work on individual fundraising goals, as well as review lesson plans for next Winter Term to prepare for their travel. The class is hoping to continue to fundraise, as they are coming close to seeing the fruition of their project.

Sri Lanka Summer Plans

Members of the Class of 2019 are traveling to Sri Lanka this summer to research and to prepare for their project that will take place over the next two years. This includes taking ideas that the class has already researched and discussing the project ideas with members of the communities they visit.

Cuba Summer Plans

The Class of 2020 was given *The Cuba Reader: History, Culture, Politics (The Latin America Readers)* to delve into over the summer before officially starting their work in the fall semester of 2017.



Induction for the Class of 2020

Elon University's fifteenth class of Periclean Scholars was inducted into the Periclean Scholars program on Thursday, April 13th, 2017. There are twenty-nine scholars in the Class of 2020, which is mentored by Dr. Brian Nienhaus, an associate professor of Business Communication. Over the course of the next three years at Elon, the class will research its country of focus, Cuba, and develop international and local partnerships and collaborate to enact meaningful change in the spirit of the Periclean mission. The Periclean of the Year Award was also announced; this year's recipient was Kate Pearce, a member of the Class of 2018.

Dr. Thomas Arcaro, the director of the Periclean Program, opened the ceremony with a few words for the incoming scholars. He urged them to carry the program and the legacy of its late founder, Eugene M. Lang, forward. Dr. Arcaro described the Periclean program as a manifestation of the nature of the liberal arts, bringing together passion, academics, and multidisciplinary perspectives to impact lives and communities in a sustainable, ever-expanding way. Dr. Nienhaus also addressed the scholars, welcoming them to a program and mission that would lead them to a fuller, deeper understanding of themselves, their future partners, and their world over the course of the next three years. He emphasized the importance of civic engagement for Periclean Scholars, not only abroad but also in our own local communities. He spoke about the current difficulties that undocumented families in the Burlington community have getting valid forms of

identification, and said that we can help de-stigmatize their current option, faith action identity cards, by purchasing our own for ten dollars (reach out to him at bnienhaus@elon.edu for more information). Dr. Nienhaus expressed his excitement about his future class in his closing words, saying that he looks forward to their journey of curiosity, exploration, and enjoyment.

Representatives from each of the current classes also spoke to the incoming scholars. Anna Darnaskey and Shana Thomas, from the Class of 2017, reflected on experiences from their three years in the program, stating that the hardships that they experienced as a class translated into valuable lessons. They offered three main pieces of advice: communication is essential to effective progress; working toward change is a time-consuming process requiring significant investment; and cling to persistence, patience, and perseverance throughout your time together as a class. Elliott Eisen, from the Class of 2018, spoke about the value of the Periclean experience, which allows Scholars to develop critical thinking skills and puts them in a position to use the privilege of an Elon education to give back to and empower those who are less fortunate than us. Isabel Treanor, from the Class of 2019, discussed the value of the bonds formed with other classmates, which are not formed simply because Scholars are in the same class once a semester, but rather over time as Scholars work with each other to achieve both small and big goals. She also encouraged the class to expect the unexpected and to keep an open mind because after you achieve something as a class, you will feel as though you climbed a mountain but are still standing in a valley.

Welcome Class of 2020!

The Classes of 2017, 2018, and 2019 want to welcome the new inductees into the Class of 2020. We hope your time as Periclean Scholars enriches your Elon experience, as you work as a cohort to address an issue in Cuba.

Grayson Albers -

Hometown: Ashburn, VA

Major: International Business

Nisha Arole -

Hometown: Brookline, MA

Major: Biochemistry

Rachel Brown -

Hometown: Mount Laurel

Major: Strategic Communications

Rob Bullard -

Hometown: Hartsville, SC

Major: Public Health

Jonathan Connolly -

Hometown: Fuquay Varina, NC

Major: International Business & Business Administration

Gabriella Creeser -

Hometown: McLean, VA

Major: International Studies

Caroline Enright -

Hometown: Nashville, TN

Major: Policy Studies

Alison Filbey -

Hometown: Fairfax, VA

Major: Policy Studies

Madeleine Forti -

Hometown: Boston, MA

Major: Undecided

Sarah Taylor Hartsema -

Hometown: Charlotte, NC

Major: Business Management

Sarah Kaledin -

Hometown: Niskayuna, NY

Major: Political Science

Kendall Kirkpatrick -

Hometown: Boise, Idaho

Major: Cinema and Television Arts

Crosby Melendi -

Hometown: Tampa, FL

Major: Strategic Communications and International Studies

Catherine Miller -

Hometown: Brookfield

Major: Undecided

Whitney Miller -

Hometown: Downingtown, PA

Major: International Studies and Journalism

Maureen Mosmiller -

Hometown: Westminster, MD

Major: Undecided

Sara Maya Nderitu -

Hometown: Cary, NC

Major: International Studies

Natalie Omodt -

Hometown: Minneapolis, MI

Major: International Studies and Political Science

Morgan Paul -

Hometown: Chapel Hill, NC

Major: Biostatistics, Pre-Med

Arianne Payne -

Hometown: Chicago, IL

Major: Strategic Communications

Nicole Plante -

Hometown: San Antonio, TX

Major: International Studies - Middle East focus and Human Service Studies

Chandler Posey -

Hometown: Burlington, NC

Major: Undecided

Maria Ramirez Uribe -

Hometown: Columbia, now lives in D.C.

Major: Strategic Communications, International and Global Studies

Rebecca Scott -

Hometown: Cranford, NJ

Major: International and Global Studies and Policy Studies

Callie Smith -

Hometown: Hamilton, MA

Major: Exercise Science

Dan Soracco -

Hometown: Morristown, NJ

Major: Cinema and Television Arts

Bridget Stryko -

Hometown: Garden City, NJ

Major: Public Health and Human Service Studies

Andrew Textoris -

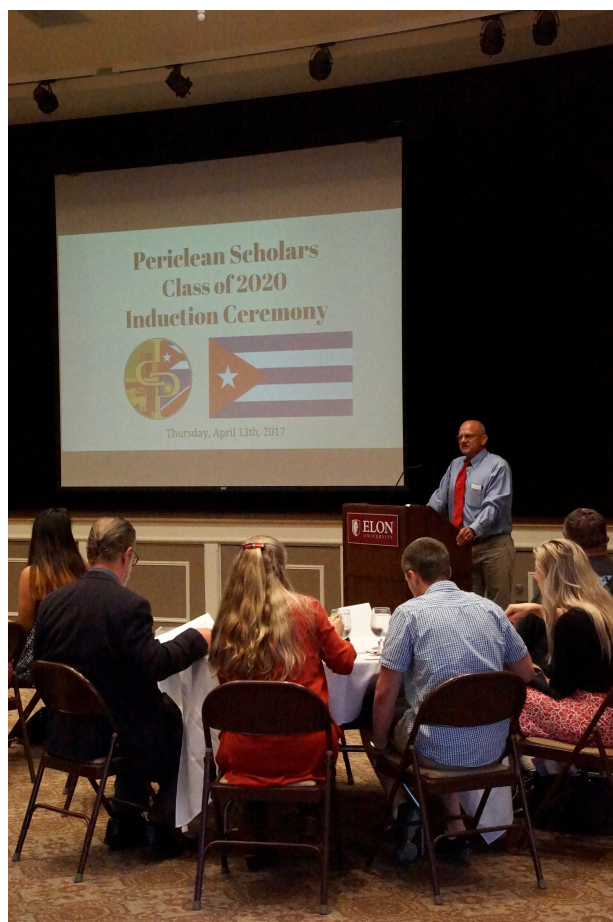
Hometown: Gaithersburg, MD

Major: Environmental Studies

Fiona Zahm -

Hometown: Smithsburg, MD

Major: International Studies



~ Class of 2017 ~

As their time as Elon University students and Pericleans come to an end, the members of the Class of 2017 are working hard on finishing their project. A big part of this quarter has been spent working on the documentary, *The Omega Project*. Kelsey Lane and Oly Zayac have sent the documentary to their partners in Namibia to review before debuting the documentary.

Premiere of The Omega Project

On Thursday, April 27, the Periclean Scholars Class of 2017 continued a long-honored tradition of creating a documentary about their project. *The Omega Project* documented the issue of food insecurity in Namibia, including interviews with farmers, members of a local community, and workers in the realm of food.

Documentary Screening sponsored by Periclean Scholars
April 27th, 2017 at 5:00PM

THE OMEGA PROJECT

A documentary highlighting possibilities to increase food security in Namibia.

Master of Ceremonies - Tom Arcaro

Introduction - Kelsey Lane & Oly Zayac

The Omega Project (~45 Minutes)

Discussion and Q&A

Please join us for a reception and continued conversations in the Atrium following the screening.



The filmmakers, Kelsey Lane and Oly Zayac, had dreamed about making the documentary since they were inducted into the program nearly three years ago. The name, *The Omega Project*, was born out of their first trip to Namibia in June 2016 where they traveled to the Omega One Village. The movie reveals the symbiotic relationship between nature and people, conservation and tradition. Oly and Kelsey dream of taking this documentary to international film festivals and continue to spread the message of the Namibian people. The end of the documentary left us with one quote that expresses the purpose of the documentary: “everyone can work towards a more food-secure planet.”

The Class of 2017: What We've Learned from Periclean

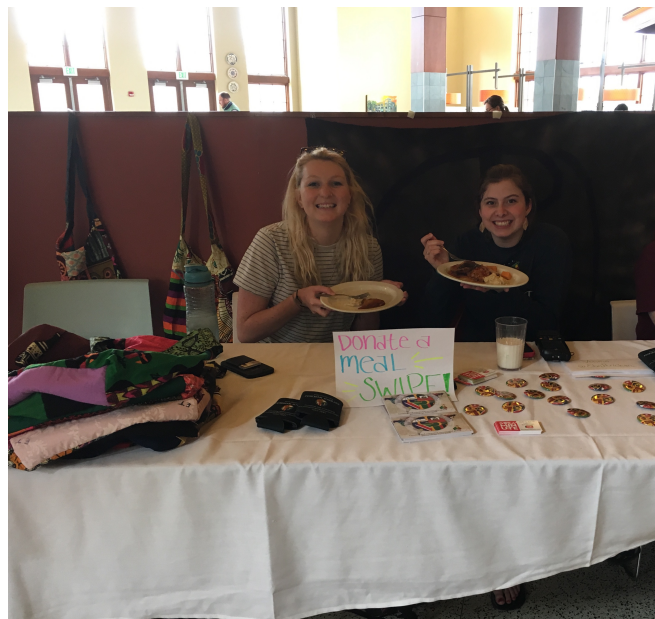
1. Extend help to the best of your ability when your cohort needs it, and expect your fellow cohort members to do the same.
2. Leadership is more complex and intricate than ever imagined, including (to name a few) communication, encouragement, and team building.
3. Good things take time. Things don't necessarily happen as swiftly as we desire- forming trust, making decisions, and implementing interventions, to name a few. In the end, it's worth it.
4. We can learn just as much from failure as from success.
5. Success requires persistence, patience, and perception.
6. Work towards positive change in this world, but be incredibly passionate in doing so.
7. A leader must know both when to lead from the front and also when to lead from a following role.
8. Approach situations with an open mind. Things don't always go as according to plan, and it's important to be able to be flexible and make the best out of unexpected situations.
9. Be willing to accept the failures knowing that together, there will eventually be successes, no matter how big or small.
10. Be confident in your convictions as a leader. It is always better to state your honest opinion rather than stay silent.
11. Honesty is the best policy, especially when it comes to having a successful cohort.

Class of 2018

Since the last newsletter was published, the Class of 2018 has been making progress towards their class project. They have spent time discussing the trip to Zambia next Winter Term, which has focused on who is going and the cost of the trip. Additionally they have been planning the workshops that will be implemented while abroad in January. The three main topics are financial planning, goals, and decision making. The class has split up into different groups to discuss goals of the workshops, the materials needed, and the amount of time for each lesson. The goal for this semester is to have a detailed plan for the workshops that will lead them to their finalization next semester.

In addition to their work for their project, the Periclean Class of 2018 hosted a cultural lunch in Lakeside on Thursday, March 30. The international station offered food that is native to Zambia including nsima and plantains. The class also hosted dancers from Jason Aryeh's African Dance class. The class collected meal swipes and talked to people about the Periclean program.

The class is continuing to fundraise for our project that will be implemented next Winter Term through personal funding and selling bags. They are excited about the opportunity to travel to Zambia again and to work with the community of Chipulukusu.



Class of 2019

The Periclean Class of 2019 has finalized the travel itinerary for the upcoming trip to Sri Lanka. Dr. Gendle and six scholars will depart for Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka, after the end of the semester and will spend a total of seventeen days traveling around the country, before returning to the United States.

The class also hosted a campus-wide Periclean week lasting from Monday, April 10, to Thursday, April 13. On Monday, scholars from the class of 2019 utilized social media to raise awareness of the Periclean Scholars program, using the hashtag #WhyILovePericlean to highlight some of current scholars' favorite things about being involved in Periclean. On



Tuesday, the scholars operated a daylong lemonade stand at Speaker's Corner. The class hosted a profit share on Wednesday at The Mission, a Mexican restaurant in Burlington, and raised over a hundred dollars! The induction ceremony for the incoming Periclean Class of 2020 was held on Thursday afternoon; Dr. Arcaro, Dr. Nienhaus, and various scholars from the current classes spoke, sharing stories about the program and offering advice to the future scholars. The class is also holding a profit share at Pandora's on May 3.

The Class of 2019 also received a Fund for Excellence grant from the Elon College of Arts and Sciences. Over the next year, the class will host two panels and a movie screening. One panel will feature survivors of the Sri Lankan civil war and function as a platform for them to share their lived experiences. The other panel will discuss the phenomenon of cultural "othering" and ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka and south Asia, featuring experts from faculty at Elon University and Wake Forest University. The class will also host a movie screening of the movie, *No Fire Zone: The Killing Fields of Sri Lanka*, a discussion of the bloody, violent end to Sri Lanka's civil war in 2009, and facilitate a reflective discussion afterward.

Alum Interview

Jack Dodson is a Periclean alumnus from the class of 2012. Dr. Martin Kamela, an associate professor of Physics, mentored the Periclean Class of 2012; their country of focus was India. The class spent their sophomore year researching India. At the end of their first year, they sent several scholars -- including Jack -- abroad to work with the Comprehensive Rural Health Project (CRHP). This organization aligned perfectly with the goals and ideology of the Periclean Scholars -- CRHP is a community-based health-care organization that attempts to transform the provision of healthcare by breaking down gender and caste stereotypes and employing "untouchable" caste women as nurses. The organization had already been in existence for fifty years and its members were very knowledgeable about the region and its history. The class's main products were a sustained relationship with CRHP, a repeated summit that connected local corporations to nonprofit organizations, and a documentary on healthcare in India.

Jack actually began his involvement in the Periclean Scholars program working with the Class of 2011 in Sri Lanka. He was very involved in journalism, worked at *The Pendulum*, and was familiar with print and video reporting. Dr. Arcaro and scholars from the Class of 2011 brought him along to Sri Lanka to film their documentary. Throughout the filming process, the documentary evolved into the journey of the Scholars' learning and travel experiences. Jack's experience with the 2011 documentary prepared him for the role he took in filming and editing his own class's documentary. He traveled to India again in 2012 to film the thirty-six minute documentary, which he describes as a "very wonky" presentation of healthcare in Bombay and Delhi as well as CRHP's role in providing healthcare to people without access to services.

After graduation, Jack moved to New York City in 2012. He began working for Jigsaw Productions, an award-winning production company, and remained there for several years before leaving in 2014 to travel and film freelance work. Jack applied to and attended the journalism school at Columbia University, which he graduated from in 2016. When asked about Periclean's influence on him, Jack said that "Periclean introduced me to a type of story that I'm still working my way toward telling," and explained that all of his future career and personal goals are hugely influenced by his past involvement in the Periclean Scholars program.

Jack offered several pieces of advice to current and future Periclean Scholars. He stated the importance of being open to different approaches and different mentors, and that they often encourage you to take a step back and evaluate your intentions and progress. Being careful and intentional is critical to performing meaningful and appropriate nonprofit and developmental work.

Class of 2015 Haiti Highlight

The Periclean Class of 2015's country of focus was Haiti. Throughout their three years in the Periclean Scholars program, the Periclean Class of 2015 hosted many events and fundraisers to raise awareness of issues affecting the country of Haiti. The mission statement of the Class of 2015 reads, "We, the Periclean Scholars Class of 2015 at Elon University, strive to empower individuals and communities, in both North Carolina and Haiti, by providing opportunity and hope through the exchange of knowledge and resources. We will develop mutually beneficial partnerships, locally and internationally, in the hopes of promoting social justice and human dignity, focusing on the Haitian restavek community. While remaining conscious of cultural differences, we aim to raise awareness about modern day child slavery and human trafficking. In doing so, we aspire to encourage healthy and autonomous lifestyles for those affected by these issues."

The Class of 2015's work in Haiti focused on the restavek system, which is when a child is sent by his or her parents to a household to serve as a domestic servant. Due to the high number of children each family has in Haiti, oftentimes families can not afford to support all of the children. The Class worked with Restavek Freedom Foundation; they collaborated to establish an endowment to support educational opportunities for girls in the Transitional Home. They also hosted many staff members from the Restavek Freedom Foundation at Elon to raise awareness about the issue. Today Restavek Freedom Foundation is still working to free children and talk to families about the issue. The organization's [website](#) says they have trained 70,000 individuals through justice curricula, and 1,700 children have been impacted by advocacy. Additionally, the class worked with [Alamance for Freedom](#) in Burlington, NC. They were able to establish a semester-long internship opportunity for Elon students, as well as attend quarterly coalition meetings. Alamance for Freedom is a coalition that fights against human trafficking specifically in Alamance County. According to their website, Alamance for Freedom has been able to perform research, engage in community outreach, provide service provider trainers, and advocate for crisis response and victim response.

In addition to working with these partners, the whole class took an educational trip to Mount Olive, NC, which is a Haitian community in western North Carolina, attended events at the Haiti Lab at Duke University, and read informative books about *Haiti like Haiti: After the Earthquake* by Paul Farmer and *Little Princes* by Connor Grennan. The class also hosted many events to raise money for their work including Monthly Munchies, which was a grilled cheese fundraiser, raised money to support a Haitian college student who serves as a translator, and hosted an off-campus casino night fundraiser. The class also hosted many events that focused on raising awareness about human trafficking in Haiti and in the United States that included a walk on campus and a lecture by the Gray Haven Project focused on domestic issues. They also sponsored a performance of a Haitian dance organization at the Resurrection Dance Theater that is made up of children who have come out of domestic servitude in Haiti.

You can learn more about the Periclean Class of 2015 by visiting their [blog](#).

Letter from the Director

Just as spring is a time of rebirth and awakening in nature, the same is true for the Periclean Scholars program. Each April a new Class is inducted, representing a renewal of the program. Just like the plants sprouting in our gardens, each Class holds wondrous potential. An array of important factors impact to what extent the Class –and each member in it- reached their full potentials in terms of academic and intellectual growth and learning to work and grow together as a team not only with each other but, critically, with those with whom they are fortunate enough to partner in their country of focus.

Each new Class is guided by a dedicated Mentor whose job it is to devote full measure to helping ensure each Periclean invests energy and time into becoming the best ‘teammate’ possible, understands the meaning behind all lines in the Periclean Pledge, and in general works to maximize the impact of the program on themselves, on their cohort-mates and on their partners. I know that Dr. Nienhaus will remain steadfastly devoted to his Class and their mission related to the country of focus for the 2020’s, Cuba. I look forward to watching as this Class embraces the Periclean promise.

I’ll end this note by offering my deepest congratulations to our new Director, Dr. Mat Gendle. He brings to the position new energy and strong ideas which will provide opportunities for change, growth, and, yes, deepening of the program. It is his garden now to tend, and I wish him all the best.

~Dr. Tom Arcaro



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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PericleanScholars/>