

# ***PERICLEAN NEWSLETTER***



## ***TABLE OF CONTENTS***

<b>Class of 2021: Sioux Nation.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Class of 2022: Ghana.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Class of 2023: Sri Lanka.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Class of 2024: Structural Racism and Racial Inequality.....</b>	<b>4</b>

# *Class of 2021: Sioux Nation*

BY CALAHAN JOHNSTON

The Periclean Class of 2021 has finally made it to their last year as Periclean Scholars! The cohort has done a tremendous amount of work with their partner organization the Oglala Lakota Children's Justice Center (OLCJC) in Sioux Nation in South Dakota, specifically the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The OLCJC helps to advocate for native children legally and socially on the reservation who are experiencing sexual violence. The OLCJC uses a component of cultural healing with the children by using their traditional practices and rituals to help children grow and recover from the trauma. Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus, their plans to visit the reservation this January term have changed. They are hoping to do their senior capstone trip this May if everything clears up a bit. Last April, they planned on organizing a Child Abuse Awareness Week but due to Covid-19 that was canceled. Despite all of their plans getting changed around, they are still working hard. Right now, they are working on different tasks that the OLCJC needs from them. For example, they are working on putting together a newsletter as well as a podcast to raise awareness on child abuse specifically, the effects that covid has on child abuse. Since November is Native American Heritage Month, the cohort is working on doing a week of events with the Native American student association on Elon's campus. They want to bring local indigenous music and dancers to campus. They are fundraising, doing profit shares, and selling stickers and t-shirts.

Both Ellie and Mackenzie, members of the 2021 cohort, felt like communication with their partner organization was a challenge because only two people run the organization. These two people are so overwhelmed right now due to Covid-19 and the stay at home order that was put in place on the reservation that it is hard to get in touch with them. Nonetheless, the partners who run the organization have visited Elon a few times, so they still have a good relationship with them. Both Ellie and Mackenzie feel like they learned a lot about teamwork specifically, drawing on other students strengths to create lasting change. With there being twenty five people as part of the cohort and only three being males, Ellie felt like having more males would add a new perspective to the cohort. Both Ellie and Mackenzie felt like everyone gets along well with each other. All in all, the Class of 2021 has done some incredible work with the OLCJC. They are hopeful that they will be able to visit the reservation this May.



# Class of 2022: Ghana

BY CATHERINE STALLSMITH

Josie Cousineau, a 2022 scholar, gave updates on her cohort's partnerships. While the semester got off to a slow start as everyone adjusted to life at Elon during the COVID-19 pandemic, the cohort is now actively working on writing a grant proposal with YOUDRIC, Youth Development, Research and Innovation Centre, their Ghanaian Partner, to gain funding for a new youth development program. The cohort has met with a member of Down Home of Alamance County to talk about what a partnership might look like. Until the 2020 Election, they are focused on getting out the vote and are using a mobile app called Empower that allows them to contact anyone in their phone contacts and check that they have registered and have a plan to vote. Cousineau noted that most of the 2022 goals are short-term right now, and that it will take a little more time to develop long term goals with their partners. The biggest challenge with YOUDRIC at the moment is the time difference. Since scholars' class time does not align with the work day in Ghana, it is hard to organize a time for the whole cohort to gather outside of class. There have been a few meetings with YOUDRIC leaders Eric, Kwasi, and Daniel, but poor wifi connection has often made communication difficult. Each week in class, at least one student is in quarantine or learning remotely, and Cousineau noted there is often a disconnect between those who are in person and those who are virtual.

Cousineau said she joined the Periclean program with little experience of civic engagement or service learning, but she has enjoyed learning those skills as part of her Periclean experience. With a cohort size of 20, she notes the group is small enough to be close-knit which enables them to have good relationships with each other, but also each has a different work style and some participate more than others. They all have a great relationship with Professor Amanda Tapler, their mentor. Cousineau noted that while the cohort made fundraising plans at the beginning of the semester, they quickly tabled them because of Elon's current rules about gathering sizes. They also wanted to be cognizant of the fact that many COVID-relief fundraisers are going on right now and that they don't want to compete with those efforts.



2022 Scholars Josie Cousineau, Lauren Grossman, and Audrey Sears (left to right) canvas for Down Home of Alamance County

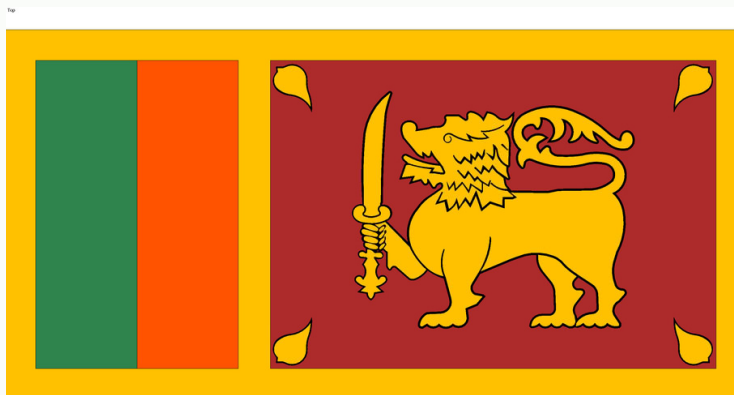
# *Class of 2023: Sri Lanka*

BY CALLAHAN JOHNSTON

The Periclean Class of 2023 is starting their first year as a cohort together. The cohort is in the beginning stages of figuring out what they would like to do with their country Sri Lanka. Right now the cohort is learning about what is going on in Sri Lanka and brainstorming various issues they would like to get involved in. They just finished their white papers. Abigail Fisher, a member of the cohort, would like to work on an issue relating to women's rights specifically sexual assault on public transportation, but she also feels that environmental issues is important as well. The other three possible issues the class is thinking about getting involved in is LGBTQ awareness, waste management and coral reef restoration. Abigail feels like getting to know everyone has been a challenge. She feels that "it is hard to get down to work when you don't know everyone." Since their induction ceremony last year was canceled due to Coronavirus, for many this is the first time they have met everyone. Dr. Gendle, the class mentor, has been working hard to strengthen the group as a whole by starting each class with team bonding questions like "If you could have one superpower, what would it be?" Starting the class with these questions allows everyone to feel more comfortable with each other.

With the cohort only being ten students, Emerson, Abigail and Hugh, members of the cohort, feel that they all work well together. They are curious to see if this group size will be a problem in the future. Abigail and Hugh felt like they had learned a lot about being an effective altruist after reading Peter Singer's "The Most Good You Can Do" one of Dr. Gendle's assigned readings. They feel that having an ethical and practical ideology will be a good stepping stone in creating lasting change.

Emerson feels like it is a challenge trying to balance issues locally and globally as the class is now thinking about possibly doing a partnership in Alamance County. She feels like "everything is so up in the air" with the pandemic. Hugh also feels like it is hard to conceptualize a partnership at this time, but is excited to see what the class plans on doing. Overall, the cohort is doing great work and off to a good start. The class is hoping to visit Sri Lanka in May to explore possible partnerships if they are allowed to travel there. If the class doesn't travel this May, they hope to travel in August.



“The beauty of anti-racism is that you don't have to pretend to be free of racism to be an anti-racist. Anti-racism is the commitment to fight racism wherever you find it, including in yourself. And it's the only way forward.”

—Ijeoma Oluo

## *Class of 2024: Structural Racism and Racial Injustice*

BY CATHERINE STALLSMITH

Dr. Shannon Lundeen, a professor in the Philosophy Department, is the class mentor for the Periclean Scholar Class of 2024. Having taught at Elon for 5 years, she applied to be a Periclean Mentor her second year under the recommendation of a former colleague. When asked why she chose to apply to be a mentor, she responded: “I’ve been teaching college since 2005, for 15 years. I always lament the fact that the semester is too short. It’s not enough time. Not only have we just started building community in the classroom but we really just started getting into the meat of the material and I wish that some of our classes had been designed so that they went a full year, for example.” Dr. Lundeen is excited for the opportunity to be a mentor for a 3-year experience. She looks forward to working with a community in multiple ways - not just service or research, but a project that will be sustainable after the students graduate.

Because of the implications of COVID-19, travel to Morocco (the intended country of focus) does not look viable in the near future. Because of that, the 2024 cohort will be topic-centered, not location-centered, with the understanding that the project will expand to Morocco if that is possible down the road. Dr. Lundeen noted that systemic racism is one of the biggest issues facing the United States today, and it seems to be something that a lot of students are either doing on their own outside of class or studying as class content. She is excited to explore the topic of structural racism and racial injustice so that students in her cohort are equipped to do anti-racist work after they graduate.

When asked about her goals for the cohort, Dr. Lundeen is most excited to see how college students will learn how to organize and implement community-based racial equity work and be equipped to do that work after they graduate. She is also excited to see what kind of relationships will come out of a partnership, whether local or abroad, with an organization that might be more diverse than the makeup of the cohort. Overall, she wants her students to develop self-efficacy in their anti-racist work, that they might share their experiences with other Elon students and get more Elon students who are not Periclean scholars involved in the process of learning. Dr. Lundeen noted “I’m excited to see what three years can produce,” and can’t wait to see how her students might influence their peers.