

Periclean Newsletter

Issue 2



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NAMIBIA

The oil processing plant in the Kavango East region is encouraging local Namibians to plant sunflowers to provide seeds to make oil that can be sold to lower cooking oil prices across Namibia.

ZAMBIA

October 24 Zambia celebrated their national independence day, which first took place in 1964. The country is celebrating it as a divided country, however, because election tensions are running high.

SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka has recently exited a 30 year war that has consumed the country. Country officials are wanting to write a new Constitution since they want the country to move forward after the long war.

“What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others”
- Pericles

Periclean Scholars

Blog: <http://blogs.elon.edu/pericleanscholars/>

Periclean Scholars

website: http://www.elon.edu/e-web/academics/special_programs/project_pericles/

Periclean Scholars

Multimedia: http://www.elon.edu/e-web/academics/special_programs/project_pericles/multimedia.xhtml

Note from the director

"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

~Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Many have pointed out that the rhetoric spread throughout the presidential campaign was unprecedented in its vitriol. At least in these first few days post-election it appears that racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia, and other harmful forms of discrimination have been granted a previously unfathomable place of acceptance in our public discourse, at least in the eyes of a small but troubling minority. Marginalizing and discriminatory words and actions have risen in prevalence across college campuses, in elementary schools, at workplaces, and even in the halls of our most hallowed legislative offices. I have every expectation that this trend will be reversed over time. We are a strong nation and have a common quest for a free and just United States. Given current events, though, I feel we need to re-emphasize our Periclean mission.

The Periclean Program of Elon University has responded to these occurrences with a cry for acceptance and positivity. As Periclean Scholars, we believe that this nation is both strong and beautiful because of our diversity. We believe in supporting individuals of all races, genders, nationalities, sexual orientations, socioeconomic classes, backgrounds, religions, and cultures. We, the Periclean Classes of Elon University, are striving to become civically engaged students who fight for justice and equality. We are here to listen, to encourage, to support, and to grow. As Periclean Scholars, we will combat any and all acts of discrimination and marginalization with our own empathetic actions of kindness, love, and service. We remain deeply committed to our global partners, past and present, and will redouble our efforts to work together for a world where everyone has access to safe and effective pathways to dignity.

Personally, I was initially stunned by the results, am still gathering my thoughts. In addition to long talks with my wife, children, colleagues, and current students about the election results, I have read the many responses from my friends on Facebook. I have been inspired and challenged by the many comments by alumni and current Pericleans that I am honored to call my friends.

Here are excerpts from the responses of several Periclean alumni.

"As a white, Christian, heterosexual male I'm not sure Donald Trump being elected will have a significant impact on my day to day life. However, I fear it will have a negative impact on too many of my good friends who aren't, demographically, like me. I can only hope and pray it doesn't. I can only hope Trump will appreciate his position and the power that comes with that position. I'll cheer for his success as our President because his success will, hopefully, be our success as a country. It's all I can do." -- Damon Duncan, '06

"WANTED: ... Someone who will reach out to other nations in a spirit of peace, cooperation, and diplomacy. WANTED: someone compassionate. Someone who is willing to compromise. Someone who will show poise, respect, and decency. Someone who will be a good role model for our children. And most importantly, someone who will deliver." --Katie Dirks, '11

"I'm disgusted. But at the same time, I'm insanely invigorated as well. Just as it's in our hands to elect leaders it's also in our hands to hold them accountable. I intend to become even more engaged and active in ways I've never been before. Talk of running away or lamenting the system do nothing - we have more power than we've ever had before...#nowitstarts" --Natasha Christensen, '07

This last one from Natasha speaks to what I believe is the fundamental Periclean call to action, namely to become ever "...more engaged and active in ways I've never been before."

I have talked with colleagues on four different continents since the election, and what I am hearing is deep concern about the global repercussions of a Trump presidency. This is an important moment for our nation, to be sure, but as Periclean Scholars we can never forget our pledge to be exemplary global citizens. Our call to action is to redouble efforts to fight for a world where pathways to dignity are available to everyone in all corners of the globe.

That fight starts right now, right here, wherever you happen to be reading this message. Be proactive in your efforts to acknowledge and then work to heal wounds, hold our leaders accountable, and remain steadfast in partnership with all who are marginalized. Inspired by the words of Pericles we must all continue to weave into the lives of others –both near and far- our messages of compassion, love and an unwavering commitment to a more just world for all.

-Tom Arcaro

Celebrating Periclean ~ October 19, 2016

On Wednesday, October 19, all three current classes gathered together to update one another about their accomplishments for this semester. Dr. Tom Arcaro talked to us about the importance of aid. We watched Elevator Videos that each class created, which elaborated on the work each class is doing this semester. The videos were a great way to visually display the goals, philosophies, and work of each class. Class Representative Oly Zayac shared an update from the Class of 2017 about their work this semester. They are focused on filming their documentary, organizing the conference they are holding in Namibia, fundraising, and working with a local partner in North Carolina. Class Representative Kat Milbradt shared an update from the Class of 2018. A majority of their time in class this semester has been spent on selecting a partner in Zambia. They have continually vetted options and discussed The Theory of Change to see the best methods of choosing a partner and project. Amy Belfer, the Class of 2019 representative, discussed all they have accomplished in just a few weeks of being together. So far they have established eleven committees, written a mission statement, set a conflict action plan, begun fundraising efforts, and started preliminary discussions about possible issues of focus and potential partners. The event ended with remarks from Courtney Latta, a graduate from the Class of 2009.



Alumni Highlight

Courtney Latta is a graduate of the Class of 2009, whose country of focus was Zambia. After graduation Courtney began working in Leogane, Haiti with a training program for nutrition workers. After her time in Haiti, Courtney got her master's degree in Public Health at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. One way Courtney has encouraged future classes is through building personal relationships with local partners. She also stresses the importance of building a relationship among your class members because this is the way you will reach an effective project.

Our Periclean Journey

The Periclean Class of 2016 published a book titled *Our Periclean Journey: Discovering the World of Humanitarian Aid*. The book explores the cohort's work and discusses topics such as conflict resolution and the development of partnerships. This book will benefit future Periclean classes, helping them learn about community and international development. This book was written by the Periclean Class during their COR 445 Winter Term capstone course.

During this course, they wrote about how their academic experiences affected their understanding of humanitarian aid and development. The book *Our Periclean Journey* can be purchased online through Amazon in hardcopy or as an e-book.



Periclean Program and Foundation Update

The Periclean program has achieved some remarkable growth in its existence. Elon's chapter of Project Pericles has produced 253 alumni, and seventy-four students are currently members of the Classes of 2017, 2018, and 2019. The Class of 2019 is working with Dr. Brian Nienhaus, the mentor for the Class of 2020, to recruit future students. The structure of the program has also been shifted. Now registration for Periclean classes every semester is required, and a four-credit COR capstone course has been added to the curriculum as well.

Program faculty, current classes, and recently graduated classes have produced several incredible achievements. The Class of 2016 published a book titled *Our Periclean Journey: Discovering the World of Humanitarian Aid*. Dr. Tom Arcaro, the director of the program, also published *Aid Worker Voices*, a book detailing the lives of aid and development workers across the globe. The proceeds from both books will be directed to the Periclean Foundation. The Classes of 2017 and 2018 traveled to their countries of focus over the summer, Namibia and Zambia. The Class of 2017 will be co-hosting "Voices of Sustainability" with the University of Namibia in Windhoek, Namibia.

The Periclean program is planning several structural updates. Updates to the Periclean pledge inspired by the Core Humanitarian Standards are currently being considered. The budget structure is being revised to better support travel for classes during their senior year. By restructuring the budget and updating the pledge, Periclean classes will hopefully be able to engage in more effective aid work.

The Periclean Foundation made several decisions about the allocation of funds. \$1,723 will be allocated to the Comprehensive Rural Health Project care of Dr. Martin Kamela. \$2,000 will be allocated to the Village of Kpoeta in Ghana, where Scholars from the Class of 2010 are working.



Class of 2017 Update

The Class of 2017 is staying busy as they approach their final semester on campus. This semester the class is partnering with Burlington Housing Authority, which provides affordable housing to individuals in Alamance County. The Class of 2017 is specifically helping with the after school program where they give a lesson and an activity each week. The class is also busy fundraising with their Cookies to Go-Go program. The cohort is planning and organizing the conference that they will host in Namibia this January. In partnership with the University of Namibia, the class is conducting research that will be presented at this conference. The research topics the class will focus on are the most effective diet for HIV/AIDS, an analysis of the Alamance County food desert, ethics of aid, and sustainability of food aid programs. The class is also moving forward with their documentary that they are expecting to finish by April 2017.

Class of 2017 Elevator Speech Link: Class of 2017: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4MaWI8MxSZQ>

Class Statement: We, the Periclean Scholars of 2017, aspire to develop the growth of knowledge and service around the world, specifically in the African nation of Namibia. We partner with, instead of creating for, and aim to generate sustainable change in communities, both at home and abroad.



Class of 2018 Update

Since the last newsletter, the Class of 2018 has been busy at work finding speakers for the Fund for Excellence. They have also been discussing potential partners in Zambia. They have continued discussions about the trip to Zambia that several of their classmates took this summer. The ideas and information that they brought back with them have been vital to these discussions about developing a sustainable project. The process of vetting and discussing partners has included conversations about long term goals for their project and using the Theory of Change to determine necessary actions to achieve those goals. With several of the Class of 2018 members abroad, the class is maintaining the excitement and drive we had in the spring semester. They are also focusing on fundraising and planning an awareness week for the Spring.

Class of 2018 Elevator Speech Link : <https://vimeo.com/187352972>

The Class of 2018 hosted a homecoming tailgate on Bank of America Drive. The class was successful in selling some of the bags they brought back from Zambia this summer. They were also a place for alumni to stop by and say hi.

Selling Bags from Zambia





Class of 2019 Update

The Periclean Class of 2019 is currently conducting a preliminary investigation of potential partners in Sri Lanka. They have begun discussing future travel plans. Their fundraising and finance committees have been planning intensively to achieve their fundraising goal of \$8,000. The class has read, analyzed, and discussed *The Crisis Caravan* by Linda Polman, learning much more about the humanitarian aid industry, its structural flaws, and actions that their class can take to avoid many of the pitfalls that Polman critiqued.

Class of 2019 Elevator Speech Link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUyiw_6bq_E&feature=youtu.be

CLASS OF 2010 HIGHLIGHT

During their time at Elon, the Class of 2010 devoted their efforts to creating a sustainable aid project in the country of Ghana in Africa. Between the years 2007 to 2009, the class built a Health Center through a partnership with the people of Kpoeta, Ghana. In 2014, the Government of Ghana appointed a midwife to work at the health center, which brings the full-time staff to four. This includes two nurses, one staff member, and a midwife, all are paid by the government. While the Periclean Class of 2010 funded the health center, local electricians, roofers, and plumbers constructed it. As of 2013, this clinic was the only health care facility serving 10,000 people in the community of Kpoeta, which is near the Ghana-Togo border. The center also provides nurses with housing, which was made possible by the Class of 2010's fundraising abilities. The Class of 2010 remains active in their work, as they try to continue the efforts started during their time at Elon.