

## Periclean Scholars Program Newsletter



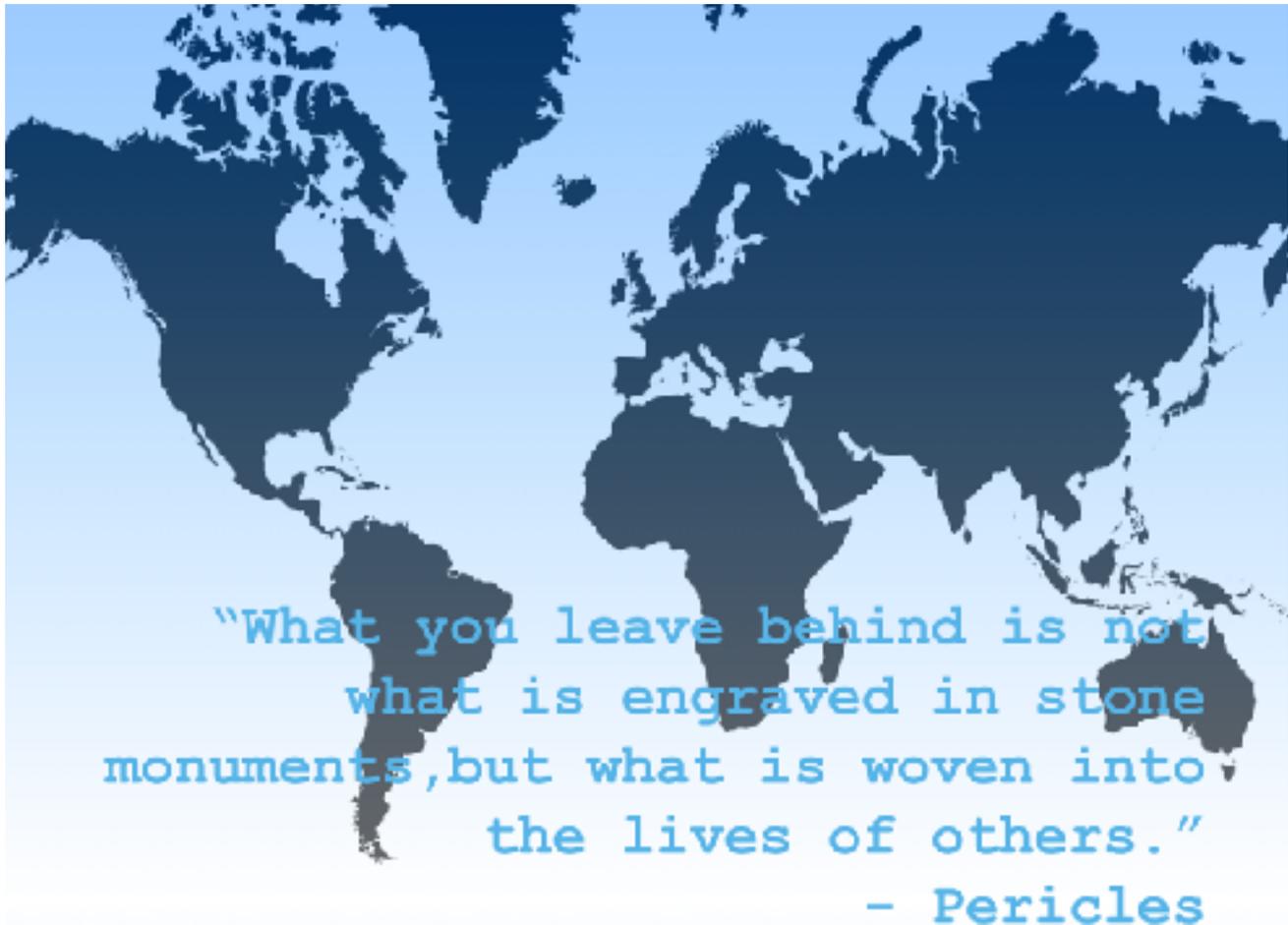
**DOCUMENTARY ON  
FOOD INSECURITY IN  
NAMIBIA**



**FUND FOR  
EXCELLENCE AND  
MAKING PLANS**



**PLANNING TO TRAVEL  
TO SRI LANKA THIS  
SUMMER**



## PERICLEAN PLEDGE UPDATE

The Periclean Pledge has recently been updated based on the Core Humanitarian Standards. The new Periclean Pledge was created to hold each Class to the highest ethical standards.

The six main points are as follows:

1. Listen to our partnering communities, acknowledging they often have the best solutions to local problems.
2. Learn about our partner communities' history and traditions to better engage in culturally aware dialogue.

3. Assist our partners in community-run development projects that will enable their long-term success.
4. Responsibly study, document, and publicize our partner communities' needs and issues.
5. Be committed to building sustainable partnerships, recognizing they take hard work and dedication.
6. Embrace our lifelong journey of global citizenship through intellectual and personal growth.

## CLASS OF 2017

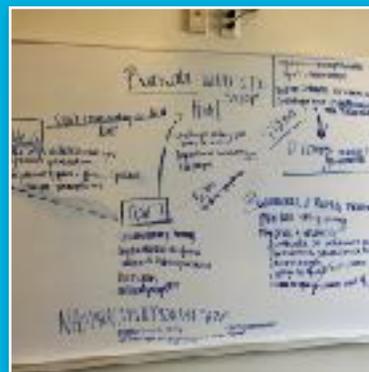
Over Winter Term in January, two members of the Class of 2017 traveled to Namibia to finish filming footage for the documentary that they are producing with support from their class. The primary goal of the trip was to complete the filming that they had started last June while in Namibia. The documentary titled, *The Omega Project*, is focused on food security in Namibia. The footage covers many different areas in Namibia including Windhoek (the capital city), the coast, and Bwabwata National Park. This Winter Term they were able to interview many individuals that they had made contact with in June, which provided a neat opportunity to continue relationships that they had already established.

Kelsey Lane, member of the Class of 2017 and in charge of social media, the website and all graphics for the Omega Project, explained the many steps of creating a documentary. One of the first steps of the project included going through the footage and transcribing the dialogue and interviews that took place. Kelsey and Oly Zayac, another member of the class, are also writing a script for the documentary. Additionally, Kelsey and Oly are applying for national and international film festivals to present the documentary. They have received funding from a grant from the Park Foundation, which covered all travel, logistic items, and production-related costs for the documentary thus far and will also cover the costs of travel to a film festival.

Besides the documentary, the Class of 2017 is continuing their work locally with the Burlington Housing Authority. After raising funds over the past three years, the Periclean Class of 2017 was planning to travel to Namibia this Winter Term to host a conference with the funds. Due to unforeseen complications, the conference was indefinitely postponed and the Class is now vetting various organizations in Namibia to donate the funds to.

## NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

If you would like to give to a current Periclean class, you can do so through the [Elon University website](#). Please designate "Periclean Scholars," as well as which class you are supporting.



The [Periclean Foundation](#) website has received an update. Now it is simpler to give [online](#) and you can read about the purpose and work of the Periclean Foundation.

The feature length documentary will be premiered on campus on April 27 at 5:00pm in Turner Theatre.



## CLASS OF 2018

The Periclean Class of 2018 has had an exciting semester so far. They have made many decisions about their future project and started to plan out the implementation of their project. During their meeting with Erin Lawless in February, she helped facilitate a class discussion about their project, which they are planning for January of 2018. She made suggestions about the logistics behind their planned workshops. The help she provided to their class has made them comfortable with their plan of traveling to Zambia next January. Their class has a lot of planning and project development to complete as they make decisions about the design and implementation of the workshops.

Another exciting part of the past semester for the Class of 2018 has been carrying out the Fund for Excellence grant. They hosted both Erin Lawless and Robert Lupton on campus. Erin Lawless visited to talk to Periclean classes, share about the Peace Corps, and meet with individuals to talk about how working as a Periclean and a sustainable aid developer can go hand in hand. Robert Lupton came to campus to speak about sustainable development and aid, as well as his book *Toxic Charity*. The Class of 2018 had the amazing opportunity to have dinner with him at The Root before his speaking engagement.

## FUND FOR EXCELLENCE

### ROBERT LUPTON

On Wednesday, February 22, Robert Lupton, author of *Toxic Charity* and founder of Focused Community Strategies, came to visit Elon University's campus, thanks to the College of Arts and Science Fund for Excellence. While on campus, the Periclean Class of 2018 had a full schedule for him. He received a short tour of campus, giving him the opportunity to learn about the university and the work Pericleans do. Additionally, he had lunch with Bud Warner's, Department Chair of the Human Service Studies, COR 110 (The Global Experience) class. The class



had recently read Lupton's book, *Toxic Charity*, which provided a platform for discussion. The Periclean Class of 2018 also had the opportunity to host Lupton for dinner at The Root. There were many members of the class there who had the opportunity to learn about fundraising and project development from Robert Lupton.

Lupton's time on campus concluded with a speaking event in Yeager Recital Hall on Wednesday night. Throughout the event, he provided many insightful thoughts into aid and sustainable development. Lupton explained his story of the development of Focused Community Strategies. After returning from Vietnam, Lupton started working with young men on probation in the juvenile court system. Once he started this work, he realized he could not help individuals without knowing about their families or their background. Soon Lupton learned that he could not create effective change without moving into the community, which led him to move to South Atlanta with his wife and two sons. Focused Community Strategies has learned a lot over the past 47 years of service in South Atlanta. The organization has created mixed-income housing, a food co-op, and a thrift store. Lupton is led to make decisions for the organization based on a proper response for chronic need. The guiding force of his charity is to work "with" the community members instead of for them -- a lesson that reigns true in all charity work.



### ERIN LAWLESS

Erin Lawless graduated from Elon University in 2003. During her time at the university, she participated actively in service locally, nationally, and internationally. Those experiences gave her the foundational understanding of what it means to serve in a variety of contexts and how to work alongside others to create positive change. She also learned the importance of surrounding oneself with positive people and the meaning of true community.

Lawless entered the Peace Corps in 2005 and was placed in a rural community in Uganda as a health volunteer. Her focus was HIV/AIDS, primarily regarding prevention and caring for affected loved ones. After several difficulties, such as the closing of an organization she was supposed to collaborate with, several community members approached Erin and expressed interest in working with her. Together, they started a youth club focused on preventing the spread of HIV through music, drama, and dance. The program took off, broadening its focus to other projects such as teaching life skills through sports and creating education programs. She collaborated with community members to build a school in the community as well.

Erin returned to the US from her assignment in 2007, but continued to fundraise and visit her volunteer site multiple times. The program and school received non-profit status and became Hope of the Generation Uganda. The school itself, which started as a wood and cardboard structure and had ten students, has grown to a roster of 250 students and now is housed in a brick building. The school provides traditional academic education as well as education on topics such as HIV/AIDS prevention, gender-based violence, financial literacy, and menstrual hygiene.

As a volunteer, Erin learned several invaluable lessons about the realities of community development work. She experienced the realities of building community resources. Her mentality shifted from her entrance into the community as an American with previously-established

expectations and ideas to one centered around working side-by-side with the community to help them uncover their goals and ideas and take initiative to turn those goals into results. She also realized that, “service should help you understand what you do have control over and how much you don’t have control over.”

Erin remained involved in the Peace Corps after her volunteering. She worked as a specialist for orphans and vulnerable children in the health office for two and a half years before becoming the deputy chief of programming and evaluation in the Office of Overseas Programming and Training (OPAT). She now supervises programming, training, monitoring, and evaluation for five out of six sectors of the Peace Corps: agriculture, environment, economic development, youth development, and education. She names the two most important lessons that she learned in this position as management and the power of collaboration. Her favorite things about her job in the Peace Corps are: working with and learning from a team of experts, working with the phenomenal host country staff, and engaging with volunteers.

Through her time in the Peace Corps, Erin has gained many skills and insights that could benefit the Periclean Scholars Program. She challenges the program to incorporate a project design framework that embraces appreciative inquiry and guides scholars from the beginning phase of understanding community entry through the entire project lifecycle to the evaluation stage. The program would also benefit from the development and implementation of a standard framework that every class draws upon in their work with their various local and international partners.

## CLASS OF 2019

Dr. Gendle and six scholars will be traveling to Sri Lanka in late May. They will be working with Sarvodaya in the northern area of Sri Lanka, which is still recovering from the devastation of the civil war. They are the first group of American college students to travel to Jaffna (the main northern port city) and surrounding areas since the civil war. The goal of this is to begin forming relationships with potential partners, to perform some preliminary community mapping, and to develop an experience-informed understanding of what it is like to be on the ground in Sri Lanka.



Their class has delved into Sinhalese and Tamil cultures in preparation for the intensive work of the upcoming semesters. Several members of the class have been attending a local Tamil School in Cary, NC to begin familiarizing themselves with Tamil language and culture. Dr. Sivayogan is a Tamil professor currently working in Elon’s Department of Physics. He spoke to the Class of 2019 about his personal story, Tamil identities, Tamil history and culture, and his experience in the war. Erin

Lawless also met with the class for two sessions to teach them about community mapping and project design.

The fundraising committee has begun working on the Fund for Excellence Grant application, which is due on March 31st. The committee is also focusing their efforts on planning profit shares, meal swipes campaigns, and promoting the program. The class also hosted a “Dollar a Mile” fundraiser on February 22nd and 23rd. Planning is also underway for welcoming the Class of 2020, and the induction ceremony is scheduled for April 13th in McKinnon Hall.

## CLASS OF 2008 ALUMNI UPDATE

Tesla Mellage is an Elon University alumnus who belonged to the Periclean Class of 2008. The Periclean Class of 2008 was led by Dr. Nienhaus and focused on the region of Chiapas, Mexico. The class focused on education for rural communities in the region, emphasizing the need for native languages to be included in school curricula and easier access to education for children in remote villages. They created a documentary, *Painting Without Permission*, about a school that the class built with an NGO named Schools for Chiapas. They collaborated with the community to create physical education centers, one of which received complete funding. The class experience difficulties while getting funding due to the political upheaval of the region.

After graduating from Elon, Tesla worked in Germany for three years filming documentaries. One of her favorite experiences was filming a documentary about the Pan-American Highway. She and the film crew took a four-month road trip from San Francisco, California, to Argentina, filming the beautiful nature, cultures, and food that the crew encountered on the way. Tesla now lives in Honduras and works as the Change Management and Communications Lead for the Animal Feed branch of Cargill in Mexico and Central America. She networks between larger corporations and local communities, fostering relationships between stakeholders and developing outreach projects. She currently leads the implementation of the regional external communication strategy.

Tesla’s involvement in the Periclean Scholars program taught her to fully integrate service into her life. She has become personally involved in several of the organizations that Cargill supports, works with an old friend from Elon that has a youth development program in Honduras, and assisted the Periclean Class of 2016 in their travels to Honduras. Juggling her daily responsibilities while remaining socially aware is sometimes a dangerous balancing act for her. In a region with periods of civil and political unrest, sometimes working for the benefit of others can create personal risks or risks to loved ones.

She challenges the Periclean Scholars program to broaden its scope and design, creating products that involve stakeholders spread throughout the community and even the region. By partnering with local businesses and larger corporations, investing in the community, and ensuring that local stakeholders take ownership at every stage of the process, projects will be able to run sustainably even after the class steps back and goes its separate ways.

## CLASS OF 2014 HIGHLIGHT

The Class of 2014 focused on the region of Appalachia. According to the Alliance for Appalachia, Appalachia is a region that is connected by the history, culture, and environment of the people that inhabit the Appalachian Mountains. Appalachia includes parts of Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland and all of West Virginia. While the land is rich, the area is plagued with poverty, abandoned coal towns, and actions that have led to detrimental health effects. While the Class learned about and explored Appalachia, many themes rose to the forefront of their work: the contrast between rich land and poor people, the perpetuation of teenage pregnancy and drug abuse, and the reality that there is third-world poverty in our own country and even in some of our own states.

Led by the mentor Ken Hassell, the Class of 2014 had many opportunities to travel to Appalachia due to its proximity to Elon. They traveled to West Virginia and to the Changing of the Leaves Festival on Kayford Mountain. Along the way, they discussed environmental efforts throughout Appalachia and volunteered with a community center. They also developed a relationship with a black lung specialist, Ron Carson. Black lung is a common health concern in individuals that used to work in coal mines.



While at Elon, the Class of 2014 focused on raising awareness about Appalachia and the issues facing the communities there. They hosted a presentation on mountaintop removal (MTR), highlighting the political, health, and environmental concerns that arise from MTR. They hosted an Appalachia Symposium, which was a week of events that raised awareness of issues. This included speaking events with activists Lorelei Scarbro and Bill Price. Additionally, they partnered with the Barnes and Noble in Alamance Crossing for a book drive. All of these efforts were made possible through their ability to fundraise both on Elon's campus and in their respective hometowns.

## DIRECTOR UPDATE

By: Tom Arcaro

Over the years Periclean Scholars has had many changes, and all have served to enhance and clarify our mission and goals and to provide more support for our Scholars as they devote themselves to learning from and partnering with people and organizations around the globe.

Our future looks very bright, and we are still growing better and smarter every year. Take a look at some recent 'upgrades':

The Periclean Pledge has served our program well since it was first articulated in 2010. Periclean Scholars continues to grow, evolve and deepen and, with this in mind, we have recently devoted considerable energy into revamping our Pledge so that it reflects these changes. Two versions of the Pledge are now displayed on the main Elon Periclean Scholars web page. The short version reflects some small but significant changes to the wording that reflect a more conservative and perhaps realistic approach to how we envision the program. The second version is much longer and

mimics the format of the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) that established by the humanitarian response sector and include nine commitments that both people and organizations can use as guides in their goal to insure the highest quality and most ethical assistance possible. The CHS is now part of all Periclean syllabi, and our new “deepened” Pledge clarifies our commitment to ourselves and to our partners. The long version of the Pledge is a living document and will be revisited by the Director, Associate Director, Mentors, and Steering Committee periodically. I urge you to look at this document and offer your own suggestions.

A new budgeting configuration for the program is in place, granting additional support for projects and possible travel opportunities to current and future classes. There is a commitment to making travel possible in the sophomore year so that more informed decisions about Class projects and partnerships can be made.

The Program has drafted –and will continue to modify as needed– a Periclean Travel Guideline document intended to codify and clarify protocol and procedures for all Periclean travel. As University policies change, these guidelines will be amended. On a related note, we now have a Global Education Center Staff person assigned to each Class to act as an outside advisor related to any international travel.

What changes lie ahead I can only imagine. In any case I feel confident that the program will continue to impact the lives of Pericleans Scholars in to the future.

## COUNTRY NEWS REELS

### **CLASS OF 2017 NAMIBIA:**

The Namibian news source recently released an article, called “Climate Smart Agriculture The Way To Go” that is connected to the Class of 2017’s issue of sustainable agriculture. In the article, there is a discussion about SMART agriculture, which focuses on the three dimensions of sustainability — people, planet, and prosperity — by addressing food security and climate change effects on Namibian farms. The Hanns Seidel Foundation, which is part of Think Namibia Environmental Awareness Information Campaign, believes smart agriculture is a way to increase productivity and incomes, while reducing food insecurity. As climate change will begin to affect farmers in Namibia, the campaign is trying to contribute to the environmental protection and climate change adaptation that will need to occur in Namibia. The link to the rest of the article is [here](#).

After a reduction in the amount of employees at a Skorpion Zinc mine, the Mineworkers Union of Namibia is now involved in a discussion with the mine. The union suggested hiring equipment to finish a job that they are now going to outsource to Basil Read Mining Namibia. The union went to the President to ask for an intervention and there have been discussions but not any concrete decisions made yet. The link to the article is [here](#).

**CLASS OF 2018 ZAMBIA:**

One issue that is currently occurring in the country of Zambia is a discussion of the cost of mealie meal that is increasing due to the individuals selling the food at a higher price than agreed upon. The Patriotic Front government lowered the price of the staple food to help address malnutrition and the inaccessibility of food caused by high prices of mealie meal. The Democratic Assembly president, Maxwell Mwamba, is calling for legal action since this borders on food security, which he claims is a national security problem. To read the full story, here is the [link](#).

Through an agreement with the European Union, Zambia is receiving money in order to support the National Authorising Officer (NAO). According to EU Ambassador to Zambia, Alessandro Mariani, Zambia will receive 484 million Euros to aid development plans around energy, agriculture, and governance. These funds will help Zambia to continue to become a prosperous middle-income nation by 2030.

**CLASS OF 2019 SRI LANKA:**

The President of Sri Lanka and the President of Indonesia are forming a partnership between their countries focused on economic development, reconciliation, and democracy building. The President of Sri Lanka also invited the Indonesian President to an official visit to Sri Lanka. You can read more about his visit [here](#).

Over the last two years, the Sri Lankan government has taken many steps to enhance women's voices and representation in the political realm. On March 8, Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena made a statement about International Women's Day. His full statement can be read [here](#).

**Social Media Links:**

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

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