

Periclean Scholars

Newsletter

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in Sri Lanka**

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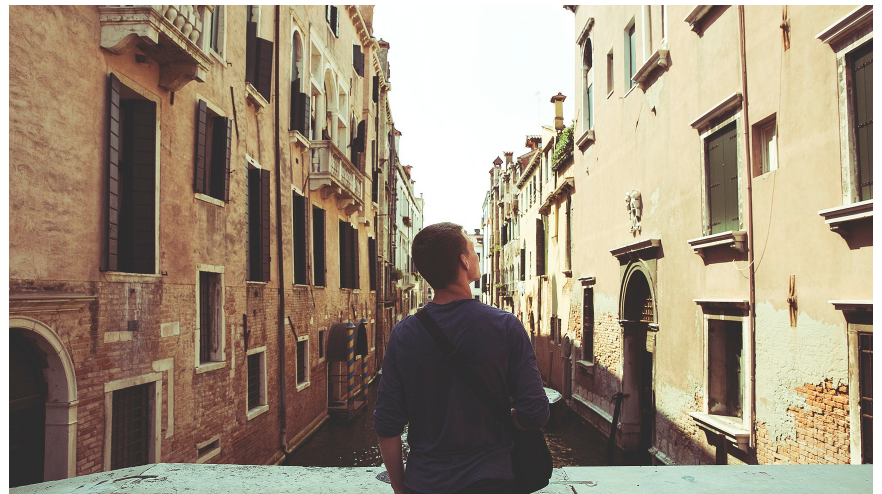
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What is Project Pericles?

The Periclean Scholars Program is a three-year, cohort-based learning experience that focuses on forming mutually-beneficial partnerships locally and abroad. This competitive program also fosters strong and supportive relationships between cohort members and their Mentor. The program is the centerpiece of Project Pericles, which is committed to raising the level of civic engagement and social responsibility of the entire university community. The program prepares students to be global citizens and informed leaders and to foster an ethic of work and service.

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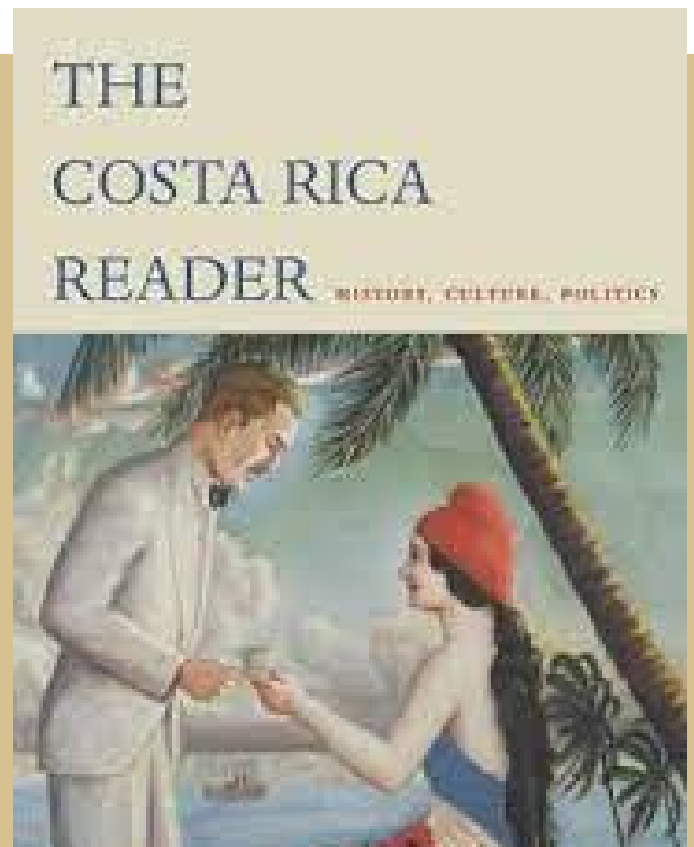


Costa Rica 2025

Dr. Vanessa Bravo will lead the Periclean Cohort of 2025, a class focusing on Costa Rica. According to Dr. Bravo, the students in the class of 2025 are a smart, driven and diverse group. Costa Rica is a country of great beauty and many social contradictions, and she looks forward to the insight this diverse group of students will bring to the discussion. The class will also start learning about and contributing to efforts of organizations that support the Latinx community in Alamance County. Latinos in Alamance County are almost 15% of the county's population, who Dr. Bravo describes as "a very hard-working community that strives to give their children opportunities that they did not have growing up. "

Let's Read!

The class will use the book *The Costa Rica Reader* (Duke University Press) as their base textbook, and will also read many other excerpts from other books, journal articles, and newspaper articles to better understand the realities of Costa Rica, of Latin America, and of the Latinx community in the United States and in North Carolina, currently and historically.





Racial Injustice 2024

The class of 2024 is dedicated to furthering racial equality. This spring they dove into the partnership process. They chose a few potential community partners, researched and presented information on them, and after much consideration they've decided to partner with One Legal System Alamance, an organization campaigning to bringing a public defenders office to Alamance County and to ending cash bail for petty crimes. In addition to this exciting partnership, the class also put together an awesome induction ceremony for the incoming class of 2025.

The class also applied for Elon's Fund for Excellence. If chosen the class would use the money to bring Dorothy Roberts, a scholar and lecturer on gender, race, and class in legal issues to campus to speak!

Class of 2024 Updated Mission Statement

"The cohort strives to become community leaders and global citizens who advance racial equity by engaging in research and cultural humility through individual and community collaboration. The cohort hopes its legacy will be one of compassion, anti-racism, and innovation through its participation in civic and global engagements."





Sri Lanka 2023

The class of 2023 has been busy, busy, busy! Their work with the LGBTQ+ community in Sri Lanka has continued in the form of fundraisers and a documentary journalism project. The class partnered with Elon's Gender and LGBTQIA+ Center and Table Top Club to host a game night fundraiser. This combined with some smaller fundraising efforts, have raised a total of \$800 for the LGBTQ+ center in Jaffna. In other good news, two members of the class, Kasey Fountain and Abigail Fisher, will travel to Sri Lanka in late May. There they will begin filming a documentary journalism project and holding interviews with members of LGBTQ organizations and communities in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka New Years

In early April, the class of 2023 hosted a Sri Lanka New Years event. The event, led by Allison Aramburu, featured several Sri Lankan dishes served in the dining hall and at the event, a traditional Sri Lankan dance performance by two talented Elon Students, Sitare Sadeghi and Tara Venkataraman, a martial arts demonstration by Tamil Kalikkudaam, and featuring games like egg toss and tug of war. The event was a huge success, and educated many Elon students on Sri Lankan traditions.





Ghana 2022

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the class of 2022 was unable to travel to Ghana. However, their local partnerships and work at Elon are thriving! They have been working on strategic planning for the future of the Periclean Program, as well as developing ways to increase applications and improve the program as a whole. They have created an advocacy guide for their local partnership with Sustainable Alamance. They also have met with program alumni and reflected on their own experience as a cohort and what they have accomplished. Lastly, they have held a book club on a book by Dambisa Moyo, titled *Dead Aid: Why Aid is Not Working and How There is a Better Way for Africa* in order to help educate their fellow peers and share the knowledge they have learned through their study of Ghana.

Looking Back

"The Periclean scholars program has given me so much. This class has shaped my understanding of my positionality, who I am as a global citizen, and has taught me invaluable lessons of cultural humility, mutually beneficial partnerships and sustainable development. Additionally, I have gained lifelong friends and connections...and learned so much about being a strong female leader from our fearless, dedicated, mentor, Professor Amanda Tapler."

-Katarina Aulbach, Cohort of 2022

