

Style



Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

After almost three years of studying and working with the nation of Sri Lanka, with a focus on environmental stewardship and education, 12 members of the 2011 class of Periclean Scholars will travel to the country this January.

While there the scholars will tour significant historical and cultural sites, visit partners of the Scholars, including the Panangala Mahabodhi School which serves 1200 students with disadvantaged backgrounds, and finalize preparations for the Leaders in Environmental Advocacy Forum.

LEAF is a two-day environmental summit held from Jan. 22-23 at the University of Colombo in Sri Lanka.

"The summit will bring together political leaders and environmental experts to discuss matters of sustainable development in Sri Lanka, in the hope that guests and audience members will come away with a renewed passion for environmental stewardship," said senior Katie Dirks. "And new ideas about how they as individuals can contribute to sustainable development."

According to senior Katherine Vogt, Sri Lanka recently came out of a decades-long civil war and is now beginning to focus on progressive development and

building its future.

"It is known for being a beautiful country and tourism is a large industry," Vogt said. "But this industry will not grow if the country does not work to protect its ecosystem and develop stronger waste management practices. This summit comes at a very opportune time."

Since the class of Scholars was selected during their sophomore year at Elon, they have worked to raise awareness about environmental sustainability not only abroad, but also in the local community.

They have set up tables in Moseley Center as well as a week hosted in 2008 dedicated to Sri Lanka, while also working with the local school system.

"Through a partnership with Graham Middle School, 2011 (Scholars) are helping to build an outdoor garden and coordinating pen-pal correspondence between the students at Graham and students in a partner school in Sri Lanka," Dirks said.

In the past, classes of scholars had the opportunity to choose a nation of focus, which often took an extensive amount of time to reach a consensus, but the past two classes have had predetermined countries when they entered the program.

"Faculty membership definitely plays a role in which country is chosen for a certain class of Periclean scholars," Dirks

Periclean Scholars take message of sustainability to a global level

12 members of 2011 Periclean Scholars will travel to Sri Lanka

said. "For instance, Crista Arangala, associate professor of mathematics and faculty mentor for the class of 2011, has background, expertise and a vested interest in the country of Sri Lanka."

The original idea for the upcoming LEAF came from Scholars Natalie Lampert and Amy McLeod, who wanted to see class initiatives at work.

While in Sri Lanka, Vogt said Scholars will also work toward promoting the preservation of the communities through partnerships with local schools and organizations.

"Currently we are coordinating with Rainforest Rescue International, which is running a Rainforest Rangers program at the Panangala Mahabodhi (school)," she said. "This program provides an after school activity and educates the children on environmental sustainability."

At the summit, Scholars plan to disseminate information and ideas about sustainability both in Sri Lanka and around the world.

"The LEAF summit should be a catalyst for positive change in terms of environmental sustainability, not only in Sri Lanka, but wherever LEAF's message is carried," Dirks said.

They plan to produce various publications about the summit, particularly a documentary about environmental issues in Sri Lanka.

Vogt said in many cases, those outside of the realm of academics criticize it as being talk with no action.

"Periclean Scholars give Elon students the opportunity to do something, not just talk and plan, but actually see some results," she said. "As university students with food every day, a bed every night and no threat of war in our immediate surroundings, we are very fortunate. It's time for us to utilize those fortunes and be productive."

For Dirks, that means continuously upholding the values of global citizenship and civic engagement, even after her time as a student and Periclean Scholar has ended.

"Being a Periclean Scholar extends far beyond graduation," Dirks said. "My passion for and critical thinking about global issues and social justice will remain with me for a lifetime."

While Vogt considers the program to be very rewarding, she also described it as very grounding.

"I think a lot of us came in as sophomores with high, lofty goals that in reality were not feasible given the fact that all of us are full-time students, not full-time Pericleans," she said. "However, I think all of us are better prepared to develop successful projects in our post-graduation lives because of this program."

How to: Keep up with today's hip-hop music

Neima Abdulahi
Reporter

Hip-hop is one genre of music that is ever-changing. While some may argue that the essence of hip-hop is no longer what it used to be, the drive and heart of it still remains. New artists are continuously hailing from different cities on a regular basis, giving the game a new look. If ever there were a way to brave the hip-hop music scene, it could be done through a step-by-step procedure. This is a guide to keeping up with a genre that continues to thrive and crest new waves of talent daily.

1. Instead of listening to the radio for hit songs, do your own research. Some of my favorite artists do not get much radio play. And it does not surprise me when many people tell me they've never heard of them. Good music can sometimes make it on the airwaves, but great music is up for your own discovery.
2. Visit different underground hip-hop music websites and find out what are the latest releases from signed and unsigned artists. Visit worldstarhiphop.com for finding unsigned artists that submit their videos to the website. If you like their music, visit their reverbNation.com account and listen to more of their releases.
3. Go to mixtape websites like datpiff.com and livemixtapes.com for new mixtape drops. Mixtapes are a great way to find out an artist's level of talent. Considering that it is free music, artists have the power to choose, with 100 percent freedom, what songs to make. Mixtapes speak on artists' dedication to their art.
4. Start paying attention to who artists are collaborating with. Those artists are sometimes the ones that rise to the ranks of those they've collaborated with. For instance, I started noticing the artists Wiz Khalifa collaborated with on his first mixtapes and later realized that they've all went on to do great things.

Hip-hop is one big rat-race. You never know who will rise to the top in a couple of years. Always stay in the know and know what is going on. If you follow these four easy steps I have laid out, you will successfully keep up with hip-hop. The last thing you want to do is be left behind and listening to the radio attempting to catch-up.



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