



Presidents Leadership Class
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

PLC
ALUMNI

Alumni Newsletter November 2020

Food for Thought

The Importance of Eating Last

written by Pavel Reppo, PLC 2009

"The answer became clear during a conversation with a Marine Corps general. "Officers eat last," he said. Simon watched as the most junior Marines ate first while the most senior Marines took their place at the back of the line. What's symbolic in the chow hall is deadly serious on the battlefield: Great leaders sacrifice their own comfort—even their own survival—for the good of those in their care."

This excerpt in Simon Sinek's book, **Leaders Eat Last** is one of my favorites. It tugs at true servant leadership. I run an organization called Finemind where we offer peer counseling services for mental health in post-conflict, Northern Uganda. The heartbeat to our success is our 18 community mental health workers – they are the true warriors of Finemind. I am indefatigable to make sure they are supported, respected, and listened to. What little extra can I do? Where can I "eat last"? The trickle-down effect then benefits children, young women, families, and caregivers and lifts the community. Our sweet sauce lies not when the individual is lifted, but the real transformation happens when the community is lifted, too.

I'm grateful to PLC for helping me realize the importance of putting community first. Leadership isn't self-interest. It is other-oriented. My time with PLC was instrumental in underscoring this very key insight. In closing, how can you be of service? Where in your life can you "eat last"?

Upcoming Events

You are cordially invited to join us to Think & Drink with your fellow Alumni!

Beginning at the end of April, the PLC Alumni Community hosted weekly Think & Drink events. Our sessions showcased a diverse array of alumni who represent different eras of PLC as well as unique disciplines, business, and mindsets.

Since the beginning of the academic year, we have transitioned to a monthly model with Think & Drink meet ups taking place on the first Thursday of every month at 4p MDT.

Please feel free to share these events with your PLC friends and encourage folks to check it out. We would love to see you jump on a call and say hello and share your thoughts and insights about the topics at hand.

You can find the logistical details for upcoming sessions below. We are looking forward to 'seeing' you!



Join us for our monthly
PLC Alumni

Think & Drink

The First Thursday of Every Month
4p mountain time

- Alumni facilitators from various PLC cohorts
- Timely and thought-provoking topics
- Interactive and engaging activities
- Laughter, lively conversation, and community

<https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/92969961429> 

The Zoom link is standardized:

<https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/92969961429>

Our upcoming monthly sessions will be:

November 5th
December 3rd
January 7th
February 4th

Stay tuned to the Alumni Facebook page and your email for information about our presenters and topics!



Class Reunions!

As part of our on-going efforts to reconnect with all of you in our Alumni Community, our Class Champions are spearheading Class Reunions. For the time being, these reunions are taking place virtually, but we are hoping to move to physical meet ups very soon.



These reunions are laid back, informal, and simply a chance to talk with your favorite PLCers from your time in the program. Each Class Champion is in charge of the scheduling and logistics for each class, but we are always looking for more folks to jump in on these events.

Here are some photos from PLC 1986 and PLC 1998 that have happened recently!

Connect with your Class Champion



Happy Birthday, PLC!

Believe it or not, the Presidents Leadership Class will be celebrating its 50th birthday in the Fall of 2022! We are in the process of planning a great weekend of events and celebrations. We are hoping to highlight the incredible accomplishments of our alumni over the years, the work that our current students are engaged with, and look forward to many more years of success for PLC.

Stay tuned for more information in the next few months! If you'd like to be involved in the planning of the 50th Anniversary weekend, let us know.

Submit photos for the Anniversary weekend here!

Alumni Spotlight



Charles S. Gilford III, PLC 2005

Vice-President, National Urban League Young Professionals

What has inspired your passion for the work of this organization?

I have the honor of serving as the Western Regional Vice President for the National Urban League Young Professionals. This organization has a rich history of being a catalyst and advocate for African Americans for well over a century. Racism and bigotry result in many pains but the most lethal but often ignored impact is ECONOMIC disparity. The National Urban League is an organization that has focused on fighting these battles for African Americans; battles related to economic access, equality, and rights for African Americans in the private sector. For years prior to the Jim Crow era, during the Jim Crow era, and post the Jim Crow era African Americans were systematically disenfranchised from having access to jobs and therefore economic mobility because of race; the effects of this are too many to name but poverty, education inequity, and a myriad of other issues are perpetuated. The National Urban League has and still takes on this fight through and the inequities therein to ensure that African Americans have economic mobility and therefore can actualize the American Dream and have true equality and hope.

What can PLC Alumni be doing to actively work towards equity in their communities?

The PLC Alumni can be instrumental in making impact towards economic equity initiatives by starting within your own respective places of work; whether you're an entrepreneur, executive, or an engaged employee you can leverage your voice to advocate to have a diverse and accessible workforce. Become aware of the access issues that exist for diverse communities; partner with your talent teams to ensure your job descriptions/requirements aren't unconsciously biased. Be intentional about being inclusive; don't relegate diverse C-suite opportunities to Diversity and Inclusion work when diverse leaders are capable of far more than addressing those myopic issues. Intentionality and leadership are essential and together, we can make the world we want to see.

[Learn More About National Urban League Here](#)

PLC Today



Corps Update

a Note from PLCer Joris Alawoe (2018)

Hello from PLC CORPS (Community Outreach and Recruitment of Prospective Scholars). This recruitment year has started off really well. CORPS has reached out to many high schools, prospective students, and pre-collegiate organizations about our favorite leadership development program. The wonderful PLC ambassadors have held meetings with numerous leadership organizations about essay writing, applying to college, and of course PLC! PLC CORPS's mission this year is to broaden the type of leaders PLC recruits. Leaders come in all shapes and sizes and PLC thrives when we assemble a diverse coalition of ambitious (maybe another descriptor here?) individuals. CORPS is excited about this recruitment cycle and can't wait to meet the PLC 2021 cohort!

CORPS Packet



Unmask the Racism

*a note from PLCers Jordan Lee (2019) and
Kimberly Fung (2018)*

Unmask the Racism was founded in May to spread awareness about racism against people of Asian heritage in the United States, specifically as a result of xenophobia brought on by COVID-19. The mission is to spread hope and support within the Asian American community, and start a conversation about how COVID-19 has been affecting Asian communities, particularly Asian-owned restaurants and businesses. Since we began the campaign earlier this year, we have gained a modest following on Instagram and recently began fundraising to cater food from a local Asian business to an essential business in the Boulder area to show our appreciation for both!

Unmask the Racism Here!

Featured Current Student Profile



Say hello to Allie Reuter! Allie is a second point of entry in the PLC 2018 cohort from Superior, Colorado. Currently, Allie is studying Integrative Physiology and Neuroscience on the pre-med track.

In her time at CU, Allie has become passionate about advocating for mental health and started an Active Minds chapter on campus. As the Service Chair for PLC Student Staff, Allie has partnered with Active Minds to create the service initiative called "Help Others to Help Yourself" where students participate in service opportunities that support student's mental health. Because of her passion for mentorship, Allie is excited about serving on the LEAD Colorado Committee where she coordinates PLC mentors to assist with this high school leadership program.

To stay busy, Allie is currently working as a Newborn Hearing Screener at Avista hospital and is part of the COVID Monitoring Team at CU Boulder.

Announcing CU Boulder's Center for Leadership

CU Boulder's newest center combines an array of hands-on programming and partnerships to bolster leadership education for students, faculty and staff with research to advance the field of leadership studies. The innovative Center for Leadership pulls 22 leadership programs together on the CU Boulder campus and adds a new leadership research element.

The CU Boulder Center for Leadership center also places community partnerships, diversity and inclusion, experiential education and mental health and wellness at its core, setting it apart from other leadership initiatives within higher education and giving it even more relevance in today's world.

The Center for Leadership is a critical component of the Chancellor's chief imperative of shaping tomorrow's leaders.

PLC is an integral part of the Center's infrastructure and operations. The Center's Executive Director is PLC Director, Aaron Roof. Jessie Kasynski and Dr. JulieMarie Shepherd Macklin sit on the Center's Executive Committee. Emily Walsh is the Center's Program Coordinator.

Find out more about the Center for Leadership

Reconnect

Class Champion Initiative



To support our commitment to the reengagement of our Alumni Community, we are increasing efforts from our Class Champions. These Champions will be striving to reconnect with all of our alumni, pushing out information about the program, current students, involvement opportunities, event invitations and much more!

If you have any questions about who your Champion is, or if you have any interest in becoming a Class Champion, please contact emily.allen-1@colorado.edu.

**Become a PLC
Mentor**

**Join the Alumni
Board**

**Make a Donation
to PLC**

[Click here to update your contact information with us!](#)

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

The Presidents Leadership Class condemns the May 25th killing of George Floyd and the deaths of every other unarmed life taken by police brutality, including Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, David McAtee, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless others before them, and also condemns the violence committed against peaceful protesters by police. Our program supports the catalyzed response seen around the country by peaceful protesters demanding justice for black lives lost and advocating for the dismantling of systemic racism. Additionally, PLC supports our black, indigenous and other people of color (BIPOC) students and alumni and will continue to do so.

The Presidents Leadership Class at CU Boulder acknowledges that the University sits upon land within the territories of the Ute, Cheyenne, and Arapaho peoples. Further, we acknowledge that 48 contemporary tribal nations are historically tied to the lands that make up the state of Colorado.

You can see all statements issued PLC students, faculty, and staff by visiting the PLC homepage here - <https://www.colorado.edu/plc/>.

Go Buffs!

www.colorado.edu/plc
