What’s Next
Cancer-Detecting Undergarments
By Valentine Iwenwanne

Stanford Social Innovation Review
Fall 2022

Copyright © 2022 by Leland Stanford Jr. University
All Rights Reserved
keynote address that explored how the rhetorical techniques of ancient sophists compare to those of social media influencers. Public donations allowed the center to make admission to the conference free for all attendees.

The event’s success prompted Robertson to begin working on an in-person conference scheduled for fall 2023 at Plato’s Academy Park. An international archaeological site in Athens, the park is visited by both locals and tourists, and for this reason Robertson believes it is the perfect location for this event, which is intended to convene philosophical discussions in the public square.

The nonprofit’s educational mission also includes an agenda to fuel economic growth by engaging in Greece’s lucrative tourism industry, which accounts for 18 percent of the nation’s GDP and employs one-fifth of its population. During the COVID-19 pandemic, tourism worldwide took a major hit, and Greece’s already struggling economy was further debilitated.

The tourism industry was forced to pivot in the pandemic by leveraging technology to take travel and educational adventures online. Plato’s Academy Centre plans to capitalize on this trend with its online course offerings and conferences, through which it hopes to entice people to travel to Greece. The intention, says the center’s communications director, Kasey Robertson, is “to bring international business to Greece and build up an area that could use some development.”

She says that the nonprofit will add jobs to the economy by employing local youth to assist with event programming.

The center receives funding from the Aurelius Foundation, an organization that shares similar goals about the preservation of philosophical integrity and the pursuit of knowledge. “We are partnering and supporting the Plato Academy project, as this initiative fits squarely into our mission,” says Justin Stead, who launched the foundation in 2019 to promote Stoicism. “We are looking to increase the awareness and application of Stoicism within younger generations,” he says, including CEOs and business leaders who could apply Stoic principles to “the development of their strategic plans, tactical executions, and cultural/teamwork initiatives.”

In addition to the in-person conference in 2023, the center will officially roll out both virtual and in-person events in Athens with the continued support from the Aurelius Foundation, individual donations, and volunteers. The nonprofit also aims to raise enough funds to create a new conference facility near Plato’s Academy Park to host all future events—even, potentially, the 2023 conference.

Robertson is optimistic about the center’s potential to spark interest in both ancient philosophy and Greece in general. “Our hope is that the online community grows to become a hub for academic experts and best-selling authors to interact with a wider community who are interested in Greek philosophy’s relevance today,” he says.

“Cancer is the most common type of cancer for women in sub-Saharan Africa, with 129,000 new cases diagnosed in 2020, according to the World Health Organization. In Nigeria, it is the leading cause of cancer death among women. In 2020, more than 28,000 Nigerian women were diagnosed with breast cancer, and more than 14,000 died from the disease. Contributing to the mortality rate is the staggering lack of health insurance among approximately 95 percent of the population. The country has fewer than 90 clinical oncologists to provide cancer treatment for more than 100,000 patients.

The paucity of cancer care corresponds to a broader lack of awareness in Nigerian culture about breast cancer. “Women rarely come out for screening, even on World Cancer Day when NGOs offer free screenings,” says Bolarinwa Kemisola, an Abuja-based robotics engineer and founder of the fashion technology company Next Wear Technology (NWT).

In February 2022, Kemisola developed a smart bra device to detect breast cancer in its early stages. Instead of visiting a clinic or hospital, women can wear the bra to run a mammogram test in the privacy of their own home.
I asked what kind of family Amina wanted. She said, ‘A family like yours.’ That’s when I knew I had to adopt her.

Denise, adopted 17-year-old Amina

LEARN ABOUT ADOPTING A TEEN
YOU CAN’T IMAGINE THE REWARD

ADOPTUSKIDS.ORG