

WPI CONTINUES TO ATTRACT LEADERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND GLOBE

By: Christine Girouard
Assistant Director of Student Activities

Leadership. An aspect or characteristic that both directly and indirectly affects our lives every day. Whether we are transitioning in life, accepting responsibilities, taking part in community service, or working in a team, leadership is always around us. At WPI, students continue to grow from the time they enter the institution to the period that they transition into the world as graduates. This academic year, WPI welcomed 943 new students into the community, one of the largest and most diverse classes the institution as ever seen. The class represents 32 states and 27 foreign countries. It includes 345 members coming into WPI with a 4.0 GPA in high school and the entire class has an aggregated GPA of 3.8. The dimensions of the Class of 2013 are not only impressive, but build excitement for the success they are on course to experience.

The Class of 2013 now joins a larger community of leaders, ready to create change and shape the future. Many times leadership is defined by what we are, rather than who we are or what we stand for. The possibility that lies within the WPI student body is endless as our students become ambassadors of the institution, working in project centers around the globe, assisting their community through service, programming events for the entire campus and continuing to grow and learn so that they might be more engaged citizens, and ready to create solutions to the problems our community faces.

As the academic year begins, campus takes on a new life compared to the summer months. Students bring the campus to its fullest potential in expressing the wonderful and vibrant community present at WPI. This is clearly shown through events such as the Student Activities Fair, Volunteer Fair, Parents Weekend, and the various academic programs taking place on campus as everyone prepares for Homecoming when B term begins. The Class of 2013 is beginning to make their mark on WPI and we are all excited and welcome their skills, talents and leadership on campus!

“If I have the belief that I can do it, I will surely acquire the capacity to do it, even if I may not have it at the beginning.”

~Mahatma Gandhi



SEIZE THE DAY

The beginning of the academic school year is an exciting time as students join clubs, begin classes, renew and begin friendships, in addition to the hustle and bustle of a typical day on campus. Not only is this an exciting time, but it is also a chance to start fresh, seize the day and begin to make decisions that will impact your college experience and perhaps even your career!

Take a moment to stop, sit and think about what you want to accomplish this coming year and the value that those accomplishments will have on your life. Then, review the ways in which you can achieve those goals and write them down on a piece of paper which you can review from time to time to ensure that you are on course. You should also take time to reflect on how you as a person are changing on a regular basis and how your actions align with your values and interests. It is easy to set up a checklist of classes to attend, clubs to join, and things to do in four years, however if you are not passionate about what you are doing, are you truly happy? Are you having the college experience that you envisioned?

Seize the day and try something new, meet a new person, read the newspaper, or explore Worcester. Take the time to make sure you grow both inside and outside the classroom through activities, community service, athletics, or the various other co-curricular programs that WPI has to offer. Doing these things can make all the difference, and doing these things can make WPI home.

MEET THE STAFF

The Campus Center and Student Activities Office are excited to assist and support you and the members of student organizations throughout the year to come!

Jim McLaughlin, Director of the Campus Center and Student Activities: Jim has overall responsibility for the Campus Center, student orientation programs and student activities at WPI.

Emily Perlow, Associate Director of Student Activities and Greek Life: Emily serves as the advisor for Greek Life on campus, coordinates Parent's Weekend, assists with the New Student Orientation, coordinates Community Advisor training, is one of the resources to all student organizations, and supervises the Community Service Program.

Christine Girouard, Assistant Director of Student Activities: Christine serves as the advisor to SocComm, and as one of the resources to all organizations, advises the Senior Board and Senior Week Committee, and serves as chairperson of the Leadership Development Committee, while coordinating all of the Leadership Programs sponsored by the department.

Andrew Goss, Graduate Assistant for Community Service and Student Government: Andrew serves as advisor to Student Government and coordinates the Community Service Program. He also assists with supervision at some student activities, coordinates the Crimson and Gray Awards program, and assists with other Campus Center and Student Activities programs.

Kim Wykes, Administrative Assistant for the Campus Center: Kim assists the Director of the Campus Center and Student Activities with accounts payable and financial management of the Campus Center budgets, serves as a receptionist for the Campus Center and Events Departments, reserves tables in the Campus Center lobby, and coordinates the Campus Center Trips Program.

Louise Campbell, Administrative Assistant for the Student Activities Office: Louise is well known for assisting student organizations with a variety of issues. Louise is a resource to all student organizations and provides answers to any questions related to all clubs and organizations financial matters. Louise is responsible for office card access, organization lockers, the student organization copy machine, and student organization mail.

EXPLORING THE UNKNOWN

Leadership comes in many forms and experiences, one of those is trying new things. Whether you are a first year student or a senior, there are things to take advantage of both inside and outside of WPI. Have you explored the Worcester Art Museum, EcoTarium, Higgins Armory, perhaps gone to an arts festival, or tried different types of foods? These are all things that can be uncomfortable or interesting as most new experiences are, however doing these things not only provides practice for leadership after WPI, it also provides you an understanding of the larger community for which you live, an appreciation for the history of Worcester and worldly experiences that will allow you to know that you took advantage of everything during your time at WPI.

As a student, you can reap the rewards of several discounts and programs that were created for your use. Travel around Worcester during the weekends via the Woo Bus, an SGA sponsored and Consortium wide shuttle system that will take you around Worcester for free at night. Whether you want to dine somewhere new or go to an event at a nearby institution, the shuttle is a great way for you to explore Worcester. Woo Bus schedules and information can be found in the Student Activities Office and online at <http://www.cowc.org/college-student-resources/woo-bus>.

A NEW DAY

Author Unknown

This is the beginning of a new day.
I have been given this day to use as I will.

I can waste it, or use it.
I can make it a day long to be remembered for its joy, its beauty and its achievements, or it can be filled with pettiness.

What I do today is important because I am exchanging a day of my life for it.

When tomorrow comes this day will be gone forever, but I shall hold something which I have traded for it.

It may be no more than a memory, but if it is a worthy one I shall not regret the price.

I want it to be gain not loss, good not evil, success not failure.

Viewed on 9/5/09 on <http://www.wow4u.com/newday/index.html>

LEADERSHIP CORNER

Leadership Lecture

“The Food Dude”

Featuring: Kevin Roberts

Tuesday, November 17th

8pm, Odeum, Campus Center



“This lecture will provide some real life ways to eat healthy on a college campus, provide recipes and tips on living and eating healthier.”

If planning on attending, please
RSVP to <https://www.wpi.edu/Regi/SAO/>



Leadership Lunch

Wednesday, November 18th

Noon, Higgins House

Lunch is Provided

If planning on attending, please
RSVP to <https://www.wpi.edu/Regi/SAO/>

Leading Edge Series for the Emerging Leader

The Leading Edge Series for the Emerging Leader is a program designed to expose students to new ideas, understanding, and experiences with leadership. Focused on personal exploration, the series takes place every Thursday evening during B Term from 5:30-7:30pm. The Leading Edge Series for the Emerging Leader is the first of three leadership programs that offer a certified leadership certificate should participants attend six of the seven workshops.



Attention Graduates of the Leading Edge Series!!

Did you take part in the Advanced Leaders series? Do you want to take your leadership skills to the next level? For more information about an upcoming leadership honor society, contact
wpileadership@wpi.edu.

LEADERS OF THE TERM



Paige Bourne '10

Paige plays for the women's rugby team and is a member of Phi Sigma Sigma and a Crimson Key Tour Guide. She also serves on the 2010 Class Board and worked with the Alumni Office this past summer.



Kelly Johnson, '10

Kelly is a Mechanical Engineering major and president of SocComm. She is also a member of APO, WIN, SWE, and both the field hockey and softball teams at WPI. Recently Kelly was recognized by ESPN The Magazine Academic All America honors from the College Sports Information Directors of America.

THE LEADERSHIP EFFECT

By: Ashik Gowdar, '12

Sir Isaac Newton, well known for his genius and broad vision says, *"If I have seen farther than others, it is because I was standing on the shoulder of giants."* When I left India to attend WPI over a year ago, leadership had a single definition for me: complete control and domination. I could see farther, but I was standing on a self-built tower of note cards. It took less than a term at WPI for my tower to break down and I found myself completely shaken and disoriented. It was then that the WPI phenomenon of team work and collaborated effort started seeping into me.

Over the past year I've had the privilege to experience the WPI difference and it has definitely shaped me as a better team member and an improved leader today. May it be academic project groups, clubs and organizations or even friends I hang out with, I've found a sense of happiness working with people. Being involved in the Student Government Association has taught me to be articulate and put general opinion before my own. As a member of Engineers Without Borders, I've learned organization skills and developed a passion to work for the greater good. Being a Crimson Key tour guide, I've developed great pride in being a student at WPI. The Emerging Leader and the Advanced Leader Leadership Series has helped me discover my leadership style and put it to proper action.

Over the summer I had the opportunity to work for the Office of Diversity and Women's Programs and helped organize three summer camps. I worked in a diverse leadership environment and the experience was invaluable. The Community Advisor training at the end of summer was probably the best leadership training I could get and it gave me yet another chance to contemplate and reconsider my leadership style.

My experience at WPI has changed the individualistic attitude that I previously had and has influenced me to develop collaborative leadership. I feel empowered to face any challenge in any situation. When I lead a team today, I think about how we can attain common goals together, how I will be able to stay motivated and keep the team motivated, how we can brainstorm creative ideas and implement the best ones and above all how I can bring a sense of satisfaction to everyone in the team. Differences always exist in a group; diversity is in the core of a strong team. Leadership is about maintaining a balance among the imbalance.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Have you read the entire Xcel Newsletter? Fill out this quiz and answer the questions that cover everything from topics in this publication to recent pop culture knowledge and return it to the Office of Student Activities located on the 3rd floor of the Campus Center by October 27th! People who answer all the questions correctly or the most correctly, will be entered into a drawing for a prize!

1. What is the maximum number of times a normal size paper can be folded in half?
2. What was the first product to have a bar code scanned?
3. What are the names of the Xcel Leaders of the Term?
4. What animal cannot look up in the sky?
5. What is the name of the bus that is supported by SGA and brings students all over Worcester?
6. What is the original state capital of California?
7. Who wrote the poem, A New Day?
8. What is the only planet that rotates clockwise?
9. Name at least two organizations that Ashik Gowdar belongs to.
10. What member of the Campus Center and Student Activities Office works with Greek Life?

LOOKING AHEAD...

10/27	Start of B Term
10/27	Start of Homecoming Week
10/31	Halloween
10/31	Homecoming Parade
11/17	Kevin Roberts, <i>The Food Dude</i>
11/17	The Hunger Banquet



Questions? Contact the Student Activities Office for more information!

3rd Floor of the Campus Center

<http://www.wpi.edu/+SAO>

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