

LEADERSHIP WORTHY OF RECOGNITION

By: Jim McLaughlin
Director of Campus Center and Student Activities

On Saturday, April 18, 2009, the annual Relay For Life was held on the Quadrangle. Six hundred twenty five participants on 56 different teams walked through the night around the Quadrangle to raise \$68,000 for cancer research. Saraan Vercillo and Mike Sacco were the two student coordinators of the event, which appears to now be a new tradition at WPI.

Faculty and staff from the WPI community also participated in this tremendous event. There was a great sense of unity and feeling of community at this meaningful student activity. Inspirational speeches reinforced the fact that cancer touches the lives of everyone, as entertainment and a barbeque contributed to the great sense of community. Our Quadrangle was filled with tents used by the participants as a place to rest or stay dry when rain fell in the early morning hours. The student coordinators of this event should feel proud of the success they achieved in planning and implementing this event which has become the largest student activity on campus.

On April 22nd, over forty students participated in the annual Hunger Banquet in the Campus Center Odeum. This event helped create greater awareness of the problem of hunger in our country and in the world.

On Sunday April 26th, over one hundred students participated in the annual Worcester Cleanup Day. Student volunteers from APO, the Advanced Leadership Program, GAEA, Alpha Xi Delta, Alpha Chi Rho and Phi Sigma Sigma volunteered to participate in the program which involved painting projects and clean up of various areas and parks in the City of Worcester. Sixty five Resident Assistants (RA's) and Community Advisors (CA's) also participated in this program as part of their training to prepare for their new positions of leadership.

These are just three of many programs where our WPI students demonstrated their leadership this year. Hats off to all of the participants in these programs who deserve our recognition.

ALTHOUGH YOU'RE LEAVING, YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY GOODBYE. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2009

Special congratulations to members of the Class of 2009 that graduated this past Saturday. Many graduates in the Class of 2009 were very active student leaders in the 174 student organizations at WPI. As you leave WPI we trust you will continue to develop your leadership skills in your chosen profession. Some of you may also seize the opportunity to use your leadership skills in the community where you live in the future. Although WPI graduates learned much inside and outside the classroom at WPI, hopefully recent graduates will recognize that learning and developing your leadership skills is a lifelong process.

You've been a student for four years, but you are an alumnus for life! We encourage you to stay involved as an alumnus. Contact the Alumni Office if you want to become involved in your class board to plan future activities for the Class of 2009. We hope to see you when you return to campus for Homecoming!

LOOKING AHEAD

By: Christine Girouard
Assistant Director of Student Activities

As the school year comes to a close, everyone can smell the excitement in the air for summer break. Whether students are returning home, starting a new summer internship, or will be working on campus, the warm weather is certainly a sign of many changes around the corner. Nevertheless, this "break" from the normal academic calendar is an opportunity for self reflection. Take a moment and acknowledge how you have grown and the many accomplishments that have taken place in the last year. On that same note, take a moment to think about where you want to go or something new you want to explore.

Reflection also exposes the need to set goals for the months ahead. As student leaders, take a moment to review the year and plan a fall retreat upon your return to campus. This is the perfect time to plan such an important event when the issues and concerns of the past year are fresh in your memory. If you or your organization have questions or would like assistance in preparing for the next academic year, please contact the Student Activities Office at 508-831-5291.

STARFISH POEM REFLECTION



Once upon a time there was a wise man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach before he began his work.

One day he was walking along the shore. As he looked down the beach, he saw a human figure moving like a dancer. He smiled to himself to think of someone who would dance to the day.

So he began to walk faster to catch up. As he got closer, he saw that it was a young man and the young man wasn't dancing, but instead he was reaching down to the shore, picking up something and very gently throwing it into the ocean.



As he got closer he called out, "Good morning! What are you doing?"

The young man paused, looked up and replied, "Throwing starfish in the ocean."

"I guess I should have asked, why are you throwing starfish in the ocean?"

"The sun is up and the tide is going out. And if I don't throw them in they'll die."

"But, young man, don't you realize that there are miles and miles of beach and starfish all along it. You can't possibly make a difference!"

The young man listened politely. Then bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the ocean, past the breaking waves and said - "It made a difference for that one."

Starfish Poem. (n.d.). Retrieved May 4, 2009, from <http://www.ncsr-md.org/Starfish1.htm>

Often, individuals do not take time to stop and reflect upon the impact that they have on their community and others. Any action or word can have a large impact on someone, whether it is saying hello in a corridor in passing, volunteering in the community, listening to a friend or including someone in a conversation. People often do not even realize the impact that they have on others. Take a moment to reflect on how your actions, hobbies, and engagement impact the greater community. You will be surprised when you take a moment to look at the bigger picture.

Remember that as a leader, people will look to you for guidance, support and compassion, but leadership is not just a position, it is an individual choice to want to make a difference. Change does not need to be made on a large scale, but rather it is usually the small things that make a big difference. Just as the young man made a difference for as many starfish as he could. Leadership is not about doing everything, but rather an opportunity to lead and motivate others so that people can accomplish larger goals together.

LEADERSHIP CORNER

Upcoming Leadership Programs and Resources

- **Leadership Lecture Series**—get ready for some fun, interactive, interesting and innovative speaker programs surrounding leadership this fall!
- **Leading Edge Series Addition**—Have you taken part in the Leading Edge Series for the Emerging and the Advanced Leader? Get ready for the third tier addition to the WPI Leadership programs focused on creating a personal leadership legacy!
- Are you interested in starting a **leadership honorary society**? If you are, contact wpileadership@wpi.edu.
- Become a fan! Look for the **WPI Leadership Programs on Facebook!**
- Interested in having experience planning leadership programs for the WPI community? Join the **Leadership Development Committee!** For more information email wpileadership@wpi.edu.

Summer Reading

Do not know what to do with the summer break? Take some time to relax and read some interesting books revolving around leadership! Some suggestions are:

- *Leadership and Self Deception: Getting Out of the Box* By: The Arbinger Institute
- *Leadership and the New Science* By: Margaret J. Wheatley
- *Leadership Reconsidered: Engaging Higher Education in Social Change* By: Alexander W. Austin and Helen S. Austin
- *You Don't Need a TITLE to Be a Leader* By: Mark Sanborn
- *Tribal Leadership: Leveraging Natural Groups to Build a Thriving Organization* By: Dave Logan, John King, and Halee Fishcher-Wright
- *Leading Change* By: James O'Toole
- *The Servant* By: James Hunter
- *Made to Stick: Why Some Ideas Survive and Others Die* By: Chip Heath and Dan Heath
- *The Accountable Leader* By: Brian Dive
- *Unleashing the Power of Rubber Bands* By: Nancy Ortberg
- *The Leadership Factor* By: John P. Kotter
- *Leading with Kindness* By: William F. Baker and Michael O'Malley

Information

To Register for leadership events, go to <http://www.wpi.edu/Regi/SAO/>

Below are resources that are available for you both online and in the Student Activities Office!

- Leadership Library
- Xcel Points
- Leadership Resource Center

Have an idea or a question regarding leadership programs at WPI? E-mail us at wpileadership@wpi.edu.

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 wpileadeshipi@wpi.edu.

LEADERS OF THE TERM



Keith Flanders '09

Keith is currently serving as the 2009 Senior Board Treasurer. He is also a member of SAS, the Herd, Track Team and Cross Country Team.



Amy Morin '11

Amy is an executive board member of SocComm, a member of Alpha Gamma Delta, a Crimson Key Tour Guide and graduate of the Leading Edge Series for the Advanced Leader.

REFLECTING ON CHANGE

By: Christine Girouard,
Assistant Director of Student Activities

As the school year comes to a close, residence halls are empty, final grades are submitted and everyone looks forward to warmer weather and some mental relaxation. Take the time to reflect on everything that you have accomplished this year both inside and outside of the classroom. How have you grown as a person? What did you do this year that you never thought was possible? How have your relationships changed or grown? These are all different kinds of accomplishments and each are equally as important to acknowledge.

Few people take the opportunity to stop in the hustle and bustle of each day to enjoy the small things or pat ourselves on the back for a job well done. As a student, if one does this on a regular basis, you are more likely to appreciate your growth and the many experiences and memories gained already during college. Most people who graduate will say that college was some of the best years and most transformative learning experiences of their lives. As students grow and continue to acknowledge the change in their lives, it brings a greater sense of self, as well as an additional lens to reflect upon their time in college.

You can take the opportunity to reflect upon personal change and development in many different ways. Take a walk, keep thoughts or write about experiences in a journal, speak with a friend over coffee, or sit on a park bench all by yourself. These are just a few options or ways in which you can acknowledge the many things that you do on a regular basis and the impact that those things have on your life and the lives of others. Doing these things every once in a while will only motivate you to do more, allow you the opportunity to grow individually, and appreciate yourself for how amazing you truly are.

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 July 1st! People who answer all the questions correctly or the most correctly, will be entered into a drawing for a prize!

1. How many eyes does a bee have?
2. What heals the fastest in the human body?
3. What did the young man put into the ocean?
4. The average person makes how many calls in one year?
5. How can you reflect on your growth?
6. What is the longest one syllable word?
7. What are two new leadership resources?
8. What state is the only one in the US that grows coffee?
9. What is a good time to start to think about organizational retreats?
10. What are the names of the WPI Leaders of the Term?

LOOKING AHEAD...

8/23-8/26	New Student Orientation
8/26	Student Activities Fair
8/27	First Day of A Term
8/27	Volunteer Fair
8/30	Drive in Movie
9/7	Labor Day
9/9	President and Treasurer's Meeting
9/12	Shrewsbury Street Shuffle
9/25-9/27	Parents Weekend



Questions? Contact the Student Activities Office for more information!
3rd Floor of the Campus Center
<http://www.wpi.edu/+SAO>

Phone: 508-831-5291

E-mail: ccsainfo@wpi.edu