

# PC STUDENT LEADERSHIP DIGEST

Informing the leaders of today, inspiring the leaders of tomorrow



ASHA CHANA continues to help campus organizations including WDOM reach the greater community in a number of ways

## Leadership 101

### Ten Qualities of a Leader

Adapted from "The Top 10 Leadership Qualities," by David Hakala

**Vision:** a clear, vivid picture of where to go, as well as a firm grasp on what success looks like and how to achieve it. Leaders must be able to communicate their vision in terms that cause followers to buy into it.

**Integrity:** the integration of outward actions and inner values. A person of integrity is the same on the outside and on the inside. With integrity comes the trust of others.

**Dedication:** spending whatever time or energy is necessary to accomplish the task at hand. A leader inspires dedication by example, doing whatever it takes to complete the next step toward the vision. By setting a good example, leaders can show followers that there are no nine-to-five jobs on the team, only opportunities to achieve something great.

**Magnanimity:** giving credit where credit is due. A magnanimous leader ensures that credit for successes is spread as widely as possible throughout the organization. Conversely, a great leader takes personal responsibility for failures.

**Humility:** recognize that you are no better or worse than other members of the team. A humble leader is not self-effacing but rather tries to elevate everyone. Leaders with humility also understand that their status does not make them a god.

**Openness:** being able to listen to new ideas, even if they do not conform to your usual way of thinking. Good leaders are able to suspend judgment while listening to others, as well as accept new ways of doing things.

**Creativity:** the ability to think differently, to get outside of the box. Creativity gives leaders the ability to see things that others have not seen and thus lead followers in new directions.

**Fairness:** dealing with others consistently and justly. A leader must check all the facts and hear everyone out before passing judgment. When people feel that they are being treated fairly, they reward a leader with loyalty and dedication.

**Assertiveness:** the ability to clearly state what one expects so that there will be no misunderstandings. A leader must be assertive to get the desired results. Along with assertiveness comes the responsibility to clearly understand what followers expect of their leader.

**Sense of humor:** vital to relieve tension and boredom, as well as to defuse hostility. Effective leaders know how to

## Student Leader of the Month: Asha Chana '09

Alison DeNisco '11

Student leader of the month Asha Chana '09 is a perfect example of how PC students can extend their ideas and influence to people in their community. The senior from Boston, MA, is involved with many clubs at Providence that reach outside of the campus boundaries.

Chana is the General Manager of Providence College's radio station, 91.3 WDOM, which broadcasts to the entire state of Rhode Island. Her involvement with the station has been a highlight of her time at PC.

"Getting WDOM a new sound board and improving the station have been some of my greatest successes at PC, along with being a part of groups that allow me to speak my mind," she said.

WDOM allows students with radio shows to play all types of music and speak on whatever topics interest them. Chana hopes to get online broadcasting for WDOM in the near future, which would make the station accessible to people across the country.

After coming to PC, Chana said she "just tried everything" in order to find her

niche. Along with managing WDOM, she is also the Secretary of the Board of Multicultural Student Affairs (BMSA), and a member of Kappa Delta Pi, the International Honor Society in Education. She is a member of Women Will, and a co-organizer of V-Day.

Chana is also passionate about her major of Secondary Education, with a concentration in English. "In the future, I want to be a part of Teach for America. I want to work with students from inner cities and Native Americans, and help them get into college, because a lot of people think they can't," she said.

In high school, Chana was involved with the National Honors Society, as well as the lacrosse team, the literary journal, and the knitting club. She has also been a dancer for an impressive 16 years. She will be dancing with BMSA during this month's Late Night Madness event.

Chana noted the importance of her teachers over the years in helping her grow as a leader. "My high school English teachers really influenced me, because they supported me in academics and

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### Student Leader of the Month Facts

- Favorite color: Turquoise
- Favorite movie: The Nightmare Before Christmas
- Favorite TV show: Buffy the Vampire Slayer
- Favorite "real life" leaders: Ghandi and Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Favorite fictional leader: Harry Potter
- Favorite subject (other than major): Biology

Do you know someone who deserves to be recognized as "Student Leader of the Month"? We want to hear from YOU!

Visit the Student Leadership webpage or the SAIL Office for a nomination form

Nominations accepted on a rolling basis

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### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

-Anne Frank

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**2008 TRANSFORMATIONS PARTICIPANTS** took part in several leadership development activities, including a teambuilding "Iron Chef" competition

# My Transformations Experience

Alexis Smith '12

**M**y Transformations experience was extremely rewarding. I met a lot of new people that I might not have met on campus. The experience as a whole made me a better person and a stronger leader, by teaching me more about myself. To my advantage my roommate was randomly assigned to the same group as I, which made things easier from that start.

The retreat started with a sleepy bus ride during which the retreat leaders and freshmen played a few icebreakers. When we got to camp the real fun started. All the retreat leaders introduced themselves then sent all of us on a scavenger hunt. We had a list of requirements and had to get a signature from a person that fit that requirement. It was a good experience because it gave everyone an excuse to talk. I tied for first, which was shocking because normally I'm not the kind of person to do well at this type of game, but the atmosphere was so relaxed that you couldn't help but have fun. We then split up into our groups for the weekend. My retreat leaders were "Cough drop" Cindy and "Mega" Meg. I soon learned that couldn't have asked for better leaders!

As an icebreaker we went around the circle and gave each other nicknames. Mine was Lexus Alexis. It was a strategy to help everyone remember the names of

others. As each person said their name, they had to repeat the names of those who came before them. We then went around and said what our ideal lunch would be, which started some pretty intense conversation. This spun into talk about childhood shows, which started an even bigger discussion and initiated our group nickname, "The Funny Falafels." (We were team F. Pretty clever, right?) After that we played a game where you whisper a word in the ear of the person next to you. Each group member then does the same, but says the word an additional time. The goal of the game is to go around the circle without anyone laughing. This started a series of inside jokes that just made our group grow closer.

As the retreat went on, I noticed how close-knit our group became. During the second day's rope exercises, we all worked as a team. It was amazing to see people who only just met working so well together! We were all leaders who helped each other and cheered each other on.

All in all, Transformations was an amazing experience that I would recommend to anyone who wants to make friends and learn more about themselves. I look forward to continuing to see people from the retreat on campus and stopping to talk to each other and laugh about our favorite retreat moments! ●

## Transformations Leadership Retreat Stories

The fourth annual Transformations Leadership Retreat for first-year students was held from September 20-21, 2008 at

YMCA Camp Fuller and the Hockomock YMCA (in Wakefield, RI and North Attleboro, MA, respectively). This year's event was attended by 77 members of the Class of 2012, and was led by the members of Dirigo and retreat alum from the Class of 2011.

The following are two students' reflections on the retreat experience:

## Learning to Lead

Thomas Nailor '12

**L**eadership has, and forever will be, a difficult thing to define. One cannot easily tell another person what a leader is or should be, perhaps because it is such an individual experience. We all view people in different ways, and it is no different with our leaders, as anyone who is keeping up with the presidential race to the White House can attest. During the weekend of September 20th, myself and several other new Providence College students went on the 2008 Transformations Retreat in order to learn about leadership, about each other, and perhaps most importantly, about ourselves.

The weekend started much earlier than most college students ever would, as we all tramped onto buses at 8:30 Saturday morning. We then took off to our first site - Camp Fuller - and immediately dove right in. I will not distract the reader with exactly what we did, but to give you an idea, it included activities designed to force us to ask ourselves, and each other, what a leader was and what it means to be a true leader in society. We examined famous political figures, like FDR and JFK, as well as philanthropic leaders like Mother Teresa. We looked to the Providence College mission statement to define not only what "leadership" is but also "community", and then watched as we passed our hard-sought ideas

onto other groups who portrayed them without using words. We quickly realized that non-verbal communication and expression would become incredibly important throughout the day and night as we engaged in other activities. The next day at Camp Hockomock, engaging in the ropes course and other physical challenges with our group would only enforce this. Through it all, participants met not only many of the senior leaders we have here at PC already, and also caught a glimpse of the people in our class who would become the leaders of tomorrow. Hackneyed as it sounds, we peeked into PC's future, and also got a look into the mirror at ourselves and what we could become.

In the end, I believe the weekend to have been a great success--I think even the most shy members of my small group are now the type of people I'm perfectly willing to yell to across campus, and I hope that they feel the same way. But more important even than the new connections we made, is the feeling of transformation we all shared. We went from a group of freshman - trying to mask our timidity with bravado - and became a group of young adults, ready to take advantage of what PC has to offer and to become the new leaders on-campus and beyond. ●

"CHANA" - continued from page 1

extracurriculars, and helped me get into college," she said.

Chana notes that being a student leader also comes with some difficulties. One particular challenge has been getting the funds needed for the betterment of the groups with which she is involved. From her experience, Chana has found it is also

essential to "work as a cohesive team," making sure that one person does not take all of the control in a group.

It is clear that Chana is a talented leader and organizer, and that she will continue to positively affect PC and the community outside of our campus' walls. ●

"QUALITIES" - continued from page 1

use humor to energize followers. Humor is a form of power that provides some

control over the work environment. ●

### PC STUDENT LEADERSHIP DIGEST CONTRIBUTING WRITERS/EDITORS

Alison DeNisco '11  
Thomas Nailor '12  
Alexis Smith '12  
Leslie J. Heller '02, SAIL

## WRITERS WANTED

Seeking students with strong communication skills and an interest in leadership



Please contact Leslie Heller in the SAIL Office (lheller@providence.edu) for more information

## Want even more information about leadership @ PC?

Visit the L3 webpage:  
<http://www.providence.edu/Student+Life/Student+Activities/Student+Leadership/>

Join the Lifelong Leadership @ PC Facebook group

Stop into the SAIL Office (Slavin 104)