

# PC STUDENT LEADERSHIP DIGEST

Informing the leaders of today, inspiring the leaders of tomorrow



AMY BAKER stands at the podium in Slavin 112, excited to finish out her schooling as Student Congress President.

## September Student Leader of the Month: Amy Baker

by Christopher Charron

Politics and public service. These are the two fields in which senior Amy Baker finds her greatest passion and experiences the most success. Between her academia and extracurricular involvement, she is able to effectively balance her busy life at Providence College.

This balance between politics and public service may be seen through her involvement in two of PC's most notable student organizations: Student Congress and New Student Orientation. She will serve as Executive President for this year's 57<sup>th</sup> Student Congress at Providence College. This will be Baker's second term serving on the executive board, as she was Executive Vice President this past academic year. She also has served two years as a Senior Orientation Leader during the summers entering her junior and senior years.

Without question, Baker considers orientation as her most rewarding experience throughout her three years at PC. Due to the "tender transition" which freshmen and transfer student undergo,

Baker proclaims, "Knowing I'm one of 16 people to help with that transition and to continue to be a resource is extremely rewarding."

As a colleague to upperclassmen and a confidant to many underclassmen, Baker must exercise the utmost professionalism and humility each day on campus. Senior Jonny Styron will serve as Executive Treasurer of Student Congress alongside Amy for the second straight year, and says, "She maintains a professional attitude when she needs to have it. She is always ready and willing and engaged."

One of Amy's most influential choices in her tenure here at the college was her quest to obtain a position on congress. Though she was not elected onto congress as a freshman, she says her unyielding persistence was tremendously beneficial. She says the best decision she made was, "To keep on trying to get involved and to find another route to get on congress."

Styron believes this pursuit of excellence is one of Baker's greatest

attributes. Described in one word, he says she is, "Driven. She's motivated to always be doing something. She always has goals in her head."

Another trait of Baker's character which separates her from other leaders on campus is her ability to put, "Duties and responsibilities ahead of distractions," according to Styron. Furthermore, Baker would advise to future leaders of the college that, "It's easy to get distracted by the social winds on campus. Find what your best talents are and be relentless in that pursuit."

Following graduation, Baker plans to continue utilizing her talents by pursuing a career in government. In order to find reward through success, she says, "I need to know that I'm making a difference." Judging by her resume at Providence College, she is likely to achieve just that. ●

## Leadership Anxieties? You're Not Alone

by Jeanine B. Went

I recently accepted a position at Johnson and Wales as Director of New Student Orientation. The prospect of taking on a Director title, after being Assistant Director of the SAII Office here, was a frightening prospect. I know I have the capacity to lead. In fact, students who know me know that I preach, "Everyone has the capacity to lead, but some people simply choose not to." The "Director" title, none the less, was almost an ominous title—striking fear in me the minute I heard—"We want you to be director..." I thought, wait, that means I'm the one in charge, I'm ultimately the one responsible for my department's successes and failures; that means now the buck stops with me. In conversations with some student leaders here on campus, I realized that perhaps I am not alone in my anxiety—perhaps there are students right here at PC who want to lead, who have taken on executive board or chairperson roles, who are starting to have the same thoughts, fears, and anxieties that I am having right now.

In speaking to a rising sophomore about my fears of this ominous "Director" role, I was reminded of the time I was elected President of Opera Guild in college. (Some of you may be laughing as you hear this, but that was my first presidential title.) I took my role very seriously, but feared that taking over a club that was already on its last legs (we had only about three "active" members) was a terrifying feat. I mean, I am and always have been a perfectionist at heart. I don't let myself fail at anything I do, and I didn't want my first failure to occur during my second semester of my senior year in college in my one and only semester as a club president.

In the weeks before the term began, I worried about how much time and effort I would have to put forth in order to do the role justice. Would I be able to stay on top of my studies and still succeed as President? Would I be able to increase our membership base and save the club? I worried about how I might get more people (particularly underclassmen) to jump in and sign-up so that the organization wouldn't dissolve when I graduated. I worried about building up a treasury, as all we had ever done in the past was spend, spend, spend. My mind was wrought with fear.

As soon as I returned to school in January, I went to the Commons (basically my college's equivalent to Alumni Caf) and I sat down with a bunch of music students who I didn't know very well. "What do you know about Opera Guild?" I asked. "Why aren't you a member?" I received varying responses, but most disturbing

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TRANSFORMATIONS WEEKEND STORIES  
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#### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Don't just stand there, make it happen!  
-Lee Iacocca, former head of Chrysler Corporation

were the ones that said, "I didn't even know we had one," and sadly, that was the usual response. When I asked how I might get them involved in the group, a few said, "I've never even seen a live opera." "Oh, so, if I were to buy a bunch of tickets at a group rate of say \$10 each, would you be willing to go and try one out?" I heard various responses, jotted down names of those who said they would "try it out—once," and soon enough, I charged fourteen tickets, the minimum group rate number of tickets, on my credit card, and I prayed each night that enough people would buy a ticket so I didn't have to lose my own hard-earned money. (Note: I don't think you should do the credit card thing as it's very risky, but it was the only way I could get money fast with a last-minute idea!) One by one, thanks to my flitting about the Commons, informing people of my plight to educate people about opera, my batch of fourteen tickets were sold. I arranged for transportation for everyone through my moderator, Ms. V., and off to Montreal we went to catch an amazing live performance of "Madame Butterfly," sung in Italian with English and French super titles.

The group who went to the opera had such a great time that they came to our next meeting, due also in part to my incessant prodding. At that meeting the treasurer and I passed around a sign-up list for "Singing Valentines," and the response was amazing! Everyone wanted to be involved with it—either as a singer, a seller, or purchaser. People even pulled in a few "ringers" to sing with us in our quartets. Little by little my pushing, guiding, and risk taking began to pay off. So much so, that by the end of that semester, Ms. V. said that she thought I did more in one semester than she had seen anyone do for Opera Guild in all her years of advising. Let me tell you, Ms. V. was no spring chicken...she had worked at the college for years! The compliment made me feel extremely proud, and even though I didn't think it took an extraordinary amount of effort, I felt like I made a huge difference for a small club in my final semester of college.

So when I think about my past success as President of Opera Guild (note: the year and school shall remain nameless in order to protect my youthful appearance and reputation), I am reminded that I do have the capacity to lead—I can be successful—I just need to put my mind to it. With a little elbow grease, or maybe a lot, everything will come together for me in my new role. Perhaps I am ready to take on this new challenge! I can be a successful "Director" after all!

I hope that my musings may strike a chord in some of you and inspire you to forge ahead into your leadership role with strength and vigor. If you set your sights on success, if you take risks, if you put yourself and your reputation on the line, if you learn from past history, if you try to view things through the eyes of someone on the outside of your group, if you push through your fear and accept that having fear is a natural part of being human, and to top it off you truly believe that you have the capacity to lead, I assure you—you will. ●

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## Something's Cooking...

by Jeanine B. Went

Are you hungry for leadership? Do you want to be a better leader or develop new leadership skills, but you just don't think you have the time? Do you enjoy starting off your day with a good breakfast? Do you want to have credible leadership training to put on your resume? How about combining both breakfast and leadership training to get your semester on track? The SAIL Office is cooking up another tasty semester of Breakfast of Champions to help you to do just that.

The Breakfast of Champions program was established in the Spring of 2006 in order to meet the needs of PC student leaders and aspiring leaders; helping them to cultivate and hone their leadership skills. This semester, beginning on September 26, guest speakers will meet with students over breakfast for a workshop, lecture, or other initiative. Sessions will be held this semester through November 14, and breakfast will be provided by the SAIL Office. Raffle prizes are awarded each week. In addition, students who attend 3 sessions will receive a special gift, those who attend 7 sessions will earn a bronze leadership certificate, those who attend 14 sessions will earn a silver leadership certificate, and those who attend 21 or more sessions will earn a gold leadership certificate. All certificates will be awarded at the 12th Annual Student Recognition Ceremony this April. For participants who do not have the time to complete the program this year, the program will continue into next year and attendance at sessions will be cumulative.

This semester's Breakfast of Champions program will feature seminars and workshops on time management, delegation, diversity, leadership styles, teambuilding, icebreakers, and more.

How does one register for such an exciting program? Sign-up in the SAIL Office in Slavin room 104 by September 22. A \$5 deposit is required in order to secure your spot. The \$5 will be refunded at the last presentation you attend. ●

### WRITERS WANTED...

If you are interested in having your voice heard, look no further...



...write for the *PC Student Leadership Digest!* Contact Chris Charron at [ccharron@providence.edu](mailto:ccharron@providence.edu), or in the SAIL Office at x2211.

# Transformations

## Leadership Retreat Weekend

September 9 & 10, 2006  
 at Camp Becket  
 Becket, Massachusetts

applications available on the SAIL website:  
[www.providence.edu/Student+Life/Student+Activities/Student+Leadership](http://www.providence.edu/Student+Life/Student+Activities/Student+Leadership)

# LEADERSHIP RI WANTS YOU!

by Kathy Clarkin

Leadership Rhode Island (LRI) is a nationally recognized community leadership group committed to building and enhancing a community of leaders who can help to shape the future of Rhode Island. Over 1000 individuals from business, government, education, non-profits and more have completed this highly selective program involving leadership development programs and community experiences (accompanying a police officer on a late night shift, sitting down with government officials, joining an editorial news conference, etc.) and other projects.

LRI invites college juniors to apply for College Leadership Rhode Island (CLRI), one of only 3 programs in the country sponsored by similar state leadership organizations. Three PC juniors will be selected to participate in this prestigious program that meets once a month in the second semester. Current juniors who are RI residents or non RI residents with a strong interest in RI and a record of leadership experience are encouraged to apply. Additional details and applications will be available in the in the Student Activities-Involvement-Leadership Office, Slavin 104 and the Career Services Office, Slavin 111, beginning on or around September 30, 2006. ●

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THERE'S A PLACE FOR EVERYONE!  
 DISCOVER WHERE YOU FIT IN!

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

11AM-4PM

SLAVIN LAWN (64 HALL = RAIN LOCATION)

