

PC STUDENT LEADERSHIP DIGEST

Informing the leaders of today, inspiring the leaders of tomorrow



TOM KERRIGAN sits in St. Dominic Chapel, home of the Campus Ministry Center.

Student Leader of the Month: Tom Kerrigan

Moira Kelley '09

My job as a writer for the PC Digest is to give the college community an up-close look at some of its senior student leaders, and to give a special “thank you” to those students. I try to portray the leaders as best as I can each month, but I have to let each reader know that I cannot write enough kind words about Tom “TK” Kerrigan to accurately describe just what an amazing leader and person he is.

Kerrigan is a Psychology major, originally from Taunton, Massachusetts. He is currently involved in Campus Ministry as Coordinator of Community Life, and as a member of SALT (the Student and Leadership Team). TK has also served as a Resident Assistant in Fennell Hall for the past three years, and is a member of Dirigo - Providence College’s Leadership Honor Society.

Speaking with Tom, I found that he has a unique, team-oriented approach to leadership. “There’s no such thing as one leader; it’s a band of leaders. One person can achieve something, but a community of leaders can achieve something great and powerful,” said Kerrigan.

He feels as though the Providence College community is comprised of “talented” leaders, and as a group, we need to bring that talent back onto campus and also use it to give back to our local communities.

“There is such a need for help in our country,” Kerrigan pointed out. It is because of this realization that he has chosen to join the Jesuit Volunteer Corps after graduation. He hopes to relocate to the Midwest to do work with young children and adolescents. Eventually, TK hopes to become a high school guidance counselor.

To incoming freshman and any students who have not gotten involved in the PC community, Kerrigan says: “First, be yourself - then take risks that move you out of your comfort zone. Always look to grow.”

With new and refreshing ideas about leadership, combined with strong faith and determination, I am sure that Kerrigan will go far and make Providence College proud. ●

Beyond Mistakes: Facing Failure in Leadership and Learning from It

Kristina Reardon '08

Most student leaders can handle things when events and projects go as planned. They can take the congratulations, the pat on the back, and enjoy the personal satisfaction that comes along with knowing a job has been well done.

What most student leaders don’t know how to handle, however, is the disappointment of things not going as planned—and the possible implications that failure can entail.

But dealing with failure is all a matter of perspective—and may not always be a bad thing, according to Joseph Cammarano, Ph.D., assistant professor of political science.

“Depersonalizing success and failure is key to understanding how you learn from the tough stuff,” Cammarano said in a recent interview with the *Leadership Digest*. “A failure is not a reflection on you [as a leader].”

Essentially, Cammarano said, leaders are part of a system, and as such, they need to look at the system as a whole, and not focus so much on the smaller pieces—like individual events or projects, which may not always go as planned.

“Stop thinking about an event as your baby,” he said. “Think of it as a collaborative act, and think of it as a learning opportunity.”

The key to seeing failures as learning opportunities comes in the leader’s conception of his or her leadership role.

“Leadership is different now. Leadership is more of an activity, not a position,” said Cammarano.

Looking at leadership as an activity rather than a position requires that events not be perceived as “the

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Student Leaders “Accept the Challenge”

Leslie J. Heller

On Saturday, February 10th, 39 Providence College students attended the annual Student Leadership Conference, sponsored by PC’s own Lifelong Leadership (L3) Program. This year’s event, held throughout the late morning and afternoon, was themed “Accepting the Challenge.”

Students were given the opportunity to attend a variety of educational sessions presented by PC faculty, staff, students, and student affairs staff from other local colleges and universities. Session topics included empowerment, civic engagement, campus social epidemics, understanding your leadership style, active citizenship, professionalism, project management, homegrown programming, and “How to Change the World 101.”

A keynote speech was given by author and world champion Paralympic competitor, Paul Martin. Martin, who lost a portion of his left leg at the age of 25 in a drunk driving incident, discussed how he chose to “embrace” his obstacles and went on to medal in a number of cycling and triathlon events across the globe. After his speech, Martin spoke individually with attendees and sold copies of his memoir, titled *One Man’s Leg*.



Triathlete PAUL MARTIN shared his experiences and message of dedication, commitment, and passion with participants of this year’s Student Leadership Conference.

The SAIL Office would like to thank all those who presented and participated in this year’s conference. Returning students: keep your eyes peeled for info on next year’s event! ●

TAB

IN THIS EDITION

STUDENT LEADER OF THE MONTH
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE WRAP-UP
FACING FAILURE IN LEADERSHIP
DIRIGO INDUCTION
SPOTLIGHT: COLLEGES AGAINST CANCER

COMING IN THE NEXT EDITION

APRIL STUDENT LEADER OF THE MONTH
ORIENTATION LEADERS 2007
LEADERSHAPPE RHODE ISLAND

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.

-John Quincy Adams

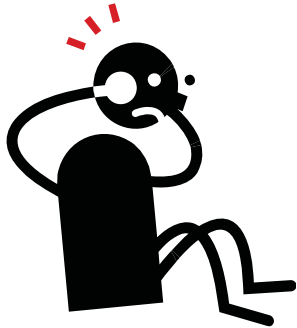
PC STUDENT LEADERSHIP DIGEST CONTRIBUTING WRITERS/EDITORS

Moira Kelley '09
Kristina Reardon '08
Leslie J. Heller '02, SAIL

"Mistakes" - continued from page 1

manifestations of leaders' energies," he said.

"That's the wrong way of looking at events. Events are relationships," Cammarano said.



What Cammarano views as vitally important is seeing events as a process—just as leadership is a process. "You've got to stop looking at the outcome and start looking at the relationships," he said.

An important step in reassessing the relative success and failure of events comes in using adaptive leadership—whereby leaders adapt to their environments and make needed changes between one event and the next.

And in order to bridge the gap between the immediate failed event and future successful ones, Cammarano also says that "leaders need to start thinking using a systems theory."

The idea of a systems theory is something the 2003 Accinno Faculty Teaching Award recipient stresses in his Public Service Practicum class (PSP 320), where students are challenged to use their leadership skills as site coordinators for various community service endeavors surrounding the Providence College community.

By looking at community as a whole instead of focusing on your role as a leader or on the immediate failed event, you can begin to view each event as a learning opportunity and a stepping stone to making the world a better place.

"An event is an opportunity to transform the world in a very specific way," Cammarano said. "It's not about fulfilling your own ego. It's about making the world a better place."

In the long run, however, it's important to realize that each leadership role on campus will have its ups and its downs. What's important is that students realize that like most things, leadership takes practice.

"With sports, music, biology, you never get it right the first time, the fifth time," said Cammarano. "In college, you're practicing." ●

Joseph Cammarano, Ph.D., assistant professor of political science and recipient of the first Accinno Faculty Teaching Award in 2003, recently held a workshop entitled "Do Strong Leaders Make for Weak Citizens? Rethinking Our Notion of Leadership" at PC's annual Student Leadership Conference, held on February 10, 2007.

This Just In...

Leslie J. Heller

From March 30 through April 1, 2007, Boston College will host the Monster Leadership Weekend - a leadership development program for college students from across the region.

150 diverse students will have the opportunity to attend this all-expenses paid event, led by professionals from top companies, including sponsors Monster, State Street, Fidelity, and TJX. Student participants will leave the program with "practical knowledge and tangible tools to succeed as a young leader" (www.bostonmlw.com).



The Boston MLW is open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors majoring in (or intending to major in) communications, business, or the liberal arts. All participants must have a GPA of 2.5 or higher. Finally, students must be

US Citizens, Permanent Residents, or carry F-1 Visa status.

Students interested in the Monster Leadership Weekend can learn more about how to apply at www.bostonmlw.com. Please note that the deadline for application materials is March 7, 2007! ●

Dirigo Welcomes Gamma Class

Leslie J. Heller

On Saturday, February 17th, 12 members of the Class of 2008 were inducted into Dirigo - Providence College's Leadership Honor Society - in front of family, friends, staff, administrators, and Dirigo members from the Class of 2007.

To begin the ceremony, a welcome was given by Fr. Brendan Murphy, Vice President of Student Services, who reminded the students that leadership

begins at home, and led the crowd in a round of applause for the parents and family of each of the new members. After a brief history of Dirigo and a description of the tapping ceremony, the members of the Gamma Class were welcomed into Dirigo by current members from the Class of 2007.

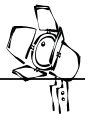
Congratulations to our newest members - the past, present, and future leaders of Providence College! ●



MEMBERS OF DIRIGO'S GAMMA CLASS include: (from left) Sarah Highland, Kristina Reardon, Bridget Hayes, Nicole Picard, Devin Driscoll, Ryan Donnelly, Jenna Pettinich, Yara Youssef, Katherine Connolly, and Elizabeth Rouleau. (Not pictured: Mandee Adams and Katrina Simpson.)

Spotlight on Leadership

Colleges Against Cancer



Leslie J. Heller

As a relatively new organization on campus, PC's chapter of Colleges Against Cancer - which began as a pilot program back in 2004 - has certainly made its mark both on campus and in the local community. As one of approximately 175 chapters of the organization nationwide (www.cancer.org), PC's group aims to educate the community about cancer and leading a healthy lifestyle, hosting a variety of awareness and fundraising events throughout the academic year.

contact jeberle@providence.edu for more information. Last year, the event raised \$104,000 for the American Cancer Society, and this year, the group's goal is \$125,000.

Other CAC events this spring include Slip Slap Slop - a skin cancer awareness "Things for Thursday" event - held March 1st, and a St. Patrick's Day party for outpatient children at Hasbro Children's Hospital downtown.

To get involved with Colleges Against Cancer, visit their office in lower Slavin.

The SAIL Office applauds the work CAC does, and wishes everyone participating in this year's Relay event the best of luck! ●

According to Michelle Dewar '08 (Co-President of PC's CAC chapter), the organization's signature campus event is Relay for Life, an 18-hour fundraiser to be held in Peterson this year from March 30-31st. Students interested in forming a team for the cause should

Student Leaders Wanted!

Leslie J. Heller

Still looking for something to do this summer? The National Student Leadership Conference is searching for 10 undergraduate college students to act as teaching assistants and leadership facilitators for 5 summer conferences for high school students.

project management, and networking. Those hired will also supervise groups of high school attendees and assist with set-up and clean-up of conference facilities.

Travel, room, and board will be covered for all facilitators, and a \$500 stipend will be provided for each completed session.

Participating undergraduates will assist with and lead sessions on topics including leadership styles and group dynamics, public speaking, peer mediation, team building, goal setting,

For more information, please contact Vanessa Verner, Northeast Regional Director of Programming, at vanessa.verner@gmail.com. ●

WANT AN UP-TO-DATE LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Join the "Lifelong Leadership @ PC" Facebook Group

www.facebook.com

Does your group have leadership news to share?

Let us know!

Email: lheller@providence.edu