

The GOLDen Word

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Geneseo
Organization for
Leadership
Development

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Editor:

Rachel DeRose

Lesson in Leadership- Learning When to Say “No”

By: Anne Sheehan

What characterizes a student leader? At SUNY Geneseo, it is often a student who is involved in several extra-curricular activities, maintains relatively good grades, and is in a few official positions of leadership on campus. Accordingly, these students have full schedules and very little free time.

Whether it is because their interests are too many, demands from organizations are too great, or they just have too many friends, they are spread too thin and constantly feel like they are lagging behind and not fulfilling their obligations.

These difficulties have certainly presented themselves in my life, as I have simply tried to do too

much. The fact that I am able to accomplish all that I set out to do does not necessarily mean that I am living my life the way that I should be. I have come to the conclusion that, as I once heard put so eloquently, “People are human beings, not human doings,” and every day should not be defined by how much I can accomplish. Having noticed that these habits seem to characterize Geneseo student leaders, I wanted to share this lesson that I have learned- life is about living, not getting things done. Granted, we are bound to be busy when we have a wide array of interests, and a desire to help people. However, we should be able to say no when we really do not have time for something. I have learned that everything



is not my responsibility; I can do my part, but I do not have to feel obligated to do everything that needs to get done. I have learned that a day should have a little bit of time that has not been scheduled, to allow for random conversations, emergencies, spontaneity, or surprises. So, instead of having every day scheduled down to the minute, I have

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Unlocking the Resources of the GOLD Office

By: Sau Ling Chau

Do you need a book on leadership? Perhaps you need help thinking of ice-breakers. Many students do not know the library resource in the GOLD Office. Organizations and individuals can use the resource in many ways. There are leadership philosophy books such as *On Becoming A Servant Leader* and training guiding books such as *Creative Training Techniques Handbook* that students can borrow for two weeks. Also, reference books about leadership can be photocopied in the College Union. Stop by and visit the library! For any questions or recommendations, stop by the GOLD office and talk to a mentor.

Learning When to Say “No” continued

learned when to say “no” in order to have a little free time, and I can honestly say that my life is now even more full of what is really important- relationships, both with God and the people in my life. In a few months, or even years from now I will not remember the Spanish homework that I did while my laundry was in, between two meetings, before going to the gym (always multitasking), but I will remember the conversation that I had with a good friend. Life is more than getting things done; I have learned to say “no,” and I hope that more leaders on this campus can learn to do the same.



I start with the premise that the function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers.

--Ralph Nader

Would you like to learn how to be better at being yourself?

If you answered yes, you should learn about the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator

By: Michaela Alissandrello

The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator is a test that helps you determine what your strengths and weaknesses are. When you know where your strengths and weaknesses are, you can maximize and downplay these respective areas; creating the best person you can become. The Myers-Briggs test classifies you into one of sixteen categories. This is possible because of your responses to several closed-ended questions. Once you know which group you are part of, you can further learn about its specific characteristics. From these descriptions you can learn: how you best fit in a group situation, how you are the most effective, how you make decisions, and many more interesting things about yourself. There will be another Meyers-Briggs Indicator workshop this spring semester; sign up for the next Meyers-Briggs workshop on the web (March 22, 2004)

“When you know where your strengths and weaknesses are, you can maximize and downplay these respective areas; creating the best person you can become.”

Understanding how people learn is an important tool. It is so valuable because understanding the three different learning styles, which are visual, auditory, and kinesthetic-tactile, will enable one to modify the presentation of information to accommodate for the different learning styles as well as also allow the person receiving the information to retain it longer.

There are some helpful strategies for each type of learner

The visual learner can write things down, focus attention on the person speaking, and rewrite important information. The auditory learner can recite important information aloud, tape record meetings, and verbalize the goals set. Finally, the kinesthetic-tactile learner can handle a koosh ball to keep the hand occupied, and jiggle their feet/legs to keep the lower extremities moving.

Learning and Leadership Styles

By: Dave Ariyibi

Business Leadership? Or Made for TV? *The Leadership Lessons Behind "The Apprentice"*

By: Tim Rockell

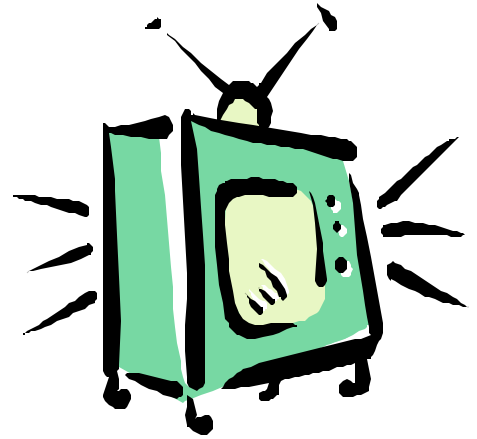
As we wrap up the third week of NBC's *The Apprentice*, most of the male viewers breathe a sigh of relief now that Sam has finally been fired. With that out of the way, the question that arises first in my mind is: In what business are you actually going to find teams made up solely on the basis of gender? As the women keep winning, the men keep getting fired. So far there is only one firing that I believe was a mistake, and one that did not come soon enough.

Week 1: After failing miserably at selling lemonade on the streets of New York, the team captain Troy, David the Non-Leader, and Sam the Weasel sat in the board room waiting to find out which of them would hear those life-changing words: You're fired. David was the first to go, and I agree with the decision. David was asked by Mr. Trump if the outcome would have been different had he been the Project manager. As soon as he said "No, Sales is not my strong point," I had my mind made up. Being a leader does not mean you are the strongest in everything. David could have cited any number of Leadership Qualities that could have changed the outcome: better delegation, more effective communication, or even better use of funds. Instead he tried to make excuses for himself.

Week 2: This time the men failed to provide a flashy enough marketing campaign for a private jet company. After delivering a well prepared but stuffy, conservative campaign, team Captain Jason, Nick the nice guy, and Sam the weasel were chosen for the board room. Jason, I believe, was the first victim of the NBC ratings people. Nick had done nothing wrong and had no reason to fear for his job. Jason, on the other hand, had turned down a crucial meeting with the company doing the "hiring" of the group for the marketing campaign. This was a huge mistake that ultimately cost him his job. Sam the weasel had one easy job to accomplish, but instead decided to lie down *on the floor* and take a nap. Sam was kept because Trump seemed to think he could do well. Obviously he wasn't paying enough attention to his own show. Sam exhibited very few leadership qualities aside from brown nosing and begging for his life. Jason was fired because the NBC Marketing Reps felt that Sam was a good person for viewers to hate.

Week 3: The day of retribution. The men decide this time to put Sam in charge of the group task to negotiate the price of a list of items to below the retail value. The men started out with a two person disadvantage, they tried valiantly, and failed. Sam the weasel was back in the board room, choosing Kwame the honest, and Bowie the true to accompany him. This was not a difficult decision for Trump to make. Almost unanimously the group stated that Sam exhibited few leadership qualities. Kwame and Bowie were chosen by Sam primarily because they were the two most outspoken and honest about his failings. This being Sam's third time in the board room, he tried to dodge the bullet by casting blame on the team for not giving him enough respect. In my opinion, they gave him more than he had earned.

Leadership Lessons: There will not be many times when people are put on the spot as they are on this show. The Leadership Lessons that have dominated the show so far have been: accomplish the task, earn the respect of your team, do not dismiss the suggestions of team members, and being a weasel will get you up a couple rungs of the corporate ladder, but it will not be long before you fall.



Involved and Need to get organized? By Sean Gavin

Wouldn't it be great if Geneseo offered students a way to showcase their involvement in clubs, teams, organizations, in a concise, neat, and organized manner? Good news - they already do! Many Geneseo students are utilizing the great resource of the Cocurricular Transcripts offered by the GOLD program. It allows students the ability to list their activities, honors, volunteer work, and leadership development in a resume format that is taken care of for you on the website.

How do you create one for yourself you're wondering? It's a very easy:

- 1) Go to the gold web page: <gold.geneseo.edu>,
 - 2) click on Create/Edit Your Cocurricular Transcript,
 - 3) complete the New User Registration, select a Cocurricular Password, and
 - 4) complete Add New Activity for each activity that you would like to include on the transcript.
- Students can add or modify their activities at any time once the resume is enacted. So, for all of you unorganized student leaders out there - what are you waiting for? Get on that computer and create a cocurricular transcript!*
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Upcoming workshops worth checking out!

Managing Your Time** (Bronze or Sapphire*)

Tuesday, February 10, 2004 12:45pm - 1:45pm

Location: Mac Vittie College Union Hunt Room

What In the World Is White Privilege?*** (Gold or Opal*)

Tuesday, February 10, 2004 12:45pm - 1:45pm

Location: Mac Vittie College Union Ballroom Lounge

Influential Leadership: Driving Lasting Change at All Levels of an Organization** (Gold)

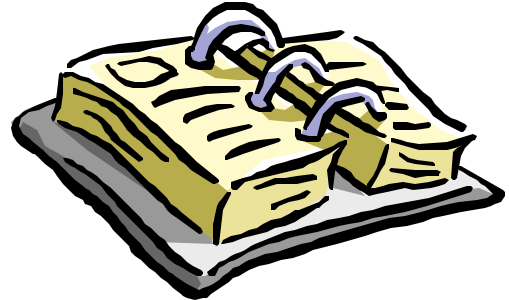
Tuesday, February 10, 2004 12:45pm - 1:45pm

Location: Mac Vittie College Union Room 322-323

Stress Management ** (Bronze)

Thursday, February 12, 2004 12:45pm - 1:45pm

Location: Mac Vittie College Union Hunt Room



*All Opal and Sapphire workshops must be completed in one academic year

**All workshops require a written journal to receive credit

Where to find us...

Gold Leadership Center
College Union Room 113

Phone: 585-245-5884
Email: gold@geneseo.edu

**"90% of life is just
showing up" - Woody Allen**

To register for workshops:
Visit us on the web at
[Http://gold.geneseo.edu](http://gold.geneseo.edu)

How it all began....

GOLD was founded in the 1980's by Director Tom Matthews for the training and development of student leaders. In the early 1990's, the leadership center was developed as a place where students could go and receive mentoring and have access to other leadership materials. In 2000, the 3 certificate program was created, and in 2001 the leadership center moved to its current location on the bottom floor of the College Union. Just recently (this past fall 2003) 2 more certificates were added to the program to spotlight cultural awareness and civic leadership.