10 New Year’s Resolutions for Servant Leadership

The year 2014 is well underway, but it is never too late to make good resolutions! I was doing a search on the topic of servant leadership attitudes when I ran across this interesting list of New Year’s Resolutions for the Servant Leader, written by Mark Miller. For our reflection, I have adapted the ten resolutions as follows:

1. **Think others first.** This is the genesis of servant leadership. If you slip into the quicksand of self, you will not lead for long. People want to follow a leader who has their best interest at heart. Servant leaders don’t think less of themselves, they just think of themselves less often.

2. **Be more courageous—daily.** Courage is the catalyst for leadership. Without courage, it is impossible to lead well. Don’t wait until the big opportunity. Courage, when absent on a daily basis, will ensure the big moment will never appear. Continue to pursue the courageous path.

3. **Own mistakes and share praise.** The best leaders don’t blame others. They have high levels of personal responsibility. You should be quick to give praise. This single resolution, if honored, will help you earn the respect of those you lead.

4. **Fight pessimism in your life.** Pessimism is cancer for a leader. It will destroy your influence. As Napoleon said, “a leader is a dealer in hope.” We must be able to see a preferred future and believe we can help create it. People don’t rally to be part of a future created by pessimists.

5. **Learn something every day.** Leaders are learners—period. If you stop learning, your leadership journey is over. It may be a while before it actually ends, but it’s like cutting down a living tree—the
tree will still have leaves on the branches for a while, but the tree is already dead—even if it doesn’t know it yet.

**6. Walk the talk.** The people we lead don’t expect perfection. What they expect, and deserve, is the integrity that comes with attempting, on a daily basis, to align our words and our actions. People always watch the leader.

**7. Value people and results.** The best leaders value results and relationships. Most of us have a natural bias towards one or the other. To get the results we desire, we must value both the people and their production. If you can get results without others, you’re not leading.

**8. Identify specific improvement targets.** When we focus time, energy and resources on our problems or opportunities, we make progress. This applies to your life, the team and the organization. Generalities don’t drive improvement—specifics do.

**9. Focus on individual team members—not just the team.** Each member of the team is unique. What motivates and inspires one is not always the same for the next. Managers strive to treat people the same—leaders treat people differently.

**10. Fight the gravitational pull of today.** The role of the leader is to create the future. You must invest enough time and mental energy to see it, marshal the resources to fund the journey and help chart the course to make it a reality. Be careful... without focused effort, today always pushes out tomorrow.

*Source: http://greatleadersserve.org/10-new-years-resolutions-servant-leader/*

**DEPARTMENT NEWS**

Leadership Department Christmas and Farewell Dinner!
On December 12, 2013, the Leadership Department took the time to celebrate the Christmas season as well as to bid farewell to our administrative assistant Maria Elizabeth Huaringa and two of our graduate assistants, Ruth and Alexander Voight. The evening was filled with cheer and celebration as the department fellowshipped and recognized the contributions of Maria, Ruth and Alex and welcomed our new administrative assistants, Evelyn Perez and Kezia Saint Louis. We hope you enjoy these moments that were captured on film as we celebrated the festive season.

**Brazil Program Graduates Second Cohort**

On January 19, 2014, after two years of intensive summer and winter sessions, the second cohort of the Brazil MA Leadership Program graduated 35 participants. The participants organized a local graduation ceremony on the campus of Brazil Adventist University, where family and friends were invited to join the celebration of their degree completion. “This program changed my life!” said graduate Caroline Lisboa.
Congratulations, Joseph Rakocy PhD!
Creative Portfolio Presentations

Before graduation, participants of the Brazil cohort were very excited with their portfolios, and some came up with very creative presentations as shown on the pictures below:

Paulo Rablello shares his portfolio

Cesar Reis presented a “marathon” metaphor
Cicero Rodrigues presented a “fishing” metaphor

Black belt Nadson Cassiano presented a “Judo” metaphor
LEADERSHIP PROGRAM NEWS

Congratulations, Joseph Rakocy PhD!
January 16th was an extra special day for Joe Rakocy as he finally got to defend his dissertation and present his portfolio. Though his defense had been scheduled for the week before, due to the excessive snow and cold his presentations were delayed. Can you imagine waiting 10 days—trying to keep your adrenalin up and your nerves calm? But Joe is a master at “calmness,” as was demonstrated with his dissertation defense in the morning and portfolio presentation in the afternoon.

Joe’s dissertation, “John Bruce, Jr.: A Sixty-Nine-Year Leadership Journey Through Change in the U.S. Army,” is the amazing story of how one person adapted to multiple changes over a very long career. Through interviews, Joe found that Bruce adapted to the many changes in the Army through his leadership, loyalty and learning. Joe connected Bruce’s experience to multiple theoretical perspectives: Maslow, Erikson, Herzberg, Kotter and Scharmer.

In the afternoon, Joe presented his portfolio. He used a “bridge” as his metaphor and showed how he crossed the bridge from spectator to leader. Throughout the day, Brad McNett accompanied Joe and was there for the final celebration.
Congratulations Jason Harrison, PhD!
Jason Harrison successfully presented his portfolio on December 9, 2013. It was truly a celebration as Jason, along with his family, friends, and church members (15 of them in all!), braved the weather to share the rhythms of his Leadership journey, drumming through the process. Special thanks to Dr. Freed and Dr. Dass for serving as second and third readers. We are reminded yet again that it really does take a village to complete this journey! Since Jason had already successfully defended his dissertation on October 10, 2013, we are proud to say, Congratulations, Dr. Jason Harrison!!!

Graduate Leadership Certificate Portfolio Defense
Denise Shaver successfully defended her portfolio for the graduate leadership certificate on December 17th 2013. Her review committee, Duane Covrig and Lynn Merklin, were highly impressed with the integration given to the three areas of her leadership focus, which centered on her work and readings in the higher education areas of assessment, diversity, and teaching in higher education.

"Denise Shaver’s pragmatic leadership in assessment and gifted conceptual ability of understanding learning in the higher educational context made her leadership integration a seamless process", noted Dr. Covrig, her advisor. “Her engagement as a scholar-practitioner was strongly evident in her work.”

Denise will be finishing the PhD in Curriculum & Instruction this year and this certificate was a natural addition to her study and work at Andrews University. We wish God’s continued guidance in her life and career.

Terry Zeitlow Presents at Stewardship Summit
Terry Zeitlow (PhD, 2012) presented at the Stewardship Summit in Portland, Oregon, January 7-9, 2014. His topic was “Pastoral Preaching and Teaching on Financially Related Topics: An Evangelical Perspective.” Terry also met with the keynote speaker, Dr. Scott Rodin, who presented at our Leadership Roundtable in 2013. In addition, Terry was able to connect with colleagues from the Wesleyan Church headquarters and is planning to run a similar study in their denomination, which will potentially expand his study.

Albert Reyes Appointed Distinguished Adjunct Professor

Albert L. Reyes, (PhD Leadership, AU 2010) has been appointed as Distinguished Adjunct Professor of Leadership in the Gary Cook Graduate School of Leadership at Dallas Baptist University. He will be teaching a doctoral course on Organizational Leadership in Washington DC in June of 2014. Reyes also received the Maestro Award for Community Service in 2012 by the Latino Leaders Magazine, a national publication. Albert is President and CEO of Buckner International in Dallas, Texas. Albert is also an adjunct professor of the Leadership Program at Andrews University.

HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM NEWS

Greece–Italy Study Tour 2014

The Higher Education Study Tour will interact with students and faculty of universities in Italy and Greece, including a visit to the University of Bologna, widely recognized as the oldest university in continuous operation in the world. The tour will take place June 15 to July 1, 2014. Tuition includes airfare, hotels, and local transportation. With 22 participants enrolled, the tour will include a 5-day cruise in the Greek Islands. For more information, please check the tour blog at http://studytournewsletter2.blogspot.com/p/blog-page_24.html
Recent Faculty Publications

We are proud to share some of the most recent publications of the LEAD faculty. Congratulations to Dr. Jay Brand for the following publications:


LEAD Newsletter Editorial Team

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