

THE REFLECTION

The Maroon & White Leadership Program's Newsletter



Creativity in Leadership

By Aimee Bourey

Fiberoptic lights on my family's holiday tree never cease to amaze me. Whoever designed the tree was clever enough to stretch fiberoptic cables from a rotating, colored light source to the ends of every branch. When turned on, the tree looks as if it is made of light.

One large takeaway from the October meeting's presentation on creativity was the idea not to build a bridge, but to find a way to cross the river. For the holiday tree, this is finding a way to light a tree. And, for students looking ahead, this can be for any number of the world's problems.

Lynsie Patschke and Sandra Fomete, members of The Maroon & White Leadership Society, were interviewed on their ideas regarding creativity. They were asked how they respond to people who are unsupportive of their creativity or ideas. Patschke uses this as an opportunity for reflection. She asks herself "if the current idea will work best to reach the goal or find the solution." Her approach shows the importance of self-evaluation in the face of challenges, especially in regards to creativity.

Fomete uses opposition to her creativity as a reassurance for its "lack of conventionality." She says, "one of the great things I learned from my reflections with my M&W Leadership Coach, Funlola Fagbohun, is that there is no right or wrong idea and that creativity can be expressed in any form depending on an individual's skills, values, talent and even beliefs."

While looking for ways to cross a river, or light a tree, it's important to keep in mind how we interact with the creativity of others. This interaction and partnership fuels innovation for a future made of light.

IN THIS ISSUE

CREATIVITY IN LEADERSHIP

SOCIETY SPOTLIGHT: TODD CHRISTIAN

LEP SPOTLIGHT: ASHLEY CARTER

RUN INTO THE FIRE

LEADERSHIP LITERATURE

Leaders Eat Last

By: Simon Sinek

Explore how to foster a trusting and cooperative team environment through a leader's sacrifices.

Emotional Intelligence, Why It Can Matter More Than IQ

By: Daniel Goleman.

Insight into our "two minds"—the rational and the emotional—and how they together shape our destiny.

Society Spotlight: Todd Christian

By Natalie Coleman

Todd was inducted into The Maroon & White Leadership Society in Spring 2017. During his time as Society Chair on the M&W Advisory board, Todd focused on “developing a stronger alumni base so that society members would be more inclined to give back to the organization.” He fondly remembers the monthly meetings, a time where he was introduced to the “collaborative, relational, and charismatic leadership styles” and frequently put in situations where he had to “think on his feet.”

Currently, Todd is completing a Co-op, where he is learning about the challenges and rewards of being a young leader in the workforce. He believes that a “vital step in being successful in a work environment is being able to properly understand and integrate into that culture.” As newcomers, Todd believes that young leaders have “a lot of new insight and perspective” to contribute, but must be able to “effectively communicate [those] ideas... across generational lines.”



LEP Spotlight: Ashley Carter

By Taylor Messinger

When Ashley began in The Maroon & White Leadership Program, she did not believe she “had the attributes of a leader.” It was from the support of her mentor and by pushing herself outside of her comfort zone that she has grown to understand her strengths and is “looking forward to opportunities to help others recognize their own potential.”

Some of Ashley’s most impactful experiences include joining the M&W Advisory Board, where she worked collaboratively with others to transition away from passive leadership, as well as StrengthsQuest which taught her to “recognize [how her] personal experiences and struggles could... help others.” Ashley’s coach played a large role in her journey, as she shared her confidence in Ashley’s abilities before she could see it herself. Her encouragement and positivity has been Ashley’s “inspiration and motivation... to continue in [her] pursuit of leadership.”



Upcoming Leadership Events

Houston

Own I.T. Movement
December 7, 4:00-7:00 PM
Stand for diversity in the workplace

Austin

Wake Up To Your Potential
December 10, 1:30-4:30 PM
Ground yourself in your power

Dallas

Dealing With Difficult People
December 14
Understanding and communicating
What It Takes To Lead Today
December 8, 12:00 - 1:00 PM
Webinar on generational differences

Run Into The Fire

By Taylor Messinger

Your internal fire is your passion, your power, and your purpose. JD Messinger told us in September to “run into the fire.” While leaders must have confidence, they must also have courage; one is thought and the other is action. While some people are followed due to fear, those with confidence and courage motivate and inspire others, which is the preferred method. He told us, contrary to a leader, managers maintain order. However, the best leaders marry their institutional power, such as their job or title, with their personal power, which is what you give yourself.

Creativity is who you are, not something you do, however it is something you can learn. In October a panel of innovative professors taught us creativity in leadership means taking chances and reflecting. Bob Borsch told us to jump off a cliff and develop our wings on the way down. While not all ideas are going to work, we must be willing to see the opportunity and accept the risks in order to be a bold and creative leader. Ideas, however, come from reflection and practice. The speakers all agreed that having a way to channel your ideas, such as keeping track of them in a notebook, is necessary to become better. You will begin to pay more attention and the creativity will flow.

Your image or brand as a leader is completely dependent on how you market yourself. In November a panel of social media experts taught us the importance of social media in leadership. If it is an organization you are marketing, everyone must agree on what it stands for and how to represent that. As an individual, one must also consider how their actions affect people's perception of them. A person's perception of you is key, because a leader is as strong as those they inspire to be a part of their movement.