Leaving Your Legacy
Aishah Scott
H-Quad Assistant

As a leader, one has many concerns. These concerns range from day to day running and development of the organization, to reaching long term goals. As you deal with the hustle and bustle of meeting deadlines and reaching goals, the question becomes: what happens when you are no longer there to lead this organization? Have you developed the other members of your executive team in such a way that the organization can continue on efficiently in your absence? Has the organization been structured in a manner that fosters leadership development in new members and continued development in seasoned members? These are the questions that leaders ask themselves when they contemplate the legacy that they will leave behind. The work that you currently do sustains the organization for the present, but the strength of the leadership foundation you set, is what will preserve it in the future.

Leadership is a word that can be interpreted in a myriad of ways. Some people define leadership in terms of authority, others classify it as an opportunity to provide a service. In reality leadership reflects a combination of these qualities. A leadership position is accompanied by considerable authority. When one acquires authority it is accompanied by an even greater amount of responsibility. Leaders have the opportunity to guide, develop and mold future leaders, and in essence, the future of your organization. In order to ensure that the order and efficiency that you bring to your organization stays long after you have moved on, you have to use the leadership authority afforded to you to develop your staff. One technique of using your leadership authority for developmental purposes is delegation. Delegating responsibilities is crucial for leadership development within the organization. By assigning responsibilities to others members of the executive team they can learn how to handle important tasks on their own, while they still have you for guidance. Giving away some of your leadership authority builds the leadership potential in your staff. As a bonus, when people gain ownership in their organization they tend to work harder to reach the organization’s goals because of their personal investment. Another technique along is the concept of reducing restrictions on your future leaders so that they can learn how to make tough decisions on their own.

A leader who cares about the development of the executive team for the future of the organization will enable others to act. James Kouzes and Barry Posner discuss this, in greater detail, in *The Leadership Challenge*. Enabling others to act creates a team of leaders so that when one moves on, the wheels of the organization continues. A good leader uses his/her authority responsibly, not only maintain the organization, but to create a strong leadership foundation to insure its future.

SAAB Chapter Offers Academic Support, Leadership, Professionalism, and Personal Development
Cheryl Chambers
Associate Dean for Multicultural Affairs

Students looking to sharpen their leadership skills, achieve academic excellence, develop professionalism, and contribute to their community should consider joining the Stony Brook University Chapter of the Student African American Brotherhood National Organization (SAAB).

SAAB is designed specifically to assist its participants to excel academically, socially, culturally, professionally, and in their community. The Stony Brook Chapter is primarily comprised of African American and Hispanic American male students who strive for academic excellence and make a commitment to plan and implement programs that benefit their
community at large. In his book African American Men in College, authors Michael J. Cuyjet and Associates indicate that students from these ethnic groups often experience unique challenges that can negatively affect their ability to succeed (2006). SAAB seeks to address this through academic enrichment, personal development, and empowerment.

How does SAAB work? This dynamic organization takes a holistic approach to student development, with emphasis on the following areas: academics, personal development, financial affairs, social/spiritual development, community service, membership, and public relations. SAAB offers experiences that underscore non-cognitive variables identified by William E. Sedlacek that affect the lives of African American males: self-concept, realistic self-appraisal, understanding and dealing with racism, community service, long-range goals, strong support person, leadership, and nontraditional knowledge (1999). In addition, SAAB’s three-pronged approach to mentoring involves peer-to-peer interactions, advisor-to-student interactions, and older student (collegiate) to younger student (high school) interactions.

Stony Brook’s 50-member SAAB Chapter is lead by an Executive Leadership Team of eleven students who maintain a strong commitment to academic achievement, brotherhood, and community service. The chapter offers a variety of programs that all students can participate in such as weekly study sessions, business meetings, educational events, career development workshops, personal development programs, and social/religious activities. Chapter activities for the 2008-2009 school year include programs about networking, the Presidential Elections, effective study techniques, how to prepare for final exams, financial literacy, mentoring, and current issues affecting African American and Hispanic American males in college.

“SAAB has been the catalyst to my personal growth. It has increased my potential in leadership and in life,” says SAAB Chapter President Edgar Suarez, a senior dual major in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering. Mr. Suarez, along with the Executive Leadership Team members encourage students to join “the SAAB movement.”

Established in June 2007, the Stony Brook SAAB Chapter is the first in the State University System, New York, and the U.S. Northeast. The Chapter will proudly host the first SAAB Northeast Regional Conference: “Embracing Excellence: Realizing Visions of Success” on March 20 – 21, 2009. Students interested in SAAB should contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Suite 222 Student Activities Center, 632-9968 or send email to Cheryl.Chambers@stonybrook.edu


A Portrait of a Leader: Jarvis Watson

Miriam Butler, Emerging Leaders Intern

“He ain’t heavy, He’s my brother”
– Roe Fulkerson

Starting in 2006, Jarvis Watson, alumni of Stony Brook University, joined the Ranks of the EOP/AIM staff as Academic Counselor for the Arts, Culture and Humanities students in EOP. At the beginning of the 2008-2009 academic year, Jarvis became the Assistant Director of the EOP/AIM program at Stony Brook Southampton.

In a recent interview, I sat down and talked with Jarvis about his views on what it takes to be a leader and what he thinks and hopes, up and coming leaders can learn from him.

To Jarvis, a leader embodies patience, vision, and sacrifice. A leader has the patience to understand that everything is a process. A leader recognizes that things do not happen overnight and anything worth attaining and achieving has to be worked on. A leader also has a vision. With this vision they are able to see the bigger picture and help others see this bigger picture. They are also able to help others see their own personal vision by helping them set goals, and showing them that these goals help them focus their lives. If a person goes through life without a goal, they will be going in circles. Leaders also realize that with their role comes sacrifice. They realize that the people they are leading work differently and they will have to expend different amounts of time and energy to work with them.

Jarvis feels that his role as an academic advisor puts him in a leadership position and that by being in this position, it will help his students see that anything worth having is worth working for. He feels that part of his role as a leader is to provide sound advice to all students. To make sure that he has the proper advice to give them he stays up to date with what is going on, not just in academia, but in the world in general. As a leader, Jarvis strives to show his students that they are important to him by working with them, knowing when they need help and assistance in things that are not solely academic, and accommodating them and their schedules. Jarvis hopes that students will emulate this because he thinks that it is good to lead by example.
Jarvis’ words of advice to up and coming leaders:

“Read everything. Read about the famous leaders of the past and their works – learn what made them effective leaders. Learn from others before you. Know that a leader has to be able to take shots, and take on others problems.”

**Dear Wolfie:**

**Leadership Advice from The Wolf himself**

Jasmine Colon, Residence Hall Director

**Dear Wolfie:**

I have been on Hall Council for one year and have tried everything to get to know the residents in my building and build community. I feel as if I have hit a plateau and am out of ideas. How can I further develop a sense of community within my residence hall?

Sincerely,

**Fresh out of Ideas**

Constant communication with students will help foster community within the residence halls. People need a sense of purpose and belonging; keep this in mind when planning programs. Getting residents involved in the planning process and allowing them to share ideas, will give them the opportunity to get involved. As an organization, you have to take the initiative and find out what the residents of your building want. They will take notice when their suggestions are taken into consideration.

Sponsoring events in which residents have the opportunity to get to know each other are usually very successful, and help further develop a sense of community. Programs such as Lyrical Endurance groups resident together. For more team builder and programming ideas, visit www.residentassistant.com. This site is especially designed to share programming and community building ideas. Remember, being creative and inclusive is key to creating community and getting students involved.

**Wolfie**

**Dear Wolfie:**

My Hall Council and I have planned very exciting and fun programs for our building, that residents have attended, loaded up on snacks, and then left before we even started the program. As an adviser to a student organization, whose members enjoy providing fun snacks for the residents, how can we keep them at our programs after they’ve had their share of food?

Sincerely,

**Feeding vs. Entertaining the Hungry**

This is a question that many advisers and student organizations have in regards to planning programs that do not center on food. It is important to stress the importance of being creative and organized in how you plan and advertise for programs. In regards to advertising, encourage your hall council to be creative and not design their advertisements in a way that puts the focus on the food.

When doing door knocks and talking to residents, encourage your members not to say “free food”; this sends the wrong message and people will come, eat and leave. You want to put the emphasis on the program.

You might also want to encourage your hall council to offer the food at the end of the program. They can keep people involved in the activity and offer snacks at the end. Prior planning and organization will be key in the success of any program; therefore food can be part of the planning process not the focus.

**Wolfie**

E-mail any questions you wish to submit to Dear Wolfie at leadershipnexus@notes.cc.sunysb.edu.
Zeeshan is a Junior at Stony Brook University majoring in Computer Engineering. Zeeshan has made many contributions to the Stony Brook community by becoming involved and taking on a variety of leadership opportunities. Zeeshan is the Vice President of IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers), as well as an EOP/AIM math tutor and is on the Dean’s List along with being an FSA Scholar and a NSF Scholar.

What clubs and organizations are you involved in?
I am currently Vice President of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE). I also tutor fellow students as an EOP/AIM math tutor. Along with those activities, I am a Media assistant with Student Media Services. During my freshman year I was a web editor for the Stony Brook Statesmen as well as a contributor to the paper.

Why did you get involved in these clubs and organizations?
I got involved in these organizations because I wanted to meet other people with the same interests as myself. I also wanted a way to serve my community. I wanted a chance to improve and further develop my leadership and interpersonal skills. I did not want my college career to be only about my studies. By getting involved in other activities such as IEEE, I was able to learn more about myself, learn how to lead more effectively, as well as how to manage, relate with, and work with other people. By getting involved in what Stony Brook had to offer, I was able to improve my performance in all of these areas.

How would you describe your basic leadership style? Give specific examples of how you practice this?
The situation I am in determines the style of leadership I use. I try to be communicative with those I am working with. I want to make sure everybody is on the same page. At a Leadershop I attended on leadership styles, I learned that I was also theoretical and systematic in my leading. I like everything to be done honestly and remain people oriented. Everyone should follow the rules, but the rules shouldn’t alienate anyone. Everybody should be able to get involved.

Who has had the greatest influence in your life as a leader?
The greatest influence in my life as a leader was my grandfather, who passed in 2004. After his passing, I became interested in philosophy; and through philosophy and self searching I discovered a purpose in life, to help others and the community. To help the community, you have to help the people in it. You start with the people closest to you and make sure they can get to where you are and then you spread out and help others.

What is the most important tip you can give to develop leadership skills?
Practice – you can read about all sorts of things, but it’s not any good to you if you don’t implement it. Think about giving back and get involved – find clubs and organizations to get involved with and meet others who are interested in the same things as you are. The more you get involved with leadership, the more effective a leader you will become.

What is the most frequent mistake you see made by leaders?
A mistake I see leaders make is one I used to make, which is having a huge ego and letting it get in the way. I wasn’t thinking about producing leaders, but making followers. I took all tasks upon myself. As a leader, one should think about developing other leaders by allowing them to take on responsibility.

The Emerging Leaders Magazine provides the campus community with information and resources on current leadership topics, and opportunities, as well as spotlighting student leaders and their achievements.

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If you are interested in submitting an article for The Emerging Leaders Magazine, e-mail the Leadership Nexus at leadershipnexus@notes.cc.sunysb.edu for more information.

For more information on leadership opportunities, visit the Leadership Nexus at http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/nexus/