Greetings from the editor’s desk by Cecilia B. Martinez Gomez

I typed the word leadership in Google and one of the first images that came out was the one above.

Honestly, I was expecting to see the picture of a popular world leader like Obama or Che Guevara. I could not see Gandhi’s picture or Pope Benedict’s face. Nothing. As I kept looking, I could only see images of unknown people in groups and symbols of pyramids and arrows.

That made me go to a dictionary and look up the definition of the word leader.

According to dictionary.com, a leader is “a guiding or directing head, as of an army, movement or political group.”

Then, why didn’t I get any picture like the ones I was expecting in Google?

I went back and typed the word leadership again. I looked at the image above closely and realized the relevance of it for this publication.

The word leadership stands out. It almost goes off the page. All the other letters are less visible and clear.

This image reminded me of all the leaders that are important but not famous. People who serve with out asking for rewards.

It reminded me of all the students who are leaders in their community, students organizations, classes and families.

A lot of us, developed leadership skills in our way to become better. Others, are born with a special something that makes them go above and beyond.

This issue is for all of those leaders who, like this word, stand out in their community.

Read a story about changing people’s lives and another of sharing culture as a way of creating fraternal understanding. Find out how a student became a leader in his community and another found leadership in little things of life at WSU.

Do you want to become a leader in your community? Check out the article by the Center for Student Leadership.

Enjoy this issue, you may see yourself in one of the articles.

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Changing people’s lives by Sonam Lalwani

How good would it be to make a difference in someone's life? Something little or big that someone will remember even in 10 years!

Making a change, an impact, a mark in someone’s life is a regular duty of a Community Assistant (C.A.). This job is fun and exciting and has wonderful life experiences.

A C.A. is a trained student leader within a college or university, who is given the responsibility of supervising students in a residence hall. Challenges are an every-day experience for C.As. There are a lot of different aspects in a C.A’s job. One of the most intense parts is duty days. Typically, C.As are assigned to “duty” periods in which they patrol the residence hall. The purpose of these assignments is to check if maintenance and facilities are in proper condition; institutional policies are being observed and to ensure that the residence hall is an environment supportive of educational and emotional pursuits for the students.

A C.A is also expected to be available to support students encountering issues such as roommate conflicts, depression, and alcohol or drug abuse on a day to day basis. It may sound scary, but a C.A. goes through intensive training periods where experts provide techniques to deal with those issues.

On the other side, which is the fun side, C.As are required to plan and facilitate events for the residents in order to enhance a living community within the residence halls. These programs range from community service projects, to movies, educational lectures where topics are explored (eg: racism and multiculturalism, relationships, mental health, etc.) or a skill is taught (eg: cooking, laundry, time-management, etc.).

Currently, there are 23 students/C.As serving other students in the three on-campus residence halls. I have been a C.A. for three years and have wonderful experiences daily. I make new friends and have a great support group. Being a C.A. helped me grow in many aspects of life, building my leadership as well as personal skills.

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As an international student, how did you … BECOME A LEADER AT WSU?

“This is how I became a leader at WSU……

I am Gazi Arif Mahmud. I am a Bangladeshi student. I have completed my Bachelor in Mechanical Engineering at Bangladesh University Engineering and Technology (BUET).

When I was at BUET I was President of the Student Club. When I came to Wichita State University, I found that there was an opportunity to be a leader as well as to represent my home country. In addition, I had experiences handling student's problems since I was the President of the Student Club. So I believed I was able to perform this job up to mark. Also, I am well known by BSA members as a good student. So, I joined Bangladesh student Association (BSA) and became its president .”

Gazi Arif Mahmud
President
Bangladesh Student Association (BSA)

WSU: A place where you can be a leader in every little thing by Robyn Duvall

I have always loved learning about new cultures. It was one of the big reasons why I chose to come to WSU.

This is my fourth year at Wichita State, and I have lived on campus for all four years.

I love living on campus because I am able to live around people from all over the world.

I have had many experiences that have enhanced my learning, and encourage me to travel the world in the future.

I have learned how to eat with chopsticks and two different ways to eat with my hands.

I can speak one or two words in more languages than I

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even knew existed before coming to the university.

Working as a conversation leader at the Intensive English center has taught me even more than that – about culture, traditions, and more.

I am confident that I will be able to travel later in life, because I will have contacts in so many different countries.

Wichita State has helped me so much, in so many different ways. I look forward to the time I leave Wichita State and use all the resources this university gave me to become a better person and a leader in every little thing I do.
Cultural Ambassador Program:

The world is no longer a matter of individual countries; it is now a matter of interaction. We have started sharing everything as a world, and this has been possible thanks to leadership, a value that needs to be encouraged to continue joining the world together.

As students, we need to take advantage of all the opportunities that WSU gives us to develop our skills. For instance, WSU Cultural Ambassador Program is one illustration of these opportunities.

When I started my service as a WSU Cultural Ambassador, I was confident that the program was going to be an excellent opportunity to improve my skills as a young student hoping to contribute to world’s change. And I was not wrong at all; I found out that showing my culture and my pride in it to the community of WSU and Wichita demanded not only my best communication skills, but also my best leadership skills.

I have been required to face the misconceptions that sometimes people express regarding my country, Colombia, when I am talking about it. Usually, it is difficult to change people’s conceptions or ideas of certain things, especially when they are enforced by the media; but this can be solved simply by doing things with motivation and passion, and persuading people that reality sometimes is not like the media shows it. That is how I behave every time somebody asks me about something that is not 100% true about my country; I just try to explain how things really are.

At Wichita State University, it is easy to get involved in the over 125 recognized student organizations. But if you cannot find an organization to suite your interest, it is just as easy to start your own.

First, you need four other students, five total, who want to be members and a full-time faculty or staff member to advise the organization.

The organization will then need to develop a constitution and bylaws that it will be governed by. Sample constitutions can be found on the Center for Student Leadership (CSL) Web site at www.wichita.edu/csl. Once a constitution is written, the organization should submit it to the CSL and arrange a meeting with the Director, Gina Lee-Olukoya, to discuss and approve the constitution.

At this point, a login and password will be assigned to the organization. This login allows an officer of the group to input information about the organization, and contact information. This information is required to be completed before the organization can be sent to the Stu...
Deadline to register: Tuesday, March 31st

Remember to read the rules before you register

Not participating? Go to Charles Koch Arena and enjoy watching your friends

Looking for a scholarship? Can you make a paper airplane? If so, we have the perfect activity for you! The Office of International Education is sponsoring a fun scholarship competition in Koch Arena. Teams made up of one American and one international student, will make paper airplanes and throw them at a specified target during the competition. The first and second teams to hit the target will win scholarships! We guarantee that this will be the funnest scholarship competition you will ever enter!

To register for this competition, go to http://www.wichita.edu/goingglobal

Saturday, April 4th
1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Charles Koch Arena
Basketball Court

Visit us at http://webs.wichita.edu/isu

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