Avid fans of both the Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots acknowledge with pride that these two professional sports teams have consistently been very successful in the past several years. Three recent Super Bowl Championships for the Patriots and World Series Championships in 2004 and 2007 for the Red Sox is proof of the success of these two teams. Naturally, these teams have many excellent professional athletes who are high achievers in their respective sports.

What are some of the other characteristics of these two organizations (in addition to having excellent athletes on the teams) that have contributed to their success? Are some of the ingredients or characteristics of these organizations the same characteristics that lead to success in any student organizations at WPI? Are there lessons student leaders can learn from some of the players or managers of these organizations?

There is no “I” in team.

Many of us have heard the expression, there is no “I” in the word team. When the Patriots won their first Super Bowl Championship against the St. Louis Rams it was interesting to see how the two teams ran onto the field before the game. The St. Louis Rams had each individual player on the starting team run out by themselves as their names were announced. There were many star players on their team. The New England Patriots refused to have individual players run onto the field. They insisted they would run out as a team. This decision was certainly symbolic and meant to convey a message of the importance of “team” and not individuals.

This year Tom Brady has broken Peyton Manning’s record for most touchdown passes thrown by a quarterback in one season. When he is often asked questions about the individual records he will most likely break, he always mentions that these individual records do not mean much to him. He always talks about the importance of the “team goal” which is to win the Super Bowl.

Tom Brady recognizes and often comments on the fact that he could not have success without his offensive line and pass receivers doing their jobs effectively. The line has to block effectively to provide the time for him to find his pass receivers. The pass receivers need to follow their pass routes with precision to do their jobs effectively for the team.

In the American League Championship Series, the Red Sox were losing three games to one in the best four games out of seven series. In those first four games there were only three players contributing most of the hits that produced runs for the team (Manny Ramirez, David Ortiz, and Mike Lowell). Some of the informal leaders on the team called a meeting for players only (no managers or coaches present). The few veteran players that were making most of the contributions discussed that they could not win the series without contributions from everyone on the team. The burden and work couldn’t just fall on the backs of three or four players. Everyone needed to contribute for the team to be successful. The meeting must have been effective because as the series continued many other players started to contribute. Hitting, pitching, and defense improved and the Red Sox went on to win the four game series with Cleveland. The World Series Championship soon followed. The important thing that happened is that many more players started to make valuable contributions. It took a complete team effort to win the World Series.

I believe student leaders must also recognize that their organizations will need effective teamwork to achieve their goals and reach their greatest potential. Presidents and officers of student organizations can not do all the work themselves. All members of the organization need to contribute their time, energy and skills to have a successful organization.

Role Clarification

An additional reason the New England Patriots and Boston Red Sox have experienced success is that members of each team know and understand their specific roles and then prepare themselves to accomplish their responsibilities. The Patriots special teams players (kick off teams, punters, field goal kickers, etc.) may only play in certain situations, but their contributions are essential for the team to win their games.

It’s important for members of an organization to know and understand the important role they play in their organization. There may be times when some members of an organization may not be available to assist the organization. Students at WPI may be working on a project in another country for a term, or a student might also become ill for a short period of time, yet the organization’s work still needs to get done.

When Richard Seymore and Rodney Harrison were unavailable to play for Patriots, and Curt Schilling and Kevin Youkilis were injured, other team members on the Patriots and Red Sox rosters needed to step up and contribute to the team. No one is irreplaceable in a healthy organization.

Successful organizations need to motivate and train new members to be ready to take on significant responsibility in the organization if the need arises.

Recognition of Members of Your Organization

If you’ve ever listened to an interview with Tom Brady of the Patriots, or Terry Francona, manager of the Boston Red Sox you will always hear them praising members of the team publicly. You will also never hear either of these leaders and managers criticize members of their teams publicly. This does not mean they may never speak to someone in the organization privately about the importance of improving individual performance. Student organization leaders need to remember the importance of praising and recognizing members of their organization. An important rule to follow is praise publicly and criticize privately.

When we watch the Red Sox or Patriots on TV, we are watching successful organizations. Hopefully, your student organization can also reach its greatest potential and experience success. Although there are many ingredients for organizational success, we certainly can learn from observing the Red Sox and New England Patriots.
NEW HEIGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR

By: Kristin Murphy,
Assistant Director of Residential Services

Your organization’s advisor can be one of your most valuable yet overlooked resources as a student leader. At the beginning, they helped you with training and learning the skills needed to be successful in your position. As the year passes and your group develops, you will most likely need your advisor to play a different role. A good rule of thumb is to take time between semesters to LOOK BACK and LOOK AHEAD.

LOOKING BACK
Taking some time with your group to discuss the relationship with your advisor is critical to a smooth relationship for the remainder of the year. When assessing progress, some questions that you may want to discuss are:

- In what areas has our advisor been successful?
- When has he/she been most helpful to our organization?
- What areas does our advisor need to improve in?
- What needs of our organization are not being met by our advisor?

LOOKING AHEAD
The answers to the above questions can help to frame this part of the conversation. As with any member of your organization, it is important to set goals with your advisor. Taking time to think about outcomes that both advisor and organizational members would like to see accomplished will pave the way for success.

When looking ahead, a key question to discuss with members and advisors is:

- What role(s) do we want our advisor to play in the upcoming semester?

Some roles that you may encourage your advisor to play are:

Devil’s Advocate – Take some time to talk to your advisor about their opinion of the group or individual progress throughout the first semester. Encourage honest and open communication in this area so that advisors can feel comfortable identifying areas for improvement. It is important as a leader to encourage feedback, and many times, it is difficult to get people to be honest. Your advisor is a great resource in this area.

Cheerleader – Your advisor can be a great asset when it comes to motivating your group. Being present for meetings and being positive is a given for advisors. However, celebrating successes can be a great way for your advisor to share enthusiasm. Allowing an advisor to focus on recognition can provide a service to the organization as it is a fantastic way to retain members.

Mentor- For all of their experiences (both as an advisor and as a human), your advisor can be a valuable asset to your personal growth. They can share their wisdom and help you to develop skills that you will need as you progress toward achieving your educational and personal goals.

Advocate – Your advisor is a valuable asset to your group as a link to other community members. Being an ambassador to other faculty/staff on campus can increase awareness of the mission of your organization. Additionally, it can help to boost attendance at your events as your advisor shares your event plans with other students and staff.

Regardless of the role or the outcomes of these conversations, it is important to remember that your advisor can help both you reach NEW HEIGHTS IN THE NEW YEAR.

CONSORTIUM LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Assumption College will host the annual Emerging Student Leadership Conference and embrace the theme of “Living the Dream.” This conference will include student leaders from several universities in the Consortium. Students can look forward to receiving useful tools that engage personal leadership development and attending several interactive sessions to assist in confronting organizational and individual challenges that you might experience as a student leader. Attending this conference could greatly benefit your club or organization and be a great social activity to experience both individually and as a group.

“Living the Dream”
Emerging Student Leadership Conference
Sunday, February 10, 2008
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Assumption College

Registration forms for this conference are available in the Student Activities Office and are due February 1st. There is a registration fee of $15 that includes transportation, continental breakfast and lunch. For more information, contact the Student Activities Office at 508-831-5291 or via e-mail at sao@wpi.edu.
**Leadership Corner**

**Leadership Lunch Series**

Leadership Lunches are one-hour programs held once a term that bring a featured speaker on campus to talk about their personal experiences and leadership. This is a time where we can bring the leader to you, so that they may share valuable insight on how you can use leadership in your daily life. This program is free and lunch is provided.

The C Term Leadership Lunch will feature Katie Daly from the Boston Scientific Corporation on Wednesday, February 13th at Noon in the Great Hall of Higgins House.

To register for these free events go to [http://wpi.edu/Regi/SAO](http://wpi.edu/Regi/SAO)

The next Leadership Lunch will be on Wednesday, February 13th featuring Katie Daly from the Boston Scientific Corporation

**“Snack” on Leadership Series**

Come snack on leadership with the Student Activities Office!! The SAO invites you to learn about various topics regarding leadership and involvement on a college campus. This series is for everyone spanning from advanced student leaders to students who just want to learn more about getting involved. Snacks will be provided!

The next Snack on Leadership program is:

- **2/6/07** Webinar: Organizational Management  
  Time: 3pm-4pm  
  Place: Chairmans Room, Campus Center

- **2/20/07** Career Services: Preparing for Your Future  
  Time: 3pm-4pm  
  Place: Hagglund Room, Campus Center

To register for this event go to [http://wpi.edu/Regi/SAO](http://wpi.edu/Regi/SAO) or sign up in the Student Activities Office.

**Focus Groups**

The Leadership Development Committee and the Student Activities Office are looking for students to serve on several focus groups to provide feedback, opinions and suggestions about the leadership programs that currently exist at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. The members of these groups will only meet once and have the option of which date they would like to attend.

To be a member of this focus group, there are no requirements of experience in leadership positions or attendance at past leadership programs. You would only be asked to share your thoughts, ideas and knowledge about how the Leadership Development Committee could better serve the WPI students. There are several opportunities to attend these focus group meetings and lunch will be provided. If you are interested in serving on a focus group, please e-mail Christine Girouard at cgirouard@wpi.edu or call the Office of Student Activities at 508-831-5291 to sign up for one of the following sessions below.

- **Wednesday, January 30th at Noon in the Peterson Room**
- **Tuesday, February 5th at Noon in the Peterson Room**
- **Thursday, February 6th at Noon in the Peterson Room**

Please remember to RSVP to Christine Girouard at cgirouard@wpi.edu

**Leader of the Term**

**Jared Drake ‘11**

Since the beginning of the year, Jared Drake has served several roles in the community service center. He has helped coordinate drivers for our community service van shuttle, and has served as a driver for the van after going through advanced driver training. Jared has participated in several community clean-ups and has been the on-site contact for various projects, including the Walk to Cure Cancer project. He collected gifts during the annual Spirit of Giving Tree Gift Drive and helped transport the gifts to Friendly House in Worcester. Besides the Community Service Center, Jared is very involved in the Pep Band here at WPI in which he plays the saxophone.
My involvement in the Student Government Association (SGA) during the past three years has been extremely rewarding. The experience has taught me the role of leadership in governance organizations. I want to share two lessons I have learned: (1) governance organization leaders need to actively strive to enhance the strength of the constituent organizations and (2) it is essential to create buy-in among members of the SGA when trying to implement change.

Governance organization leaders need to actively strive to enhance the strength of the constituent organizations in order to better the community. Part of SGA’s mission is to provide financial structure for WPI’s clubs and organizations. The SGA accomplishes this part of its mission by facilitating the budgeting process and by overseeing the special funding process. However, if members of the SGA take the time to continually teach our processes and procedures, the quality of programming on campus will increase. For example, this past year the Ballroom Dance Team had its first intercollegiate ballroom dance social. The event was very successful, attracting students from colleges all over New England and receiving local media coverage. SGA’s role in the project was helping the organization’s leaders stretch in a way they did not think possible: SGA educated the current leadership on the steps needed to be taken in order to secure funding for the event and gain the support of campus administrators. Now, the Ballroom Dance Team is in a position to add this event to their yearly programming and think about new ways to expand their organization.

It is essential to create buy-in among members of the SGA when trying to implement change. The SGA receives over 100 special funding requests each year from student organizations, faculty, and staff. As a result, SGA had difficulty effectively hearing all of the requests. Seeing the need for change, I proposed the creation of the Financial Board, which is composed of the SGA’s two financial committees. At first, my proposal to create the Financial Board met with opposition from many SGA senators and officers. I created a sub-committee of eight senators who reviewed my initial proposal and made many modifications. The result of the sub-committee’s efforts was a new proposal that included the ideas of many of the committee members, and the Financial Board passed the Senate without difficulty. There were two benefits of creating this sub-committee. First, the proposal was strengthened by addressing issues that I did not foresee initially. Second, buy-in was created when the ideas of the committee members were embedded in the proposal. Each of the sub-committee members now had ownership of a piece of the final proposal.

These are two of many lessons I have learned about leadership in governance organizations while I have been a member of the SGA. I encourage everyone to consider joining this organization; you will learn how to effectively work with students, faculty, and staff to facilitate change within the WPI community. Students, faculty, and staff encompass a broader subset of a group called people. My best learning experiences working with people have not been in the classroom, but in the SGA. You will learn to work with people at some point in your career, why not now? Email SGAPresident@wpi.edu for more information on joining the SGA.

### Test Your Knowledge

Have you read the entire XCel Newsletter? Fill out this quiz and answer the questions that cover everything from topics in this publication to recent pop culture knowledge and return it to the Office of Student Activities located on the 3rd floor of the Campus Center by February 29th! People who answer all the questions correctly or the most correctly, will be entered into a drawing for a prize!

1. What two things do successful organizations need to do to ensure new members are ready to take on significant responsibility in the organization if the need arises?
2. Who is the manager of the Boston Red Sox?
3. How many pounds of lipstick on average does a woman consume in her lifetime?
4. What are two of the three dates that Leadership focus groups will meet?
5. How many of the 50 states are named after an actual person?
6. Which corporation does the C Term Leadership Luncheon featured speaker work for?
7. The human brain weighs approximately how many pounds?
8. Which center on campus will work with students regarding resumes, interview techniques and job searching?
9. How many eyelids do camels have?
10. Which country was the first to use postcards?

### Looking Ahead...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/16</td>
<td>Completed Community Advisor applications due to the Student Activities Office by 5pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/22</td>
<td>Student Organization Meeting, Olin 107, 4pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/30</td>
<td>Leadership Focus Group Meeting, Noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/10</td>
<td>Consortium Leadership Conference, Assumption College, 10am-4pm</td>
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<td>2/13</td>
<td>Leadership Lunch, Higgins House, Noon</td>
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Questions? Contact the Student Activities Office for more information!

WPI 3rd Floor of the Campus Center
http://www.wpi.edu/+SAO  Phone: 508-831-5291  E-mail: ccainfo@wpi.edu