As I walked across the Quad late one afternoon in early August, I noticed how quiet the Quadrangle was. There were no students throwing a Frisbee across the Quad, no barbecues that involved students socializing, and no rock bands providing entertainment. The Quadrangle was too quiet. Although the green grass looked nice on the “Quad” that day, something was missing. That something was our students, the most important people on our campus, and the reason we are here.

I knew the quiet solitude I experienced walking across the Quad would soon change, particularly on Sunday, August 24th, move-in day for all first year students. When over 900 first year students arrived on campus on the morning of the first day of New Student Orientation, excitement filled the air! The Quadrangle suddenly came to life. Over three hundred students from our Greek Life program volunteered to help our new students unpack their family vehicles and move our new students’ belongings into their rooms in their Residence Hall.

The parent of one of our new students mentioned that she never saw her large SUV unpacked so quickly! She said she dreaded the thought of having to unpack her vehicle and unload so many boxes to her son’s room. She had great praise for the WPI students who assisted their family. The hundreds of students from our fraternities and sororities certainly provided a warm welcome and positive first impression of students involved in Greek Life on our campus.

Many student leaders and student organizations would make their presence felt during New Student Orientation. The Resident Assistants and Community Advisors brought enthusiasm, a friendly welcoming smile, valuable experience and knowledge to support and assist our new students. Most of the students in these organizations worked 16 hour days to help new students become acclimated to their new environment at WPI. Their work continues throughout the academic year.

Students in SocComm planned an exciting opening night welcome celebration party on the Quad. The students in Lens and Lights worked very hard each day from morning until very late at night making sure that the technical arrangements for sound and lighting were taken care of to ensure successful programs and activities. I have always heard great compliments from entertainers that perform at WPI, who praise the students in Lens and Lights for the excellent technical skills they bring to their work as sound and lighting technicians.

Empty Set, Kilroy and Guerilla Improv, WPI’s three student comedy groups allowed our students to sit back, laugh and enjoy stress reducing entertainment. SGA provided Super Fan shirts to help instill school spirit in our new students, and SAS introduced our new students to WPI’s history and many of our WPI traditions. The Game Development Club provided video game parties in all rooms on the top level of the Campus Center. Four student religious organizations, the Christian Bible Fellowship, Newman Club, Hillel, and Unitarian Universalist Campus Fellowship provided religious services for our new students during New Student Orientation.

On the final day of NSO, over 125 student organizations participated in the Student Activities Fair on the Quad. The solitude and quiet Quadrangle of that early August afternoon had disappeared, and I was glad to see our students bring life and excitement to our campus. We are fortunate to have so many excellent student organizations and opportunities for involvement at WPI. This is a great place to be. We’ve begun another exciting year at WPI and student organizations will be at the core of that excitement throughout the year.

The Campus Center and Student Activities Office are excited to assist and support you and the members of student organizations throughout the year to come!

Jim McLaughlin, Director of the Campus Center and Student Activities: Jim has overall responsibility for the Campus Center, student orientation programs and student activities at WPI.

Emily Perlow, Associate Director of Student Activities and Greek Life: Emily serves as the advisor for Greek Life on campus, coordinates Parent’s Weekend, assists with the New Student Orientation, coordinates Community Advisor training, is one of the resources to all student organizations, and supervises the community service program.

Christine Girouard, Assistant Director of Student Activities: Christine serves as the advisor to SocComm, and as one of the resources to all organizations, advises the Senior Board and Senior Week Committee, and serves as chairperson of the Leadership Development Committee, while coordinating all of the leadership programs sponsored by the department.

Jay Sparling, Graduate Assistant for Community Service and Student Government: Jay serves as advisor to Student Government and coordinates the Community Service Program. Jay also assists with supervision at some student activities, coordinates the Crimson and Gray Awards program and assists with other Campus Center and Student Activities programs.

Kim Wykes, Administrative Assistant for the Campus Center: Kim assists the Director of the Campus Center and Student Activities with accounts payable and financial management of the Campus Center budgets, serves as a receptionist for the Campus Center and Events Departments, reserves tables in the Campus Center lobby, and coordinates the Campus Center trips program.

Louise Campbell, Administrative Assistant for the Student Activities Office: Louise is well known for assisting student organizations with a variety of issues. Louise is a resource to all student organizations and provides answers to any questions related to all clubs and organizations financial matters. Louise is
TIME MANAGEMENT IS KEY TO SUCCESS

By: Jodi Briggs,
Associate Director of Alumni Relations

Through my various leadership experiences, as a student and a professional, I have found that time management can make or break a great leader! One of the most important components of effective time management is the ability to prioritize. When I was a Resident Assistant during my undergraduate experience, I attended a training session on Time Management and was given the following short story that I have looked back on many times through my career. I unfortunately do not know the author of this story, but the message is a great one:

“One day an expert in time management was speaking to a group of business students and, to drive home a point, used an illustration those students will never forget. As he stood in front of the group of high-powered overachievers he said, “Okay, time for a quiz.”

Then he pulled out a one-gallon, wide mouth Mason jar and set it on the table in front of him. Then he produced about a dozen fist-sized rocks and carefully placed them, one at a time, into the jar. When the jar was filled to the top and no more rocks would fit inside, he asked, “Is the jar full?” Everyone in the class said, “Yes.”

Then he said, “Really?” He reached under the table and pulled out a bucket of gravel. Then he dumped some gravel in and shook the jar causing pieces of gravel to work themselves down into the space between the big rocks. Then he asked the group once more, “Is the jar full?”

By this time the class was on to him. “Probably not,” one of them answered. “Good!” he replied. He reached under the table and brought out a bucket of sand. He started dumping the sand in the jar and it went into all of the spaces left between the rocks and the gravel. Once more he asked the question, “Is the jar full?”

“No!” the class shouted. Once again he said, “Good.” Then he grabbed a pitcher of water and began to pour it in until the jar was filled to the brim. Then he looked at the class and asked, “What was the point of this illustration?”

One eager beaver raised his hand and said, “The point is, no matter how full your schedule is, if you try really hard you can always fit some more things in it!” “No,” the speaker replied, “that is not the point. The truth this illustration teaches us is: If you don’t put the big rocks in first, you’ll never get them in at all.”

What are the ‘big rocks’ in you life? Your family…Your loved ones…Your education…Your dreams…A worthy cause…Teaching or mentoring others…Doing things that you love…Time for yourself…Your health…Your significant other.

Remember to put these BIG ROCKS in first or you’ll never get them in at all. If you sweat the little stuff (the gravel, the sand) then you’ll fill your life with little things you worry about that don’t really matter, and you’ll never have the real quality time you need to spend on the big, important stuff (the big rocks)! So tonight, or in the morning, when you are reflecting on this short story, ask yourself this question: What are the ‘big rocks’ in my life? Then put those in your jar first!”

SWOT ANALYSIS OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

By: Christine Girouard,
Assistant Director of Student Activities

All student organizations no matter the size or history have great successes and an equal amount of challenges if looked at honestly and unbiased. Every student organization is led by student leaders who work with their peers to better their organization and self on a daily basis. It is challenging to look at student organizations in an unbiased manner when students put a good portion of their time and energy into bringing change and success to their organization. One tool that may assist any organizational leader in assessing their organization is performing a SWOT Analysis. A term used in many business courses, SWOT stands for Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats and is an assessment tool that many corporations and businesses use, but can also be useful for student organizations.

Executing a SWOT Analysis is done best if the entire organization is involved to brainstorm. The analysis simply involves making four columns to represent the four elements of the analysis. In the strength column, write down all the achievements and strengths of your organization or the things that allow you to work well as a group. Perhaps it is communication or advertising or membership recruitment. For weaknesses, brainstorm the elements of the organization that everyone believes can be stronger or improved upon. These are the elements that you create goals from for your organization. Opportunities for each organization are the areas that there is great potential for, perhaps membership retention, more collaborative programming on campus or publicity. Finally, threats are the elements that could potentially harm your organization such as not being inclusive or delegating responsibility. It is important to be aware of threats in an organization as they can impede on reaching goals and ensuring success for any organization.

Providing an environment for dialogue and discussions with tools such as a SWOT Analysis, presents an opportunity for any organization to create effective and realistic goals after examining the entire organization. When done in a large group, it also provides the opportunity for general members to share their ideas, have ownership in the organization and provide an environment where personal purpose is created. This aids in ensuring the retention of members, the achievement of goals, and future success for your organizations.
The leadership programs at WPI continue to grow and change just as students do during their time on campus. Below are some highlights to the new and exciting leadership opportunities, some changes to older programs, and highlighted information for the term.

**Student Organization Meeting and Leadership Conference Combined**
Monday, September 22nd there will be a mandatory meeting for all club presidents and treasurers at 5pm. Over dinner, club leaders will be updated with important information regarding policy changes, resources and updates from the Student Activities Office. This meeting will be followed by a three hour leadership conference that is open to the entire campus community, including a Keynote presenter. For more information, contact the Student Activities Office at 508-831-5291 or register online at www.wpi.edu/Regi/SAO/.

**The Leading Edge Series: For the Emerging Leader!**
This seven part series is held during B-Term and is open to all students. By taking part in this program, students learn about leadership styles, group dynamics, role modeling, problem solving, diversity, time management and much more! Students who attend six of the seven workshops receive a leadership certificate of completion. Sessions are held every Thursday from 5:30-7:30pm. Register online today to secure your spot at http://www.wpi.edu/Admin/SAO/emerging.html.

**Leadership Lecture Series**
The Leadership Development Committee is proud to present a new addition to the leadership programs at WPI, a Leadership Lecture Series. The first lecture was a great success and took place on September 13th. Look for more information regarding the future lectures that will be brought to campus and the great leadership programs for you to attend!

**Snack on Leadership!**
Snack on leadership is a series of workshops held throughout the year to assist students and organizational leaders with specific issues, discuss various topics related to student organizations and provide resources too! The next Snack on Leadership will be:

Wednesday, September 17th
Topic: What is Leadership?
Time: 3-4pm
Location: Chairman's Room located in the Campus Center.

If you are interested in attending, register for these programs online at https://www.wpi.edu/Regi/SAO/

**Leadership Lunch**
The Leadership Lunch series provides the opportunities for leaders connected to and outside the Worcester and WPI Community to come to you. Once a term, a speaker will come to provide information about their leadership experiences and how it prepared them for where they are today! Lunch is provided.

**Attention Graduates of the Leading Edge Series!!**
Did you take part in the Advanced Leaders series? Do you want to take your leadership skills to the next level? For more information about an upcoming leadership honor society, contact wpileadershipi@wpi.edu.

**Leadership Lunch**
Thursday, September 25th
Noon-1pm
Featured Speaker: Robyn Kennedy
To attend, register online at www.wpi.edu/Regi/SAO

**Leaders of the Term**

**Dukens Rene 09’**
Dukens is not only a student at WPI, but a leader too! He will serve as the WPI Leadership Intern in the Student Activities Office this year and has been involved with the Leading Edge Series, SocComm, Crimson Key, NSBE, HCSA and is involved in his community.

**Matt Brennan 09’**
Matt serves as a leader to the WPI campus through his commitment and involvement in activities and organizations on campus such as LNL, Vox, Masque, IRC and the WPI Wireless Association in addition to his employment off campus.
THE LEADERSHIP EFFECT

By: Andrew Teixeira 09'

How I Found Myself as a Leader

As a freshman two years ago, I came into college with intent of receiving an education, having fun and doing anything but work! Prior to choosing WPI, I had attended a number of tours at various colleges all claiming that they had a club for everyone and if they don't have it you can create it. I did not understand why they were emphasizing these co-curricular activities so much--I thought for sure that I was not going to be the kid involved with everything. I was wrong.

Currently, I hold several leadership positions. I am Co-Editor-in-Chief of The Towers, our school's student newspaper, a Resident Advisor in Riley Hall and Director of Programming for RHC. In addition, I have been playing club soccer, am a Student Ambassador for Admissions and have taken part in both the Emerging and Advance Leaders Series through the Student Activities Office. Beneath all of this, I am still a student and will be graduating with a degree in Chemical Engineering in only three years.

In my experience, taking the extra initiative to be an active member of the WPI community—aka a 'Leader'—has opened the door to a great deal of opportunities of which I was personally unaware. When interviewing for a job, seldom do I find a person interested in knowing that I took Fluid Mechanics or Chemical Kinetics just like every other applicant. Instead, conversations are often stimulated with stories of pickles I've been put in as EIC, responsibilities I have balanced as an RA or general time management techniques I've used to balance it all.

Granted that the academic foundation laid by WPI has certainly given me a sound start, but remember this is just the foundation. The lessons I have learned by taking the initiative to be involved as a student Leader will continue to serve me well far longer than my tenure at WPI. Because of experiences like mine, I hope and strongly encourage each member of the WPI community to find themselves as a leader. It may not be with the newspaper or Residential Services. It may be with a sport, Greek organization, SGA, SocComm, Genius, a job, ISC, CSA or any of the countless other activities on and off campus. Either way, I wish you all the best of luck in the 2008-09 year as a student and a leader.

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 September 28th! People who answer all the questions correctly or the most correctly, will be entered into a drawing for a prize!

1. What percentage of jellyfish is water?
2. What season do children grow faster?
3. What is the date for the next snack on leadership?
4. Who is the leadership lunch speaker for A term?
5. Chewing what will prevent crying from peeling onions?
6. Termites eat through wood two times faster when listening to what kind of music?
7. What is a tool that you can use to create goals for any student organization?
8. Who is Jodi Briggs? What did she write?
9. Americans on average eat how many acres of pizza a day?
10. Who is the Associate Director of Greek Life and Student Activities at WPI?

LOOKING AHEAD...

9/19-21 Parents Weekend at WPI
9/22 President and Treasurers Meeting
9/22 Leadership Conference
9/23 Mark Ereli, Goats Head at 8pm
9/24 Snack on Leadership
9/25 Leadership Lunch
9/29 Advisors Reception
10/1 Officer Registration Forms and Anti Hazing Forms are due to the SAO Office
10/3-5 Homecoming