

## Sophomore Leadership Retreat

Two beautiful weekends and one enthusiastic sophomore class; the Sophomore Leadership Retreat this year was another incomparable experience for the record setting 177 IIT students. All had the opportunity to spend the weekend away, at the beginning of the fall semester, with their classmates to develop their leadership skills and bond as a class at Miracle Camp and Pretty Lake camp.

Teams, led by Leadership Academy Scholars, participated in various activities such as the Team Olympics, three separate sessions of team activities, such as high ropes, canoeing, sailing, paint balling and much more. Attendees had the opportunity to rate their preferences for activities based on their various interests and comfort levels. All the activities supported the ideas of leadership, teamwork, and the benefits that can result from them.

After such long busy days, students were able to spend their evenings swimming, canoeing, making s'mores, mini golfing, playing volleyball, jumping onto the blob, and getting to know one another.

Concluding the weekend was a leadership seminar led by Leadership Academy Program Director George Langlois. This life-mapping seminar allowed for the sophomores to think about their goals, personally and professionally, values, relationships, and future legacy. Each student walked away with a better understanding of themselves and a personal mission statement.

Sophomore Leadership Retreat was once again successful and has become one of the most valuable experiences for another class at IIT.



Life Sciences Building Rm. 136  
1305 S. Dearborn St.  
Chicago, IL 60616  
Tel: (312) 567-7972  
leadershipacademy@iit.edu  
<http://leadershipacademy.iit.edu>

Newsletter Contributors: Jenna Lennon-Dorn, Jeffrey Bednarz,  
Melissa Hoelting, Michael Purdy, and Marisa Haire.

## Fresh in the Ciity

A beautiful sunny day set the stage for the Leadership Academy's third annual Fresh in the Ciity program for new IIT students. On the morning of September 8, 2012, approximately 85 first year students along with over 40 volunteers gathered in Morton Park to take part in the city-wide scavenger hunt which has proven to be a hit amongst the Scarlet Hawks in recent years. Introduced in 2010, Fresh in the Ciity provides a unique experience to explore Chicago and simultaneously unite with fellow classmates. This year's event was no exception, and the great weather only accelerated the fun.

At around 10am, teams of freshman participants were formed and team challenges commenced. These challenges included a sack race, footprint relay, and puzzle-solving exercise to determine which teams went where throughout the city, and most importantly, which famous Chicago eatery they chose for lunch. Teams then dispersed from Morton Park at 11am to take the city by storm. The scavenger hunt had begun!

Scavenger hunt locations included Millennium Park, the downtown business district, Lincoln Park Zoo, Navy Pier, and many others. Student volunteers in the form of "Good Samaritans" or "Spies" were positioned along the course to either guide teams in the right direction or throw them purposefully off course, making the challenge a bit more difficult.

Teams began arriving back to main campus at around 5pm, just in time for an Italian feast provided by Sodexo. The large group of students ate, socialized, listened to music, and participated in field activities while the scores were compiled by the panel of judges. Academy leader Megan Wheeler announced the winners in emphatic fashion, presenting the top cash prize to the "Amazing Racers" team, led by scholar Zuly Gomez.

Once again, Fresh in the Ciity was a great success for both the Leadership Academy and all of the first year students involved. Students were worn out by the end of the day, but proud of their efforts toward such a rewarding experience. For those who had previously been unacquainted with the city of Chicago, a new zeal for exploration had been ignited, and the future leaders of the freshman class of 2016 managed to develop strong bonds and enjoy the experience together.



## Fresh in the Ciity Locations

- Lincoln Park Zoo
- Navy Pier
- Millennium Park
- Museum Campus
- The Loop
- The Magnificent Mile

## Alumni Luncheon

On September 22, the Leadership Academy hosted an Alumni Luncheon for both current and past scholars to coincide with IIT's homecoming. The event was a great success, and many alumni of the Academy attended. After some time to mingle, meet new people, and catch up with old friends, everyone sat down to enjoy a catered meal. During lunch, Dean Mitchell of the College of Psychology spoke about when the Academy began, and Al Self's dedication and commitment to its success. It was great to hear about the Academy's beginnings, and after lunch we were all presented with the opportunity to thank Mr. Self and his family personally for the incredible opportunity they've given to all of us. A film crew recorded both current scholars and alumni thanking the Self family for their generosity, and the video will be given to them. The event was definitely one of the highlights of the semester, and we look forward to more successful alumni get-togethers in the future!



## Leadership Academy Thanksgiving

Following the final Leadership Academy seminar for the fall semester, the current Leadership Academy and alumni were invited to come together for a Thanksgiving dinner.

Even though it began with no power, all who attended enjoyed sharing their own personal Thanksgiving traditions and recipes and catching up with one another while eating some very delicious food!



## Leadership Inclusion Seminar: A Burning Success

This past October 13<sup>th</sup> the Leadership Academy hosted its first leadership seminar. Due to the Public Relations Committees fiery advertising, there were a record number of participants who signed up to hear Jonamay Lambert speak. Lambert is the president of Jonamay Lambert and Associates, an organization that specializes in extinguishing diversity issues so teams can work more efficiently.

The seminar started at 10 am in the Tech Park Atrium and as student arrived you could feel the spark of enthusiasm. Lambert started with a quick introduction and wasted no time igniting the student's interests by opening with a video. The video, Shift Happens, is an intense Youtube video about the changing world. It makes people consider how the world will be different a year from now and where they will be in it. It was an eye opener for many of the students and their minds exploded with thoughts of their own lives.

Next, Lambert heated up the inclusion debate and had a group of students leave the room. She then instructed the remaining students to do whatever was necessary, besides major things like hitting them or setting the building on fire, to keep the other students from entering a group. The groups devised many plans for how to complete their task. Some removed all the chairs while others were a bit fiercer and flat out told students to leave. After a little while of failed attempts of students trying to join groups, we convened as a large group.

Lambert first asked the students who were part of the group how they felt. Some said they felt bad and it was burning them inside to not include their friends while others said they felt empowered. When the left out students were asked the same questions most of them said they were engulfed with sadness. They felt left out and really did not know what to do. They had been a member of the group just minutes before and now they were in an inferno of rejection.

The conclusion of that activity transitioned us to the next activity. We were asked to get with someone in our group who we did not know. Lambert instructed us that we had 1 minute to find as many similarities with our partner as we could. The room went ablaze with conversations. The groups that had the most similarities were asked to share them. Then the same activity was done only this time listing things that was different from your partner. Once again the room went a fire with conversation as partners discussed their lives. Once the smoke had cleaned between the partners, Lambert asked students which was easier. In general it seemed like listing differences was a bit easier for most people.

Just when everyone thought the day couldn't get any more exciting, the fire alarm went off. Initially everyone thought it was a false alarm but to our surprise as we left the building we actually did see a fire. Public safety officers came out of nowhere, some with fire extinguishers. We were ushered into the lobby of the tower as we all watched the fire department arrive and their trucks emptied.

Rumors started to spread like a wild fire. In the end it was told to us that the fire was caused by our lunch. We were heating our pizzas up and somehow they caught on fire. Luckily no one was hurt during the minor fire. We ended up moving to the lunch room of the tower and finishing our seminar.

Lambert ended the event by doing an activity where we had to choose between four different people who all had some type of issue with them. We first choose the one we wanted to be the most and collaborated as a group why we choose that one. Then we did the same thing but instead for the one we wanted least to be.

In the end the day was not a total disaster. Lambert did a great job thinking on her feet and improvising her presentation. Granted we probably did not cover all the material, we all left there feeling like we learned something. Plus, we eventually got pizza!



## Crafting Your Role as a Leader

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, the Leadership Academy had their second seminar in the IIT atrium. The seminar, crafting your role as a leader, was led by Jeff Sucec. Sucec, a very successful speaker, brought a lot of high energy and real life experiences to the seminar. It allowed scholars and guests to really be engaged in all the activities.

The seminar started by talking about the roles of a leader. A few of the scholars stated that leaders organize, inspire and set agendas. They are also charged with getting things done. Sucec added on by saying the role of a leader is to prompt increasing performance, maintain it, sustain it and move it on to an even higher level.

During our first group exercise we reflected on core values that we as individuals had and where we got them from. Our values were discussed in small groups followed by a whole group discussion. Sucec drove the importance of goals home when he told us that all organizations and leaders need goals to be successful.

The discussion was then changed and the different types of leaders were defined. First there is the Autocratic leader who makes decisions without discussion. Next there is the Participated leader who has managers and employees make decisions together. Then there is the Free-Rein leader who provides a timeline for his employees to follow and the Transformational leader who brings about change by inspiring others. Lastly, there is the level five leader who builds greatness through personal humility and professional will.

The second group activity had participants looking at what leadership style they would prefer to experience and why. Then we were asked what style we represented and whether it was effective or ineffective. This led into a strong discussion about which leadership style was the best. Seeing we had every type of leader represented in the room, multiple opinions were being tossed around and discussed.

The discussion shifted to communications and engagement. How does a leader fully engage everyone? It is a very tricky question to answer and even some of the most affective leaders in society are still not able to. Sucec described full engagement as “harnessing mental, emotional and physical energy in a way to maximize performance.” It was enforced that as leaders we should always strive to reach full engagement through communication.

Lastly, the 5 foundational premises of the Da Vinci Doctrine were looked at. In summary the Da Vinci principles instruct leaders to be both the expert and beginner and instruct people to exceed them. If a leader does his or her job right then the people who they are leading will eventually surpass them.

In the end the seminar was a huge success. Attendance was high and all who attended walked away with a better understand on how to be an effective leader. Sucec did a great job engaging his

audience and keeping everyone pumped till the very end. I know the skills gained during this seminar will help out our campus and whatever organizations the participants are a part of.

