



# Leadership Ledger

IIT Leadership Academy  
Newsletter

September 2013

UPCOMING EVENTS

## Sophomore Leadership Retreat

by Marisa Haire

Leadership Academy's annual Sophomore Leadership Retreat is something to which both students and scholars alike eagerly await. It's a weekend to put down your phone, iPad, and other gadgets and focus on getting to know your classmates and participating in exciting team challenges and activities.

Word must've gotten out especially well this year, because we hit an attendance record with more than 200 participants over the 2 weekends! Adventure Camp at Pretty Lake, Michigan was as welcoming as always.

As soon as everyone had arrived and dropped off their bags, we gathered in the large dining hall to split into teams, play some name games, and walk the line of the comfort circle. Students had the opportunity to choose between activities including canoeing and kayaking, low ropes course, high ropes course, paintballing, rock climbing, and a new scavenger-hunt style activity called "Techno Team Building," where the team could participate in challenges together over the course of their smartphone-led scavenger hunt.

Team Olympics the following morning were definitely a crowd-favorite, as teams raced to different stations to complete challenging team activities that tested their teamwork, patience, leadership, and trust. By lunchtime, any outsider looking in could have seen the leaps and bounds that the teams had taken together since just the night before. The day continued with two activities, dinner, and the choice of multiple post-dinner options including an outdoor movie or various sports.

Sunday began with the third activity selected by team members, which led into lunch. After lunch, students and scholars rotated between three seminars: life-mapping led by Jacqueline Roche, a scenario-based "what would you do?" discussion led by Professor Jack Snapper, and a session led by Sabrina Fresko. The seminars allowed for great discussion between students and helped everyone think deeper about how they can continue to be leaders in daily life. By the time the buses came, no one was ready to leave, but everyone felt more ready to take on the challenges that the start of a new school year always presents.



### Building and Maintaining High Performing Teams

This interactive workshop will engage participants in understanding the characteristics of High Performing Teams (HPTs) and how various personalities can impact the effectiveness of those teams. The session will cover the characteristics of HPTs, the four stages of their development, as well as techniques to facilitate the movement from one stage to the next. Participants will also be asked to complete personality assessments and be given feedback on their personality styles and how that style may influence their team participation.

# Fresh in the CIITy

by Joe Valio

This August, the Leadership Academy scholars hosted a Welcome Week activity set throughout the city of Chicago. This was made possible with help from the GoGame, a company that works to set up Scavenger Hunt style activities for groups to compete against one another in some silly manners. The day begins with random assignment into seventeen different teams. From there, teams raced around Chicago performing crazy acts like dancing behind strangers to simply posing for pictures all over the scenes of the city. Teams score based on how many activities they perform and how many questions they can have answered with the help of the city around them. In the end, the message of the day is to learn that the city is easy to navigate and the adventures one can have are abundant and priceless. Students were asked to leave their comfort zones behind for the day and step out of their shells, and into the warm embraces of their teammates and the city. The day ended with a catered dinner in Morton Park with plenty of socializing amongst teams and other members of the IIT community, before heading inside for the



presentation of the funniest pictures of the day and eventually, the announcement of the winning team. A special thanks once again to the GoGame and all the volunteers outside of the Leadership Academy. Look out for another Fresh experience next August, and fill time between now and then with Leadership Academy seminars throughout the school year.

## EVENT PICTURES

Visit IIT Leadership Academy's Facebook page or go to:

[gallery.thegogame.com/online/games/login](http://gallery.thegogame.com/online/games/login)

Username: IIT

Password: Chicago



# First Annual Scholar Retreat

by Precious Eboh

Amongst the leadership events available to the Leadership Academy scholars, a scholar retreat has never been one. For the first time, on September 14, 2013 the scholars had a retreat. It was an eventful day—a day that the scholars will be talking about for a while.

The day kicked off with breakfast at a private event space in downtown Chicago. In attendance were Dr. George Langlois (Director of the Leadership Academy) and Dr. John Anderson (President of IIT). Dr. Langlois reviewed the day's events and talked about the goals of the academy for the year.

Immediately following the review was the individual leadership development goal setting for the year.

During this period, the scholars had some introspection and penned down what their leadership, academic and personal goals were for the coming year. These written goals were discussed among

the group and various methods of achieving the set goals were given and received by the scholars. The group then split into the various committees to goal set for the year.

After taking care of the more serious business of the day, it was time for the scholars to have some fun. Next on the agenda was a one hour private tour of the Museum of Contemporary Arts (MCA) in Chicago. The private tour ended and dinner time was fast approaching. At The Chopping Block (Chicago's largest recreational cooking school), the scholars rounded up the evening with a hands on cooking class. It was an Italian night out. The delicacy was roasted red pepper and artichoke skewers with fresh mozzarella and herb vinaigrette, grilled vegetable antipasto platter, chicken marsala, herb risotto and panna cotta with fresh berries. Yum yum. The scholars had the pleasure of sharing their new found hobby with Dr. Anderson, who showed up for dinner. The President answered questions

from the scholars while he munched away at the appealing meal prepared by the scholars.

The scholars were delighted to have a day worth remembering. September 14 will linger awhile in the thoughts of the scholars as it created new bonds and strengthened old bonds. It was a day of goal setting and goal sharing which created a sense of accountability among the scholars. It was also the first cooking experience for some, as well as the highpoint for many of the scholars.

Many thanks and gratitude was expressed to Dr. Langlois – the Director of the Leadership Academy for planning such a worthwhile event and also to President John Anderson for being able to spend time with the Leadership Academy.

## Congratulations New Scholars!

Soonen Ahua  
Precious Eboh  
Ryan Kamphuis  
Katie Peters  
Yoni Pruzansky  
Mary Thomas  
Joe Valio



## Welcome Jacqueline!

by Melissa Hoelting

This year we welcome a new graduate assistant to the Leadership Academy!

Jacqueline Roche, B.S., is the graduate assistant for the Leadership Academy and a graduate student in The Illinois Institute of Technology's Rehabilitation & Mental Health Counseling Program, which is ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation according to US News & World Report, on a full ride U.S. Army ROTC scholarship. She obtained her Bachelors of Science, Double Major, in Psychology and Humanities from IIT. As an undergraduate, she was a Leadership Academy Scholar and served as a tutor and Professor Assistant for the KEDGE program, as well as a facilitator at the Sophomore Retreats and for the Jefferson Awards, Students In Action program. In her final semester as an undergraduate, in the spring of 2013, she was also invited to speak at TEDxIIT, sharing her story in a talk titled "How Education Saved My Life." She now has her sights set on working in Rehabilitation with special interest in the areas of Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and is moving toward obtaining her PhD in Clinical Psychology.

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