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 without 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.

Cecilia B. Martinez Gomez, Paraguay.
Communications (IMC)
cbmartinezgomez@wichita.edu
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 students 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.

Sonam Lalwani, India.
Chemestry/Business
smlalwani@wichita.edu

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 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.

Robyn Duvall, US
Music Education
rduvall@wichita.edu
How to create a recognized student organization

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 Student Government Association for final approval, which will take place at a regular Wednesday meeting.

If you have questions not answered here, feel free to contact the CSL by phone or e-mail, (316)978-3022 or Center.StudentLeadership@wichita.edu.

Cultural Ambassador Program: A way to become a leader

by Diego Diaz

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 people how things really are and persuade them that they need to see us as a whole and try to focus their efforts to continue improving our world.

That is why I think that the CAP program has definitely helped me a lot in improving my leadership skills every day; I have developed the ability of showing people how things really are and persuade them that they need to see us as a whole and try to focus their efforts to continue improving our world.

Diego Diaz, Colombia
MSc. Industrial Engineering
dfdiazpuentes@wichita.edu

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Be part of ISU: a cultural mosaic

Apply, be elected, make a difference in your community

Have you been thinking about making a difference in your world? Did you know that you don’t have to be a superstar or a super hero to accomplish that?

The International Student Union is looking for you! A self starter student who can manage to have fun, make friends and work to change the Wichita State community and make it a little more culturally aware.

Did you know that by default if you are an international student you are already an ISU member? Well, now you only need to go one step further and express your interest to become part of the executive committee.

Taymur Hallal, current Vice President of events says that “It is a fun experience during which you would have the ability to improve your communication and interpersonal skills.” Hallal also mentioned that he learned a lot by going through some moments of pressure in which his weaknesses were tested.

There are a wide variety of commitments that you are going to engage when becoming an executive member as well as a representative.

Events, volunteer activities and meetings are only some of them.

Dr. Alan D’Souza, ISU advisor, says that “Being an ISU officer is a position of power, and the power does not come from decision making, but in giving yourself to a cause…a universally humanitarian cause…”

There are a number of positions available for you to choose: vice president, treasurer, director of development, web manager, newsletter marketing officer and representative.

If you are interested, please contact Dr. Alan D’Souza by sending an e-mail to alan.dsouza@wichita.edu.

We hope to have you as part of our team!

Congratulations to the Nepalese Basket Ball Team-Wichita for finishing 1st runner up. The competition was held by the Nebraska Nepalese Society in Omaha, NB.