

FIRST YEAR STUDENT LEADERS REACH FOR THE STARS



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Center for Student
Leadership Development

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W. ALTON JONES was the site for the 2005 First Year Leadership Institute, which was held from September 2 – 4. The Institute has become a leadership tradition at URI for incoming first year students who want to get a head start on leadership and involvement at URI.

This year's theme was *Reach for the Stars*. During the Institute, students begin to develop leadership skills by participating in an outdoor adventure program and by engaging in self-discovery exercises. Students learn about communication, trust, interpersonal relationships and personal risk taking as they participate in a series of games and problem solving activities. Students also work together as they examine issues such as multiculturalism, inclusion, and civic and community participation through various interactive workshops facilitated by upper class peer leaders.

Co-coordinators Tom Hardiman and Rosie Mean led this year's team of peer leaders. "This year's Institute was amazing. Working with peer leaders and meeting so many first year students who are interested in leadership at URI made this a great experience for me," stated Hardiman. Mean added, "For me, the Leadership Institute was one of the best experiences of my college career. It opened my eyes to all of the opportunities URI has to offer and this year was no exception." The peer leaders for the Institute included Sulina Mohanty, Brian Maiorino, Allison Pirolli, Alonso Parker, Andrew Lonardo, Haley Pfeiffer, Alina Swonger, Max Bialick, John Lee, Christina Wiese, Marissa Salvo and Paul DiMartino. According to Allison Pirolli, "The Leadership Institute is a great networking opportunity where students can begin a plan of action, set goals and work with others. It's all about the journey."

I n s p i r e

First year student leaders were able to begin to set individual leadership goals and begin their journey by working with upper class student leaders, URI administration, faculty, staff and alumni.

The first year students were divided into small groups lead by two peer leaders. Each group created a constellation based on their goals and together as a group made a commitment to help each other achieve their goals.



The Institute's theme of ***Reaching for the Stars*** was reinforced through the alumni connection, which consisted of alumni of the Leadership Institute who came back to this year's Institute to have informal conversations with the first year students during the BBQ on Saturday evening. The first year students also participated in a Challenge Course during the Institute. Most of this year's Challenge Course facilitators were also alumni of the Leadership Institute.

Another highlight of this year's Institute was special guest speaker, Dr. Robert Carothers, President of the University of Rhode Island. In his conversation with the first year students, Dr. Carothers stated, "A number of students who have graduated from URI are in the community giving their service. These students are servant leaders. In order to be a good servant leader, you must become a good listener, gain an understanding of others and commit to making a difference."

This Year, The Center for Student Leadership Development awarded 14 scholarships for students to participate in the Institute. According to Christine Wilson, Assistant Director of the Memorial Union, "Everyone deserves a chance to become involved in our leadership program."

For the students who attended the Leadership Institute, words of inspiration, a spirit of teamwork and a commitment to self-discovery are valuable tools that they can use as they begin to reach for the stars at URI.



URI 101 MENTORS & PROJECTS

Student leadership at URI is based on the Social Change model. Our goals include providing curricular and co-curricular opportunities for students to learn effective and inclusive leadership skills that they can use in their future career and family lives and to improve their communities.



The Center for Student Leadership Development offers three leadership focused sections of URI 101:

Leadership for Activism and Social Change

For the Student who intends to lead efforts that challenge the status quo. Students spend time studying the roots of the need for activist activities, addressing an activist issue and helping an organization address that issue.

Understanding Leadership through Personal Development

For the student who wants to understand personal styles and develop skills such as relationship development, credibility building and organization.

This semester, Robert Vincent is teaching both the Leadership for Activism and Social Change and the Understanding Leadership through Personal Development URI 101 sections. Sulina Mohanty is Robert's student mentor for the Activism and Social Change section. Sulina is from East Greenwich, RI. She is a junior majoring in Political Science and Human Development and Family Studies with a minor in Leadership Studies. Christina Wiese and Andrew Lonardo are Robert's student mentors for the Understanding Leadership through Personal Development section. Christina is from Voorhees, NJ and is a junior majoring in Accounting and Economics with a minor in Leadership Studies. Andrew is from Cranston, RI and is a junior majoring in Business with a minor in Leadership Studies.

The students in both sections of Robert's URI 101 will be participating in the One Campaign as part of their community service projects. The One Campaign focuses on global leadership issues such as extreme poverty, education, corruption, AIDS, orphans, trade and most importantly, debt cancellation to third world countries. One of the goals of the One Campaign is to make global poverty history through letter campaigns, dialog and global summits.

Understanding Leadership through Outdoor Adventure

For the student who appreciates adventure, risk taking and nature. Students spend a lot of time at the new URI Ropes Course and climbing tower. This semester, Christine Wilson is the instructor for the Leadership through Outdoor Adventure section. Her student mentor is Megan Corrado. Megan is from Totowa, NJ. She is a junior majoring in Political Science and English with minors in Leadership Studies and International Relations.

The students in Christine's URI 101 section engage in conversations about environmental issues and concerns. As part of their community service project, they will be doing fall landscaping at the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association.

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STUDENT LEADERSHIP INTERNS FALL 2005

An internship is a developmental opportunity, both academic and experiential in nature. It can reinforce or support a major, add something different to a major, or be done for personal development. Students should be challenged and should be engaged in work that is meaningful to them and the organizations for which they work. Internships may be taken for 1 – 3 credits. Leadership minor students are required to take at least 2 credits. Each credit is equivalent to 40 hours of internship training and work.

Below is a list of our interns and placement sites for the Fall 2005 semester.

Kenny Correia	URI Memorial Union Student Program Office
Lauren Fisher	Camp Schodack
Tatiana Gallego	Center for Student Leadership Development – Student Organization Leadership Consultants (SOLC)
Thomas Hardiman	URI Student Assistant to the Ombud
Meeghan Harrington	URI Memorial Union Student Program Office
Allison Keves	URI Undergraduate Admissions Office
Kaitlin Lambert	URI Memorial Union Student Program Office
John Lauterio	URI Greek Affairs
Sara Livsey	URI Undergraduate Admissions Office
Sarah Lomasky	URI Women’s Center – Peer Advocate
Joseph Menassa	URI Memorial Union Student Program Office
Leigh Persico	URI Memorial Union Student Program Office
Haley Pfeiffer	URI Memorial Union Student Program Office
Hilcia Rodriguez	URI Women’s Center
Marissa Salvo	CVS Pharmacy
Rayna Santopietro	URI College of Environmental Life Science
Christina Wiese	URI University College Academic Enhancement