The Honors Journal of Alpha Beta Gamma

ΑΒΓ

Virtus Et Umbra

International Business Honor Society of Community, Junior, and Technical Colleges

Canada · United States · Mexico

Fall 2013

What can we expect at the 2014 Alpha Beta Gamma National Leadership Conference?

According to the Official Travel and Leisure guide for San Antonio, Texas: San Antonio is one of the top tourist destinations in the United States. San Antonio's roots date back to 1718. There are many historical sites in this city including the Alamo. The city is rife with museums such as the South Texas Heritage Center, The Briscoe Western Art Museum, the Witte Museum, the McKay Art Museum, the San Antonio Museum of Art, and the Southwest School of Art as well as the Artplace (where residents from around the world produce experimental works) and many others.

The San Antonio area is also home to the first Formula 1 United States Grand Prix, Six Flags Fiesta Texas, Sea World's Aquatica, The Culinary Institute of America, and many other attractions.

You can hit the Falls at Schlitterbahn (world's longest waterpark ride), visit Splashtown (just 3 minutes from downtown), zip line 1,400 feet above the Texas hill country at Canopy Challenge and Zip Lines at Natural Bridge Caverns, experience the world's largest bat colony at Bracken Bat Cave, or visit one of the few remaining adobe structures at Casa Navarro State Historical Site.

Foodies will be interested to know that San Antonio is known as the cradle of Tex-Mex but also offers authentic old-world German cuisine. That does not mean that you will not find any other type of cuisine—all are readily available in this city. Be sure to try Migas (translated as "crumbs") which is a breakfast dish sautéed with broken tortilla strips, scrambled eggs, onions, chilis and cheese. Puffy Tacos are said to have been invented in San Antonio. They consist of tortillas that have been briefly fried in hot oil until they puff and then topped with a variety of ingredients. Texas is also known for steak—so don't pass up a chance to try a Texas steak at one of the many restaurants.

The Drury Plaza Hotel is located on the famous San Antonio Riverwalk, which is, according to the travel guide "abundantly lined with lush native vegetation and cypress trees. . . sidewalk cafes, charming shops, lively clubs, world class hotels and cherished historic structures." River taxis are available for easy access to any destination on the Riverwalk.

Still not convinced???? The Alpha Beta Gamma National Leadership Conference is an exceptional venue for networking with Alpha Beta Gammans from all over the world, we offer outstanding student and faculty presentations, and provide you (and your chapter) with a chance to shine at the Annual Awards banquet.

As this year Easter Sunday is April 20, we will adjust the conference schedule for those who wish to return home on Saturday (Awards Banquet will be held Friday evening). All society business and presentations will be completed on Thursday and Friday. Saturday will be open for sponsored activities and events for those who wish to stay in Texas. Please make your reservations soon at www.abg.org and join us for this worthwhile conference.

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THE HONORS JOURNAL
of Alpha Beta Gamma

Editor
Gaye Andersen

Assistant Editor
Danielle Lovely

Chief Executive Officer
John D. Christesen

Send newsletters to:

Alpha Beta Gamma
The Honors Journal
75 Grasslands Road
Valhalla, NY 10595
or
E-mail to: ceo@abg.org
or gaye.andersen@abg.org

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Special Features This Edition

2014 Leadership Conference Award Criteria..... pgs 4-6

Resources for Success ..... pgs 7, 13, 21

Chapter Spotlight: Delta Chapter ..... pgs 8-9

Responsibilities of the National Student Officers..... pg 10

Articles by Alpha Beta Gammans .....pgs 11, 12, 16, 17-18

The family of Alpha Beta Gamma extends deepest condolences to Dr. John Christesen at the recent loss of his brother. Don's daughter, Professor Carolyn Christesen, Curriculum Chair of Accounting at Westchester Community College, is an adviser to the Delta Chapter.

The Don Christesen Essay competition has been established as a memorial.
See page 4 for details.

Letter from the Editor

It seems that this year has passed so quickly—and the holiday season is again upon us. This is a time for reflection, this is a time to give thanks for all of our blessings: our family, our friends, our country. How lucky we are to live in this place, in this time. On a recent trip to Alaska I was awed by the majesty and beauty of nature of the wilderness and I realized how beautiful life really is. Very often we get hung up on "have to's"—things that press in on us and increase stress levels making us forget that we need to stop (or at least slow down) and breathe in the beauty of our lives.

I suggest we make it a point to take some time to enjoy our surroundings, and enjoy those that positively impact our lives. With this in mind, do not forget to register for the 2014 Alpha Beta Gamma National Leadership Conference to be held in beautiful San Antonio, Texas next April. This is a time to reconnect with our ABG family, make new friends and expand our personal network. What better time to also get to appreciate the history of our Southwest—and San Antonio in particular.

I leave you with warmest wishes for the upcoming holiday season and hope that we will meet in Texas in April!

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2014

Each year at the annual Leadership Conference, Alpha Beta Gammans are selected for exceptional contributions. For more details and submission guidelines, please visit www.abg.org.

Chapter Awards

Submission of the annual report is required for a chapter to be eligible.

The Brooks College Golden Key Award - to the chapter that displays overall excellence and serves as a model chapter for others to emulate.

Excellence in Financial Management - to the chapter that displays excellence in fundraising and cash flow management. The ability to finance special projects and events is important in this category.

Excellence in Recruitment - to the chapter with excellence in recruiting by means of materials and marketing programs. Materials that can be shared with other chapters are most valuable.

Excellence in Campus Service - to the chapter that best serves the Host College.

The Professor Donald Bertram Community Service Award - to the chapter that displays innovation in service to the community.

Nominations

Nomination forms are available from www.abg.org.

Alpha Beta Gamma College President of the Year - Awarded to a college president who has demonstrated, over an extended period of time, inordinate support for the mission of Alpha Beta Gamma.

The Hausman Siegel Distinguished Chapter President Award - This award is presented to outstanding Chapter Presidents. The nominee should be an exemplary president whose tenure would serve as a model for all Alpha Beta Gamma officers to emulate.

The Professor Steve Graham Memorial Award - Awarded to a student who is nominated by a faculty adviser. Both must be in attendance at the Annual Leadership Meeting.

The Joseph Perry Creativity Award - Awarded to either an adviser or student who makes a significant editorial contribution to the Honors Journal.

The Prof. C. George Alvey Distinguished Fellowship - Awarded by the Scholarship Committee to the chapter adviser who emulates the significant contribution made to Alpha Beta Gamma by Adviser Emeritus, C. George Alvey of the Rho Chapter.

The Eva Bobrow Medallion of Excellence - Each chapter adviser may annually recommend one outstanding Alpha Beta Gamman who in serving as an officer of the chapter has contributed in an outstanding fashion and achieved excellent results for the chapter.

The Papps Award - Presented to an Alpha Beta Gamman who transferred to the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

The Cerrone Award - Awarded to a Chapter President who has done an outstanding job rejuvenating a chapter.

The Zagara Competitors Award - This award is named to recognize the significant contribution that Chapter Adviser Marc Zagara has made to Alpha Beta Gamma over many years and is presented to an athlete who is also an Alpha Beta Gamman.

The Ginny Fastje Best Student Presentation- Award will be determined by a vote of all students attending the Annual Conference.

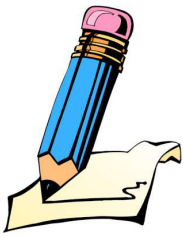
Continued from previous page

Harold E. Tepool Award - In memory of Violet E. Tepool, mother of adviser Harold Tepool, will be given to the chapter with the best promotional material from chapter activities.

The Pamela Donahue Award - To the Best Faculty Presenter at the Annual Meeting.

Excellence in Administration Award - Outstanding college administrators from colleges which have Alpha Beta Gamma Chapters can be nominated for the Excellence Award by Faculty or chapter officers.

Gaye Andersen Award of Excellence - Each year there is someone whose unique contribution does not fit into one of the society's existing awards. The Gaye Andersen Award of Excellence has been created to honor adviser Gaye Andersen whose unique contribution to the society over many years inspired all.



Essay Competitions

See www.abg.org for required submission form and more details. Check grammar and spelling on all essays to avoid disqualification.
Note: Students will be eligible for only ONE essay award each year.

NEW: THE DON CHRISTESEN MEMORIAL ESSAY COMPETITION
This award was established to honor the entrepreneurial talent of Don Christesen. This essay will consider the topic "Work for Yourself—Don't Have a Boss". Don Christesen, after earning his MBIA at the Stern school of Business NYU, left a promising position at General Foods to establish his own firm.

The Marc Napolitano Memorial Essay - Applications must submit an essay which ponders this theme: Aside from direct advertising, how is mass media (film, television, or the internet) used by corporatons and businesses to enhance their image and branding--ultimately their bottom line.

The Keith Ulich Memorial Essay - The essay should detail the concept of living life to Its fullest, outline the elements of this concept, explore factors which might affect its implementation and conclude with the benefits towards one's life that implementing such a practice would generate.

The Dr. Mary Bone Competitive Essay - Awarded to the writer of the best essay titled, "What Alpha Beta Gamma Means to Me".

The Francis Cunningham, Esq. Memorial Essay - Applicants must submit an essay on the subject "Ethics in Business".

The Peter J. Gleason Essay - Applicants must submit an essay on the subject Business and the Environment, Today and in Ten Years."

The Nathan Ancell Memorial Essay - Awarded annually to the student who writes the Best Business Plan for a new business.

The Steve Perri Memorial Essay - Awarded to the writer of an essay describing the Pros and Cons of Being an Entrepreneur.

The Ester Cross-Carter Memorial Essay - Essay on the topic "Helping Others" is required.

The Sophia Abeles Essay - Essay concentrating on the theme of "Learning".

The MBIA Competitive Essay - This essay centers on the theme of "The significance of municipal bonds in financing special projects in the USA". Students will discover

Continued from previous page

a significant project which benefits society funded through municipal bonds and discuss the contribution to society.

The David Pope Essay - An essay describing the contribution that emigrants made and continue to make to our democracy.

The David Bjorklund Memorial Essay - The theme of the essay is "Using Finance for Corporate Growth".

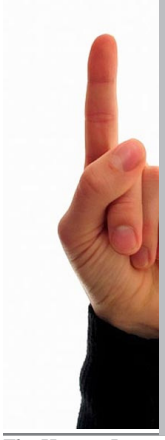
The Cornelia Blackwell Memorial Essay - Applicants must submit an essay entitled "The Importance of Teaching Business".

The John D. Christesen Essay - This competitive essay should describe the environment, pedagogy or other atypical conditions under which the writer experienced a most significant teaching event. Describe the process, technique or environment with which a truly exceptional teaching event occurred.

E-mail all essays and letters of nomination to
webmaster@abg.org
by March 1, 2014
Submission forms available from
www.abg.org

One minute TIPS

Freedom and opportunity exist only if they are used! And one of the ways we fuel our dreams and empower the future is by "borrowing" confidence from the past. Celebrate your past achievements and use them to know, deep inside, that you can boldly go wherever your wish in the future. Go climb some big mountains!



You become great by being exactly, and uniquely yourself. This is a call for more eccentrics, more individuals, more creative, unrepentant adventurers. Go where your heart and your instincts lead you. Follow your dream. Instead of following the "normal" highway, blaze a new path and leave a trail for others to follow.

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MAKING SUCCESS MUCH EASIER THAN FAILURE

As a personal success coach, one of the things that impresses me about my clients is that the steps to achieving their dreams are so simple! In fact, I believe this is a principle of life: the steps to achieve your most important goals are neither complicated nor difficult.

Most of us want things that other people also want. We want to earn more, or save more. We want more intimacy with our life partner or more time with our children. We want to acquire a new skill, or a second home in Hawaii, and the good news is that, if other people have done it, you can too!

For an otherwise healthy person, the steps to health and fitness are very simple. If you burn more calories than you consume, you will absolutely lose weight, every time. There is no mystery about this.

Do you want more money? If you spend less than you earn and save the difference, you will inevitably avoid debt and acquire wealth. If you save and invest, compound interest is a mathematical formula that works every time, and it will work for you, too! It never fails. There is no mystery to this.

So, why don't we do these simple, easy things that can transform our lives? Because the things that are so easy to do, are also easy to avoid or postpone.

We postpone saving until after we buy the new car. We prefer eating desert today and dieting tomorrow. It's easy to take loved ones for granted and skip the extra hugs or the gentle conversations that make a relationship so much richer. We get caught up in our daily chores and neglect the little things that, over time, make all the difference.

In my experience, relatively few divorces happen because of one terrible mistake or awful betrayal. Most of the time, it's the little slights, the little "weeds" that take over the garden and strangle the intimacy and passion that was once there. It's the little things that do us in.

The Spanish philosopher, Ortega, observed that "life is fired at us point-blank, and we must choose." Every day, we must choose our priorities and attend to the little things that make the big things possible. Every day, we must choose the future we truly want.

Highly effective people understand this and tend their gardens very carefully.

In that sense, success and achievement are much easier and simpler than failure! Failures are distracted by many things and end up frustrated, confused, and living from one crisis to the next. They buy toys, trinkets and gadgets, but end up broke. They work very hard, but rarely enjoy the fruits of their labor. Successful people know what they want, and are not distracted by the small things of life.

Every day, we must choose the future we truly want. Highly effective people understand this and tend their gardens very carefully.

They live with a calm focus and a daily plan.

If you want to have more and be more, focus on the small, daily actions. Simplify your life, eliminate the distractions, the confusions and the "hurry" of life. Reduce your dependence on "labor-saving" (and time-wasting!) electronic gadgets! Focus on the people and things that are most important, and day by day, do the things that will create the life you truly want. This is not a mystery! Success is easier than you think!

Success is built on a few fundamentals, but it requires that you do them well and that you do them daily. Success and achievement are based on simple, easy steps, but because they are easy, they are also easy to avoid. Do not neglect the essential daily actions that will make your dreams come true.

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CHAPTER Spotlight: Delta

Delta Feeds the Hungry

By Christian Parra

Have you ever stopped to consider the amount of food that is wasted during Thanksgiving and other holiday periods in the USA? Maybe you have not! But the members of the Delta Chapter of Alpha Beta Gamma DID NOT! However, it's a fact that hundredths of pounds of food are wasted each year during major festive periods throughout the year. With this thought in mind, the Delta chapter at Westchester Community College organized a food drive from October 21 to November 25, 2013. The purpose was to collect as many donations just before Thanksgiving. These donations will be hand delivered to the Food bank for Westchester, which will feed the hungry residents in and around Westchester County. The Food Bank of Westchester is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1988, which started with one man, a van, and a small room at the Sharing Community in Yonkers, NY. In 2012, it moved to a renovated and adequately equipped 36,688 sq. ft. facility in Elmsford, NY. With a much larger warehouse, the Food Bank was able to serve more hungry people in Westchester County. According to Feeding America, the National Food Bank Network, one in five of Americans are hungry. Feeding America conducted a Hunger study in 2012 and in the chart are the statistics for the Food Bank of Westchester.

The Delta Chapter had about 30 Alpha Beta Gammans at the Food bank of Westchester volunteering in person and working with Lynn Kaplan, the Volunteer Coordinator,who explained to them the importance of handling food correctly so that people don't run the risk of getting sick. Alpha Beta Gammans packed food bags for children who were below the poverty level. They packed around 50 bags under 30 minutes. You can imagine the number of hungry children that the Alpha Beta Gammans helped to feed that day! For the members that went, it was an epiphany, which fueled their motivation and desire to work harder to help feed the hungry. After paying a visit to the Food Bank where ABG members helped packed food supplies, they were encouraged to collect even more. They decided to challenge other clubs at the Westchester Community College campus to donate more food supplies. Some of those clubs are the Entrepreneurship, The European, The Global Business, and the Fashion Merchandising clubs. The competition was to reward the club that collected the most non-perishable food donations.

See photo spread on next page!

WE WANT YOUR NEWS!

Has your chapter done something that makes you proud? Share yours news with Alpha Beta Gammans and inspire other chapters to do amazing things!

CHAPTER Spotlight: Delta

Responsibilities of Alpha Beta Gamma National Officers

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2014

Serving as a National Officer is a great leadership opportunity. At the National Leadership coference, students will be elected to serve in the following roles on the executive committee in 2014.

PRESIDENT

1. Assemble national officers in virtual monthly meeting
   a. Meet with the national officer adviser a week prior to the meeting and provide a tentative agenda
   b. Email all chapter presidents and advisers points of action and interest resulting from the national officers' monthly meeting within two weeks of meeting
2. Work with other officers to determine official national community service project
   a. Clear the project with the national officer adviser
   b. Deadline of August 1
3. Attend National Leadership Conference in year following election
   a. Must provide $200 deposit by January 15th that will be returned after the conference if they attend and fulfill duties
   b. Deliver ten minute welcome and update
   c. Email national adviser the 10 minute speech 3 weeks prior to the conference
   d. Include results by chapter of the national community service project
   e. Attend all workshops and greet members
   f. Preside over new officer elections
   i. Prepare ballots
   g. Serve on the Scholarship Committee
4. Vote on special resolutions
5. Submit one article to the Honors' Journal. Topic must be submitted to the National Officer Adviser by October 1 and April 1. Article must be submitted by November 1 and May 1

VICE PRESIDENT

1. Support the president and promote national ABG activities.
2. Vote on special resolutions
3. Work with other officers to determine official national community service project: Deadline August 1
4. Submit one 250 – 500 word article to the Honors' Journal. Topic must be submitted to the National Officer Adviser by October 1 and April 1. Article must be submitted by November 1 and May 1
5. Assume responsibilities of president if the president is unable to serve
6. Attend the national leadership conference if the president is unable to attend

EXECUTIVE BOARD

1. Support the president and promote national ABG activities
2. Vote on special resolutions
3. Work with other officers to determine official national community service project: Deadline August 1
4. Submit one 250 – 500 word article to the Honors' Journal. Topic must be submitted to the National Officer Adviser by October 1 and April 1. Article must be submitted by November 1 and May 1
5. Assume responsibilities of president if the president is unable to serve
6. Attend the national leadership conference if the president and vice president is unable to attend

Failure to attend three (3) meetings will result in automatic termination of your title and position as a national officer. The officer must then remove this from his/her resume or curriculum vitae. The officer's name will also be removed from the Alpha Beta Gamma national Web site.

What Alpha Beta Gamma Has Done for Me

By Wayne Martin
National Student President

I came to Athens Technical College a little over three years ago. Shortly after I started my first semester I received an invitation from an organization known as Alpha Beta Gamma. I immediately turned in my application and started attending meetings not knowing what was to come. I would soon realize that I had not joined an organization, but had instead joined a family. I am proud to say that not only have I served as Executive Vice President and President of the Chi Zeta Chapter "family" of Alpha Beta Gamma, I have now been elected National President and with that I have been given the privilege of helping lead an even larger "family". What being in this family means to me is to honor/respect ourselves, respect others, and give back to the world.

I was scared to attend my first ABΓ meeting, but I soon realized that the members of the Chi Zeta Chapter were a close group of people. I felt so welcome, which was unusual for me since I grew up being "different" and was always teased and ridiculed. Before long I started voicing my opinions. Surprisingly I wasn't laughed at; instead, they ran with my ideas and suggestions. ABΓ has helped me realize that we all have opinions that can make a difference and should all respect ourselves not doubt ourselves.

Respect can take you far in life, but you don't always realize how far until you start to respect those around you. I use to snarl my noise up when I heard some people speak just because I didn't respect them. One day, I was talking to someone and realized how obtuse his views where on a certain topic. Though our views were not the same I gave him the time to finish, but when it came time for me to speak he wouldn't listen, showing no respect. This is when I realized that you may not always be respected, but at least you can show those around you that you know how to treat others.

Giving to people and helping others has always made me smile. I love putting smiles on people's faces. It brings such warmth to my soul. This year my chapter has had the privilege to work on many different community services projects, which is by far my favorite part of being in ABΓ. We are currently working with Soles 4 Souls which collects new shoes to give relief to the victims of abject suffering and collects used shoes to support micro-business efforts to eradicate poverty. Seeing how many people have come together to help such an amazing cause just reminds me when we come together as one we can all make huge changes in others life's even if we think we have done nothing. Working on several service projects has reminded me that we all can give big or small to make a big change.

Being part of ABG means many things to many different people. ABG has done many things for many different people. To me though it is my life right now and as a member of ABG I will respect myself and others and give back to the community whenever I have the opportunity.

Extracurricular Activities and Investing Time

By Julio Canseco,
National Student Vice President

The college life is a wonderful learning experience where we establish relationships and build the foundation for the rest of our lives. As college students, professors, and advisors, we know that what a person does with their time impacts them both academically and intellectually. If you ever find that your work is all done and you don't have anything to do, getting involved in your schools societies isn't a bad idea. Before joining any kind of society you must be committed, informed, ambitious, and ready to be part of something meaningful. Some societies are for recreation, others to recognize achievements and yet, others to build character and self-esteem. Unfortunately, many people are unaware of the availability and benefits derived from joining such organizations.

An honor society recognizes and encourages the continuity of academic success of students who meet the required criteria in a specified field. Most of them base their membership on a level of Grade Point Average or GPA. For example, the required The GPA to join Alpha Beta Gamma is 3.0 on standard GPA scale. Being part of an honors society is a learning experience, members are exposed to colleagues and faculty in their field of expertise who teach each other through communication and social activities. Honors societies also offer many chances at scholarships, leadership positions, make your resume look impressive, and prepare you for the corporate world.

Fraternities and sororities not associated with honor societies; however, they do show common characteristics. Fraternities and sororities promote bonds of brotherhoods or sisterhoods who live under the same household and share the same values. New member initiation usually involves some type of academic success and a ritual specified by each fraternity/sorority. Like honors societies, members will be exposed to social opportunities, community service, tradition, career networking, and becoming part of something meaningful for the rest of their lives. Involvement in any type of honors society, fraternity, or sorority is well respected and recognized in resumes. It might be just what you need to land that job.

As college students, we must take advantage of this time of growth and development to build our character and establish long-life relationships with people of similar interest. Joining an honor society, fraternity, or sorority is a learning experience that allows you to do just that. Remember, "What you do with you time now, can either make or break your future". If you excel and want to further invest in your future, get involved with school activities and societies; they will enhance your scholarly abilities and prepare you for the professional part of your career. Get involved in your future, make it bright and don't waste your time, college is over before you know it.

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"Live with intention. Walk to the edge. Listen hard. Practice wellness. Play with abandon. Laugh. Choose with no regret. Do what you love. Live as if this is all there is."

-- Mary Anne Roadacher-Hershey

How to Make Your Dreams Come True

Why do some people seem to reach their goals so often, moving from one success to another, while other people seem to stay stuck, frustrated in their quest for success? We know the difference is not talent or education, and it certainly isn't "luck", or desire, and it doesn't seem to be personality. What makes the difference?

Many people have said that the difference is having clear, written goals.

I think there are some other steps as well, but this one is essential. In working with highly successful people, one of the things that is always true (yes, EVERY time!) is that they make clear, conscious choices.

One of the great truths is that we can have almost anything we want, but it is also true that we cannot have EVERYTHING we want in life. Our lives are filled with more choices than ever before, and yet each day still has only 24 hours, and each week has only 7 days. Highly successful people understand this and choose their priorities very carefully. They know their most desired outcomes and they don't waste time.

Any success worthy of the name requires time, effort, skill, and persistance.

We live in a time of many distractions, and I believe the first and most essential requirement for success is choosing your priorities. Call them goals, or call them challenges or projects or whatever, but you must choose and you must concentrate, and you must sacrifice. There can be no success without first deciding what you want in life.

Secondly, take time to design a practical, workable plan. Yes, some goals seem to arrive "automatically," but far more often, success requires a well-designed plan. Use a calendar and a budget. Consider your resources, talents, interests and other competing projects, then devise a strategy. Success is not an accident! It is the result of careful plans, well executed.

Third, success always requires action and perseverance. Any success worthy of the name requires time, effort, skill, and persistence. There will be delays and surprises and frustrations. Of course there will--this is not a movie! Success requires that you work your plan, and stick with it over time.

Fourth, surround yourself with the tools you'll need to achieve your dream. From motivational posters, to expert advice, to the wisdom of good friends, success is not a "do it yourself" operation. Get help and support! Get good advice, and consider using a coach.

Finally, never, ever, give up. I've often written about the wisdom (and power!) of taking baby steps when you must. It's wonderful when success comes quickly or in big, dramatic victories, but that is rare. More often, success inches forward, and it's only over time that we look back, astonished by how far we've come.

This week, I was talking with a friend and mentioned our family investment account. We certainly don't consider ourselves to be "rich," but my friend was astonished when I explained that since August, 1984, we've made a deposit every single month. I no longer think that's very remarkable. It's just a habit, like paying the mortgage or washing the dishes, but for 29 years and three months, those regular checks have added up.

Your success may look a lot like that. From creating wealth or building a business, to raising happy kids or having a remarkable marriage, the steps are pretty clear. Set your priorities, develop a plan, get support, and then consistently work your plan, and never give up. Step by step, inch by inch, anything is possible. You can get there!

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More One minute TIPS

The foundation for great achievement is Extreme Self-Awareness. Be exactly who you truly are. Want what you want, and go for it! Ask for stuff. Try stuff. If you make mistakes, learn from them, pick yourself up and go again. Nothing magnificent was ever built on a foundation of doubt or "maybe." In 2014, make yourself a promise to be "Self-ish" and go for it!

As Christopher Marley noted, true success is living your own life in your own way. This week, take time to dream. Clarify the life you truly want, jot some notes, make some plans, and take action. From this day forward, move in the direction you truly want to go!

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We would like to share in your accomplishments!

Please submit any news you have of your personal achievements—Did you recently get married? Have a new baby? Graduate? Get a new job? Get a promotion on your current job? Let us know so we can share your good news! Send your "brags" to

gayeandersen@yahoo.com

for publication in the next edition.

Humor: Job Application Bloopers

-- "I am about to enrol on a Business and Finance Degree with the Open University. I feel that this qualification will prove detrimental to me for future success."

-- "I'm intrested to here more about that. I'm working today in a furniture factory as a drawer."

-- "Hobbies: enjoy cooking Chinese and Italians."

-- "2012 summer Voluntary work for taking care of the elderly and vegetable people."

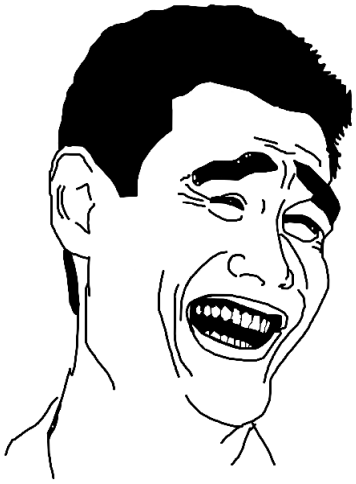
-- "Objective: Career on the Information Supper Highway."

-- "Experience: Stalking, shipping & receiving"

-- "I am great with the pubic."

-- "My duties included cleaning the restrooms and seating the customers."

-- "Revolved customer problems and inquiries."



-- "Consistently tanked as top sales producer for new accounts."

-- "Planned new corporate facility at $3 million over budget."

-- "Seeking a party-time position with potential for advancement."

-- "Received a plague for Salesperson of the Year."

-- "Reason for leaving last job: maturity leave."

-- "Am a perfectionist and rarely if if ever forget details."

-- "It's best for employers that I not work with people."

-- "I would like to work for a company that is very lax when it comes to tardiness."

-- "Spent several years in the United States Navel Reserve."

-- "I have a lifetime's worth of technical expertise (I wasn't born--my mother simply chose 'eject child' from the special menu.)"

-- "Reason for leaving: Terminated after saying, 'It would be a blessing to be fired.'"

The Non-Traditional Student

By Yvonne Ellis
National Student Executive Committee

Who is the student sitting next to you? What is their story? Why are they here and where have they been? Who is this new population that has emerged on the college scene today? We are the non-traditional students and we are here to stay.

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) states that the seven characteristics common to nontraditional students are:

- Does not immediately continue their education right after high school
- Only attends college part time
- Works at least 35 hours per week
- Financially independent (according to financial aid requirements)
- Has dependents other than spouse
- Is a single parent
- Does not a high school diploma

Some common reasons for the surge in education among this population include:

- A career change and advancement
- A desire to improve employability skills
- A life transition (such as divorce or death of spouse)
- Personal development

The decision to further our education requires a personal commitment and a large degree of discipline in order to juggle life and classwork. Every one of our situations is unique and regardless of our reasoning we are back in school.

My decision to return to school was not an easy one. Most of my fears and apprehension was centered on being able to fit in a college community because of my age. I knew that most of my professors will be half my age and my classmates would be even younger. But my desire to attend was greater than my desire to run. I needed to attend for many personal reasons. I wanted to teach my daughter the importance of getting your education by actions, not just words. I did not want her to be able to say, "you did not go to college, why should I." Now I tell her that I did not go to college right out of high school but I'm going now. If I had gone to college from high school, the chances of me making more money than I do now would have been a lot greater. Also, I needed to prove to myself that I can overcome my past. I made some unhealthy choices and have been paying for them ever since. I've proven to myself that I can excel in a collegiate society which has boosted my confidence over the moon.

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"The lure of the distant and the difficult is deceptive.
The great opportunity is where you are."
-- John Burroughs

"Our main business is not to see what lies dimly at a distance, but to do what lies clearly at hand."
-- Thomas Carlyle

"The young do not know enough to be prudent, and therefore they attempt the impossible, and achieve it, generation after generation."
-- Pearl S. Buck

Unionization and Labor Relations: The Fashion Industry

By Brittany Klovski
National Student Executive Committee

According to The Bureau of Labor Statistics, the total number of union members fell by 400,000 last year to 14.3 million and considering the nation's overall employment rose by 2.4 million (Greenhouse, Steven).

Unionization and transformation for the workplace safety have helped to secure safer workplaces in America (Brooks, Susan). Unionization is organized by a group of workers that come together and collaborate on decisions in an effort to make their working conditions better. In the 1930's, the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) was passed, giving unions a legal right to exist. At that time, unions grew to represent about 36% of the workforce by the 1950's. "Only to see their strength in the private sector has dropped to less than 8% recently" (Mathis, Robert L., and John H. Jackson).

Labor relations are the dealings between management and the workers regarding employee conditions (What is a Union?). The main concern regarding unionization and labor relations within the fashion industry are the general working conditions, compensation issues, poor management style, and/or unfair employee treatment. Also, including the common safety rules and regulations employees are faced with during their working hours. There have been many incidents like the Triangle Shirtwaist factory fire, which has literally forced workers to come together to influence these safety laws by the unions.

Human resource professionals need to have the basic of understanding of "laws, regulations, court decisions, and administrative rulings related to the nature of unions" (Mathis, Robert L., and John H. Jackson). Challenges will arise for employers if they choose to ignore the formation of unions. It is typical for management to oppose unions because of the empowerment they feel they have over them. Some managers choose to ignore the fact that at any point, employees could meet together to sign petitions and force a union election in the workplace. Unlike in the past, today mangers are more often to get in trouble if they choose to shut down and relocate (Gifford, Steve). On a lighter note, employees at Guitar Center's flagship store in Manhattan powerfully voted on Friday May 24, 2013 to organize a union of its 57 retail workers. It was said that the new bargaining unit would create better working conditions and an improvement of wages specifically at the 14th Street store. (Woodman, Spencer).

In recent news, The New York Times posted an article announcing "As American retailers face mounting pressure to join a landmark plan to improve factory safety in Bangladesh, newly found documents indicate that apparel had been produced for Wal-mart at one of the operations in the factory building that collapsed last month, killing more than 1,100 workers." This is an extremely unsafe challenge for companies to overcome if this problem continues or is unresolved. However, in Wal-mart's case if this issue does not get handled the entire nation's attention will soon be focused on their unethical habits. "Wal-mart denied any knowledge of the production orders there…" (Greenhouse, Steve). As far as labor relations, it would only seem logical that Wal-mart would consider taking extra precautions for operating the world's leading retailer (Schulz, David P.). April 2011, Adidas, the massive sportswear brand will be giving back to the 2,800 garment workers, who lost their jobs after a sudden close of an Indonesia factory. For a company as large as Adidas, we would like to believe Adidas is taking the initiative to make sure the production process overseas is handled appropriately. "There is enormous power when unions, workers and consumers unite, and it's time that global brands take responsibility and respect the human rights of the workers throughout the entirety of their supply chain" (Adidas to Pay "substantial" Compensation to Indonesian Factory Workers).

"The relationship between managers and their employees must be handled legally and

effectively" (Mathis, Robert L., and John H. Jackson). Some of the best management practices regarding unionization and labor relations demonstrate a strong relationship between human resource management and the employees. In the United States, management and unions are able to decide on the working conditions through "collective bargaining and designated in formal contracts." Some of the working conditions discussed will include the goals of raising compensation and improving current working conditions, and influencing workplace rules. One of the leading factors unions are formed is based on the type of management. It's crucial for management to be effective leaders, who manage all aspects of the business in a fair, respected manor. HR management must be considerate and approachable in regards to all of the employees. "Management has consistently developed practices to prevent workers from organizing employees." This tactic done by management helps prevent workers from organizing groups to engage in collective bargaining and other dealings with associated matters. Human resource professionals and operating managers need to be considerate when operating any type of business. For example, when hr professionals and managers take the time to communicate with each of their employees to make sure the level of job satisfaction is appropriate for each. Employees feel a since of encouragement and have consideration for the mangers and/or hr professionals because the managers are showing in interest in their employee's current and future job goals (Mathis, Robert L., and John H. Jackson).

On May 13, 2013, Stylesight announced that PVH Corp. will commit up to $2.5 million dollars to help join Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh. PVH Corp. owner of one the largest global apparel companies with a diversified portfolio. This is huge considering the company is the face of brands like Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Heritage Brands, Van Heusen, and more. It was said that H&M has also decided to join the Accord effort to help solve this struggling and devastating effort. The landmark was established only last year, in attempt to create in-factory training programs. In addition, acknowledgement of healthy and safety issues, including existing building regulations will be enforced. Workers will have the ability to develop a worker complaint. Regulations will be carefully advised by "The Safety Inspector, who will design and implement a fire safety inspection program based on internationally recognized workplace safety standards" (PVH Cor. Set to join Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh).

Unionization and labor relations are an important aspect of the industry that human resource management needs to pay close attention to. Employees who face problems within their current working conditions, compensation rates, management style, and the general treatment they're receiving form unions. The factors listed should be carefully advised by human resource management to ensure problems do not arise out of these areas. However, unions are not necessarily a negative attribute to the workplace. Unions help give employees a fair chance when human resource cannot provide the best for their employees-.

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Transferring - Which School is Right For You?

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THE PROS AND CONS OF WRITTEN GOALS

Over the years, I've written a great deal about setting and achieving goals. The consensus seems to be that high achievers "always" have a clear set of written goals, but I don't think that's true, and it may surprise you that I don't believe setting goals is always a good thing.

Make no mistake, in most cases setting goals IS a good thing. I have a variety of personal goals and I review them frequently, discuss them with my wife, my coach and my advisors, and re-affirm them every morning. In general, I believe most people will benefit from carefully defining a handful of important goals, writing them down, and going after them.

Here are the major advantages of written goals:

1. They force us to choose. Too often, we want too many things and scatter our time and attention among all of them. Selecting a small number of specific goals helps set your priorities.

2. They focus our efforts. By defining exactly what you are going to achieve and writing it down, vague desires or wishes become concrete action plans.

3. Goals attract allies. When people know where we are going, it's easier for them to help us. There is great synergy, power and enthusiasm in a shared goal.

Most people, most of the time, will benefit from carefully defining their goals, writing them down, developing an action plan, and following through.There are, however, risks to setting goals and for some people, setting goals can be a dangerous thing.

Here are the major weaknesses of written goals:

1. By focusing our attention on the future, goals can rob us of the present. Some people get so caught up in their vision, that they forget to "smell the roses" each day. John Lennon observed that "life is what happens while you are making other plans." Don't let your dreams get in the way of celebrating the present. Live each day and be grateful.

2. Goals can prevent us from seeing even bigger or more vital opportunities. Like blinders on a horse, we can become fixated on our goals and miss opportunities all around us. Some people are so determined, so ambitious and so disciplined that they forget to consider the alternatives.

3. Goals can become excuses. Some people set exciting goals, then use their future achievements as an excuse to avoid doing what they can and should do today. I've seen teenagers so caught up the dream of becoming a rock star that they forget to study. Some adults fall into a similar trap.

Have written goals, but never confuse your future achievements with real life!

Should you have written goals? Almost certainly. Have a "Summer Campaign" and a "30-Day Project." Have some specific, measurable objectives for 2013, and several 5- or 10-year "Minimum Outcomes." Of course you should have goals! They are the preview of life's coming attractions!

Carefully selected, well-defined goals are the path to achievement, fulfillment and satisfaction. But some areas of life should not be goal oriented. When it comes to personal integrity, or spending time with loved ones, or celebrating daily life, these are not goals, they are simply choices.

Have written goals, but never confuse your future achievements with real life! Real life happens today. It happens with the people around you, it happens right here, right now. Ready or not, this is your life, and it is meant to be lived to the full. Use goals; live life. Never confuse the two.

Philip Humbert
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~Welcome to 1904~

The year is 1904, one hundred and ten years ago. What a difference a century makes! Here are some of the US statistics for 1904:

- The average life expectancy in the US was 47 years.
- Only 14% of the homes in the US had a bathtub.
- Only 8% of homes had a telephone.
- A three-minute call from Denver to New York City cost $11.00
- There were only 8,000 cars in the US, and only 144 miles of paved roads.
- The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.
- Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, and Tennessee each had more people than California. With 1.4 million residents, California was only the 21st most populous state in the Union.
- The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.
- The average wage in the US was 22 cents an hour.
- More than 95 percent of all births in the US took place at home.
- Sugar cost four cents a pound. Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen. Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.
- Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

- The American flag had 45 stars. Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii, and Alaska hadn't been admitted to the Union yet.
- The population of Las Vegas, Nevada, was 30!
- Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented.
- There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.
- Only 6% of all Americans had completed high school.
- Eighteen percent of households in the US had at least one full-time servant or domestic.
- There were only about 230 reported murders in the entire US.

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