

Institute for Leadership Advancement

Creating a New Class of Leaders

By Christine Riordan

2001 has been a busy year in the Institute for Leadership Advancement! As a new organization, we are still hard at work building the infrastructures for each of our programs: the Leonard Undergraduate Leadership Scholars, the Undergraduate Advancement in Leadership Program, the Executive Leadership Program and the Leadership Research Consortium.

We are especially pleased with the progress made this year in our undergraduate programs. The first highlight was the selection of two new faculty directors. Allen Amason was named the director of the Undergraduate Advancement in Leadership Program. And Melenie Lankau was chosen to direct the Bebe and Earl Leonard Undergraduate Leadership Scholars Program.

We are equally pleased with our inaugural class of Leonard Leadership Scholars, who were picked last spring. The members of this select group of Terry College undergraduates have begun two years of highly individualized leadership assessment and development. Their progress is well under way, and we look forward to guiding that progress with the help of our two new directors. Here's a bit more about both undergraduate programs.

Undergraduate Advancement in Leadership

The Undergraduate Advancement in Leadership program offers opportunities for leadership development to any and all interested undergraduates at UGA. One service unique to this program is Look @ Leadership, a Web site where students can go for online leadership assessments, developmental short courses, a leadership reading list, a leadership curriculum guide, leadership news and information about this and other ILA programs.

Another special feature of the program is the Leadership Certificate, a joint effort between ILA and the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences. Eligible students from across the university will be able to earn an interdisciplinary certificate in personal and organizational leadership by taking 16 hours of core and elective academic courses.

These activities are in the developmental stages but will be up and running soon. An early version of the Web site, including the leadership reading list and other informational materials, should be online by late fall, with the interactive version becoming available next spring. We expect to have the certificate program in place in time to begin accepting applications in the spring of 2002. In all, the program represents an ambitious and exciting opportunity to bring leadership education to a much broader group of students at UGA.



AMASON



Leonard Leadership Scholars

This past May, 32 Terry College juniors were invited to become members of the inaugural class of Leonard Undergraduate Leadership Scholars. About 200 students applied for admission into the program.

The focus of the program's first year is to increase the scholars' self-awareness and knowledge of personal leadership. These efforts began in August, when the students participated in a ropes course to foster teamwork, communication and cohesiveness. They are enrolled this fall in a specialized course in leadership and individual development. In this course, student scholars are participating in assessments of personality, leadership behaviors, values and emotional intelligence. With the assistance of 20 faculty mentors, Leonard Scholars will each create a personal leadership action plan to guide the development of their key leadership competencies.

Another aspect of this program is exposure to the real-world experiences and wisdom of business leaders through an executive speaker series. All of these initiatives have ensured a fun and busy fall, but when the year turns, our inaugural class of Leonard scholars will have completed only one semester of an exceptional two-year program. ■

— Christine M. Riordan is director of the Institute for Leadership Advancement.

Through a competitive application process, 32 juniors were picked for the first class of Leonard Leadership Scholars.



LANKAU