On email signatures everywhere, you can find the Gandhi quote “You must be the change you wish to see in the world.” Whether or not you appreciate a good motivational quote, Gandhi’s assessment was spot-on when it comes to leadership and your immediate community. First of all, leadership is not just found in titled positions, but rather can be seen in your everyday choices. Secondly, your immediate community may consist of your residence house floor, your housemates, the entire campus, the city of Columbus, or the global community; it is up to you! Whatever you define as your community, your charge as a leader is to create the positive change you desire.

The idea of social change leadership, the topic of this month’s e-Leader newsletter, is that you think about the three main tenets – creating change, collaboration, and civic leadership – and how well you both understand and practice these ideas. Don’t worry if that last sentence was a little intimidating; the idea is very “big picture,” and hopefully this month’s content can serve as a diving board for you to jump in to the idea of social change.

**Quote of the Month:**
“The most significant change in a person’s life is a change of attitude. Right attitudes produce right actions.”
– William J. Johnston.

Dr. Amy Barnes
Assistant Director, Undergraduate Admissions and First Year Experience

**The Monthly Muse solicits leadership advice, anecdotes, and inspiration from key university administrators.**

A student once told me, “In high school I had a fractured understanding of the world in which I lived. Activities, rather than community, defined my experience.” I believe this sentiment is shared by many students when they arrive at Ohio State. While students were likely involved in leadership and service in high school, they did not necessarily view their involvement as impactful to the greater community. As you continue your journey at OSU, how can you develop a greater sense of community and purpose? Today’s world is complicated. There are thousands of problems facing our communities close by and those farther away. Students are often exposed to issues of inequity, injustice, and oppression around the world for the first time in college. Through the world-class education you receive at Ohio State, you have the chance to explore all sorts of issues, listen to new opinions, and help discover new solutions for world problems. Through this interaction with fellow students, faculty, and staff you are able to gain a greater understanding of your place in the world and in your own community. In my own interactions with students, I am privileged to witness what I believe is the critical driving force of young leaders and a key motivator for their engagement in the community today: passion.

The students I know are either still discovering their passion or have found it and are looking to fulfill it. The journey is exciting to observe. Many students talk about their passion as a “calling” or a “gut feeling” about driving social change and serving others. Some students become passionate about a particular need they see in the world after learning about it in class or experiencing it first-hand through a service opportunity. Others may

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have struggled with a difficult life experience and wish to contribute to people who have faced similar challenges.

As a college student, it is easy to become overwhelmed with deadlines and expectations and to ignore community problems unless forced to think about them in class. But students can engage in these discussions and become more aware of issues through common campus opportunities: a study abroad program, research on campus, a volunteer position at a local elementary school, or participation in a student organization.

I believe that as a leader you are obligated to contribute to your community, and not just through one-time service opportunities. Leaders should view their role in connection to community-wide solutions through long-term involvement. This sort of leadership, often called “social change leadership” encourages collaboration with followers and a focus on bettering the world around you.

So, if you haven’t taken advantage of the opportunities that exist at Ohio State for you to discover your passion, it is time to start looking. College is a time for self-exploration – a time to explore which issues are important to you and to consider how you might make an impact on your community, both locally and around the world. Ohio State has the potential to help you identify your passions. Don’t miss your chance.

Service Spotlight
Service Spotlight aims to connect Ohio State leaders with rewarding service opportunities in the local community.

Children’s Hunger Alliance of Greater Columbus:

Location: 370 S. Fifth St. Columbus, OH 43215

Mission: To break the cycle of childhood hunger through education, leadership, advocacy and service.

Volunteer Opportunities:
Conduct phone surveys of after-school sites; teach school-age children various nutrition and physical activity curricula; prepare snacks and serve as positive role models for kids at after-school sites; office assistance.

Contact:
Elise Burgess, 614-341-7700, EBurgess@ChildrensHungerAlliance.org www.childrenshungeralliance.org
Act Now! is a section designed to provide practical tools and methods for you and your group to use right away.

It can be a little daunting to think that you have the power to change the world around you. It all starts small, and this month’s Act Now! can hopefully keep you on your toes and always looking for new ideas to spark the change you want.

What is your primary goal?
You personally may have plenty of goals for the week, quarter, and year, or be part of a group that has lots of expectations. Sometimes, your list of goals and tasks can be overwhelming, and the details of each one may bog you down. To avoid being sidetracked and keep your eye on your end point, critically look at what you’re doing. Does “be more ‘visible’ on campus” fall in line with “recruit more members?” You bet it does: being recognizable on campus increases the chances that you will yield greater interest in your organization. Get to the core of your own goals, and figure out where you need to focus most of your effort.

Is your goal relevant?
Does your goal create true change? Maybe ridding our campus of squirrels is not very relevant. What good comes of removing all of the squirrels? Have you made the daily lives of campus-goers better? Sometimes we may think that what we are doing is effective change simply because it’s different. Revisit that which you want to do for those around you, and try to make that distinction between “change” and “difference.”

Lay out a timeline!
We all know the importance of timelines and action steps when seeing a goal through to the end. The same applies for changing the world! Some of your timeline steps at this point may be simply learning more background information about what you want to do. Over time and constantly evaluating your timeline, you really can “be the change you wish to see in the world!” like Gandhi said!

Keep in mind these thoughts on leadership, from George Ambler’s “Leadership Manifesto”: “Leaders shape the future. Leaders bring change and leaders challenge the status quo. If there is no need for change, there is no need for leadership.” Think of how you’re changing the world around you!
Connecting the Dots

Connecting the Dots relates the leadership experiences of recent Ohio State graduates and their post-collegiate involvement.

**Name:** Suzanne Scharer  
**Current location:** Chicago, IL  
**Current employment:** Domestic and International Jet Fuel Sales at BP  
**Current community involvement:** Junior League of Chicago, Alpha Chi Omega Life Loyal Member, Ohio State President’s Club  
**OSU Graduation Year:** 2006  
**OSU Undergraduate major:** Marketing  
**OSU Undergraduate Involvement:** Undergraduate Student Government, Sphinx Senior Class Honorary, Alpha Chi Omega

1. **How did your OSU leadership experiences prepare you for the “real world”?**

Being involved in leadership activities at Ohio State has definitely prepared me for the corporate world. My collegiate experiences helped me learn to manage other’s expectations, balance a demanding workload, and meet deadlines. I also remember many times where I learned to accept and reflect upon positive and constructive feedback. In my current career, I work on a global sales team where I interact daily with colleagues around the world. Working with people from diverse backgrounds as an undergrad has prepared me to understand cultural differences that exist in my professional working relationships. Lastly, all the late nights I spent in student government has helped me immensely during those inevitable busy seasons that every business experiences.

2. **What role do you see the idea of “creating positive change” playing in your community?**

As a member of the Junior League of Chicago, I’m fortunate to tutor elementary school girls after school. Although we spend the majority of our time reading, writing and solving math problems, I hope that my time spent assists these young women in other ways. Our role in the classroom is also to help build confidence and encourage them to invest in their education. We’ve built a great relationship where we can talk about growing up and staying in school and having careers. Together we’re creating positive change in each other.

3. **What advice do you have for current student leaders?**

Enjoy it!! Take time to reflect on your experiences and all the different people you’ve met. The university has such great opportunities available to all students, but you need to take the time to relax, slow down, and reflect on all the truly phenomenal experiences you have.

4. **If you could go back and change one thing about your leadership experience at Ohio State, what would it be and why?**

I had an amazing experience at OSU and each activity I participated in, helped me land my next leadership opportunity. Although I am so thankful that my hard work in student government paid off in various ways that gave back to the community, I wish I had taken the opportunity to study abroad, and maybe spent a few sunny afternoons relaxing on the Oval instead of running from meeting to class to meeting. Overall, Ohio State is a great place with great students, faculty and staff and with so many ways to spend 4 (or more) years, you just can’t go wrong.
The New Ohio Union
A Sneak Peek

Stage and Dining Area of Woody’s Tavern

See a show in the new Performance Hall!

The Corri-Door display features one door from each of the four Ohio Unions

Come visit the new Ohio Union
Monday, March 29th
at 12:00PM
for the official opening! Have a great, safe spring break!

For more information or submissions, please contact Andy DeLong: delong.112@osu.edu