



April 2009 Highlights

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A VIEW OF LEADERSHIP AND CHANGE ARISING FROM ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

By Thien Nguyen

Asia Project Management Institute

(Special to Rushmore University Worldwide News)

Editor's Note: Thien Nguyen speaks out in this first person narrative/ insight about his Academic Experience. We encourage Rushmore Alumni and Students to submit scholarly papers reflecting views and learning opportunities for publication to the University as a whole. Speaking on behalf of the Asia Project Management Institute, Nguyen addresses the changes in society and the impact offered to students admitted.

With the changing pressures of life, and a global increase in the number of unemployed workers -- even in developed countries such as the U.S. -- people need to improve more than simply their working and living skills in order for their employers to be successful. For many years, I wondered how I could improve the secondary and tertiary educational systems of our country to provide students with more than confidence and opportunities, allowing them to find meaningful work after their graduation.

May I offer a perspective on nationwide educational improvement projects at the university level, written from the perspective of leadership?

To evaluate any educational improvement project properly for the distributive ability of any end-result achievement, we must obviously identify both the participants and their levels of interest.

Depending on the scale of the project and whether it is fostered by a private or government institution, the members of the project team might consist of a Chairperson, a Board of Directors, identified shareholders, or even a delegate representing the President, the Prime Minister or Members of the Congress.

Any successful end result of a project will be the guarantee it offers in measured parameters such as time, costs and scope.

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Initially, it is quite important to collect both the data and objective accounts of events for a feasibility study to enable the establishment of a marketing plan for the project. This will assist in deciding both scale and goals.

For example, financial investors calculating the time required for the return of investment capital might measure cashflow based either on their desired profit parameters or on the desired profits arising from intellectual property development.

Many schools, such as APMI, have done this successfully by guaranteeing their products and services to their students. How can this be accomplished? Schools seek more than financial support of their brand value for the future. They can accomplish these guarantees by limiting the number of students admitted and by verifying their bona fides prior to admission. This allows an identification of the entire set of qualifications of the student, as well as enhancing the longer-term stability of the project.

Secondly, any Board of Management of an educational project needs to build up a matrix structure which will remain appropriate at every stage of the project. The next step is to detail a requisite number of courses in order to justify the university's learning program. When identifying and specifying these courses, participants must understand and clearly identify the course prerequisites for incremental programs, ensuring that the output of each course is the requisite input for the following stage.

The rights and responsibilities of both the executing managers at different levels, and of the participants covering an entire overview of some 12 fields in project management, need to be documented.

Finally, the functional team will execute the project, evaluate it and restructure it on a scheduled basis to conform to the requirements of a newly competitive environment.

APMI believes that our views of leadership, as emphasized above, are useful for initiating university improvement projects.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Rushmore Twitter Account Established

Rushmore University has established an online account at the Social Networking Site Twitter (<http://www.twitter.com>). You are encouraged to "Tweet" the Rushmore University Twitter Account at any time. Reach the Rushmore account using the designator (@RushmoreUniv). Be sure to keep your posts to a maximum of 140 letters or characters. If

you currently have a Twitter account, feel free to “follow” RushmoreUniv, and/or the Dean, Dean Alan Guinn, @aguinn. As additional Rushmore Students, Faculty, Alumni and Administrators become involved with Twitter, we’ll try to develop a list of Rushmore Twitter users so that everyone can benefit from online, real-time, instant communication.

Rushmore Frequently Asked Questions

Following up on last month’s FAQ, which received a phenomenal number of email responses, we will complete the list of additional FAQ Items which we began last month. As last month, we’re going to put these in the form of FAQ—**Frequently Asked Questions**—and discuss several of them.

Q: I’ve developed a major project at work that demonstrates many of the principles I’ve studied. Can I claim Rushmore Credit for my project?

A: It’s quite possible that you may be able to do so. You must submit an Abstract, written in the Rushmore Paper Format, to either Dan Dolejs, our Director of Admissions and Records, or to Alan Guinn, the Dean of Graduate Studies. Either or both will assess the project parameters and determine if credit can be issued for the project in your Degree area.

Rushmore projects which have been issued credit in the past have included screenplays, PowerPoint Presentations, Multi-Media Presentations, Case Studies, and Creative Writing Projects. Dissertations have also focused exclusively on book development, and several Rushmore students have had their Dissertations published.

Q: I want to be removed from the Rushmore mailing list.

A: We’re sorry to see you go, but you need only send us an email with the word “Remove” in the subject line, and we will see that our records are updated.

Q: (This question obviously came from a Faculty member) I want more students. What must I do?

A: Dean Guinn responds: “Where a specific instructor is requested by the student, we make every effort to accommodate that request. If a specific instructor is not requested, we try to assign Advisors in as impartial a way as possible. Feel free to email me with any suggestions or issues which you feel warrant our attention.”

Q: I really enjoyed the Zen articles. Will you be putting any more of

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them in the Rushmore Newsletter?

A: Glad you enjoy them. Enjoy the one this month on ***Cleaning Out Your Inbox***. We'll see what we can do about including them in future Issues.

Q: I'm noticing more and more audio PowerPoint Presentations on the Rushmore website and wonder if that is the direction the University is headed?

A: Rushmore will be using more audio-enhanced PowerPoint presentations online in the future, as well as the addition of video. We anticipate having video presentations of some of the coursework available to enhance your reading and learning experiences shortly.

Q: I'm pleased to see that Rushmore is not expressing exclusively American points of view, as so many other online Universities do. Thank you for reflecting a worldview of events and opportunities.

A: You're welcome. Rushmore is a world-learning venture, and does not try to reflect any specific position or political posture.

Q: I sometimes register for a course, but don't hear anything for several days. What is wrong?

A: If you register for a course and do not receive an answer to your request within three working days, please email dean@Rushmore.edu and report the lack of communication. All communication at Rushmore is targeted for immediate turnaround, up to a maximum of three days.

The Simplest Way to Clear out Your Email Inbox

Posted by Leo Babauta on the Blog, Zen Habits.

In a sentence: Don't reply or even read most of your emails.

Your inbox can be cleared in minutes with that method.

Here's how I suggest you do it:

1. Select all junk mail, newsletters, routine notifications, auto-replies, joke emails, chain mail, ads, anything else not super important. Delete 'em.
2. Select about half (or more) of the other emails that you know are not important, just from the subject line. Archive em.
3. Quickly read through the rest, archiving almost every one of them. Select a few to reply to or act on (5 at the most). Those will

be your most important.

4. Reply to them in three sentences or less, act on them immediately, or put them on your calendar to do later.

Done.

Following this method, you can process your inbox in less than 5 minutes if you're quick (use keyboard shortcuts).

What? But ... what about all those emails I need to reply to? President Obama gets thousands of letters a day, and only reads 10 of them. This method forces you to simplify, to focus on what's really and truly important.

Then, when you've saved all that time you might normally spend on email, go and Do Something Amazing. Oh, and **only do this once or twice a day at most** — the rest of the day, stay out of email.

Try it for a day or two. Tell me if the world falls apart. I bet it won't. If it does, I'll buy you a beer. If it doesn't, you owe me one.

This is about something a bit deeper: our need to reply and act on every single request that comes in, rather than to take control of our work days and do what we know is important. You don't need to respond to every email, act on every request, or even read everything that comes your way. You can choose the essential ones, and then get to work on what really matters. And if you tell others that you're doing this, that you're not going to reply to every email, they'll eventually stop expecting you to reply.

Note: I realize this method won't work for everyone ... but I did say this would be a simple method. You can use it to get even simpler than the steps I listed above — just choose 1-5 emails to respond to/act on, and archive all the rest.

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Grants and Educational Opportunities

This section of ***The Rushmore Worldwide News*** contains links to Grants and Educational Opportunity funding which may be available to you. Check the requirements attached to each grant or scholarship to be sure that it is an applicable filing for you.

The International Foundation for Science (IFS) Young Scientists Grant

The International Foundation for Science (IFS) is accepting applications from young

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scientists in developing countries for IFS Research Grants to do research on the sustainable management, use, or conservation of biological or water resources. This broad statement covers natural science and social science research on agriculture, soils, animal production, food science, forestry, agroforestry, aquatic resources, natural products, water resources, etc. Applications are accepted all year and are to be made on an IFS Application Form.

Closing Date: Until filled

More information: http://www.ifs.se/Programme/granting_programme.asp

World Forestry Institute (WFI) International Fellowship Program

WFI International Fellowship Program - term: 6-12 months - applications accepted year-round. The WFI Fellowship brings professionals in natural resources to conduct a practical research project at the World Forestry Center. In addition to projects, Fellows participate in weekly field trips, interviews and site visits to Northwest forestry organizations, research labs, universities, public and private timberlands, trade associations, mills, and corporations. The Fellowship is a unique opportunity to learn about sustainable forestry from the Pacific Northwest forestry sector, and to work with colleagues from around the world. Fellowships are open to any country, and there is a matching grant from the Harry A. Merlo Foundation. Over 70 Fellows from 23 countries have participated to date. Applications are accepted year-round.

For details, visit: <http://wfi.worldforestry.org/fellowship-1.htm>

2009 Goi Peace Foundation UNESCO International Essay Contest for Young People

The United Nations has designated 2001-2010 as the "International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World" and 2005-2014 as the "United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development." Not only should young people benefit from these global initiatives, but they should be empowered to play a leading role in them. The theme of this year's International Essay Contest is "The role of science in building a better world." Young people from around the world are invited to submit their innovative ideas on this theme.

Scientific progress has brought many benefits to humanity, while some applications of science have had adverse impacts. What kind of science and technology do you think is needed for realizing a more equitable, prosperous and sustainable world for all? Please express your vision for the future of science, including examples of studies or researches you wish to engage in.

Essays may be submitted by anyone up to 25 years old (as of June 30, 2009) in one of the following age categories: a) Children (ages up to 14) b) Youth (ages 15 - 25).

Essays must be 800 words or less, typed or printed in English, French, Spanish or German.

Deadline: Entries must be received by June 30, 2009.

For more information please visit
<http://www.goipeace.or.jp/english/activities/programs/0901.html>

Essay competition "Young Voices in Research for Health: Innovating for the health of all"

If you are a young professional (under 30) working on or interested in the broad spectrum of research for health, please feel free to submit your original, provocative, idealistic and passionate ideas on this year's theme, taking established practices to task in a constructive fashion.

This year's competition focuses on "Innovating for the health of all". "Innovation" encompasses the entire process from the generation of new ideas, to their transformation into something useful, to their implementation. Innovation for health includes the development of new and more cost-effective services, products, methods, management practices and policies to improve health outcomes. It involves both social and technological

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The Rushmore Worldwide News is published monthly to disseminate information of general interest to Rushmore University Students, Faculty, Alumni and Friends.

Articles are accepted for publication from students, Faculty, and Friends of the University.

innovation.

Deadline: 3 May 2009.

For more information please visit <http://www.globalforumhealth.org/shlinks/yvhr2009.php>

Call for nomination for the 13th Itoga Kazuo Award for disabilities

The 13th Itoga Kazuo Award will be given to an individual with disabilities in East Asia, South East Asia and the Western Pacific(not Australia or NZ), who have made a great contribution to disability community in a country of their residence.

For more information please visit

http://www.itogazaidan.jp/english/guidelines_for_applicants/index.htm

The Australian Leadership Awards (ALA) Scholarships

The Australian Leadership Awards (ALA) Scholarships are provided by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) with the aim of developing leadership and linkages within the Asia-Pacific region. The Scholarships are offered to high achievers from the region to undertake postgraduate study in Australia and a Leadership Development Program. Study programs must relate to AusAID's priority areas of disability, economic growth, education, environment, food security, gender, governance, health, human rights, infrastructure, regional stability, rural development and water & sanitation.

ALA Scholarships seek to empower awardees to lead social and economic policy and development in their own countries and in the region. To enhance leadership skills, AusAID has invested A\$10.128 million over four years to deliver a comprehensive Leadership Development Program (LDP) to all ALA scholars. The LDP comprises of a three day conference in Canberra, regional workshops, leadership coaching and practice opportunities. The LDP aims to help scholars explore and harness their full leadership potential and enhance their understanding of development challenges at national, regional and global levels. The LDP also provides important networking and collaborative opportunities for participants.

Applications for the commencement of the 2010 academic year will open on 19 March 2009 and will close on 30 June 2009.

Mandatory requirements for ALA Scholarships application:

- A record of high-level undergraduate or post-graduate academic achievement;
- Appropriate results in one of the following English language proficiency tests being achieved for no longer than two years prior to the date of the application ie IELTS with an overall result of at least 6.5 and no individual band less than 6; or the equivalent level of TOEFL - see the AusAID website below for further details;
- An Unconditional Letter of Offer from an Australian university;
- Willingness to return to your country for at least two years immediately upon completion of the scholarship to help build capacity there.

For detailed information on ALA Scholarships please visit

www.ausaid.gov.au/scholar/default.cfm

Directory of Grants and Fellowships in the Global Health Sciences

A comprehensive compilation of international funding opportunities in biomedical and behavioral research, separated by category.

Website: http://www.fic.nih.gov/funding/directory_fellowships.htm

Announcement - Brown International Advance Research Institutes - Accepting Applications

International Affairs at Brown University is proud to announce the launch of an exciting new faculty development initiative, the *Brown International Advanced Research Institutes

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(BIARI)*. The objective of the program is to provide a platform for promising young faculty from the Global South and emerging economies to engage in a high level and sustained intellectual and policy dialogue with leading scholars in their fields, and to foster scholarly networks among young faculty, while providing them with an opportunity to develop their scholarship agendas.

This ambitious new program is designed to provide needed professional development opportunities for young scholars embarking on lives in research and teaching. The Brown International Advanced Research Institutes, under the guidance of International Affairs aims to make a significant contribution to global research through transnational academic collaboration, promoting Brown University's vision of the global university.

We are seeking your assistance in identifying promising young scholars who you believe would most benefit from this innovative new program. While there are no specific qualifications required, BIARI will give particular consideration to the applicant's track record in terms of scholarship and teaching.

The application process for participation in the June 2009 BIARIs is now open through the BIARI website <http://www.Brown.edu/BIARI>

SCHOLARSHIP: World Agroforestry Centre Memorial Fellowship (2009)

ICRAF is pleased to announce the availability of thesis research fellowships for postgraduate students wishing to conduct thesis research in collaboration with ICRAF Scientists. The fellowships are tenable at any university in countries where ICRAF has effective scientific contacts. The upper limit for the support is US \$ 5,000 to cover field research and thesis production.

Eligibility:

- a) Be a national of a developing country involved in Agroforestry research, education or development
- b) Candidates must be 35 years of age or under
- c) Be registered for a postgraduate degree at a recognized university (evidence required)
- d) Show evidence of interest in Agroforestry research by producing an Agroforestry research concept (max 3 pages, covering title, objectives, hypotheses, methods and tools, location, duration and budget)
- e) Have completed or be close to completing coursework for the graduate degree for which she/he is registered
- f) Be an employee of a university or a national research institute

Closing date for submission of application is 30 April 2009.

For details and electronic application go to

http://www.worldagroforestry.org/Training/memorial_scholarships.asp
