

Program Status

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University of Connecticut

SPRING 2007 RECAP

Spring 2007 saw the kick-off of the University's premier student leadership program the Leadership Legacy Experience. With the generous support of Doug and Melissa Bernstein leading the way, the Legacy Experience got off to a strong start in its inaugural year. Below is a summary of a very successful, and busy, first semester!

Where We've Been...

January 14th—Douglas A. Bernstein Legacy Retreat/Summit

Special Guests: Doug and Melissa Bernstein
Alumni House

After a day-long kick-off retreat meeting one another and their Mentors, Legacy Students formally kicked-off their Experience with a reception and dinner and the chance to meet Doug and Melissa.



March 29th—'Leadership in the Face of Adversity'

Non-Violent Social Change
Presenter: Dr. Bernard Lafayette, Jr.

Thomas J. Dodd Center
Dr. Lafayette, Jr. shared his experiences in the Civil Rights Movement and wisdom on leadership, non-violent social change, and inspiring students for a life of leadership beyond college.

February 8th—'Of The People, By the People, For the People'



Political Leadership
Special Guests: Barbara Kennelly & Ed Silverman
Thomas J. Dodd Center
Legacy Students and the campus community were invited to meet former Congresswoman Barbara Kennelly and Washington lobbyist and politico Ed Silverman as they discussed politicians, lobbyists, and the

world of political influence. Moderated by Barry Feldman.

April 29th—End of the Semester Wrap-Up

Legacy Students and Staff
Hilltop Apartment Community Room

Legacy Students and their Mentors were invited to meet in a less formal setting for a cook-out and reflection on the first official semester of the Legacy Experience and to plot a course for the remainder of their year!



February 25th—Etiquette Lunch

With Alumni/Faculty/Staff Mentors

Host: Ms. Teresa Brown
Lodewick House

Legacy Students and their mentors gathered at the home of Christine and Phil Lodewick, just off campus, for a Sunday lunch and conversation about etiquette. Led by Ms. Teresa Brown, an expert in social etiquette, students and mentors dined and enjoyed each others' company while brushing up on many of the skills and etiquette tips that help leave positive lasting impressions.



February—April—Legacy Dinners

Legacy Students and Staff
Bi-Weekly/Informal
Lodewick House

While meeting every two weeks throughout the semester, the Legacy Students had opportunities to reflect on their experiences, learn more about/from each other and discuss how to further their legacy as leaders on campus and beyond. Many thanks to Christine and Phil Lodewick for the generous use of their house.

Collaborators

During the Spring the Legacy Experience was proud to collaborate with a number of University departments and programs including: the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center; the Honors Program; the Global Leadership Commission; the African American Cultural Center.

What We Think...

*What this program means to me....*Programs like this are extremely important. Eventually, a new generation of individuals will have to step up and act as stewards for community, business, and government. By concentrating and forging a collective experience, we will be better equipped to engage these challenges. *Jon Sierakowski*

*The importance of my Alumni Mentor....*I was quite lucky and was paired with Steven Hoffer '95 who works at Casey Family Services. This was incredible for me because Casey Family Services is a non-profit child welfare agency and I hope to pursue work in the social work field in the future. *Alyssa Moss*

The role of my Faculty/ Staff Mentor...[Becky Taylor] has a passion for pushing...students to succeed.... With the busy schedules we have as Legacy Students, she has helped me to focus more on my time management and...making the most of the time I have. I'm not only lucky to have her as a Faculty Mentor, but also as a friend.

B.J. Bayers

*More thoughts about Mentors...*I am honored that Dr. [Michael] Darre accepted my request to serve as my mentor for Leadership Legacy. Over the years, I have developed a deep admiration for his commit-

ment to the University, his colleagues, his students, his family and his church. I hope that in the future, I will be able to blend my devotion to my career, my community, and my family as smoothly as Dr. Darre; he is a terrific role model and mentor. Our mutual investment in Leadership Legacy has further cemented what I anticipate will be a lifelong relationship. *Jennifer Elman*

*Mentor thoughts...*I have had the privilege of being a participant in a program that is truly rewarding for all of us. I have met some of the best and brightest students enrolled at UCONN who are focused on a common goal of continued leadership development. They will certainly leave their mark on our UCONN community today and throughout their careers and lives as well. I have attended programs featuring influential individuals in leadership positions, enjoyed social gatherings and have formed bonds with the next generation of outstanding leaders. *Annette Lombardi ('76), Alumni Mentor*

*More Mentor thoughts...*Thanks...for inviting me to be a part of the Leadership Legacy Experience. [My Legacy Student] is such an amazing person. I will stay involved with this program as long as you'll let me. *Richard Twilley ('04 Law), Alumni Mentor*

Where We're Going...

September—December Legacy Dinners & Leadership Discussions

Legacy Students and Staff
Alumni House

The bi-weekly meeting continues with leadership discussions on humility, managing failure, dealing with change and more. Additionally the Legacy Students will have the opportunity to meet informally with various University officials, including the Director of the Alumni Association and more.

September 16th—Outdoor Land Navigation

Legacy Students
Secret Location

In this outdoor experience Legacy Students will be grouped and challenged to complete a difficult land navigation assignment in unfamiliar territory—with nothing more than a compass. Requiring teamwork, problem-solving skills, and more, students will face unanticipated obstacles in their quest to successfully navigate through the forest and arrive 'home'.

October 20th—Franklin Chang-Diaz

Legacy Students with Mentors
Rocky Hill Marriott, Rocky Hill, CT

Legacy Students and their mentors will gather socially with NASA Astronaut and UConn Alum Franklin Chang-Diaz to hear of the challenges and opportunities associated with being a space-shuttle astronaut. Additionally, folks will have the chance to hear of Mr. Chang-Diaz' journey from a freshman in the University's Student Support Services Program through college, graduate school and into space!

October—Legacy Gift—Tree Dedication

Legacy Student with Mentors
Storrs Campus

With a desire to show their deep appreciation for the opportunities and experiences they have enjoyed as student leaders, the Legacy Students will purchase and plant a tree (a 'Legacy Tree') on campus.

November—2008 Legacy Student Selection

Legacy Selection Committee
Storrs Campus

As the semester continues, time will come to accept nominations for the next cohort of Legacy Students. Last year's process, our first, resulted in dozens of outstanding students being recognized by faculty and staff across campus. With such a successful first year of the Leadership Legacy Experience almost behind us, we look forward to another successful nomination and selection processes for the 2008 cohort!

December 2nd—Legacy Experience Banquet

Legacy Students, Mentors, and Invited Guests
Special Guests: Doug and Melissa Bernstein
Alumni House

The circle is completed as our first cohort of Legacy Students is recognized and the program's success celebrated in our Experience-ending banquet. Legacy Students will be joined by Doug and Melissa, their Mentors, parents, and University Staff as we finish where we kicked things off almost a year ago, at the Alumni House!

