

Course Notes



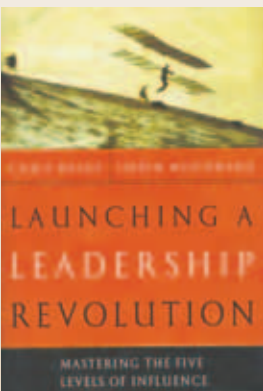
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Book Review

Launching a Leadership Revolution

by Chris Brady and Orrin Woodward

There is a leader in everyone. Whether your sphere of influence is a small team of individuals, a large corporation, or a group of college students, eventually you will find yourself in a position of leadership. The question is, are you really ready to lead?



In their book, *Launching a Leadership Revolution*, Chris Brady and Orrin Woodward offer a fresh look at just what it takes to become a successful leader. Their claim that leadership can be learned by

understanding the “Five Levels of Influence” is supported by years of experience in leadership development. By looking at timeless leaders such as George Washington, Winston Churchill, and even Saint Paul, the authors bring to life the five levels of influence: Learn, Perform, Lead, Develop Leaders, and Develop Leaders Who Develop Leaders.

The book is broken down into chapters that provide practical, step-by-step methods of developing your leadership skills and putting them to work for you.

Whether you are someone who has been in a leadership role for many years, or you are just beginning your quest to become a leader, this book will provide valuable insight into the skills and mind-set you need to become an influential leader.

Fall is Coming ...

Faculty Spotlight Ross Strayer



Currently Teaching:
Concepts of Biology (BIO 101)
General Biology (BIO 103)

Q: What inspires you?

A: I really enjoy creating the materials that I’m going to present to the class. I like doing the brainstorming on how I can make the next semester of teaching better than ones that have gone before. And, of course, I am inspired to get to class and teach. When I see the “Oh, now I get it!” lights turn on in a student’s face, it’s one of the most rewarding feelings I know.

On another level, I love playing music. I made my living playing drums in various types of bands until I was 31 years old. I just love making music. Playing music gets the creative juices flowing in a different way.

And, nature inspires me. Being outside and walking, backpacking, or just sauntering through the woods brings life into perspective. It’s this love of nature that led me into biology teaching. That and my dad. He was a biology teacher and was truly the best teacher I have ever seen in front of a class. Much of my style of teaching comes directly from him. He taught me to have fun (and to make the material fun for the student to learn) when I teach.

My goal is to make them want to learn more after they leave the classroom. One of the main ways I do this is with humor. I inject humor at every chance.

And, of course, my son Nick. He gently keeps me as current as he can (without even rolling his eyes) on topics like computer technology and other related topics. Plus, he works with me on ideas for the class. He also takes pictures for the lab manual and we play guitars together.

I guess you could say he gives me a fresh perspective on things. He’s 15 and he’s a great son and I’m a lucky dad. [For more information on how you can become an inspirational leader, check out this issue’s featured book review, “Launching a Leadership Revolution.”]

Q: How do you motivate and inspire your students?

A: I try and relate the subject to their lives. With biology, this isn’t that hard to do. Biology can be taught in a dry, facts-only way. My goal is to make them want to learn more after they leave the classroom. One of the main ways I do this is with humor. I inject humor at every chance. Humor and unusual stories that help students remember the material.

Q: What is the biggest challenge you face in the classroom today?

A: One challenge is motivating the students who are only there because they need a science credit — getting them interested enough to want to learn the material, even though they may be going into business or another non-science career. And, keeping younger students interested. I did not start college until I was 26 years old. (Actually, I started at age 19, went for one semester and dropped out to begin traveling and playing music.) As an 18-19 year old, my mind just wasn’t into studies. So, I understand the mentality of young people who are struggling with just staying in college. I love the challenge of getting them to actually like coming to class!

Q: What movie title best describes what your classroom is like?

A: I’m not that familiar with many movie titles — and it’s just hard for me to remember them!

Q: Your office is on fire! What one item do you choose to rescue?

A: I have a large framed painting of a young barefoot boy asleep peacefully in a haystack outside a barn. I’ve always called

Faculty Spotlight

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that picture “my motto.” And I’d probably grab my “Well-dressed-pig.” It’s a 2 foot tall plastic pig that’s all dressed up and ready to go out on the town. I found it at a yard sale. I think it was a kid’s coin bank, although there’s no slot for coins. Don’t ask me why I’d take this. I just like it. And, I got both items when I first started teaching at WCC.

Q: Finish this sentence: If I weren’t teaching, I’d be...

A: Playing music (guitar or drums) wherever they would have me.

Q: My favorite places to be in Ann Arbor/ Ypsilanti/Detroit are:

A: Herb David’s guitar store, Gallup Park, and Crazy Wisdom Tea Room. Crazy Wisdom is a great book/cool stuff store with a great room upstairs where you can eat and where they have free concerts on Friday nights. It’s a great place to play music.

Q: What is the best piece of advice that you give to your students?

A: Try and enjoy life and do what makes you happy for a career. And, study (since they are in college) so they can pass their classes and make those choices come true...

Q: What is the best lesson you’ve learned from a student(s)?

A: To try and see the class from their perspective. I’ve been teaching a long time, and they help me remember what it’s like to be a student. I know their life isn’t centered around my class. I let them remind me of what my favorite teachers were like and what I wished other teachers would have been like.

Q: What is your favorite book?

A: *The Pastures of Heaven* by John Steinbeck and *Time and Again* (the best time-travel novel ever!) by Jack Finney. As for science, any book by Richard Dawkins. To ask for only one book is cruel!

Q: What causes or charities are you passionate about?

A: The Nature Conservancy and the National Parks. We need to keep some land away from development.

WCC Dates for 2008 Fall Semester

Sept. 1:	Labor Day Holiday, College closed
Sept. 2:	Fall Semester begins
Nov. 12:	Winter registration begins
Nov.19:	Winter registration begins for new students
Nov. 25 - 28:	No classes
Nov. 27 - 28:	Thanksgiving Break, College closed
Nov. 29:	Classes resume
Dec. 19:	Fall Semester ends, College open
Dec. 24 - Jan. 1:	Semester Break, College closed
Jan. 2:	College reopens
Jan. 12:	Winter Semester begins

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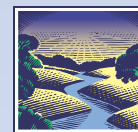
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