NEW LFP CHAIR

We want to welcome in Patience Ackerman, better known as Patsy, as the new Chair of the LFP Board. She has taken the place of Derek Speese, whose term ended last semester. Patsy’s term is for 1 year and will begin and end on January 1st. Patsy’s role will include leading the LFP Board while working with Director Nate Stutzman, to organize events such as LFP orientation, LFP-sponsored events, and help assist with marketing LFP to prospective students.

While in leadership, Patsy aims to encourage and promote a deeper Christ-centered focus for the program, active servant-led leadership, as well as a stronger connectedness between LFP and the broader university community. She has taken a formative LFP position.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Tyana Anglin ’15, Steve Koffel ’15, Dave Calovi ’15, Nick Trombley ’16, Cara Scandrett-Leatherman ’16, Alyssa Rowe ’16, Jake Hughes ’16, Patience Ackerman ’17, Dylan Byrne ’17, P.J. Schaefer ’18, Lindsey Laverty ’18, Kendel Lyn Jackson ’14, Nate Stutzman ’05 represented EU at the 2015 Inclusive Leadership Conference for Philadelphia area student leaders at Temple U.

- Taylor Price ’18 helped EU Women’s Basketball upset the #1 team in the nation FDU-Florham (snapping the defending DIII NCAA champs 53 game win streak). The Eastern Women are currently ranked #22 in the country (highest in school history).

SPOTLIGHT

Josey Rupert, a senior, was recently the first Eastern runner to win the MAC Cross Country Championship, Eastern’s conference meet. Additionally, she was named 2014’s MAC Scholar-Athlete. When asked what has kept her going through it all, she responded that her coach’s vision and her teammate’s encouragement, support and sense of community have made the difference. Her main inspiration, Coach Mike Wilson (LFP class of 2010), has played a major role in her success. “He is a genius in the realm of training techniques and running physiology,” She says, and then quotes Mike saying that this embodies her season, “Your mind will quit before your body will.”

For Josey, “running is about exerting and testing your body in the most fundamental way, and building relationships and camaraderie along the way.” She brings her leadership skills as the Captain on the Cross Country Team and the President of Eastern’s Track Club. She has learned that in leadership there is no one formula to follow, but that it ultimately comes down to serving and empowering others.

Our legacy is not sustainable as merely a carbon imprint of our former self; it grows exponentially and gains notoriety as it lives vibrantly in the service, time, and values infused within the people that we invested in. I believe Moses fully understood the goal of his task, yet he was able to embrace his own expendability when Joshua was chosen to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. Moses could have looked at his leadership as failed or grown angry that he “did all the work” but was not able to reap the reward of it. Yet, in Deuteronomy 31 we see the culmination of this leadership succession delivered in a graceful speech of encouragement. Moses was not a perfect leader by any means but his imperfections did not inhibit his ultimate mission because he had willingly invested in others who would accomplish his objective and eventually gave them space to lead. This idea is incarnated in servant leadership; leadership that puts the overall mission and the people over one’s notoriety and recognition. Like Moses I believe we need to validate and empower the leaders around us to promote experiential growth—humbly knowing that our own physical, earthly positions, are expendable in comparison to God’s plans and the spirit of the mission we represent.

Director’s Corner

Leaders are expendable, leadership is not

As leaders we must honestly recognize our own expendability and physical earthly limits. This acknowledgment not only helps impress humility upon our hearts, but it is the beginning of fully understanding and implementing our legacy. Our role as leaders should be to care more about the sustainability of our mission, goals, and values beyond what is achievable in the here and now.

Layman Laverty (LFP Newsletter Director)

Any suggestions for future Spotlights or Highlights contact: Lindsey at llaverty@eastern.edu