



**FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR**

*Robson Marinho, PhD*

Congratulations to President Barack Obama for his reelection! After a long and disputed campaign, he is the leader of the United States of America for the next four years!





Now, after the festivities and celebrations of the victory, real life presents the challenges of a weak economy, unemployment, partisan disputes and many other problems that will test the leadership of the President. The question is, How will Obama survive the Leadership test?

In his seminal book *Running Alone: Presidential Leadership*, the political scientist James MacGregor Burns analyzes the leadership experience of several American presidents and concludes that presidential leadership in America has been in decline since the middle of the last century. He refers to a presidential-ranking survey designed by Harvard Professor Arthur Schlesinger, whose results are harsh on most presidents. According to the survey, this is the perception about several presidents:

After rating FDR “great” and Truman “near great,” the scholars graded Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson as merely “above average”; Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush I, and Clinton as “below average”; and Nixon as flat “failure.” Surely they would rate Bush II today, fairly or not, as another failure. (p. 191)

Burns identifies Kennedy as the starting point of this leadership decline due to his individualized style. According to Burns, “Kennedy had rejected collective leadership in favor of a highly personalized presidency.”

I don’t know how Barack Obama would be rated in such a survey compared to the previous presidents, but regardless of partisan preferences or personal traits of the presidents, Barack Obama’s leadership provides us with an opportunity for a philosophical reflection on the challenge of combining leadership and service. How would you rate his domestic and foreign policies in regards to the concepts of Servant Leadership or Transformative Leadership? Is his leadership focused more on serving people and society at large or on political interests? How much does his leadership address the needs and values of people?

Of course this discussion depends how we perceive each one, and different people will have different perceptions of reality. Anyway, whatever our perception, history will eventually determine how Obama will be perceived in the future. But before history makes its assessment, you can make your personal reflection on the dilemma between Presidential Leadership and Servant Leadership!

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

### LEAD Welcomes New Administrative Assistant



The Department of Leadership is pleased to welcome Maria Elizabeth Huaranga as our new team member in the position of Administrative Assistant. Maria Elizabeth is replacing Glenda Patterson, who moved to a position at Andrews in the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. The LEAD department is thankful to Glenda for her four years of dedicated service to the department and wishes her success in her new job.

Maria Elizabeth graduated from the University of Michigan with a psychology degree and aspires to pursue medical school in the future. She joined our team on November 1. Welcome to LEAD, Maria Elizabeth!

### Roundtable 2013 Calendar

Please mark on your calendars—the revised date of the Leadership Conference and Roundtable 2013 are as follows:

**Pre-Session: July, 19-20**

**Regular Session: July 21-24**



## INTERVIEW



### Interview: Rhiannon Harrison, MA

Rhiannon Harrison graduated with a Master's degree in Educational Leadership in August 2012. With a passion towards educational excellence, Rhiannon was interviewed by Janet Ledesma and shared her story and her perspectives on education. Thanks, Rhiannon, for your thoughts.

LEAD Please share a little about yourself.

Rhiannon I was born and raised in Elkhart, Indiana, and graduated from Elkhart Central High School, where I've taught for 11 years. I enjoy travelling to new places and have lived in the Ivory Coast, West Africa; Colombia, South America; and St. Brieu, France. I have two girls—Mariella is 4, and Eliana, 2. My husband is a PhD Leadership student.

LEAD Why did you choose Andrews University?

Rhiannon I felt that the values and core beliefs of the university were in line with my Mennonite beliefs. I appreciated the emphasis on family, community, health, and Christ's love for all people. The faculty and staff were warm and caring. Even in my first interactions at orientation, I remember feeling welcomed and thinking to myself, "This is the place for me."

LEAD What do you especially like about Andrews University?

Rhiannon I appreciated the devotions and sincere prayers from each class. For example, during EDCI 565 Improving Instruction, I was on-campus for four days in July. When I found out that one of my graduates had a house fire and lost everything, I e-mailed Dr. Ostrander that night and asked for prayer for her. The next day, before starting class, he prayed for her and her family. I was deeply moved.

LEAD What challenges did you experience at Andrews University?

Rhiannon My biggest challenge at Andrews was the faculty transitions in the department. I enjoyed Dr. Gary Gifford and was sad to see him leave. He offered a wealth of knowledge that I feel, in some ways, as though I missed out on. The transition between advisors was difficult because I did not have a "go-to" person to ask questions about what classes to take. I also had to explain my course plan several times to different advisors. All in all, I survived and I had a great experience.

LEAD What was the focus of your portfolio/internship?

Rhiannon My portfolio was based upon the evidences I used to demonstrate competency in the six ELCC Standards, including my internship project. My portfolio was used as an example at the Leadership Roundtable Conference this past summer, and in my presentation, I offered some advice on creating an online portfolio and gave tips that I learned along the way.

LEAD What will you do next now that you have graduated?

Rhiannon I hope to be a principal within a few years. I'd like to stay in the Elkhart Community School Corporation in order to continue giving back to the community that has blessed me so richly.

LEAD What advice would you share with colleagues in graduate school?

Rhiannon Try not to get overwhelmed with the amount of work you have to do. Take small steps toward your goal. By taking one day at a time, you will overcome whatever obstacle is in your way. You can do it!

## LEADERSHIP PROGRAM NEWS

### Congratulations Kay Schaaf, PhD!







From left: Lisa Greco, Kay, and her husband, John Schaaf

October 15 has always been a special day for Kay Schaaf. In fact, it has been a special day all her life. It was her birthday. But this year it got even more special. It happened to be the day her chair, Duane Covrig, selected for her dissertation defense. “When we set the day,” he reported, “I didn’t know it was her birthday.” A few days before, Kay’s husband, John, contacted Dr. Covrig to inform him that the defense was scheduled for Kay’s birthday. That is when Dr. Covrig said he started to get nervous. “I knew she was prepared, but I was nervous because I didn’t want anything to go wrong on her important day.” When Kay successfully defended, Dr. Covrig was extremely happy they had selected that day. “When we went out to celebrate with the committee and close friends, it was a wonderful celebration of her life and her hard work!”

Kay’s topic was “*Descriptions of Childhood Trauma, Effects of the Trauma, and How Adults Moved Through the Trauma to Normalized Behavior.*” Tamara Miller, a psychology expert, was selected to help with Kay’s very sensitive and delicate study. The rest of her committee consisted of Duane Covrig, her chair, and Shirley Freed, who as a qualitative methodologist guided Kay in writing up the highly complicated stories of her participants. Margaret Hay, a 2000 leadership graduate who was chosen as Kay’s external examiner, gave excellent feedback on the dissertation.

In addition to successfully completing her PhD, Kay and John, who is graduated from the School of Architecture at Andrews, recently moved from Michigan City, Indiana, to Monument, Colorado. We wish Kay and John well in their new work in Colorado.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Course Offerings Spring 2013

#### **LEAD 880 Spring 2013 Dissertation Proposal**

If you are planning on taking LEAD 880 in Spring 2012, please take note of the following prerequisites before you start the class:

1. An approved doctoral committee (at least chair and methodologist) (signed form)
2. An approved topic (signed form)
3. LEAD 637 and EDRM 605 (for those doing qualitative) or EDRM 611 (for those doing quantitative)

Please get in touch with **Sylvia Gonzalez** as soon as possible to let her know that you are planning on taking this class and to update her on the completion of these items.

#### **EDAL 675 College Student Development Theory (3 credits)**

Explores the characteristics of college students and the theories of growth and development for traditional and non-traditional students. Offers an overview of the theoretical and research literature on college students from a variety of perspectives, such as demographic changes, patterns of growth during the college years, diversity, university access, and social and moral development. Emphasis is placed on understanding the immediate and long-term impact of a college experience.

#### **LEAD 640 Higher Education Law (3 credits)**

Legal aspects of the administration of higher education institutions. Policy issues related to student rights, intellectual property, academic freedom, admission, employee relations, and property use.

#### LEAD Newsletter Editorial Team

*Editor: Robson Marinho*

*Assistant Editor: Kevin Wiley*

*Web Designer: Leandro Oliveira*

*Online Editor: Olivia Spencer*

*Contributors: Shirley Freed, Janet Ledesma, Erich Baumgartner, Duane Covrig, Sylvia Gonzalez, David Ferguson, Marji Bates, Maria Elizabeth Huaranga*