

# LEADERSHIP AT ALL LEVELS

With Gail Lowney Alofsin



**“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”**

**John Quincy Adams**

When it comes to the subject of leadership, there are an endless array of books, blogs and articles. The example set by “real life” mentors trump what can be read.

In January 2015, I had the privilege of leading the inaugural Providence, New York, Stamford J-term course for the University of Rhode Island Harrington School of Communication and Media. This one week, three credit course, offered the students an opportunity to witness leadership in action.

Fourteen engaged and intelligent students joined me “On the road” in our Mercedes Sprinter Van. We learned from over 40 professionals in the communications, sales and marketing departments of corporations such as ESPN, Warner Brothers, Thomson Reuters, Jaguar Land Rover, Y&R, InMarketing, Citizen’s Bank, Amica Mutual Insurance, Providence Warwick Convention & Visitor’s Bureau and the CW Television station, to name a few.

The leadership lessons garnered by our hosts centered on themes of authenticity, integrity, inclusiveness and communication. The students were counselled to compete against *their* best efforts versus each other.

One of the students, Jordan Walker, a Public Relations Major graduating in May 2015, shared a few of her life lessons from the leaders inclusive of:

1. Develop your personal and professional brand.
2. Network before you need it -- and maintain the relationships!
3. Trust your gut.

By the end of the week, the learning that I personally garnered from both the guest speakers and the students was invaluable. We all have something to offer, we are not in competition and no matter what our age or experience, we learn new things and hone our skills our entire lives. In the words of Michelangelo, *Ancora Imparo*, “Yet, I am learning,” and certainly appreciate every opportunity to do so.

**Gail Lowney Alofsin** is speaker, author, adjunct professor and business consultant. She is the President of AMP! (Authentic Measurable Performance) delivering presentations focused on leadership performance, work life balance and integration, communication, customer service and business.

The new book, *Your Someday is NOW – What are you Waiting For*, focuses on becoming *your* best you. A lifelong student and humanitarian, Gail believes that we all have the capability to be a leader in our own lives, influencing the lives of others for positive peak performance and success. An active volunteer since the age of 7, Gail believes that leadership commences when we look beyond ourselves to enhance the lives of others – personally and professionally. She can be reached at 401-640-4418 and [gail@gailspeaks.com](mailto:gail@gailspeaks.com). Follow her on twitter: [@gailalofsin](https://twitter.com/gailalofsin) and visit her website: [gailspeaks.com](http://gailspeaks.com).

**Whether you are new to the workforce or have been working for decades, the sage advice below from the JTerm guest speakers serves as a reminder of core leadership principles.**

**“Never compromise your integrity in any situation.”**

*Tom Cerio, Warner Brothers*

**“Life doesn’t slow down, embrace change.”**

*Kyle LeTellier, Boston Globe*

**“Map out your dream job, who do you know there? How will you get there?”**

*Kathy O’Donnell, Citizens Bank*

**“Carpe Diem – Seize the Day!”**

*Tina Castano, CW 28 Providence*

**“Sharpen your peripheral vision – there are always emerging opportunities.”**

*Michael Moore, Thomson Reuters*

**“Perception is Reality.”**

*Bob Beagle, University of Rhode Island*