



CLUB OVERVIEW: FEBRUARY 2009

Harvard undergraduates are once and future leaders: they are expected to have leadership experiences in high school in order to be a successful applicant to the College and they are expected to achieve positions of authority and influence after graduation. Yet, no program or training existed to develop the nascent leadership skills and provide opportunities to reflect on challenges and lessons.

Despite the countless classes and hallowed classrooms, no curriculum existed to promote leadership growth. The Leadership Institute at Harvard College (LIHC) aims to fill this gap.

The Leadership Institute was born in 2004-2005 as the fusion of several fledgling student organizations. By bringing together the individual groups that focused on leadership and communication among students, the synergies developed and helped propel LIHC as the premier leadership development organization. Much of the work to unify the organization came as the fulfillment of a class project, in which the assignment “find a way to improve the campus” became the motivation to create a coherent and structured approach to training these once and future leaders. Today, LIHC continues to offer more and better programming and aims to be in touch with students to determine the leadership needs and interests of Harvard undergraduates. The organization has won the esteem of the Office of Student Life and Activities for the work LIHC does on campus.

The Presidents Forum (TPF)

As part of the Leadership Institute of Harvard College, The Presidents’ Forum connects the leaders of Harvard’s 400+ student organizations and sports teams through both small **discussions** and large **banquets** to help them exchange leadership experience and advice, access community resources, synergize relationships and explore opportunities for greater collaboration across Harvard’s student leadership to promote a more effective, more unified student body.

Leadership Development Initiative (LDI)

The Leadership Development Initiative offers a series of workshops and discussions to educate and inspire Harvard students. Each **development series** workshop focuses on a specific aspect or skill necessary for effective leadership, and helps students develop themselves as leaders. LDI also hosts **biography series** discussions with prominent leaders from around the world, to allow students to learn from established leaders’ own experiences.

The Harvard Undergraduate Leadership Magazine

The Harvard Undergraduate Leadership Magazine was founded in spring 2008, developed from an earlier initiative to chronicle the activities and events of LIHC. It is divided into three sections: **Leadership Skills**, which includes articles about developing specific skills related to leadership, (2) **Interviews and Biographies** of prominent leaders in various sectors, giving their advice and guidance to readers, and a **Directory of Leadership Resources** for Harvard undergraduates.

For more information on the Leadership Institute or any of its programs, please visit www.harvardleadership.org