On Friday, September 10, 2010, Seton Hall University was ready to welcome a new class of online students into its academic family. Faculty and administrators of the Master of Arts in Strategic Communication and Leadership (MASCL) program were pleased to welcome 44 energized and inspirational men and women to the Hilton Newark Airport Hotel. Along with the graduating members of Learning Team 26 (LT26) attending their Final Residency weekend, the new faces of Learning Team 29 (LT29) convened for the first of their three on-campus residency requirements.

MASCL RESIDENCY FAST FACTS

- 3 intensive 2-credit weekend residencies
- Take place before Module I, after Module III, and at the end of Module V
- 12 p.m. on Friday to 12 p.m. on Sunday
- Hotel rooms and meals are included in cost of tuition; you are only responsible for transportation to the residency
- A great way to get to know your learning team mates and faculty
- Spend a day on Seton Hall’s campus in South Orange, NJ
- Like Seton Hall University, the residencies enrich the mind, heart, and spirit

WELCOME LEARNING TEAM 29!

From the Mile High City of Denver to the snowy landscapes of Anchorage, 23 ambitious professionals arrived at the Hilton Newark Airport Hotel, ready to begin their 18-month journey in the MASCL program.

We welcomed students from varying professions, work experience, and areas of interest. One could quickly identify the
impressive quality of these individuals based on early interactions.

The wealth of knowledge and experience these folks offer one another became clear immediately; they come from varied sectors ranging from the military to higher education, public relations, human resources, nonprofit organizations, and pharmaceuticals.

The feedback from one new student was that “it was a highly effective opportunity to network and get to know the professors.” Another student commented that “the MASCL professors were fabulous – exceptionally knowledgeable, professional and caring.”

FRIDAY

Having shared the first of many MASCL meals with their fellow team members and newest friends, the weekend commenced with a welcome to Seton Hall University, followed by information about financial aid and the MASCL program.

Next, the group took part in a speech presentation workshop and soon revealed their charismatic personalities and contagious energy as they introduced each other. Very quickly, the “group” started to become a “team.”

One student commented that “the [introduction] exercise on Friday prepared me for the speech exercise on Saturday. I took away a great learning and bonded with the entire team.”

During and after dinner, the new students had the opportunity to mingle with their fellow team members, MASCL faculty and soon-to-be graduates of LT26.

SATURDAY

On Saturday morning, students ventured to Seton Hall University’s campus in South Orange, NJ. Entering the MASCL program from varied professions and levels of technological proficiency, Saturday’s computer training session aims to familiarize all students with the academic and online tools available to them through the University. Recognizing the importance of technology in today’s world and, more particularly, in an online program, LT29 spent the morning learning to navigate the Blackboard online classroom system, student services, Webmail, SHU’s virtual library, and writing at the graduate level.

That afternoon, rooted in the MASCL philosophy of “learn it and apply it,” students participated in an extemporaneous speaking exercise followed by a solid session of speech coaching.

After delivering 3-minute presentations, LT29 received immediate, individual feedback from their instructors and peers. After making adjustments, they presented once again. One student noted, “The 3-minute speech provided excellent group feedback and was a great way to jump right in.”
As the newest members of Seton Hall’s 154-year-old community, LT29 explored the campus, ate lunch in the cafeteria, and visited the bookstore, a favorite stop for students at all three residency weekends.

The team concluded their day on-campus by joining LT26’s “Spirit Leader” Award Ceremony. Dr. Cecelia Wooden, instructor for Module V, presided over the awards ceremony: distributing cap and gowns, bestowing honor cords for academic excellence, announcing the valedictorian, and elaborating on the MASCL Spirit Leader tradition. Determined by the majority vote of his or her peers, the Spirit Leader is often referred to as the “elastic” that holds the team together and encourages them selflessly to persevere and succeed throughout the MASCL journey. Congratulations LT26 Spirit Leader, Rick DeSalvo!

At the awards ceremony, LT29 gained a greater sense of the importance of teambuilding and becoming a community of learners over the next year and a half.

LT29 spent the evening at a local restaurant reflecting upon the day’s events and discussing their expectations of the months ahead. Many folks continued to engage in teambuilding conversations long after dinner ended!

GRADUATION DINNER

At their graduation dinner on Saturday night with family and friends, LT26 students had the chance to thank those that helped them achieve their educational goals. They also provided the evening’s entertainment with their own version of the game Jeopardy.

SUNDAY

Before saying their farewells on Sunday morning to the men and women who will be a constant presence in their lives during the next year and a half, students of LT29 were introduced to their academic endeavors with a “A Lesson on Leadership” seminar conducted by Dr. Richard Dool, Director of Graduate Studies, Communication.
ANOTHER NEW BEGINNING – LT26

Brought together by chance, LT26 came to Seton Hall University because each team member sought a challenge that would enable them to learn and grow. During the final residency, they exhibited their mastery of strategic communication and leadership as Seton Hall University’s newest graduates.

At LT26’s Graduation and Hooding Ceremony on Sunday afternoon, Dr. Joan Guetti, interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, addressed the graduates, along with their family and friends. She congratulated them on becoming masters in their fields.

Amy Friend, M.A. ‘10, in her valedictory address noted that, “We came together as a group of 22 individuals. Total strangers. And, we’re leaving as a team of people who truly care for and support one another. Lifelong friends!”

After the speeches were finished and the academic hoods had been bestowed by the faculty, and Learning Team 26 was welcomed into the “Community of Scholars,” the graduates processed out of the auditorium and posed for pictures with family and friends before saying fond farewells to their teammates and faculty. Although their 18-month journey has come to a celebrated close, LT26’s leadership and learning continues.

Hazard Zet Forward!
Where MASCL Students & Alums Live & Work

FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Japan  England  Turkey  Canada
Kosovo  Germany  Bermuda  Iraq
Dominican Republic

The MASCL student body resides in the states shaded in blue.
These organizations represent a sampling of where MASCL students and graduates are employed.