MSE Leadership Initiative

Purpose:

To create a MSE Program-backed, student-led framework that provides:

- opportunities to enhance student leadership skills and abilities;
- educationally stimulating activities;
- opportunities for teambuilding, networking, and enhanced camaraderie;
- interaction with local, national and international alumni, industry professionals and experts/leaders in software engineering the field;
- exposure to Pittsburgh - both its cultural diversity and history; and
- an enjoyable experience for participants.

Vision:

Establish a social and educational program to help software engineering students become “agents of change” by learning and applying leadership principles.

Organization:

To help organize this initiative, the MSE student body selected a group of individuals to help lead and to interface with MSE faculty for the purposes of logistics, coordination, assistance and financing.

The organizing committee currently is:

Jonathan Hartje Chair
Michael Keeling Studio Manager
Shigeru Sasao Assistant Studio Manager
Guido Zgraggen MSE Rep.
Saurabh Gupta GSA Rep.
Aaron Fetterman MSIT Rep.
Gil Taran Faculty Rep.

The long term goal is to make this initiative self-sustaining and self-governing. By creating a process for scheduling events and obtaining feedback from the student body, our hope is to create an information base that will help grow this initiative over time. The MSE student body has expressed a strongly positive attitude towards this initiative. We believe this initiative can help to continue to establish the CMU MSE program as the best in the country.

Short Term Goals:

- Secure MSE Program support/backing
• Generate a list of activities along two tracks: ongoing educational events and selected one-time initiatives.
• Implement processes for event organization, event reflection/improvement, planning, scheduling and logistics.
• Provide technical infrastructure/tools for communication, coordination and event planning (wiki, blog, repositories, event scheduler, etc.).

Enhancing MSE Visibility:

Building on the reputation of the MSE program at Carnegie Mellon, the MSE Leadership Initiative would also like to be a platform that helps expand public visibility of its software engineering program and its graduates. By inviting industry experts to share their experience with the students, a social and professional link to industry organizations can be created, thereby benefiting students and faculty alike.

Connecting with industry will likely provide benefits in at least three ways. First, listening and learning from those who are actively changing the face of software engineering as a profession will be invaluable to the students’ education. Second, the MSE Program will enjoy an enhanced connection with industry partners, strengthening the program’s external resources and visibility. Third, industry partners will get to share ideas for software engineering education and learn more about existing capabilities, ideas, innovation and research at Carnegie Mellon and the MSE Program.

Event Types:

A set of selection criteria for picking events will be used to ensure success on multiple levels (educational, social, enjoyment etc’). These criteria will also help ensure that a good balance of event types are spread throughout the year.

Educational events are likely to include the following:
• Speaker series
• Alumni gatherings/talks
• Workshops/seminars
• Industry Project Management forum
• Case study discussions
• Site (company) visits

Other “one time” events might include things like:
• Sporting events
• Museums
• Cultural Events
• Adventure Sports (skiing, rafting, camping)