To: Dr. David Garlan  
From: The MSELI Founding Team  
Date: May 4, 2009  
Subject: Spring 2009 In Review

Dr. Garlan,

In an effort to keep the MSE core faculty up to date with the MSELI and it's mission, we've created this document to reflect on the group's organization and progress over the semester. At the beginning of the semester, a small group of MSE and MSIT students took up the challenge of creating a student-led, faculty backed program to provide additional education and experience with leadership in the software engineering field by hosting a variety of fun and engaging activities. We believe that effective leadership consists of three components - strategy, experience and reflection. We promote that continuously improving what you know about yourself, others and your environment is a required foundation for any quality leader. To begin, the group established the following list of goals at the onset of the spring 2009 semester:

- Choose the founding members
- Establish a common vision for the MSELI
- Establish group infrastructure tools and processes
- Carry out 4 to 5 events for the MSE and MSIT population
- Communicate status to the MSE faculty
- Establish a plan for long-term survival of the MSELI

To accomplish these goals, the group created a series of roles similar in structure to those used in the MSE Studio paradigm. The organizing group members with associated roles are:

- Aaron Fetterman - Technology Officer
- Saurabh Gupta - Public Relations Officer
- Jonathan Hartje - Group Chair
- Michael Keeling - Process/Documentation Officer
- Shigeru Sasao - MSE Studio Manager
- Guido Zgraggen - Event Facilitation Officer
- Gil Taran - Faculty Representative

As the semester comes to a close, we've begun to reflect back on our progress. We felt strongly that the majority of our focus in this first semester should be to establish a set of collaboration tools and processes. We leveraged these tools to plan and host a number of educational events for the students. The following is a list of the events hosted and the primary guest speaker for the event:

- Situational Leadership Style - Chris Labash
- Software Startups - Jose Bonetti, MSE Alum
- MSE/MSIT Group Movie Night
- Creative Problem Solving Workshop - Marie King
- TSP Primer - Dr. Marsha Pomeroy-Huff
- Microsoft Software Engineering - Kanat Abirov, MSE Alum
We feel that creating this strong infrastructure based on tools and process was key to our success in hosting these events. As part of the regular event process, the group distributes and collects feedback forms from all students in attendance. We use this feedback to reflect and measure our success with the event content and their effectiveness. To date, all events have been executed with highly positive feedback from the students.

As the summer semester approaches, the group is currently establishing its next set of semester goals. Among these is the chief desire for the MSELI to live past the founding members’ time in the MSE program. Because of this, the MSELI wiki will continue to be transformed into a tool for future classes' use. We would also like to see the core group membership grow and the curriculum for events more closely tied to leadership in the software engineering field. Our intent is to have increased participation from the students who want to lead their own events and activities. We hope that this can become a permanent part of the MSE program which helps continue to connect current students with MSE alumni practicing their skills in industry.

On behalf of the MSELI organizing group, we would like to thank the faculty for your guidance and support. We look forward to the summer semester and the continued evolution of the MSELI to benefit the student body.

Sincerely,
The MSELI Founding Team

For more information, please visit our wiki at: http://mseli.mse.cs.cmu.edu/