

Book Picks: The Leadership

Exploring Inspired... *Writing*

Leadership Book and Awards Presentation



David Horth receives the Leadership Book Award from Jim Force, faculty member at Leadership Development.

During the Banff Summer Arts Festival this July, Leadership Development hosted its first annual Leadership Book and Awards presentation. The event was developed to stimulate interest in newly published leadership books. It provided the public with a unique opportunity to view a collection of some of the most interesting and inspiring publications of the year, and to hear from the award winning author.

The Leader's Edge: Six Creative Competencies for Navigating Complex Challenges, published by CCL and Jossey-Bass Publishers, was selected from 25 entries. In the book, authors David Horth and Chuck Palus, of the Centre for Creative Leadership, highlight six creative competencies that they consider critical for successfully navigating complex challenges. David Horth was on hand to receive the book award, and to share his thoughts on developing creative competencies and the process for researching and writing the book.

You can find a complete list of the 2003 book entries and details on next year's book event on our Web site: www.banffleadership.com

The Leader's Edge: Six Creative Competencies for Navigating Complex Challenges

by Charles J. Palus and David M. Horth
ISBN:0787909998

Reviewed by award committee members -
Julia Cipriani, Jim Force, and Sandy Penrose

The Leader's Edge provides leaders with a scaffolding for making sense of, and leading others through, the uncertainty and turbulence of today's

organizational environments. The authors outline six creative competencies for navigating complex challenges: paying attention, personalizing, imaging, serious play, co-inquiry, and crafting. Their integration of these competencies with each other into a singular perspective for addressing complex challenges is a powerful, as well as practical, approach for making effective change.

Throughout the book, Palus and Horth stress the importance of building community, of tapping into a variety of resources, of seeking out people with divergent points of view, and of celebrating paradox in developing shared understandings of complex issues. In their synthesis of current theory and practice, the authors have done a thorough job of linking their competency framework to research and concepts that have been developed by others. They have arranged and presented solid ideas in simple language using case studies that demonstrate how each of the competencies applies to real life situations. Each competency is richly described and accompanied by cautionary notes.

The Leader's Edge reinforces the belief that leadership development is about personal development through interaction with others. It is about broadening perspectives, reflecting, connecting, and sharing experiences. Palus and Horth conclude that "one key to practicing creative leadership is discovering ideas and activities that resonate with your situation." Their invitation is to "take what you find in this book as raw material for your own inventions" while keeping in mind that your best work comes when you are engaged as a whole person in tune with others and the environment in which you work.

Compass Top *five*

The Business Side of Creativity

Cameron Foote ISBN: 0-393-73093-X

The Business Side of Creativity is a comprehensive book of ideas, models, and insights particularly suited to freelance business people such as graphic designers, artistic directors, illustrators, copywriters, and advertising executives. Author Cameron Foote, a successful entrepreneur and author of *The Creative Business Newsletter*, guides you through a step-by-step process for being successfully self employed – from getting started as a freelancer, to running a multi-person shop through to retiring comfortably. Foote explores topics such as establishing the business, pricing, protecting your financial interests, selling and marketing, promotion, running a multi-person shop and managing the creative organization. Foote also provides sample business forms for download on his Web site: www.creativebusiness.com/bizbook.html

Crossing the Unknown Sea: Work as a Pilgrimage of Identity

David Whyte ISBN: 1-57322-914-8

Reviewed by: Colin Funk

Crossing the Unknown Sea: Work as a Pilgrimage of Identity is a literary and poetic response to the subject of work and its effects on the individual – nothing less than a leadership compass for the soul. Author David Whyte has a long and successful history of introducing thought-provoking literary experiences for business leaders – whether through his written prose, poetry, or spoken word performances. In *Crossing the Unknown Sea*, Whyte elegantly uses the metaphor of sea voyage to take the reader on a journey of self-discovery – a sometimes choppy crossing between our soul, and our role at work.

Through a beautiful writing style, supplemented by poetry, we are encouraged to recapture our youthful enthusiasm for life so that we may use that passion to achieve our goals in the workplace and in our personal lives. If we are to be a success at anything in this world, we must enjoy doing what we do; our heart and soul must become a part of our work. This book provides a compelling case for an occasional or routine re-think and re-definition of one's vocational calling. If I was marooned on a desert island and could have only one book, this would be it. A real life preserver.

Leadership Ensemble:

Lessons in Collaborative Management from the World-Famous Conductorless Orchestra

Harvey Seifter & Peter Economy ISBN:0-8050-7186-5

The Orpheus Chamber Orchestra has earned rave reviews as one of the premier musical ensembles in the world. As one of the only major orchestras that rehearses, performs, and records without a conductor, Orpheus has also attracted the attention of the corporate world. *Ensemble* charts this new territory of collaborative leadership and how it can offer vital advantages to companies that need to develop responsive strategies, quick decision making, and increased customer responsiveness. The authors distill the “Orpheus Process” into eight principles that can add value to any organization: put power in the hands of the people doing the work, encourage individual accountability, create clarity of roles, share leadership, foster horizontal teamwork, learn to listen, seek consensus, and dedicate passionately to your mission.

The Biology of Business:

Decoding the Natural Laws of Enterprise

John H. Clippinger III ISBN:0-7879-4324-X

Increasingly interconnected, volatile and complex, today's organizations cannot be controlled by any conventional approach to management. In *The Biology of Business*, John Clippinger and nine outstanding contributors introduce managers to the complex adaptive system of management, a system that takes into account all of the variables that have an impact on modern enterprise and allow managers to take control from the bottom up. The authors bridge theory and practice to provide managers with proven tools and techniques they can use to transform their enterprise into self-renewing, self-organizing systems that are maximally responsive to changing market conditions. An interesting read and essential thinking to collaborative and network based leadership.

top 5
book picks