

SYKES TAMPA BAY LEADERS

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS PUBLICATION OF THE TECO ENERGY CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP

WHAT'S INSIDE



PAGE 3

> Navigating Through

What can Roman Emperors Teach Today's Leaders

By F. Frank Ghannadian, Ph.D., Dean, Sykes College of Business

Many have become familiar with the name and his leadership. Marcus Aurelius from the 2000 hit movie

“Gladiator” where Richard Harris portrays him as a great Roman general. Of course, the movie is a dramatization of the real historical truth. In his history, Marcus Aurelius ruled Rome from A.D. 161 to 180. He fought in Germania where his legions there were commanded by the Roman General Maximus. Aurelius was murdered by his son, Commodus, because he had appointed Maximus to succeed him. While he never intended to help leaders publish anything, Aurelius regularly wrote his thoughts on how he could personally improve his own leadership. Miraculously, the notes he wrote to himself were preserved and saved. Later these notes written in Greek were translated to English in the 17th century under the title of Meditations. Today, there are many followers, known as the stoic ethical followers, who refer to Marcus Aurelius as the founder of their ideology.

A quote from Meditations may bring to light the thought process of this great general (Footnote: 28-29 Meditations The annotated Edition by Robert Waterfeld 2021):
 “At the start of the day tell yourself: I shall meet people who are of vicious, ungrateful, abusive, treacherous, malicious and selfish. In every case they have got like this because of their ignorance of good and bad. But I have seen goodness and badness for what they are, and I know that what is good is what is morally right, and what is bad is morally wrong...”

Come on, make yourself a gift of this time. People who are over-interested in posthumous fame fail to take into consideration the fact that those who come after them will be no different from those they currently find objectionable, and just as moral as well. “

From Meditations, one can observe many lessons which are useful for leaders. A selection of 10 useful lessons from Marcus Aurelius' Meditations could be considered as a contribution to leaders and help one become a better leader.

And things in life have an ending.

Nothing will last forever, even your own life. Life is short, even if one lives to become 100. Keeping that perspective for leaders is important. Whether symbolically more beneficial to his reign

Continued on page 2

accomplishments. Learning to say “no” is important for leaders.

Be resilient.

Strong leaders know bad things are all around us.

We sometimes call it negative energy. One must fight negativity with a positive force. Whether in academics or in industry, it requires a lot of courage to struggle against negative forces.

Marcus Aurelius tells us we are stronger than we think.

Be a force for good for humanity.

Is there anything more important than doing good to help others live a better life? The purpose of a good leader is to help others achieve more or make things better. Business leadership is to make better products or give better services for mankind. Why would someone want to be a leader if they are not making the world a better place?

Complaining doesn't work.

Much more can be achieved if we change our ways rather than complain. If you are not satisfied with your job, you can change your job

it is the presidency or even a kingdom, there will be a time that it will end. Knowing this will put a perspective on the job at hand and doing the important stuff first.

Focus on the task at hand.

It does not matter what people think of you or who they are. Focus on whatever you are doing whether it is art, empowering others or finishing up a task. Remember there is limited time on Earth for everyone. In leadership, doing the right thing is the most important.

The truth is that one shapes his or her own reality.

You can be a successful businessman who made millions but are suffering because you feel like a failure or living poorly under a bridge but are completely content and full of gratitude. Look at the positive side of every challenge.

Doing less excellently is better than doing a lot with mediocrity.

By not extending ourselves we can do away with super uous tasks or tasks that have lesser value, and one can feel a better sense of

SYKES

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

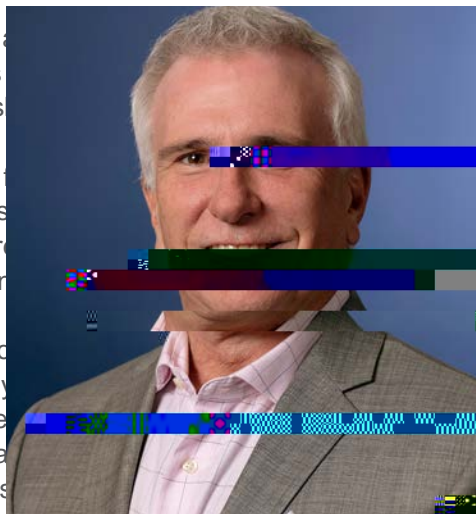


resonated with the community attendees and the upcoming fall and spring semesters with UT students alike. Cameron Weber, a UT student majoring in international business and finance, said that as a finance-focused student with a strong interest in commercial real estate, the webinar inspired him to broaden his search for internships and career paths. "Providing students the opportunity to list and talk to real-world professionals helps immensely, whether it be networking, career direction, or simply the opportunity of learning," he said.

The TECO Center for Leadership was also to stay involved in the Tampa Bay business community through two customized leadership programs for Protect My Car and Tampa General Hospital. Leadership topics range subjects such as "Current Issues in Leadership," "Multigenerational Implications for the Future Work," "Advancing Your Emotional Intelligence" and much more. If you are interested in the Modern Advances in Leadership certificate or any customized program at your company, you can submit an inquiry at www.ut.edu/c or reach out directly to Bella Galperin, senior associate director of TECO Energy Center for Leadership at bgalperin@ut.edu.

The center is continuing its effort to stay engaged

events upcoming. On October 13, 2021, the center will continue with its biannual leadership Speaker Series event with the fall Speaker Series featuring Bob Johnston, Chairman of the Board and CEO of Front Burner Brands. This event will be hosted in person attendance. Following that, the center will begin gearing up for the 2022 Leadership Summit scheduled in February and the spring Speaker Series event in March.



Bob Johnston, Chairman of the Board and CEO of Front Burner Brands



Leadership Speaker Series

For program details, contact the TECO Energy Center for Leadership
(813) 257-3742

