

TEDDY ROOSEVELT/ THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA AND SOME LEADERSHIP LESSONS

by F. Frank Ghannadian, Ph.D.

The RNC and the Republican crowd in Tampa last August were not the first Republicans on our campus. More than a century ago, Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt may have been the first Republican president who visited Tampa and the grounds of The University of Tampa. Many people visiting Tampa are intrigued by the old Tampa Bay Hotel, which is known today as Plant Hall.

During the Spanish American War, Plant Hall became the headquarters for troops going to Cuba and housed such visitors as Col. Roosevelt and many other celebrities. The Rough Riders and the Spanish American War may be forgotten by the general public unless they visit Tampa.

One can hardly talk about leadership without referring to Roosevelt, who is one of the most prolific leaders of the 20th century. Many books have been written about Roosevelt's presidency and his model of leadership. Some examples of his style may be useful for future leaders and generations:

- [Teddy Roosevelt's 90-minute speech](#) In 1912, Roosevelt, despite being shot in the chest by an assassin (the bullet went through his eyepiece holder and his thick speech manuscript), minutes later delivered a 90-minute speech.
- [Roosevelt's leadership style](#) Roosevelt used his oratorical skills to convey truth and tried to use nouns and verbs over adjectives. He avoided "weasel" words that lacked fact and feeling.

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Leading in an Unwired World

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often faced with extreme weather conditions, you may have developed respect for leaders willing to “run to a crisis.”

— In today’s highly competitive global markets, even though you may be currently successful and profitable, it’s not enough to be satisfied with the status quo. Leaders challenge their teams to be innovative, to find a “higher gear,” recognizing there is always room for improvement. Some of the best performing organizations do not view competitors as enemies, but as challengers deserving respect – catalysts of change, a necessary driver for success and growth.

— Community outreach can be an incredibly rewarding cornerstone of your organization’s reputation. Finding opportunities to share your organization’s success and offer benefits from the products or services you provide demonstrates leadership. Last year, Verizon Wireless provided more than \$66 million in funding to nonprofits, while employees and retirees volunteered more than 673,000 hours of their time supporting them. Whether through money or time, giving back is not just a sign of great leadership, it’s a duty great leaders embrace.

— Successfully developing talent from within the company is an attribute that can provide tremendous payback in the performance of your business unit. Investing

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