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AUGUST 2009 NEWSLETTER

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“My favorite part of the conference was meeting others in my field (leadership development) and sharing ideas.

—attendee, The Leadership Challenge Forum 2009

## Welcome to this special edition of The Leadership Challenge Newsletter!

We had a great time in Chicago and we were delighted to meet many of you. The excitement, enthusiasm, and depth of experience and knowledge displayed by the attendees was truly inspiring. We thought we would take this opportunity to share some notes and photos from the conference. [As always, please let us know how we are doing;](#) we may even contact you about featuring your ideas and stories in future editions of this newsletter.

Join the conversation on our Blog *LeaderTalk*

[www.leadershipchallenge.com/go/blog](http://www.leadershipchallenge.com/go/blog)

## Keynotes

This year's Forum featured three outstanding keynote speeches. To kick things off Thursday morning, Barry Posner spoke to the Forum theme of "Leveraging Leadership Across Generations." Which meant that he was also giving us a sneak speak at some of the ideas put forth in his and Jim's next book. While they started out thinking that this new book would be about what leadership means to the millennial generation, their work has lead them to understand that the meaning of leadership is actually not in doubt. Rather, there are several enduring truths of leadership. [Read more about Barry's keynote on our blog.](#)

Thursday afternoon, Jim Kouzes tackled a timely issue--Leading in Turbulent Times. Our current economic crisis offers two options for leaders--cause more stress or create positive change. When looking at history's great leaders, one can see that many were born of their own turbulent times. So what's the secret? Jim laid out a six principle prescription that leaders must keep in mind, especially right now: broaden the context, define reality, fully commit to what's important, take charge of change, engage with others, and tell positive stories. Ultimately, he urges leaders to "stay in love with everything about life"--a positive attitude can take you far!

Friday morning, we heard from John Hope Bryant, founder and CEO of Operation HOPE, Vice Charmain of the U. S. President's Advisory Council on Financial Literacy, and fellow author of Jim and Barry. John's dynamic and energetic speech was based on his new book, [Love Leadership](#), and delved into the idea of focusing on what you can give as a leader rather than what you get. He spoke of not just being a Ph.D., but a Ph.Do; that we should lead with love, not fear. He left us with the positive notion that we should strive to pay it forward and there will be "a

rainbow after this storm."

### **What We Attended**

Last month I wrote about the inspiration I find in a link Jim Kouzes sent me from Online College--[100 Incredibly Inspiring Videos for Leaders](#). So you can imagine my excitement when I found out that there would be a breakout session entitled "A Night at the Oscars." Presenter Michele Poche Flaherty did not disappoint. She showed clips from such movies as Braveheart and Men In Black followed by immediate debriefs (Braveheart Inspired a Shared Vision and Men In Black Challenged the Process). Michele also provided participants with information regarding the legal aspects of showing movies in the course of one's facilitation. The session wrapped-up with a lively discussion of additional movie ideas from attendees as well as suggestions for handling the technical aspects of presenting video in classroom settings.

### **Mingling**

On Thursday evening, all attendees were invited to a reception on The Chicago Skyline Terrace of the Renaissance® Chicago Hotel. Delicious appetizers and scrumptious desserts were served against a stunning backdrop of the Chicago River and the River North neighborhood. Old friendships were renewed and new acquaintances struck, all brought together by a shared passion for leadership. A great time was had by all.



### **Rants and Raves**

People are talking, talking about The Leadership Challenge Forum 2009. In the days leading up to the Forum, the conference was given a plug on [The Washington Post's On Leadership blog](#). And throughout our time in Chicago, Certified Facilitator Angie Chaplin proved why she was named one of [100 Leaders You Can Learn From on Twitter](#) with her consistent tweets of the various events. You can follow her @angiechaplin. In more media news, Pfeiffer Partner Ginny Wilson Peters blogs about John Hope Bryant's keynote address on Integrity Integrated. You'll find her blog [here](#).

## Forum Follow-Up

- Handouts and slides from Jim and Barry's keynotes, as well as from select breakout sessions are now [available on our website](#).
- The Call for Forum 2010 Presenters will go up within the next few months. Please check the website regularly for updates, and of course, we will announce the call in the newsletter.
- And speaking of Forum 2010...mark your calendars! The Leadership Challenge Forum 2010 will take place August 5-6, at the San Diego Sheraton Hotel and Marina, with pre-conference workshops taking place August 3-4.

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