

Prison

Entrepreneurship

Program

A17



"Give yourself the greatest opportunity at being successful!"

A17



ACE Chronicle

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From the EDITOR

Someone once told me that not all men are meant to be leaders and that some are meant to follow, and at the time I kind of believed it. Until I really thought about it and after, I came to resent the statement, because everyone is meant to lead their own lives. No one can ever make a decision for you; in the end you're always the one left with the choice of how you want your life to be.

We all have what it takes to be great leaders, some of us just choose not to act on those qualities. Some people choose to be led by others, but here's the great question that I pose to you. How do you ever plan to obtain your own dreams and aspirations, when you're following someone else's dreams? Take your life off of auto-pilot, take the wheel and reach your dreams!

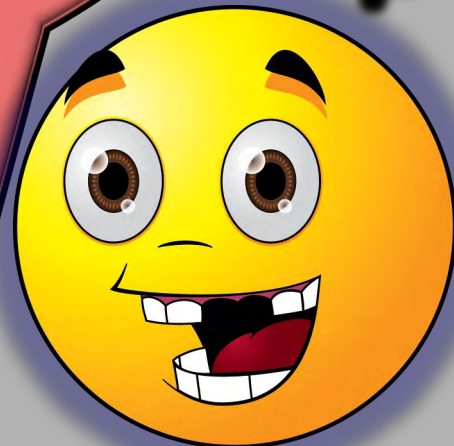
Legends of fall '17, don't allow another person's decisions to dictate your own. Speak for yourself, act on your own and lead by example. Your brothers and I will be with you every step of the way. We believe in you and we love you! Live between the wings like we know you can!

-Michael G.

a.k.a.

"Baby Simba"

"If you don't believe that you can be successful yourself, then how can you expect others to believe it?"



WALL POSTS

Ricky D.



I would like to commend our new brother; Ricky D. for being a role model –not only to his class, but also to the servant-leaders that have the honor to be in his presence. I have had the privilege to witness this man do so many acts of kindness that it not only inspires but also motivates those around him to be just as authentic as him. I pray that these acts of kindness are returned to him in abundance and continue to spread amongst our PEP community. -Valentin T. (A.K.A. "Toaster-Strudel")



Gene S.

I would be honored to acknowledge and salute one of my new brothers; one Fall '17 representative. Gene S. has truly shown his determination to transform his life and live out the rest of his days as an authentic man, father and servant-leader. Even if I wasn't his neighbor, and living in the same pod with him for months-I know that I would have still noticed this man's desire to live by our (PEP's) "Ten driving values". Every morning when the dayroom opens, he is among the rest of us early risers. He claims a spot at a table and goes to "work". Studying for his five test, or reading from scripture, and writing his kids. Throw in the fact that he is a "Wolf -Pack" member and Prayer leader for the chaplain's congregation-and never missed a "rec" or service; I believed that he took on too much. He is an example of good habits and rewards, considering he passed his five test with all hundreds, got to participate with "Day with Dads" and is still a constant figure in the Church and out in the field with the rest of the wolves! Ask him how he did it, he'll just say "No Sweat!"

-Bryan G. A. (a.k.a. "Roly-Poly")

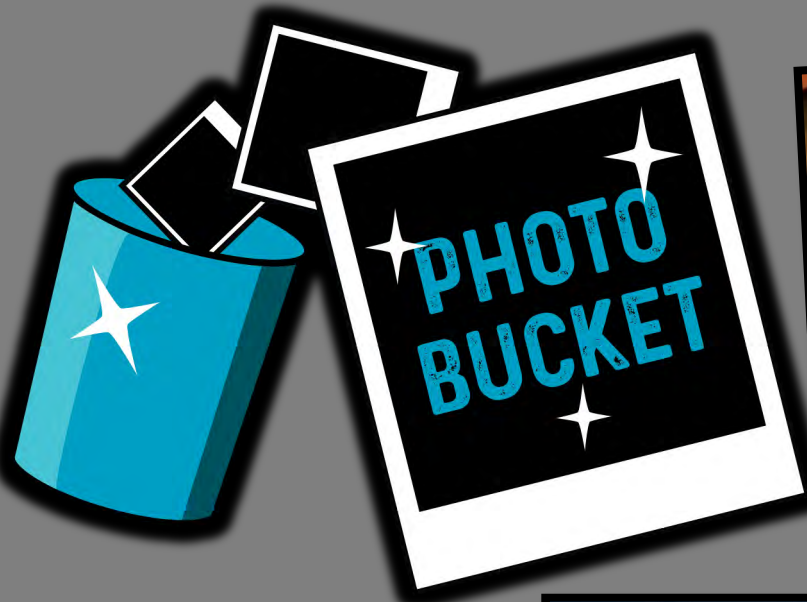


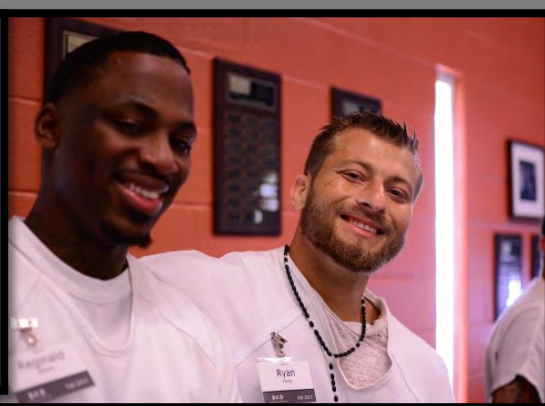
Jacob F.

Jacob came to PEP with a investigator's mindset. He was solid in his values (still is) but, willing to admit that maybe a change is due. He struggled through Men's Life and even considered walking away a time or two. In those tough moments it only took a reminder of his commitment to stir his core beliefs and that has kept him moving forward towards his vision for success. Keep your head up, your chin tucked and don't stop swinging! You are worth the effort.

-Charles L. (a.k.a. "Tigger")









THE LEGENDS

Memory Lane

As I reflect back on my life, my fondest memories are when I was a child. When I was about 10 years old, running around the house-running in and out of my mother's welcoming arms, laughing and giggling . . . The innocence of a child. Living life under the protection of my mother, having her guidance and helping hand when I stumbled , the simplest times seemed fun and rewarding. Her endless love always showering over us no matter how difficult it got for her, just trying to survive. Even when times got hard, she tried not to show it and persevered, always giving my brother and I the best, never letting us see the pressures of working over 12 hours a day-seven days a week. I remember my mother working from home sewing for bare minimum. Mountains of fabrics in so many piles from the factory. Her smiles as my brother and I would play "cops and robbers", and her laughter when she would play "hide and seek" with us and find our hiding places. These are unforgettable moments throughout my life that I got to share with my loving and nurturing mother. I will live my life as the authentic and caring man as she raised me to be, hoping to make her proud once again while she watches down from the heavens above. I love you Mom.

Ho-Chang T. (a.k.a. "Sweet and Sour")

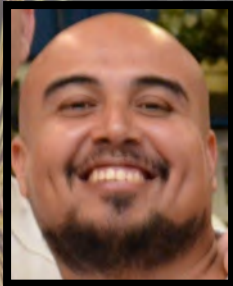
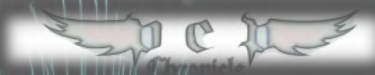


I am a dog lover. There is just something about a big goofy happy dog that makes me happy to be alive. A year and a half before I came here to the “big house”, I decided I wanted a boxer. I looked at many puppies but did not find a fit for my family. A friend talked me into checking out a boxer rescue shelter. When I went in the door I was greeted by a big (and I mean big-125lbs.) goofy, happy male boxer. He was just over a year old, and I fell in love immediately. I was told that the people who dropped him off only said one thing; “He is too big—put him to sleep”. I named him ‘Chesty’ after the Marine general Chesty Puller. Chesty in his first weeks at his new home proved his worth to me, and little Layla. One Saturday afternoon I was in the kitchen and heard Chesty barking over and over. This went on awhile, and I assumed he had treed a squirrel or found a snake outside, so I went out to check. Arriving outside I was filled first with confusion, then horror, and then pride. Layla had discovered how to operate the front door latch, and was in the front yard a few feet away from the street. Our country road was fast traveled by drivers and I had no fence. Layla was mad—on her joyous liberated trek to the road! She had met an adversary; big goofy (Chesty). Chesty knocked her over on to her rear, while she hollered and hit his big muscular back. Chesty laid on her legs and barked—calling for backup; me! Who would have thought that a dog, too big for one family would save the child of another. If we apply this lesson to the men around us, how much value has society put away as worthless? We all just need a second chance; to be rescued and show our worth.

-Brandon L. (a.k.a. Sherlock)



Special Dedications



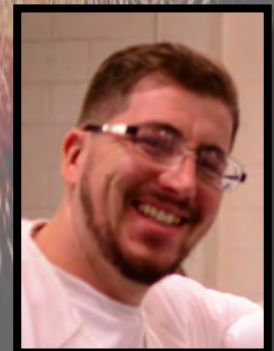
“Thank you for all your love and support. It means a lot to me to know I have you by my side. Go Cowboys!” Reymundo I. (a.k.a. Hot Tamale)

“To my mother, wife and daughters. True Queens.” Jaa’far A. (a.k.a. Sweet Chewy Jolly Rancher)



“The Lord has blessed me to be a changed man for the future. Everyday. All day.” James K. (a.k.a. Golden Nugget)

“Ofa Lahi Atu.” Morgan P. (a.k.a. Chicken Noodle Soup)

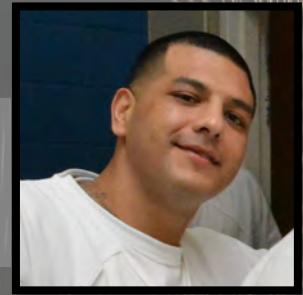


“Shout out to my family. Especially to my Mom and Grandma.” Steffano C. (a.k.a. Munchkin 1)



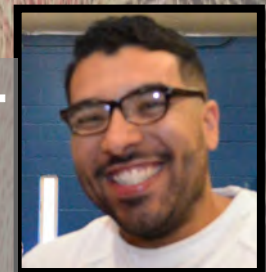


“A wise man will change but a fool will remain the same.” Marcos A. a.k.a. Sweating Bullets



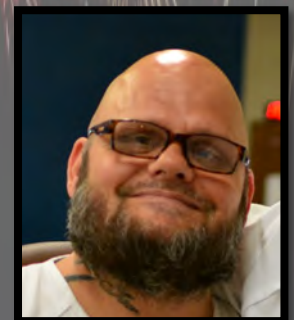
“I’m working hard and strong to be the best. Love y’all.” Dorian W. a.k.a. Pikachu

“Thank you for being my support, cornerstone. Your own aspirations encourage me to be the best person I can be.” Anthony R. a.k.a. Pedro



“My life is way better because of y’all. Nothing would mean more than to see you at my graduation.” Harry H. a.k.a. PEP Bus Driver

“I would like to thank my mother, my wife and my children for inspiring me to be a better man.” Tolbert G. a.k.a. Leprechaun



Special Dedications



Battles of life

Life is a battle with steep walls to climb,
I climbed the walls by committing crimes.
In and out of prison-time and time again,
Trapped by addictions and the Devil's sin.
Bursting with flames my life was a mess,
Mixing pain and pleasure is the ultimate stress.
I woke up one day-decided to rebuild these walls,
And to get back up no matter how many falls.
The flames were no longer bursting-there was nothing but smoke,
With God's presence in my life –he wouldn't allow me to choke.
He told me to just trust and believe and have faith,
Because I could come in an instant-so no time to waste.
I took those wise words that I heard that glorious day,
And that night I fell to my knees and began the ultimate pray;
“Lord give me the strength and guide me to your light,
And I will rebuke the devil with my greatest fight.”
Now I'm climbing a mountain and I'm done committing crimes,
I wrote this poem for you and for you it rhymes.

You gave me the courage to pick up this pen and pad,
And when I thought I had nothing-your love showed me what I had.



- Devada F. (“a.k.a. Porky Pig”)

Internal



I have all the answers -That's what I told myself.
Year after year-failure after failure
Helped me mold myself.
Until leadership academy helped me re-edit myself
Rejecting passivity was something foreign to me,
And excepting responsibility wasn't a norm for me;
Until I unpacked my luggage and analyzed myself,
Realizing I had a lack of vision and a missing father
Wound inside myself.

- Quinton G. (a.k.a. “Pop Rocks”)



Express Yourself

EXPRESS YOURSELF

WHEN YOUR FEET ARE SO TIRED THAT YOU HAVE TO SHUFFLE BACK TO THE CENTER OF THE RING, FIGHT ONE MORE ROUND.

WHEN YOUR ARMS ARE SO TIRED THAT YOU CAN HARDLY LIFT YOUR HANDS TO COME ON GUARD, FIGHT ONE MORE ROUND.

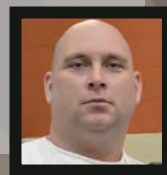
WHEN YOUR NOSE IS BLEEDING AND YOUR EYES ARE BLACK AND YOU ARE SO TIRED THAT YOU WISH YOUR OPPONENT WOULD CRACK YOU ON THE JAW AND PUT OUT TO SLEEP, FIGHT ONE MORE ROUND.

REMEMBER, THE MAN WHO ALWAYS FIGHTS ONE MORE ROUND IS NEVER WHIPPED.

BY JAMES J. CORBETT.

When reading this I am envisioned with the men in my class who will keep going another round because we are here taking the steps to change our lives no matter how hard it will be for us.

Thoughts from Forris B. a.k.a. Jolly Green Giant.



Legends of the Fall 17

Think Tank



THE LEGENDS OF FALL 17 HAD THEIR FIRST EVENT THIS PAST WEEK. WITH THIS EVENT BEING THE FIRST OF PHASE TWO, THE ATMOSPHERE HERE AT THE CLEVELAND UNIT WAS VIBRANT AND FULL OF ELECTRICITY. FROM A PERSONAL STANDPOINT, THIS EVENT HAS HAD A VERY STRONG AND POSITIVE IMPACT ON MY PEP BROTHERS, AS WELL AS, MYSELF. IT IS MY BELIEF THAT BEING ABLE TO SIT WITH EXECUTIVES AND DISCUSS BUSINESS IDEAS WILL BECOME OF VITAL IMPORTANCE, AS WE GROW CLOSER TO THE BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION. I CAN ONLY HOPE THAT ALL OF MY BROTHERS GAIN AT LEAST ONE PIECE OF INFORMATION THEY WERE LOOKING FOR, AND IF NOT, UNDERSTAND THAT EVERYTHING THAT WAS SAID WAS TO BENEFIT THEM IN SOME WAY. I WOULD LIKE TO COMMEND EACH AND EVERYONE OF THE EXECUTIVES THAT DE-

DECIDED TO COME OUT AND SHED SOME INSIGHT FOR OUR BUSINESS PLANS. IT WAS AMAZING! ALSO LAST, BUT NOT LEAST I WOULD LIKE TO SEND A PERSONAL THUMBS UP TO EVERY PARTICIPANT OF THE LEGENDS OF FALL 17 CLASS, FOR BEING ABLE TO RISE TO THE OCCASION, AFTER A LONG WEEK OF BEING LOCK DOWNED AND BECOMING FEARLESS LEADERS. HERE IS TO BECOMING LEGENDS THAT LAST FOREVER.

Dorian W.

(a.k.a. Pikachu)

