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The Ninth Coaching Survey

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Sherpa Coaching Certification

University of Georgia

Upcoming sessions:

Fall 2013
October 7-11 and November 11-14

OR

Spring 2014
March 17-21 and May 12-15

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With over forty graduates working around the world in companies ranging from Toyota to Proctor & Gamble, the program that Sherpa Coaching holds at UGA is truly something special.

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Each year, our Executive Coaching Survey has produced a theme, a landmark on the horizon of this relatively new profession. Here’s what we’ve seen in recent years;

Our 2010 coaching research was focused on survival and recovery. Our tag line: “If crisis is a test for leaders, last year was a final exam.”

In 2011, aggressive spending plans for executive development led us to this title: “Power to the People: The Path to Personal Development”

2012 saw a huge turning point in the credibility and perceived value of leadership development, which led to our report’s banner headline: “Executive Coaching: Here to Stay”

Our 2013 edition explained: “Executive coaching clearly occupies a place as a permanent fixture in the modern organization.” And the title just had to be: “Executive Coaching at the Summit”.

What will the ninth annual report reveal? That’s entirely up to you. Invitations to participate go out in mid-November. You can forward your invitation freely. The more people who take part, the better our breakout data will be for countries, regions and metropolitan areas.

Here’s the latest report, always a free download:

I was reminded recently of the phrase we often use at Change Partners Coaching – “We take what we do very seriously, but we try not to take ourselves too seriously”.

Maybe rather trite, but it attempts to express the importance of humility in a coach. But are there perhaps some times when we should take ourselves seriously? That inner voice, which reminds us of our values when we are unreasonable, or cautions us when we are behaving in an arrogant or irrational manner, sometimes talks a lot of sense – but the temptation is often to ignore it.

Similarly, the stubbornness we all show when repeating a particular action, hoping for different outcome (madness, we all know), could often be countered by taking more seriously the part of us which is saying “This doesn’t work – think how to do it differently”. So why don’t we take ourselves seriously? Well, it’s been drummed into us that we always see the best in ourselves, that self-belief overdone leads to a generally unpleasant demeanour which turns others off – pride comes before a fall you know!

Maybe there’s room for some balance – my experience is that actually we are generally our own severest critic, so maybe if we take ourselves seriously when we are offering ourselves critical feedback, or cautionary advice, but ignore ourselves when we in self-congratulatory mode, would that be a useful guideline? Well – maybe.

What about the benefit of self-motivation? Doesn’t that work on the principle that we believe that what we do is important and useful, and that we are the right person to be doing it? We don’t need anyone else to tell us these things for us to feel passionate about something.

So maybe we just have to treat ourselves like everyone else – any feedback is a gift, but like any gift, once it has been given, it is up to the recipient to decide what they will do with it.

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Andy is a member of the World Association of Business Coaches, a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute and holds the post-graduate certificate in Coaching from Middlesex University.

Change Partners is South Africa’s foremost executive coaching practice. Founded in 1998, they are the first company in Africa to focus exclusively on the development of business leaders through the deployment of customised executive coaching techniques.
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March 17-21 and May 12-15

Our featured program, on campus at the University of Georgia, Athens.

Call Pam Bracken, Director
706.542.3537
Details at sherpacoaching.com

Sherpa reached out to UGA back in 2007, while expanding their affiliations with prestigious universities across the country. In an exclusive interview with LED, Pam Bracken, Department Head of Special Projects and Curriculum Development at UGA, said that the university was “thrilled” by the chance to work with Sherpa Coaching — they had researched Sherpa’s coaching and certification portfolio and had also spoke at length with Brenda Corbett and Judith Coleman, determining that their course was an excellent fit for the university’s curriculum.

Bracken also stated that the curriculum was attractive because it was affiliated with strong content and established authors; “The Sherpa process is the only one out there for executive coaching. The graduates from this course give consistently excellent reviews, even going so far as to refer other candidates to the program.”

One of the course’s graduates, Dr. Ann Chinnis, now a Master Sherpa coach, said of the program: “I have never in all my 26 years of medical and executive education been a part of an educational endeavor that is so intense, productive and life changing. This course delivered exactly what it stated it would and it wasn’t just didactic. It is a skill set of behavior that is really tough to teach and requires a teacher who can model it—which Brenda Corbett did. This course deserves 5 PLUS stars.”

If you are interested in learning more about this program visit here; if you would like details outlining the benefits of a Sherpa Certification, you can visit this page. There are two courses coming up in the next few months – the Fall 2013 semester course will take place October 7-11 and November 11-14. The Spring 2014 semester course will take place March 17-21 and May 12-15. Registration is now open.