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PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Leadership Inspiration: *The Slight Edge*

By Scott Randles

Editor's Note: In the Leadership & Development Section's Leadership Inspiration Contest, entrants were asked to tell us what inspired them to be better actuarial leaders. Here is an entry from the "Book/Song" category.

While I have received a number of leadership inspirations over my career, the book *The Slight Edge*, by Jeff Olson, stood out for me because it helped me put into practice long-term leadership principles that I wanted to possess.

Just knowing how to be a good leader means nothing unless you can translate the principles into your everyday life. This book helped me understand that true leadership starts with what seem like insignificant interactions and small decisions that I make, rather than through major decisions and meetings. I realized that having discipline to make time for things such as face-to-face conversations over lunch or in the hallway, controlling my emotional responses when responding to emails, discussing my own mistakes openly, and showing compassion to others in a time of need, when compounded over time helped me become a better leader.

As the author points out, these little things are all quite easy to do, but they are all quite easy not to do as well. ■



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