

***“Discussion-based Learning and Qualities of Servant Leadership”***

[A [Wisdom Scholar](#)'s thoughts on some of the principles central to Wisdom Works' approach]

(As of 2007-2008) Wisdom Scholar James Manganello is a junior, working toward a bachelor's in history and English from the University of Michigan. He is studying in Ireland this semester. Some of his observations follow:

“I study at an Irish university, and this too has been a forum for examining differences. Irish universities are currently attempting to shift from an old system to a new one. The old system was one based completely on lectures and exams—a completely unidirectional system from teacher to student. Now, the university is trying to shift toward a more discussion-based venue, by which the students are more actively engaged in the material. This attempt at change followed from the realization that students learned better when encouraged to interact with the teacher and with the material, and also that teachers *taught* better when receiving more immediate feedback from their pupils.”

While in Ireland, James is working in a restaurant and sees Servant Leadership in action there.

“We all have *different* positions, but they are no position is *better* than another, and if it's more sensible to bend that position than to keep staunch order, then we just bend. My boss—despite my egalitarian portrait, I *do* have a boss—is practicing, I think, an admirable form of servant leadership. When I read about this form of leadership, my body immediately recreated the warmth of interdependence that I feel at work. This feeling is adamantly opposed to the tense, rushed attitude of many other jobs I've held, where the prevailing feeling is that it really is horrible if one cog in the machine falters.”