Reflections on the Fall Semester

By Danielle Brandreth, Cerulean Block

It seems like the fall semester simply flew by. One minute we were enjoying our Fall Retreat, and the next we were packing for Christmas break. The semester was filled with numerous memories for both the Cerulean and Mint Blocks. The Ceruleans met one another and began to form friendships and learn about leadership skills. Most of the Mints began their Community Service Internships (CSI’s) and strengthened their bonds with one another.

There were many activities throughout the semester. First, the Fall Retreat, and despite the rain, the time at Bay Cliff was enjoyable. After the retreat was the fall hike lunch to see all of the beautiful fall colors of the Upper Peninsula.

Next, the Leader in Residence, Rob Shetterly. He gave multiple speeches about becoming the best leader you can be. The SLFP also had their first Mentorshop and began the process of getting to know another individual. The last activity we all spent with one another was the holiday party at the Presque Isle Pavilion.

Throughout the semester, Block members showed their pride for the SLFP by wearing their t-shirts and sweatshirts around campus. There was also an indoor picnic to recruit new members for the SLFP.

Each Skill Builder! was different and unique. There wasn’t enough time in the day to attend all of the interesting Skill Builders!

Overall, the semester flew by and was enjoyable. The variety of activities and Skill Builders! hooked the Cerulean Blocks! Most of the Mints finished their first semester at their CSI’s and are heading back for round two with smiles on their faces. Everyone is looking forward to what lays ahead for the SLFP.

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Skill Builders! occupied the hearts of many Block members as everyone tried to get closer to the required 15. The Skill Builders! were a lot of fun and educational. They included how to fix cars, cooking outside, and diversity and other cultures.
Slidin’ Dirty: Sledding on Campus

By: Tom Rich, Cerulean Block

Finding a Sled
Finding a Hill

Only the foolish would deny that winter has come to Northern, and winter would soon prove their foolishness by giving them frostbite on their exposed limbs. For the mature, adult student of Northern Michigan University, of course, the thick blanket of snow which covers the land can mean only one thing: time for sledding. For the Northern student planning a sledding excursion, we present these tips.

Finding a Hill

Northern’s campus isn’t as hilly as, say, San Francisco, but there are a few good places for sledding shenanigans. The most obvious would be THE hill, the long stretch leading up from the dorms, which has been worn into a smooth ice-slick by countless students wandering up and down. I would caution against going sledding here at noon on a Tuesday; while hurtling toward a crowd of nursing students and sending them flying like bowling pins may sound awesome, there will probably be consequences of the harsh variety. Save your big hill excursions for evening, when the traffic has slowed down. Another option is the small, pine-tree-clad hill just north of Cohodas or check out the hill near Whitman Hall. You may have to crouch a little in order to get under the lowest branches, but this reporter can say from experience that it’s a great place to sled. Finally, you could always just drag yourself up to the top of any of the snow heaps the plows have made. Watch out that you don’t slide into a parking lot.

That’s about all there is to it. Get creative with your sleds and sliding spots. Harness two big guys to a rocking chair and use it like a sleigh! Bundle up and have a good one, because nothing gets you fired up to study like spending an hour in the freeze-

Holla’ Back: Change The World

Richard Andersons, Cerulean Block:

If I could go back and change any event in history, I would go back and keep the cell phone from being invented. Well, maybe not the cell phone, but at least the ear piece. Can’t tell if those people are talking to me or not for sure, and they get upset for interrupting their “private” conversation when you ask!
Welcoming the New Year, a take on Diversity

By: Bisi Lashore, Cerulean Block

Whoever knew that one single day could be held so special by so many, and yet be celebrated with so much diversity and interest. To some people, New Years is a day to thank the Almighty God for a year just passed and for a new beginning; to others, it’s simply one more day. But to all, this is a day that brings new hopes or new worries. Yet, New Years is celebrated all the same.

The funny thing about the holiday is that it is celebrated mainly within a few minutes in which the new year actually comes to pass, with people all over the world sharing the delight of the countdown to another year. Even more amazing is the fact that it happens every hour in countries all over the world. As a result, we see different importance of its celebration and how it is celebrated. It is also interesting that while some have yet to see the new year, others have long experienced and forgotten the oh-so-thrilling transition. This discrepancy can be found even in the United States. For instance, it could be January 1 in New York, but people in Alaska have another five hours to wait before they would have the pleasure of being in the new year.

Talking about national discrepancies in time change, Nuku’alofa of the Kingdom of Tonga, is one of the first places to experience the new year and Midway Island of Samoa is one of the last places to experience it. Both countries are very close to one another, yet they are different in terms of culture and have an entire day separating their existence. Who says you cannot go back in time or to the future? It’s really simple to travel in time; all you need to do is travel from Tonga to Samoa and vice-versa.

The article, “World Embraces 2008 New Year with Various Celebrations,” gives a whole variety of how the new year was welcomed. The article states:
“...In Indonesia, the people of the capital city Jakarta celebrated the new year with amazing fireworks display. In Sydney, Australia, also one of the first cities to embrace the new year, about a million people enjoyed the fireworks arrayed from the Iconic Harbor Bridge. In the romantic world of Paris, France, mass car-honking on the famous Champs-Elysees street, by thousands of local residents and tourists, is their own unique way to introduce the new year. In UK, London’s Trafalgar Square and the banks of River Thames was flocked with people delighting in fireworks and Big Ben’s resounding bongs. In the Spanish Capital of Madrid, the Puerta del Sol Square had thousands gathered for the new year countdown. Many also followed the tradition of eating 12 grapes, one for each chime of the clock, in hopes of good luck in 2008”.

All in all, the entire New Year celebration, regardless of the place in which it occurs, seems to be embraced with lots of noise and revelry. However, the form of noise and revelry incorporated by the countries differ from one another.
10 Favorite Aspects of the SLFP

1. Parties for every occasion.
2. Selection week activities.
3. The Fall Retreat!
4. Archie Bunker activity in UN 250. So unfair!
5. Changing the world, one CSI at a time.
6. Awesome Mentors.
7. The sense of belonging to the fellowship.
8. Jon’s digressions in class.
10. Boundless food at every event!

Selection Week Schedule

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<td>10 a.m-2p.m Collect Applications in the LRC</td>
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CALENDAR

Thursday, February 7
- Workshop: Rental Confidential, 6 p.m., The Back Room

Friday, February 8
- SLFP Applications Due by 5 p.m. in 1206 UC

Tuesday, February 12
- Workshop: Attitude, Motivation, and Time Management, 4 p.m., The Back Room

Wednesday, February 13
- Workshop: The Climate Movement, 7:30 p.m., The Back Room

Friday, February 15
- Workshop: Ethics in Your Organization, 4 p.m., The Back Room

Monday, February 18
- Workshop: D.J. Eagle Bear Vanas, 4 p.m., Whitman Commons Room

Tuesday, February 26
- Workshop: Group Dynamics, 4 p.m., The Back Room

Thursday, February 28
- Workshop: The Art of Sushi, 3 p.m., The Back Room