We hope to see all of you at the SLFP 20th year reunion: June 23-25, 2011
First and foremost, we want to invite all of you to our 20-year SLFP reunion festivities, which will take place June 23-25, 2011. Please mark the dates on your calendar right now; we hope to see all of you at this very special celebration. We have been brainstorming lots of grand plans for the reunion; however, we want all your creative ideas too. This is sure to be a very significant and enjoyable weekend with lots of shared memories, laughing with old friends, and catching up on each other’s lives!

As we embarked on this year with the 20th Fall Retreat, Dave Bonsall gave a keynote address full of history and leadership “SLFP style” with comments from special guest Sandra Michaels. What an amazing story to tell. Then, over the past few days, while looking through the old photos and 20 years worth of program evaluation data to prepare this special edition newsletter and other celebratory press pieces, our belief that the SLFP is a tremendous success has been reaffirmed.

Not only have there already been 20 years of SLFP success, we are happy to report that the program is currently as strong as ever. We had a record number of applicants last year, an indication that the SLFP is well regarded in the eyes of NMU students. In honor of being the 20th group of SLFP members, the selected group decided to call themselves the Gold Blocks, and boy, do their sweatshirts look cool.

The SLFP was selected as the Upper Peninsula Children’s Coalition, 2010 Organization of the Year Award winner, and was recognized again at the state level through the Governor’s Service Awards program as a nominee for the 2009 Outstanding Volunteer Organization of the Year Award. For these and several other accomplishments, we received a great deal of local news coverage this year, which always helps with mentor recruitment and donor support.
Speaking of donor support, we were pleased to award the 2nd Annual Bill and Wilma Verrette Outstanding Community Service Internship Award through the recurring gift commitment from Bill and Wilma Verrette. This year a pair of students, Laura Garlick and Jenny Grasch, received the award for their science programming at the U.P. Children’s Museum so the Verrette’s doubled their gift to $1,000 allowing each student to present $500 to the museum.

We had a lot of fun making fellowship and SLFP pride a big focus this past year, which seemed to be successful given the enthusiastic “woo hoo” shout outs for the SLFP at the RA training session, the Leadership Recognition Banquet, and several other major campus events. From now on, any time you hear “SLFP” you should respond by shouting “woo hoo!”

Challenged by budget cuts, we lost the Leader in Residence program; however, we creatively combined our needs with the International Visiting Scholar series to get funding to bring Purple Block SLFP Alum, Holger Wagner, to campus from Kenya to serve both purposes. Numerous indicators made it clear that his visit was very successful.

Just to note, we now have 731 graduates of the program who completed nearly 82,000 hours of service in positions of leadership at 344 different internship sites while they were in the SLFP. Sharing numbers like those makes us incredibly proud to be part of this ongoing movement for ethical leadership development. Moreover, hearing the many stories of continued community involvement and leadership endeavors from alums gives us even greater confidence that the program is accomplishing its purpose to inspire socially responsible change at the community level all over the world.

This program’s success would not be possible without the financial support from our numerous donors. Accordingly, we would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who was able to give financially to the SLFP this past year. Some of you even gave more than once. It humbles us to see such SLFP pride, ownership, and continued commitment to leadership development. In response to our annual fall fundraising letter, we raised about $9,000 in gifts. Then, in May we were offered an “up-to $2,500” matching gift to all new pledges collected, so we initiated the first-ever SLFP calling campaign. In addition to the full $2,500 match, this campaign brought in over $5,300 in pledges.

We need this kind of help now more than ever during these hard economic times. If we can fully endow this program, its continued existence...
through even the worst of financial times will be secured. As we celebrate our past 20 years of SLFP success and fundraise to secure a future 20 years and beyond, we are thinking of unique ways to utilize your leadership abilities and SLFP pride in new ways to give this ongoing campaign the shot in the arm it needs. Please stay tuned for more details about how you can help.

Remember, our website www.nmu.edu/slfp gets updated often with fun new SLFP stories so bookmark it and check back whenever you feel like it.

We are so excited to see you at the reunion, June 23-25, 2011. Let us know what you think we could do to make it an extra special event.

RED BLOCKS

Eric Bolduc of Scottsdale, Arizona, was recently hired by the Holmes Murphy Firm to open and operate their Arizona office. When he is not working, he still makes time for golf, working out, and volunteering with the Special Olympics of Arizona. One of his greatest memories of the SLFP was the 15th reunion of the Red Blocks, and he looks forward to the next one.

Briget (Berquist) Fields and family, Skylar, Wayne, and Dalton, of Cottage Grove, Minnesota, cheered on the Wildcats when they won the Dodge Holiday Classic title in January. It’s (always) a great day to be a Wildcat!

Fred and DeAnna (Doyle) Strand and family, Kennedy (14), Nikkole (11), and Trey (8), tell us
they feel blessed and that they have been busy. They traveled to Washington, DC last year and are very active with the Scouts, Relay for Life, their church, and spending time with friends and family.

蓝色块
Sherry (Szczepanski) Rosenkranz of Imlay City, Michigan, is now the vice president/management supervisor with Campbell-Ewald, a marketing and advertising company. Sherry oversees all the digital initiatives on the Navy account. She was also recently accepted as a LIVESTRONG leader and will be building awareness of the LIVESTRONG program and cancer in general. When reflecting on the SLFP, she says, “I am so very thankful for the opportunity I was given to participate in the SLFP. It has proven to be invaluable during my career, and I credit the skills I learned for much of my success.” Best of luck to Sherry in her future endeavors!

绿色块
Sarah (Booth) Borlace and son, Aaron, are still living in Midland, Michigan.
Congratulations to Dr. Krista (Jenson) Malley after successfully defending her dissertation in October 2009. Yahoo! Krista and her husband, Dwayne, of Oxford, Michigan, recently celebrated their second wedding anniversary. Krista has been the director of the Academic Skills Center at Oakland University for nearly two years and enjoys the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of students by offering tutoring and supplemental instruction. She reflects that the SLFP was one of best experiences while at NMU and still refers to her SLFP binder for inspiration!

Scott and Sharon (Togstad Berry) Minton and their family (Emma and Luke) are currently living at Scott AFB, Illinois. Scott is a KC-135 command evaluator pilot for HQ Air Mobility Command. They have had some really fun times celebrating Emma’s 6th birthday and Luke’s 5th birthday on two special trips to Walt Disney World last year. They also adopted a standard poodle named Sissy, and she has been a welcome addition to their family.

Holger Wager and Andrea Gommans (Yellow Block) and their family are still residing in Nairobi and may be there for another two years. Kenya recently passed a new constitution, and they believe it will be exciting to bear witness to this type of social transformation. Holger says, “The three musketeers, Zoë (6), Noah (4), and Niall (2), continue to spice up life and provide countless hours of fun and, yes, countless hours of hard work.” Zoë started class one (first grade) in the Nairobi Waldorf School and the boys head out to the Waldorf kindergarten each morning.
Holger continues his work with Oxfam looking after funding for and programmatic engagements with Somalia and South Sudan. Most of the work is oriented towards humanitarian assistance, but with the upcoming referendum for independence of South Sudan, there may well be opportunities to do some longer-term development. The situation in Somalia remains tense and recent increases in fighting between various armed groups will mean that even more humanitarian assistance is needed to save lives where and when possible. Andrea has started her own design label and is focusing for the moment on small arts and crafts for children oriented towards Waldorf education. At the moment, it is only by word of mouth, but eventually items will be available online. Andrea is also working with local women’s groups in preparing various arts and craft pieces.

They continue to be active in a number of charity initiatives in Kenya either by donating personal time, clothing, or financial support. Holger is also volunteering his time on the Board of Trustees of the local Waldorf School. When possible, they escape for long weekends to the Indian Ocean or some of the national parks where they spend hours watching herds of elephants and prides of lions make their way across the African plains.

Holger reflects back at the Fall Retreat days being handed over that treasured sweatshirt, “It is now clear to me that life would never become as perfect again as during those moments in Big Bay.”

When asked about his experiences related to the SLFP, Holger said, “After having been the Leader in Residence for the SLFP in the fall of 2009 and having interacted in such a wonderful way with the Teal Blocks and many other new and old faces of SLFP, I was reminded again that you can only truly measure the impact of this marvelous program years and years after you graduate. I am today so much more appreciative of the SLFP than I was already as an active member. It has been 14 years since my SLFP graduation and every year, the contributions the program has made to my personal and professional growth become more significant. As with all things, the more you put into it the more you get out. With the SLFP, however, that getting out just seems to continue and grow year after year. The time on campus in 2009 really brought back this reality and consolidated all the good reasons why one should not miss the opportunity to be a part of the SLFP.”
Fr. Al Mott of Houghton, Michigan, is now on his fourth assignment and seventh year of his priesthood. Currently, he is the pastor of St. Anne’s in Chassell and St. Albert’s Student Parish at Michigan Tech University. Fr. Al enjoys working at MTU, but says, “It takes a Wildcat to tame the Huskies.”

Harold Murthum of Durand, Michigan, and his wife celebrated the birth of their twins, Bryce and Zoe. Both babies are doing well and they enjoy watching them grow and learn new things every day.

Jon Barch is living in Marquette and is having fun working with the SLFP! Along with working with the SLFP, Jon is also an adjunct professor in the Psychology Department at NMU and recently had the first three chapters of his dissertation approved at the University of Iowa. Some of his more recent SLFP memories were bringing Eric Bolduc (Red Block) and Holger Wagner (Purple Block) back to campus as SLFP alumni to speak with current Student Fellows about the world beyond NMU and how the SLFP continues to influence their lives. In addition to his busy schedule, Jon has continued to participate in the community with the Lake Superior Leadership Academy Planning Committee, Marquette Sister Cities Advisory Committee, and the Helen Lake Association Board.
Congratulations to Rehema Clarken on her new job at NMU in the International Programs Office as the coordinator of international students and scholars. Good luck to Rehema as she continues to work toward her Ph.D. in rhetoric at Michigan Tech!

Jennifer (Shaffer) Cathey and her husband purchased a house in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, last year. Congrats!

Jerry Lombardo and his wife, Jenny, recently stopped by our offices during their summer vacation to Marquette. Jerry and Jenny recently celebrated five years of marriage and are now expecting their first child at the end of February. Congrats, Jerry and Jenny! Jerry is living in Midland, Michigan, and is teaching 8th grade special education at Northeast Middle School. Along with teaching, he is the assistant athletic director and also directed the school's production of Sleeping Beauty. Jerry says, “All of my memories of the SLFP are great. From our retreats at Big Bay, spending time with my mentor, having class with Dave and Rachel, my volunteer work with the Special Olympics to everything else.”
**ORANGE BLOCK**

Meg (Hartley) Schneider of New York City has continued her career as the assistant athletic trainer for the Radio City Rockettes. Most recently, Meg and her husband traveled to South Africa for the World Cup.

**LIME BLOCK**

Brian Thanasiu lives in Naples, Florida, and is an attorney for the Law Office of Conrad Willkomm. His office specializes in estate planning, probate and real estate transactions along many other services. His office also offers a lot of free services to the public in his community. His daughter, Ava Grace, is now four. “Ava Grace has an outstanding personality and, as can be expected, is one of the great joys of my life.”

Brian enjoys the weather of Florida and getting out kayaking and scuba diving. When reflecting on his time in the SLFP, he says, “I cannot think of a moment I did not enjoy while being a part of the SLFP,” and “There is no question that the SLFP made me a stronger and more confident person, along with making me aware of how effective any person can be in the community.”

**SKY BLOCKS**

Congratulations to Cody Fleming and Karen Solomon on their recent marriage on July 10! Cody is currently teaching English at Menominee High School in Menominee, Michigan. In his current position he has created and is teaching a senior English class titled “film studies.” “The great thing about the SLFP was that I constantly felt like I was surrounded by good
people.” He loved how the SLFP provided a supportive environment for students to continue to grow. The SLFP Rocks!

Chet Nichols and Katie Lodovisi moved out to the San Francisco area after Chet decided to take a job with Apple last year. “We had been out in DC a couple of years while I was working at AOL, then we went back to Michigan for a year (I worked remotely for AOL during that time) so Katie could go to a culinary school in the Detroit area (and to save up some money). However, plans got cut a little short when this Apple offer came up, so out west we went! Katie plans on starting culinary school out here in January, and until then she’s just kind of hanging out, making friends, making cakes, things like that.” Good luck, Chet and Katie!

JoeyLynn (Paquette) Selling and her husband, Brandon, are living in Marquette. She is teaching 5th and 6th grades at the North Star Academy.

Congratulations to Marci (Nader) Zaunick and husband, Jim, as they welcomed their son, Eliot Joseph Zaunick, on August 26!

Lindsey (Pepin) Butorac and her husband, Tyson, are currently living in Negaunee but are in the process of building a house in West Ishpeming. Recently, she was promoted to manager-HRIS and payroll in Human Resources at NMU. Currently, she volunteers with the Girl Scouts as the Northern Lights Service Area Treasurer. When asked about her time with the SLFP, she says, “It has been a truly amazing experience to see the benefits of the SLFP from both perspectives - as a program graduate and now as a mentor.”

Katy Morrison and her husband, Chris Hatherly (married on September 4 in Marquette), bought their first house last fall in Marquette. Congratulations, Katy and Chris! Katy works as a human resource specialist for Michigan Works! in Marquette. Her job involves assisting people in their career development including retraining,
obtaining certifications, and enhancing job skills. Katy continues to be active in the community and the SLFP as she is a member of the One Book, One Community committee, the Marquette Chapter of Ducks Unlimited, and a mentor for the SLFP.

She is teaching 5th and 6th grade for the Powell Township School District in Big Bay. It will be her fourth year at the school. “I had a great experience in the SLFP. My internship in a kindergarten class further cemented my desire to be a teacher.”

“As I was completing the SLFP in 2006, I knew I was learning, but I didn’t realize it was shaping me into who I am today,” states Brianne Rogers of LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Brianne is finishing her Master’s degree in student affairs administration in higher education and is working as a graduate assistant in the student activities office where she advises the university’s student government. Starting next spring she will be looking for a position in higher education.

CRIMSON BLOCK

Angela Lundberg of Marquette is engaged to be married to Christopher Lopac next April. Congrats!
FUCHSIA BLOCKS

Megan Lazier recently moved to Plymouth, Massachusetts, that’s right, where the Mayflower landed, and enjoys living so close to the ocean. Recently, she celebrated her one year anniversary of working at SmartPak Canine where she works as a graphic designer. Her duties include designing catalogs and chasing dogs at photo shoots! When asked about her time at NMU, she says, “I really enjoyed my time in the SLFP; I met some great people and had an eye-opening CSI at the local women’s shelter. I really do miss all the good times I had through the SLFP and NMU.”

“I miss the companionship of all the other SLFP’ers,” states Melissa Natter of Williamsburg, Virginia. Melissa is now entering her second year of teaching at Williamsburg-James City County School Division as the middle school severe/multiple disabilities special education teacher. In her free time, she teaches dance lessons to elementary-aged children in the community and is participating in her middle school’s athletic department.
Traveling to over 20 countries and most recently a vacation to Australia, New Zealand, and the Cook Islands, Alana Stuart of Farmington Hills, Michigan, continues to travel the world. Alana is a senior admissions counselor for NMU. She recruits future Wildcats from Southeastern Michigan and Ohio. She continues to volunteer at the Children’s Hospital in Detroit and loves camping and going to Tigers games.

**MINT BLOCKS**

Krista Leidi shared this SLFP story with us.

“One month after graduating from Northern, I started my new job as a laboratory technician at a food safety company called Neogen Corporation, based in Lansing, Michigan. I met a lot of new people, including my friend Kasey Swanson (Crimson Block). She was a graduate of NMU as well. We got to talking about past jobs, she worked at the Marketplace, and I worked at the fabulous Center for Student Enrichment. We also learned that both of us were graduates of the Student Leader Fellowship Program. What a small world! She was a Crimson Block, and I was a Mint Block. How cool! We thought it was crazy that we never met at NMU but instead met 400 miles away in Lansing. Needless to say we immediately shared a special bond. Kasey became my first Neogen friend, and we credit that to the SLFP. Presently, Kasey is studying law at Cooley Law School, and I am still working at Neogen and going back to school to be a nurse anesthetist. We still reminisce about the Fall Retreat at Big Bay, our CSI, mentors, and the sweatshirts!

For the past year, Betsy Ott has been working for the Peace Corps in the Ukraine. She is living with her host family in the small town of Mryn. She is living with five other people in a small apartment but is delighted to report that she has running water and a toilet. While in the Ukraine, she will be developing educational and health community programs.

Julie Rueden and Chris Grebe, NMU Alum, are set to get married July 2011, and Julie recently took on a new job in Madison, Wisconsin. Congratulations and good luck!
Amanda (Kaminski) Wieser and Kevin Wieser (Fuchsia Block) are living in their new home in Kenosha, Wisconsin, which they purchased last September. Amanda has been staying busy working two jobs, one as a lab technician at SC Johnson in Sturtevant, Wisconsin, and the other as an animal lab technician at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

**CERULEAN BLOCKS**

Danielle Brandreth started her first year of graduate studies at NMU this fall. Along with being a graduate student, she will also be one of the graduate assistants in the Center for Student Enrichment.

“The SLFP helped me get out of my comfort zone, expand my knowledge of leadership roles and skills, and network with some great people on campus and in the Marquette community,” states Megan Meeuwsen of Kingsford, Michigan. Megan graduated in May with a Bachelor’s degree in community health education. We are excited to hear that she is continuing her education at NMU this fall to pursue a Master’s degree in the training, development and performance improvement program.
Faren Peterson is currently living in Almoster, Catalonia, Spain! After graduating in May 2009 she moved to Boston in September to live with her older brother and try out city life for a bit. “I was waitressing and bartending, while trying to decide on graduate school or ‘a real job.’ While living there, an opportunity came about through an internet website. I met a family in Spain that wanted someone to live with them and help with their English. Essentially it is an au pair, but I am living with teenagers, and it is much easier than little children.” She has been there since April and will most likely be returning to the U.P. in December. She has had amazing opportunities to travel to Germany, Scotland, Paris, and Santander and Madrid, Spain thus far. It has been interesting learning about the culture of Catalonia and its desire to be independent from Spain, as well as being immersed in the Catalan language, which she never knew existed. “Living in Almoster, Catalonia, I am 1½ hrs away from Barcelona. This July, I was accepted into a two-week intensive international course on art therapy. It was phenomenal to meet people from all over the world. Since I took this year off to travel, teach English, and expand my wings, so to speak, I have still pondered graduate school over and over. After the course I took, I have realized that I do believe I want to go back to school and get a Master’s degree in art therapy in the fall of 2011. This future decision is related to my SLFP experience. In the SLFP I did my Community Service Internship at an art center in my hometown. There I worked with children in a summer arts camp. Ever since, I have seen myself working somehow with children and art... in connection with my social work background and experiences being an artist. That experience was another piece to my puzzle,” said Faren. She says we may see her back at NMU if she continues to pursue graduate school for some pre-requisite courses.

**KIWI BLOCKS**

Jessica Elbe is living in Rolling Meadows, Illinois, while she works full time and is attending Loyola University in Chicago to obtain her Master’s degree in social work. Jessica tells us, “I am working full time for a non-profit agency called CEDA Northwest. It is an agency that is dedicated to helping those living below the poverty line. We offer assistance such as weatherization, helping hands, utility assistance, housing assistance, day care assistance and much, much more. I am the intake coordinator for the whole agency plus I run two of the programs—Relief Services for Seniors and the Disabled and also Access to...”
Care, which is health insurance for those that cannot afford it. Also, I start school again in the fall to obtain my Master’s in social work at Loyola in Chicago, and I plan to take the LSAT in the late fall to apply to Loyola in Chicago as well for law school, while still working full time.” In addition to all of Jessica’s other involvements, she continues to be active in the community through volunteer work. Good luck, Jessica, keep up the great work!

“I love all the friends I made and all the people I met in the SLFP. All the meetings and activities are great memories with those friends,” says Jane Kreul. Jane will be continuing her education at NMU this fall and also applying to dental school.

Becky Rasmussen is giving back to the SLFP in her new position as one of the leadership program coordinators in the Center for Student Enrichment. She is currently working on a degree in sport science at NMU and plans on pursuing a graduate degree in nutrition in the fall of 2011. “Both Fall Retreats were a great occasion to meet new friends and connect better with the program, and my CSI with Teaching Family Homes helped me to interact with less fortunate children,” Becky says of her time in the SLFP.
... AND FRIENDSHIP.