This fall we welcomed our 21st group of Student Fellows, the Banana Blocks. Wow, did that vote ever split the room at the welcome meeting last spring. Speaking of last spring, on Friday, April 22, we graduated 38 more Student Fellows, the “Teal Blocks.” At the graduation ceremony, we awarded our third annual Bill and Wilma Verrette Outstanding Community Service Internship Award to Hannah Kratz for her exceptional work with Marquette County 4-H Programs. It was a terrific celebration with lots of mentors, SLFP supporters, and students’ families in attendance.

Leadership course service projects donated $1,000 for the new cancer treatment equipment at MGH and over $1,000 plus a carload of supplies from the needs list for the local Women’s Center; at the same time these projects taught the SLFP students about grant proposals, project development, public speaking, collaboration, self reflection, and much more.

To celebrate our 20 years of existence, we had our reunion celebration in June. Lots of super fun pictures are included in this newsletter and can be found on the SLFP website (www.nmu.edu/slfp) as well as our Facebook page (The Official SLFP
Group). This reunion also served as a wrap up to our Block Challenge Fundraiser as we announced the winner at our reception the final night. In case you haven’t already heard, the Purple Blocks won the challenge with nearly 50% of the Purple Blocks making a donation to the endowment. Because of the generosity of SLFP alumni and friends, we have added over $15,000 to the SLFP Endowment account. What is perhaps even more exciting to me is that this money has come from over 100 different donors, which displays broad validation and support from our alumni and friends. To be sure, the SLFP has moved closer to meeting its goal of becoming operationally funded by our endowment.

In fact, after this past year’s investment growth and contributions are combined into the endowment, we expect to have a new principle sum of around $150,000. In the end, the overall success of this fundraiser makes us all winners, especially current and future participants of the Student Leader Fellowship Program.

As always, we hope to see you when you visit Marquette and as you send us updates and pictures through e-mail. We are always so excited to hear of the great things SLFP alums are doing out there. Stay in touch and we will do the same!

RED BLOCKS

“I’m proud to be part of such a meaningful program that has provided measurable results in so many different places. P.S. Red Blocks Rock” says Eric Bolduc. Eric is still in Scottsdale, Arizona where he has been busy this past year opening up a Property-Casualty Office for Holmes Murphy & Associates. He traveled to Scotland in July and enjoyed eight days away from his phone and computer. Eric says that he was very sad to miss the SLFP 20-Year Reunion but looks forward to the 25-Year Reunion.

Congratulations to Bart Lawrence as he recently relocated from Fort Bragg, North Carolina to San Diego, California where he took the lead on the Army ROTC program at San Diego State University!
It was great to have **DeAnna (Doyle) Strand** from Tecumseh, Michigan join us for the reunion.

---

**BLUE BLOCKS**

Scott Herzberg and Tracie, his wife of 13 years, recently bought a new house in Traverse City, Michigan. He is now approaching his 16th year of working at Northwestern Michigan College. He has three children: Jake and Ty (8 years old) and Cole (4 years old). Scott also holds various soccer coach licenses and certifications and is now a professional soccer coach. He is the co-director of the Traverse Bay Area Youth Soccer’s Premier Soccer Club and also coaches and trains a U16 Boys Team and the U19 Girls Team. He says “My most important job, though, and most rewarding and fun job, is being a dad!! When it’s all said and done, there nothing more important to me than my family.”

“Greetings from Switzerland!” says **Kristen Kroger** who is living there for the next few years. Her husband, James, was transferred to Geneva, Switzerland through his work. Although she is overseas, she still works remotely as an attorney for her U.S. company, the IAA and Affiliated Companies (Country Financial).

---

**GREEN BLOCKS**

Congratulations to **Krista (Jensen) Malley** and husband, Dwayne, who are expecting a baby on September 12 and are living in Oxford, Michigan! “We’re very excited for this gift and I’m enjoying getting a bigger belly!” She also recently accepted a promotion and became the Assistant Dean of Student Services for the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine. When reflecting on her time in the SLFP she said, “The SLFP was one of the BEST experiences I had not just in college, but in life...a time of learning new skills, meeting exceptional people, giving back to the community, and cultivating lifelong friends. Even after all these years, I still refer to my SLFP binder for inspiration and helpful information.”

Sandi (Cook) Metzger and husband, Chad, are living in Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin. “We have eight great children!!” Isaac is 12, Jack is 11, Brock is 10, Anna is 8, Maverick is 6, Luke is 5, Clark is 3, and Nora is 18 months!

“Greetings from Switzerland!” says **Kristen Kroger** who is living there for the next few years. Her husband, James, was transferred to Geneva, Switzerland through his work. Although she is overseas, she still works remotely as an attorney for her U.S. company, the IAA and Affiliated Companies (Country Financial).

---

“It was great to see you all this July when Ali and I were up for our trip,” says **Sarah (Booth) Weisbarth**. She and husband, Greg, were married last year and are living in Midland,
Michigan. Sarah is the owner of Absolute Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork, and when she is not busy at work, she and Greg enjoy spending time with their children, Zach, Ali, and Aaron and their dog, Maxie.

Sierra (McLeod) Bishop and the Bishop clan—Gabrielle, Rob, and Hunter—send their warm regards and well wishes from Lake Linden, Michigan to everyone at the reunion, but were unable to attend due to a family wedding that weekend. What a fun and busy summer!

Heitstuman and husband, Scott, welcomed the newest additions to their family, twins, Nikki and Nathan. Congratulations to all of you!

Allyson (Babcock) Jurmu and her family are just as busy as ever, but are taking time to enjoy the great Marquette summer.

In July, Jason Baker and his wife were expecting...
their third child, a boy. Congratulations! They have two girls, Alexa (2 years old) and Viviana (3 years old). Jason is currently a clinical neuropsychologist at a private practice. Between family and work, he still finds time to golf, play tennis, attend church, and watch college sports. When reflecting upon his time in the SLFP, he said “The first things that come to mind are the Skill Builders! (most of which were great) and the Fall Retreats (which were a blast). The leadership skills I learned were great, but those were my best memories.”

Residing in Marquette is Matt Maki who is an AmeriCorps service member and assists Gwinn High School students with their writing. He has established a daily writing lab that is available before, during, and after school. He also provides writing support in the classroom that has been dubbed “Grammar Crammers.”

Beyond that, he regularly volunteers at the Vista Theater Thrift Shop in Negaunee. He also teaches various workshops at the Joy Center in Ishpeming. Matt was unable to attend the 20-Year SLFP Reunion because he participated in a benefit reading in Memphis to support the victims of the deadly tornadoes in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. To support this cause, please visit www.brianoliu.com/ebooks. “Even after 15 years, I remember and use the insights I gained from my SLFP experienced on a daily basis. I learned that helping others is a greater motivator for me than making money, which has allowed me to consider work options that may not be the best for the budget but have intrinsic rewards. Also, having recognized my particular leadership style has helped me not only be the most effective I can possibly be in working with teens but also hold true to this style when others try to pressure me to adopt their style which they deem to be the only appropriate way. Although these are things one can learn through experience, my SLFP study and fellowship help me feel more assured and supported.” Keep up the great work, Matt!

Father Al Mott is living in Chassell, Michigan and is entering his 8th year as a priest at St. Albert the Great University Parish in Houghton and St. Anne’s in Chassell. He is pleased that the St. Al’s University Parish recently received a gift of $121,000. Congratulations! He continues to be involved with Bay Cliff Health Camp. He had one of his campers from 12 years ago (now 23) stay with him recently.

It is with much sadness that we remember a dear Aqua Block, Shana Weber, who lost her courageous battle with adrenal cancer on March 29, 2011. She will be missed by her loving husband, Scott Kinney, and daughter, Mia, as well as many other family members and friends. Shana’s warm heart and kind spirit touched many during her life. We will always be thankful that Shana’s participation in the SLFP gave us the opportunity to know her.
**YELLOW BLOCK**

Livonia, Michigan is where Kristina Balzarini is now calling home. She began working at the University of Michigan in May and is making plans for an October wedding in Hawaii. Congratulations, Kristina!

Congratulations to NMU alums Krista Pray-Hobbins ’84, Andrea Gommans, and Chris Cook ’03 (pictured with NMU President Les Wong) as they were inducted into the NMU Sports Hall of Fame during a special ceremony on campus in April. Andrea was a national champion and an All American on the volleyball team. Although she and husband, Holger Wagner (Purple Block), tried unsuccessfully to pull out all of the stops to make it back to Marquette for the Reunion, from their home in Nairobi, Kenya, they were with us in spirit with congratulatory remarks and well wishes.

Kristi (Larson) Supanich, her husband, and four wonderful children (Zoe-11, Jocelyn-9, Gracie-2, and new baby Frank) live in Stanwood, Michigan. They are living in a golf community called Canadian Lakes and enjoy golfing and other outdoor activities. She is entering her 14th year of teaching for Morley Stanwood Community Schools. She says that her first group has graduated from high school and she is, of course, encouraging them to attend NMU. When reflecting on her time in the SLFP she said, “The sweatshirts… I just loved seeing the different colored blocks as I walked thru campus. That sweatshirt bonded a great group of people.”

**BURGUNDY BLOCKS**

Marquette continues to be home to Jon Barch, and wife, Maggie. Their twins, Lenora and Fiona are 6, and James is 4 years old. “They amaze me every day with their creativity and how fast they are picking up knowledge and skills.” The Barch family has been busy having tons of fun with festivals and summertime activities. Maggie’s Middle Eastern Dance Troup has been a hit with nearly 20 performances this past year. Jon is organizing activities for the Marquette Sister City Program, helping plan the Lake Superior Leadership Academy events, expanding his vegetable and flower gardens, and restoring a log cabin on a lake front property in Republic,
Michigan. He has even managed a little time to play in the lake with his kids.

According to Jon, he is “Still having a blast coordinating the SLFP!” He says, “The 20-year reunion was so much fun! I really enjoyed meeting all the Student Fellows from blocks that came before and after my time. I can’t wait for the 25th reunion!!!” Jon reflected on his participation in the SLFP and commented, “The SLFP came into my life at a time of relative chaos. I gratefully acknowledge that it helped me find the strong ethical grounding my parents provided, but I was too egocentric at the time to understand. The SLFP also solidified my understanding of the role of service to others in the cultivation of one’s own happiness, vitality, and general well-being. I could not be happier to have the SLFP as a part of my career and to pass on its values to another generation of servant leaders.”

Kelly (Carson) Bray and family visited NMU for the reunion this summer and were included in the NMU Alumni Couch Exhibit. “The Couch Show,” a photo exhibit of NMU students sitting on a traveling couch, made an appearance at this summer’s alumni reunion. You can check it out at http://www.nmu.edu. Kelly said, “My favorite NMU experience was growing up at Northern and all my experiences with the Student Leader Fellowship Program (I’m a Burgundy Block) and First Impressions. I loved every moment and met my husband on Ohio Street. Because of NMU, I am a better person.”

Jodie Filpus, of Schaumburg, Illinois, moved back to the Upper Peninsula (Tapiola—about 15 minutes from Houghton) in August. Jodie has been the Director of Residence and Housing at The Illinois Institute of Art–Schaumburg for three years. At Michigan Tech, Jodie will be the Recruiter and Outreach Coordinator for the School of Business and Economics for their MBA Program.
Jodie is also overjoyed of the return of her significant other, Jaren, who served the past three years in the Army, with a deployment to Afghanistan this past year. Jodie and Jaren have a 6-year-old son, Jaren Jr.

Congratulations to **Erik D. Kaeding** of San Jose, California for graduating summa cum laude from Santa Clara University of Law in May 2010! He passed the bar exam and interned for the City of San Jose and the County of Santa Clara. He began work in February as a legal research attorney for the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara. He is still married to his partner, Greg, and enjoys living in San Jose.

**Stacey (Miller) MacDonald** lives on Sugar Island, near Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, with her husband and daughters Tessa (5 years old) and Rena (2 years old). She is working as a Behavior Specialist/Coordinator of Planning, Monitoring, and Data Collection (CPMDC) and has been working at the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District since 2009. Besides work, she enjoys volunteering in her daughter’s preschool classroom, running, reading, and keeping up with the girl’s activities; Tessa started figure skating, taking swimming lessons, and participating in t-ball. Stacey often reflects on the impact that the SLFP had on her: “The real-life experiences with public speaking, presenting to large and small groups, and developing leadership skills are things I use almost daily. But, the program is so much more, while developing useful skills, friendships are made, networking happens, and at the same time the program is instilling the value of investing in your community through service, and that is powerful.”

**NAVY BLOCKS**

Congratulations to **Erin (Vostad) McCormick** and husband, Kalin, of Maple Grove, Minnesota, as they recently welcomed twin girls, Evelyn and Teagan. “We’re still figuring out how to take care of two babies, so there’s not much extra time for leisure activities!” Erin is a Financial Reporting Analyst at AgriBank, FCB, which is a wholesale lending organization in the Farm Credit System.

**Jeremy Smith** and his family send greetings from Eugene, Oregon. They were disappointed they were unable to attend the reunion activities. Maybe we’ll see them for the 25th!
“Thank you for your work in the program, and give the ‘Heart of NMU’ my best,” says Brother Andy “Raphael” Forbing, as he was unable to attend the SLFP 20-Year Reunion because he was in New York City completing a two-month summer ministry assignment before returning to the Dominican House of Studies Seminary in Washington, DC. Andy will be beginning his second year of studies in philosophy and has about four more years before ordination to the priesthood in the Catholic Church. The seminary is run by the Dominican Friars, Order of Preachers (commonly known as the Dominican Order) and was founded by St. Dominic de Guzman in the early 1200s. The Order began its ministry in the U.S. in the early 1800s in Ohio.

When asked about the SLFP, Dan Przybylski reflects, “The SLFP made me aware of what servant leadership is all about and it solidified my belief that I must be an active participant in whatever future community I may join.”

“I wish I could make it!” on attending the SLFP reunion says Brant Nesbitt. “We have our first child on the way so we will have to decline. It’s going to be a little boy, due October 5. Tell the fellow alumni hello and congratulations thus far on everything they have accomplished. I continue to speak of the program and people are impressed with the format and everything it entails. Go, Cats, Go!”

Congratulations to Patty (Egeler) Dowd and husband, Troy, as they welcomed their first baby, Caelum Michael, on March 26! They are currently living in Toledo, Ohio where she is a middle school math teacher at Horizon Science Academy–Springfield. When reflecting upon her time in the SLFP she said, “I had a great time in the SLFP. I met a lot of new people and made stronger friendships with those I already knew. I think the skills I learned in the program, especially during my Community Service Internship as a Girl Scout leader, have helped me be a better teacher.”

According to Cody Fleming, “The SLFP was (and continues to be) a wonderful experience for the students who participate in the program.
It allowed me, and others, to meet new people, study leadership, and get in the community to volunteer. The great thing to me about SLFP was that I constantly felt like I was surrounded by good people. SLFP Rocks!

Annika Stewart is moving to Phoenix, Arizona where she recently accepted a teaching position at Mission High School. She will be teaching 11th Grade English and Remedial Reading. Congratulations to Annika on her new position!

Monique Yoder is still traveling the world. “Although I am back in the States in June for my annual leave, I will be leaving the weekend of the reunion to go to Klaipeda, Lithuania to service teach with LCC International University for a month. I’ll be with you all in spirit, though, in my service to youth in the Baltic region.” Safe travels and keep up the good work, Monique!

JADE BLOCKS

Chena Filizetti-Beauduy and her husband recently moved to Clawson, Michigan, where she started the first of her four years as a neurology resident at St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospital in Madison Heights, Michigan. Chena graduated this past May from Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine with a doctor-

ate in Osteopathic Medicine. She says that the time spent at Bay Cliff Health Camp, attending Skill Builders!, and the Christmas Holiday Party all bring back great memories for her. She says, “The best was being able to spend time with my fellow member and best friends while learning how to become a better leader and motivator throughout the two-year program.”

Adria (Danis) Laplander is living in Hubbell, Michigan with her husband, Jason, daughter, Eliza, and 2 dogs, Lola and Lacy. She is working as a 6th grade teacher language arts teacher at Houghton-Portage Township Schools. She is also varsity cheerleading coach, waitress part-time, and teaching Zumba—a fitness/dance class. She spends her “spare” time with her 3-year-old daughter and her busy schedule, which includes ballet and figure skating. She tries to travel at least once a year and has already been to Washington, DC and Florida this year. When reflecting on the SLFP, she said, “One thing I remember about the SLFP is the amazing time I had with my mentor (Kathryn Russell). She was such an inspiration to me, as she was a teacher as well and we really connected!” Adria and Sierra (McLeod) Bishop (Purple Block) both work at Houghton Middle School and are looking sharp in their SLFP sweatshirts! Go Gremlins!
Nichelle Middleton came from Minneapolis, Minnesota to join us for the 20-Year Reception.

Krissy Petersen has fond memories of the SLFP. “It was such a great experience because we were surrounded by so much love and support. I especially remember when I put on a Skill Builder! workshop and all of my friends signed up to take it. We spent two hours laughing, sharing, and bonding.”

Congratulations to Monica (Drusch) Wolf on her marriage to Ryan Wolf on February 26, 2011. They are currently living in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. She has been working at the Oshkosh Corporation as a Tactical Buyer for 4½ years.

Marci (Nader) Zaunick of Lawrence, Pennsylvania is a stay-at-home mom with her one-year-old son, Eliot Joseph. “And I wouldn’t have it any other way!” Marci’s SLFP experience extended past her time at NMU. She was unable to complete the program prior to her 2004 graduation from NMU. She decided to complete the program in 2008 after being laid off from her job, when she “was so appalled” at what she felt were the inadequate “how to find a job” workshops offered to those seeking work through the Pennsylvania CareerLink Office. She was responsible for revamping their computer classes and wrote all new technical training documents on how to use a computer. She helped support their computer and technology classes. These classes were intended to give training to the unemployed and also seniors who needed to learn how to use a computer or needed to expand upon the skills they already possessed. “I feel very strongly that the training documents I wrote for PA CareerLink Washington County Office helped me to obtain my last job at GNC World Headquarters where I was responsible for the creation, deployment, and maintenance of their eLearning system that provides product, policy and procedure information and testing to over 15,000 associates in the U.S. and Canada. I never would have had the opportunity to write documents for and instruct at PA CareerLink Washington County Office, if it had not been for the Student Leader Fellowship Program.”

MANGO BLOCKS

Kara (Toutant) Katona lives in Negaunee, Michigan with her husband, Chris. In October she was promoted to Tax Manager at Makela, Toutant, Hill and Nardi, PC, a public accounting firm in Marquette. She is also involved with the Kiwanis Club of Marquette, is on the Board of Directors for the United Way of Marquette County, and is on the finance council of her
church. Kara and Chris live on the Dead River Basin where they built a house two years ago and spend as much time as possible outside and on the water.

**Lindsey (Pepin) Butorac** and her husband, Tyson, recently built a new home in Ishpeming, Michigan. She received her Master’s of Public Administration in December of 2010 and was promoted to payroll manager at NMU in June of 2010. Congratulations! She is the service area treasurer for the Northern Lights (Negaunee/Ishpeming) Area Girl Scouts. She continues to mentor in the SLFP and just received her three-year mentoring pin. “Serving as a mentor has given me a new appreciation for my SLFP mentor. I never realized how valuable the time she volunteered to spend with me really was until now when I’m in a similar position with a career and family. A few hours every other week doesn’t seem like a lot, but I’ve learned trying to fit it in an already busy schedule can be a challenge especially when trying to coordinate schedules with a Student Fellow.”

**Dayna Keranen** recently moved to Appleton, Wisconsin, to take a job working with the American Cancer Society. In her new position she will be the Community Relations Representative for Brown County. When reflecting on her time in the SLFP, she remembers the bonfire at Bay Cliff being such a fun and special time! “SLFP is a priceless experience. I attribute much of my personal and professional successes to the program. It opened so many doors for me. I will always cherish the experience.”

**Journey Steward** is living Dekalb, Illinois where she will be starting work on her Ph.D. in history at Northern Illinois University this fall. Currently, she works as tutor/trainer/teacher with Kaplan Premier Test Prep. She recently bought her first motorcycle. Her puppy will be two in August, and she is enjoying helping her train for her first marathon that will take place in Washington, DC in October. Good luck, Journey!

**CRIMSON BLOCK**

**Cassie (Zeratasy) Charlier** reports that she and her husband are doing well, living in Kaukauna, Wisconsin. They are expecting a little one in late July 2011. Congratulations!

**Jessica (Olson) McGurn** is living in Arvada, Colorado where she works as an executive for the Target Corporation. She is married to Matt McGurn (B.S. ’07) and has two sons named Jackson (3 years old) and Mason (16 months). In their spare time, they love getting up into the mountains, hiking, skiing, and enjoying the outdoors. She is also involved as a volunteer for the Colorado Christian Home and Denver Rescue Mission. “One of my fondest SLFP memories has to have been taking my mentor, Steve Mattson, rollerblading at the Lower Harbor. We didn’t make it too far but had a great time!”

**Brianne Rogers** of Naperville, Illinois, recently graduated with Master’s in Student Affairs Administration in Higher Education from
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. She is currently working at North Central College in Naperville as the Assistant Director of Student Involvement. In this position, she advises their campus activities board, supervises the student union’s student workers, and leads their commuter student program.

After working in the non-profit field, **Kasey Swanson** enrolled in Cooley Law School and is expecting to graduate in 2013. She is living in Lansing, Michigan. She is also on the executive board of Thomas M. Cooley Journal Practical and Clinical Law.

---

**FUCHSIA BLOCKS**

Congratulations to **Darcie Cook** on her marriage to Joe Brodsky on July 8. Darcie and her husband are living in Anchorage, Alaska, where they recently bought their first house together. She also graduated with a Master’s in English Language Learners from Western Governor’s University. Darcie is a kindergarten teacher at the Alaska Native Cultural Charter School. When reflecting upon the SLFP, Darcie said, “The SLFP provided me with a unique opportunity to grow as an individual. I made many great friendships and developed many skills that have allowed me to contribute to my community.”

Residing in Tampa, Florida, is **Seth Hill-Kennedy** and his wife, Stephanie. Seth works for Crate and Barrel and says while it may not be his dream job, he is growing in many ways through the experience. In their spare time, they enjoy taking in the local culture and finding new and fun places to eat. He also enjoys the Florida ‘winters’ but does admit to missing snow. When reflecting back on the SLFP, he says, “I always enjoyed Gavin Telfer’s words of wisdom during our fellowship meetings. He would find a great quote from the Leadership Library and read a page from it at the end of the meetings. Some were funny and others were serious, but they were always simple and uplifting.”

Entering her third year of teaching as the middle school severe/multiple disabilities special education teacher for the Williamsburg-James City County School Division is **Melissa Natter**. She has also started working towards her Master’s in Education through Virginia Commonwealth University. Melissa says, “The retreats at Bay Cliff always stick out in my mind, especially when I am looking for icebreaker ideas and things to keep middle school students motivated and busy! The SLFP has given me the opportunity to have my own personal library full of ideas that get kids motivated and ready to think on their feet!”

Enjoying the Packer’s Super Bowl victory in Green Bay is **Skyla Vandervest**. She continues to work as a Professional Education and Community Relations Coordinator for Schwab – North America. Skyla is also entering her second season as an Assistant Coach for the Green Bay Preble High School Dance Team. She continues to travel as she just returned from Alaska where she attended Darcie Cook’s wedding. “The reunion and my trip to Alaska only prove that distance and time is no match to the friends created
through the SLFP and the Center for Student Enrichment."

MINT BLOCKS

Aloha from Kaneohe, Hawaii says Amber Chiapuzio! Amber works as a nurse for the Army. As a First Lieutenant, she works on the maternity ward taking care of post-partum patients and their newborns. In her spare time, she works on her tan at the beach, volunteers with the Red Cross and Habitat for Humanity, and goes boogie boarding, hiking and skydiving. When reflecting on the SLFP, she says, “The retreats were always a blast! Also, all the other fun activities you guys always organized for us were so much fun. The SLFP was a very influential part of my college experience. I am so glad I joined.”

Congratulations to Brook (Gregersen) Graham on the birth of her son, Elijah.

Jeron Schmidt is a Senior Admissions Counselor for NMU in Minnesota. He says, “I have the privilege to talk to families all over the state and share great stories about what NMU students are doing during their time on campus.” When not busy meeting with prospective students, he volunteers at community centers and the non-profit, Feed My Starving Children. Jeron is also a football official and says he got his start after completing his CSI with the Marquette Senior High School as a volunteer coach. When reflecting on his time at NMU Jeron says, “All and all, I think I’ve survived my time away from NMU alright, but Marquette, NMU and especially the SLFP, will always have a special place in my heart and I love when I get to come back to campus for work or a personal trip.”

CERULEAN BLOCKS

Zach Bartel is still living and working on NMU’s campus as a community adviser in the Woodland Apartments. He is also currently working on an aquaponics project in the NMU Green House where he is growing plants and fish in a symbiotic closed loop system, the NMU Apartments community garden, and on translating a play that he saw in Mexico. He is enjoying life in Marquette as he prepares to student teach in Grand Rapids and Argentina next winter. His plans after graduation include joining the Peace Corps and becoming a Spanish teacher in a high school out west.

We are very lucky to have Danielle Brandreth back at NMU and in the Center for Student Enrichment where she is the Graduate Assistant working with Academic Service Learning.

Megan Meeuwsen is living in Marquette while she works as a Graduate Assistant for Employee Wellness in the PEIF as she completes her graduate work in Training, Development and Performance Improvement at NMU. Megan plans on graduating in May 2012. While she does not have any definite plans after graduation, she is excited to have options and the ability to go anywhere she finds a job. “I am working four 10’s this summer and have been thoroughly enjoying my 3-day weekends every week. I like to get out and enjoy the sunshine as much as possible. I also got a new puppy named Tuxedo (Tux). He is a 6-months old, black and white, Shih Tzu/Maltese and is a lot of fun! I will also be TA’ing for a Freshman Seminar class for the fifth time this fall as the longest
lasting TA the First Year Experience Program has had. ;)

**KIWI BLOCKS**

Congratulations to **Anna (Ewing) Miller** on her recent marriage to Nathan Miller. For the past year, Anna worked in the Center for Student Enrichment as the Office Assistant. She is now residing in Houghton where she will complete her student teaching this fall.

**Becky Rasmussen** has received a graduate assistantship managing and programming for Campus Recreation at St. Cloud State University, in St. Cloud, Minnesota. She started grad school and plans for a spring 2013 graduation date with a degree in Exercise Science. “I have hopes and dreams of taking over the nutrition program here at St. Cloud, but I need to get my feet wet first. I’ll also have my personal training certification soon.” Although Becky is not involved in any additional activities in St. Cloud as of yet, she hopes to find her passion in areas other than her job and school in the upcoming semester. (Knowing, Becky, it won’t take her long to jump in with both feet!) Becky has some special SLFP memories she shared with us. “I have so many memories from both the Kiwi Blocks and as a CSE staffer. I have fond memories of my two years as a Kiwi, but what I enjoy the most now is still having contact with my block of Student Fellows. We had a great group and we continue to remain friends. One of my many great memories as Leadership Programs Coordinator was seeing our hard work pay off during the Fall Retreat. All the stress and long hours of preparations were worth it when I saw how much fun the Teal and Gold Blocks (and the staff) had at Retreat.”

**TEAL BLOCKS**

**Hannah Kratz** is continuing her education at NMU and plans to graduate next May with her Bachelor’s. She is NMU’s Volunteer Center Coordinator and participates in 4-H of Marquette County sailing with Ensign Fleet of Marquette and is a mentor for Teaching Family Homes. When reflecting upon the SLFP, she says, “I am very humbled to be in the company of so many successful, driven, and passionate people. Standing alone, my contribution to the program looks quite insignificant, but when all of our efforts are added together, it is easy to see how much of an impact the SLFP has made on the community.”

*Some of the other familiar faces, family, and friends we saw at the 20-Year Reunion activities included:*

**Red Block:** Kris Day, Renee (Crame) Carroll, Annette Johnson, and James McClelland  
**Blue Block:** Heidi Ernst, and Greg Rathje  
**Green Block:** Chanté Lasco and Joel Yacks  
**Aqua Blocks:** Sarah (Gerhardt) Chapman  
**Yellow Block:** Joseph Bergh  
**Burgundy Block:** Kelly (Carson) Bray  
**Navy Block:** Melissa (Fritz) Clark, Lynda (Looker) Crawford, Jerry Lombardo, and Erica (Smits) Rouser  
**Lime Block:** Mary Bal-Sargent  
**Sky Block:** Carissa Waters  
**Jade Block:** Shannon (Carmichael) Jedd, Sara (Barclay) and Gavin Telfer (Crimson Block)  
**Mango Block:** Katy Morrison  
**Mint Block:** Ellie Luce and Alex Marshall  
**Teal Block:** Carrie Johnson  
**Gold Block:** Sabrina Wheeler, Laura Budinger, Jacqui Carroll, Erin Schafer, and Courtney Brown
20 Year Reunion...