Hello again. Let me begin by commenting on how wonderful it is to read all of your Still Connected responses. Knowing all the wonderful things you are involved in and hearing the comments attributing so many of your successes to things you learned as an SLFP participant, there is no doubt in my mind that this program is working as intended. Another indicator of program success is found within the 19 years of program evaluation data we have been collecting. Yea, remember the pre- and post-individual profiles, the one-, three-, and five-year follow-up surveys? Those numbers are currently being compiled for national presentations and scholarly publications and the short story is that the SLFP works. As usual, I would next like to share some 2009 program updates.

We now have:
- 689 graduates of the SLFP
- 562 different community members have served as mentors
- 77,000+ hours of community service in positions of leadership
- 324 different community service internship sites

Some exciting alumni news to share with you is that Holger Wagner (Purple Block 1994-96) returned to NMU through a collaboration between the NMU International Visiting Scholar series and the SLFP Leader in Residence program. While in Marquette, he was a guest speaker in the UN 250 leadership course, gave a general campus presentation on “Being a Citizen of the World,” performed a featured lecture at the UNITED Conference on “Somalia: Opportunities in a Fragile State,” spoke to the international studies students at NMU and to several social studies classes at Bothwell Middle School, and acted as a general advocate for student involvement in international, educational, and service opportunities.

With our current blocks being Kiwi and Teal, the students decided on an environmental theme for this year’s Fall Retreat, “Leadership Going Green…and Kiwi…and Teal!” I thought this was especially fitting as the SLFP has been making strides in that direction as a whole by sharing newsletters (such as this one) electronically, recently placing the Skill Builders! booklet and the workshop registration process completely online (www.nmu.edu/skillbuilders), and being environmentally mindful when making expenditures and other decisions.

Fundraising keeps getting better each year as the alumni grow in both numbers and ability to give. However, we have a long way to go before the program could be fully endowed, as is the ultimate goal. We do have exciting plans in the works for the first annual SLFP Golf Outing fundraiser to be held on Friday, July 16, 2010. Mark your calendar, get your plane tickets if you have to, and stay tuned for more information as other plans become finalized. It is sure to be a fun-filled and productive event!

As a final announcement, we are also in the beginning stages of planning an annual cooperative service project for program alumni, current participants, all mentors, internship site advisers, financial donors, and other SLFP friends. In other words, we want this service project to be open to participation from everyone who has any connection to the SLFP. Our tentative plan is to do the service project at Bay Cliff Health Camp because we have such a strong and positive organizational affiliation with the camp and because of the nostalgic connection felt by program alums and staff.

Thank you all very much for your continued interest in this citizen leadership movement!

- Jon Barch
What a pleasant surprise to see Annette Johnson stop by the SLFP office with 6-month-old son, Joshua. Annette was in Marquette to spend time with family and friends and enjoy her class reunion. She and Maximo Vargus are still living in the Chicago area.

As the business manager for the Marquette County History Museum, Jen (Sundquist) Lammi, reflects that she had a lot of good times and learned so much through the SLFP that she looks forward to hearing from us and becoming more involved with the program.

Sherry (Szczepanski) Rosenkranz is still calling Imlay City, Michigan, her home, although during the summer she does spend a good portion of her time in Port Austin. Sherry’s daughter just turned 7, and she can’t believe how fast time has gone. At Campbell-Ewald, Sherry was promoted to vice president, management supervisor, where she oversees the United States Postal Service business. Her main responsibilities are developing digital strategy, marketing opportunities, and ensuring integration across disciplines. She credits the SLFP for her career success. It has provided her with the tools and the confidence to become a leader, and she is forever grateful for that. Some very good news is that Sherry made it through her second “dance” with cancer and is so thankful for all the prayers and well wishes she received during her journey. She is ecstatic to report that she is cancer-free! Her journey has inspired her to start a comic book series for kids fighting not only the cancer beast but any medical complication. The first issue stars one of her closest friends’ son - Brodie. He is 2 years old and is currently undergoing chemotherapy to shrink a brain tumor. Sherry can’t really express in words how grateful she is for the SLFP. It was one of the greatest experiences of her life and helped her grow both personally and professionally.

Congratulations to Jason Maki and his wife as they just celebrated their eighth anniversary! They are currently living in a suburb of Chicago just north of O’Hare. Their son Evan is now 19 months old and runs their lives. Jason continues to work for TNS, a British-based market research company, which focuses on grocery shopping. The company collects information from shoppers, sells the data to food and beverage manufacturers, who then present the information to retailers, from whom the shoppers buy products.

Having recently moved to Oxford, Michigan, Krista (Jenson) Malley and her husband Dwayne are very excited to be homeowners for the first time. They both can’t wait to get settled, because then they will explore opportunities for involvement and giving back to their community. Congratulations are also in order for the happy couple as they just celebrated their one year anniversary in March! Krista recently started her new job at Oakland University as the director for the Academic Skills Center. She is enjoying the new adventures and challenges that come with the new position. Krista states, “Many of the skills and icebreakers/teambuilders that I learned from the SLFP have been put into good use!” It has also been an exciting year for Krista because her mom was remarried in June, and Krista and her twin sister had fun with decorating and coordinating the wedding. In other news, both Sierra (McLeod) Bishop (Purple Block) and Krista will be standing up in Aimee Erwin’s (Yellow Block) wedding come
Fr. Al Mott is the new pastor of St. Albert, the great student parish at Michigan Technological University, and St. Anne’s parish in Chassell. “You all know it takes a NMU graduate to minister to Tech students,” says Father Al. But of course, when Michigan Tech plays Northern in hockey, he will still cheer for the Wildcats. He encourages anyone to stop and say hello whenever they are in the area.

Heidi (Van De Hey) Kavanaugh is still residing in Kaukauna, Wisconsin, with her husband Brian, and two beautiful girls, Claire (4), and Mairin (2). Claire will start preschool this fall and is very excited to ride the little yellow bus. This year marks the 12th year that Heidi has worked for 4imprint, USA as an art manager. 4imprint, USA is currently ranked in the top 25 best medium-sized companies to work for by the Society of Human Resource Management. Congratulations are also in order because Heidi recently completed her Master’s degree this past spring in science and management! She still looks back fondly on her experiences at Northern and can see that the current Student Fellows realize the opportunities they have been given through the program.

Bonnie (Hafeman) Krupa lives with her husband Joe, who is a Delaware County sheriff’s deputy. Recently Bonnie was featured in The Star Press, a regional Indiana newspaper, where a story focused on her new full-time job, manager of Clean and Smart, a dog daycare, training, and grooming facility. It is obvious that Bonnie is thrilled to spend all day with 30 or more of her best four-legged friends. Supporting the mission of Clean and Smart, Bonnie very pro-actively trains and cares for dogs at her facility, which has earned the reputation as the Cadillac of dog-care places. As stated in the article, “she plans on doing this for the rest of her working life and for good reason.”
by Dave Bonsall when he was a student. He remembers enjoying it very much and tries to incorporate his favorite parts into his lesson plans. Outside of the SLFP, Jon is on the Marquette Sister City Committee, the Lake Superior Leadership Academy planning committee, the United Conference Planning committee, and Research Review Board.

“I just received the letter sent to all SLFP alumni in June!!! I am impressed that I received it as it was forwarded to two new addresses and a new name!” says Terry (Carlson) Steinmetz. Terry has lived in the South Bend, Indiana area for the past four years and works as a pediatric nurse practitioner in Developmental Pediatrics and will also be adjunct faculty in the BSN program at Bethel College this semester. She married Keith Steinmetz on December 27, 2008 and they are currently expecting their first child in March. This spring we moved to Niles, Michigan. “I am happy to be back in Michigan, even if it is only by 50 yards and I am actually closer to work now!”

Stacey (MacDonald) Miller is living on Sugar Island/Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. She has a daughter Tessa (3), and recently gave birth to Rena Sky on May 22. Tessa is enjoying being a big sister. In February Stacey began a new position with the EU-PISD as a behavior specialist. As always, she continues to enjoy spending time with family and friends and also playing with her kids.

Currently living in Madison Heights, Michigan, Joel Clemons and his wife, Katy, are expecting their second child who will join their daughter, Allyson (2). Joel is currently planning to go back to school to change his career to become a radiological technician. In his free time, Joel enjoys playing ice hockey, and he is in his seventh year of playing with this team. When looking back on his experiences in the SLFP, Joel always loved the retreats and getting to know everyone in the program.

This summer Amy Hovis became an aunt – congratulations! Living in Fenton, Michigan, just south of Flint, Amy just completed her second year as a K-5 special education teacher. She was part of the math committee this past year to help strengthen the first and second grade math program and assessment. Amy also hopes to finish her Master’s of special education next summer, having just started this summer.

Jenny Jo Mueller is currently stationed at Naval Station Great Lakes and lives in Northern Chicago, Illinois. The “pile of sticks” (as one friend called it) that she bought last year is now a comfortable home with lots of space and room for visitors. She would welcome any SLFP alumni for a visit or even lodging while trying to settle in the Chicago area. She has enjoyed learning about houses and construction throughout the process of remodeling and even got her hands dirty with projects ranging from painting to building a garden shed. On March 20, her godson, Henry, was born to friends in Lexington, Kentucky. She is waiting for her magic wand to arrive in the mail.

Carissa (Villa) Chase and Eric Chase are currently entering their second year as residents in pediatrics and emergency medicine at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Carissa and Eric have been together for 11 years and married for 3. Their son, Brodie, is one year old and loves to dance and play outside. They enjoy hanging out as a family and discovering what Arizona has to offer. Eric continues to cycle when he has a chance and is in the process of building Carissa her first bike. Carissa is working on an obesity research project in her pediatric clinic and starting to work on medical/safety education classes with the Tucson Unified School District for elementary school kids.
Congratulations to Joe Cushing for finishing his Master of Science in finance this past spring from Walsh College in Troy, Michigan! Joe is currently looking for a job and would prefer one near his home in metro Detroit, but it looks like a move is in order.

Enjoying the Colorado summer, Lea Karavias is usually outdoors on her bike, running on trails, or playing soccer. She is also training for a few triathlons and a marathon this fall in Utah. Unfortunately, due to the slow economy, Lea was laid off this past year after seven years as a corporate event planner. She is looking to continue in that field as an internal event and meeting planner for a corporation. She is looking for contacts and connections that may lead to this and would love any tips and advice.

Lindsay (Hayden) Noland is currently living in Saint Joseph, Missouri, with her husband, Morgan, and their two dogs. However, they are in the process of moving closer to where Lindsay works, probably in Kansas City. Lindsay is currently the acting director of Enrollment Services and Student Assistance Center at Park University.

I recently found my Myer’s-Briggs Type Indicator, something I took only when in the SLFP! Oh, the memories,” exclaims Lindsay (Anderson) Peters. Lindsay is living with her son Zach (2) and husband of four years, Ben in Pinckney, Michigan. She was recently promoted to project manager for the company MovePlan (USA). She has assisted with projects in Orlando, St. Louis, New York, and Michigan, but is currently assisting the Michigan DNR with volunteer workdays and short-term projects at two local state recreation areas.

SKY BLOCKS

Erin Larsen is now living in McKinney, Texas, and is a stay at home step-mom. Congratulations are in order, as she and Adam Williams got married on September 5, in Menominee, Michigan! Erin formerly worked as a nurse recruiter and also as a credit card services manager, however, she is taking off work until after the wedding. In her free time, she volunteers with Habitat for Humanity in North Collin County, Texas. Her fondest memories of the SLFP are the Fall Retreats!

Halfway around the world, Monique Yoder is calling Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia home, where she lives in the eastern province of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Having finished her first year as an English instructor at the Prince Mohammad bin Fahd University, Monique also worked for the British council as a clerical marker for the IELTS English proficiency exam. Over the past year, she has also been a member of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Association of Language Teachers where she was recently elected secretary. In her leisure time, which isn’t much, she likes to walk along the cornice walkways that line the Arabian Gulf. Additionally, she studies Arabic five hours a week. Lastly, Monique writes, “I always find it an exciting time of year when the incoming group gets to choose the group’s color. At the Sky, Jade, and Burgundy meetings, I tried to vie for soilent green to become an official SLFP block, but was lovingly denied every time. Perhaps, someday there will be a soilent green block year!”

JADE BLOCKS

Katie Allen just recently moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts, to attend graduate school at Boston University where she will get a Masters of Liberal Arts in gastronomy (the study of food and wine - yum). Katie also just accepted a position as senior catering sales manager at a Doubletree Guest Suites. She recently took up running and has completed two half-marathons within the last year.
Monica Drusch has had quite the summer living in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where she went boating, camping, and running, not to mention competing in her first demolition derby. Monica is a buyer at Oshkosh Corporation, which recently won a $1.2 billion contract with the US government for a mine resistant ambush protected all-terrain vehicle.

Nicole Lang is living in Plymouth, Michigan, where she is a landlord, and she is currently looking for a new renter. Congratulations to Nicole and Derek Sokloski as they will be getting married in Plymouth on October 3! Other than her own wedding, Nicole plans other people’s weddings for a living and loves it. She helped plan two weddings that just aired on a TNT show called Wedding Day. It was a privilege for her to help a couple in need and give them their dream wedding (both weddings were in Detroit). Nicole also manages a new banquet hall called Silver Shores Waterfront in Wyandotte. In her free time, she is learning how to fix things in her house and spends time with family and friends.

Congratulations to JoeyLynn Paquette! She married NMU alum, Brandon Selling on July 18! We wish both of them all the best!

Sara (Barclay) Telfer and Gavin Telfer (Crimson Block) have been living in Manchester, New Hampshire, since August 2008 and recently moved to Henniker. Gavin works at Southern New Hampshire University as the assistant director of Student Life and Student Center, and Sara recently completed her Master’s degree and was just hired as the assistant director of Alumni and Parent Relations at Keene State College. In their free time, Sara and Gavin are running 5K road races, playing in community kickball leagues, camping, hiking, exploring local beaches and coastal towns, as well as meeting new friends, barbecuing whenever possible, and attending all sorts of sporting events. And as if they weren’t busy enough, Gavin was just accepted into Southern New Hampshire University’s Professional Enrichment Program. This is a selective professional development program at the university for young professionals who plan on seeking management positions. When looking back on their time in the SLFP, Gavin fondly remembers the Fall Retreats, which included camping out on the beach. Sara enjoyed the entire SLFP, and of course, Jade Blocks rule!

MANGO BLOCKS

Julie (Braun) Cook and her husband Dave are currently living in Watertown, New York, where they bought a house last summer. Congratulations to both Dave and Julie as they just celebrated their three year wedding anniversary! In their spare time, they volunteer teaching Natural Family Planning (NFP) and hope to not only mentor as many couples as possible, but also spread the truth about NFP and its wonderful benefits on marriage. They offer classes for anyone living in northern New York. Also, in her spare time, Julie provides custom clothing services, doing alterations and even designing formal dresses.

Guess who’s a world champion!? Kayla Rice, that’s who. Kayla is currently working for Palace Sports and Entertainment where the Detroit Pistons and Shock play. Recently the Shock celebrated their second world championship, which she was a part of as support staff (she got a championship ring!). In 2008 Kayla was promoted to customer retention manager for the Palace and recently she also took on the fun job of recording voiceovers for the Detroit Shock television and radio ads. Last December Kayla enjoyed a vacation to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, to be a part of an NMU alumni wedding between Nicole Maki and Christopher Ousterhout.
Journey (Steward) Schall and Rob Schall just bought a house in Oswego, Illinois! Journey is back in school at Northern Illinois University getting her Master's in global/gender history. She also tutors ACT/SAT prep. The SLFP was always a blast for Rob, who is working as a director of technology in Aurora (Party on Wayne- Party on Garth).

**CRIMSON BLOCKS**

The SLFP is an amazing program - I feel it's one of the most valuable things I did in undergrad,” states Suzanne Dupler. Suzanne is currently residing in East Lansing, Michigan, where she is attending MSU’s college of osteopathic medicine. Currently, Suzanne is active with Sigma Sigma Phi Honors Society, American Hollistic Medical Society, and student government. She holds leadership positions in all her organizations, which she attributes to her time in the SLFP. The memories Suzanne wishes to reflect on are all those with Dave Bonsall!

Lauren (Johnson) and Alex Johnson-Buck recently attended the Hot Air Balloon Festival in Howell, Michigan, which was a blast! Lauren and Alex currently live in Howell and have enjoyed getting to know the town. They celebrated their two year anniversary this summer. Congratulations! Currently time is flying as Lauren has completed another semester of medical school.

Angela Lundberg is living in the great city of Marquette, Michigan. She is currently a fifth and sixth grade teacher in Big Bay at Powell Township School District. In her free time Angela takes Marquette Arts and Culture classes, attends graduate classes at NMU, and participates in the annual Marathon Walk from Big Bay to Marquette. When reflecting on the SLFP, Angela loved sleeping on the beach at the Fall Retreats. Her school has a walking program. So, each morning they take a walk, sometimes to Bay Cliff, and Angela thinks about the fun times spent there during the Fall Retreats. Her school also sponsored a “Boogie for Bay Cliff” dance-a-thon. “What a wonderful camp to support,” exclaims Angela!

The Denver Rescue Mission is a shelter in Denver, Colorado, that helps feed the homeless and rehabilitate men with addictions. It is also a place where Jess (Olson) McGurn likes to volunteer her time. Jess currently lives in Denver with her husband, Matt, and son, Jackson John (1). Jess is the executive of food for a SuperTarget, running the dry, dairy, frozen, meat, and produce departments.

World traveler Billie Miller recently returned from touring Prague, Berlin, Amsterdam, and London. She has seen seven countries since graduating from Northern, and now she is traveling again. This time she is moving to Aurora, Colorado, with her boyfriend, Chris. After the move, Billie is planning on teaching or going back to school.

Brianne Rogers is going back to school to pursue a Master’s degree in student affairs administration at the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse. She has a graduate assistantship with the Student Association on campus. She is very excited about this new opportunity. This past year Brianne traveled to Baltimore, Washington, DC, and New York. She also volunteered with the Saginaw R.E.A.D. program where she spent an hour a week with three, second graders struggling with reading. Brianne was also a part of the Saginaw Jaycees, a young professional group sponsoring service events.

Do you remember singing “Celebrate” at the Fall Retreat? Annie Sutter does, and it is a memory she will never forget! Annie is currently living in Richmond, Virginia, where she teaches eighth grade English. In her free time, she coaches cross country and track, but she eventually plans on going back to school to get a Master's in library science.

Katie Wilson is currently living in the great city of Chicago, where there is always something fun and exciting to do. She is working as an office manager in an international IT corporation. She says that she has met a lot of great French friends because of her job. Katie is currently attending graduate school online, working towards her Master’s in child psychology.
Shea Belanger is currently living in Marquette finishing up her Bachelor’s degree in elementary education. In January, Shea will begin student teaching in the Rockford, Illinois, area. This summer was very enjoyable as she has worked with youth of all ages and backgrounds at a summer/day camp. Shea also substitute teaches in the Marquette and Suttons Bay School Districts.

The Utah DNR is basically paying Andrea Bianco to hike and look at cool things all day (her words)! In all seriousness, Andrea is living in southwest Utah working as a wildlife technician. She is currently finishing up a project on desert tortoises and is about to start working in the Fisheries Department. Although Andrea does not plan on staying there forever, she loves the scenery and how much there is to do. During the weekends, she travels around the area having already visited Zion National Park, Utah State Parks, Red Rocks Conservation Area, Las Vegas, the Grand Canyon, and hopes to eventually make the 6-hour drive to Los Angeles and see the Pacific Ocean for the first time. Since graduating from NMU, Andrea has gained two new family members: an 8-month-old Jack Russell Terrier named Bella, and a three-toed box turtle she saved from the desert named Hebert.

Darcie Cook is still living in Savoonga, Alaska, teaching first grade. Darcie recently began her Master’s in English Language Learners/English as a second language pre-K-12. Recently her first grade class completed a community service project on their own, as well as taking the initiative to find volunteer work for themselves. The students made posters, designed a short skit, and talked with the community about tobacco use. They’ve also found opportunities for volunteering by bringing lunch to the Head Start students located in a separate building, coloring programs for kindergarten graduation, and helping to set up for Native Eskimo dances in the gym. Darcie is very proud of them. After school she also tutors students four days a week, providing them with extra support on homework, class work, catching up when behind, and allowing students a quiet comfortable place to work. When reflecting on the program, Darcie writes, “Every August I wish it were time to go to Bay Cliff. The weekend was always long, but the food was good and the company was even better. I made lifelong friends in the program. My mentor, Community Service Internship, and the SLFP staff prepared me for life as an adult and an actively engaged citizen.”

Breaking news - Tiffany Boxes grow on mushrooms! Well, they do for Allie Mundell anyway. Recently Allie and her boyfriend, Elliot, were spending the weekend on Isle Royale. While out hiking one evening, Elliot told her to bring her camera and look at a weird mushroom. “It’s the rare Tiffany box mushroom,” he said, as he got down on one knee and proposed to her. Congratulations to Allie and Elliot! We hope to hear more wedding details soon.

Kevin and Amanda (Kaminski, Mint Block) Wieser are living in Round Lake, Illinois. After getting married in December, they are currently looking for a house to buy which is very exciting. Kevin is a certified assistant manager at Walgreens in Libertyville, Illinois, but is attending the University of Wisconsin - Parkside this fall to get his teaching certificate. Kevin and Amanda recently participated in the Relay for Life cancer walk.
Christopher Chase spent the summer living in Tucson, Arizona, living the dream of racing bikes. While Chris was there, he helped out his brother and sister-in-law with their son, Brodie. All of his other time is spent sleeping or riding his bike. Chris is back in Marquette now and like so many others, Chris fondly remembers the SLFP Fall Retreats, especially meeting new people.

Amber Chiapuzio spent this past summer in Marquette. She played softball, went to the beach, hiked, camped, and even volunteered at Norlite Nursing Home (where she did her CSI). In October she will go to Officer Basic Leadership Course in San Antonio, Texas and then she will be working as a RN in an Army Hospital for at least 4 years.

Michigan is sad to see Ellie Luce leave its fair peninsulas, but she has been offered a job in Bel Air, Maryland. Congratulations, of course, are in order! Ellie is looking forward to moving, where she'll be just outside Baltimore co-teaching at a high school, “go Patterson Mill Huskies!” Although Ellie misses NMU and Lake Superior already (and the SLFP), Ellie can’t wait to start teaching and traveling.

Marquette was Angela Neumann’s home this past summer. She took a class at NMU and worked at mBank. She begins studying abroad this fall in Dublin, Ireland. Angela hopes to also find an internship this winter, which will allow her to graduate in May with a B.S. in Accounting. Over the summer Angela has also been involved with her church, has biked everywhere, and has worked a lot of jobs to save up money for her Ireland trip. Angela loved the SLFP staff, meetings, fruit pizza, and the good times! The retreats were also amazing.

Betsy Ott is heading to the Ukraine with the Peace Corps at the end of September. She was nominated to teach English. Betsy just finished a great memoir by Malika Ouflkiri which she highly recommends to others. She is also volunteering at Dancing Crane Farm and working with the Sister’s of Saint Paul as an English tutor. Betsy enjoys reflecting on her experience in SLFP, more specifically her experiences with her Mentors.

This summer Anne Marie Swanson went kayaking, canoeing, camping, and swimming, among other outdoor activities. Anne Marie is currently living in the metro Detroit area working at Five Brothers Mortgage and Insurance Company. She is also looking into grad school programs.

Congratulations to Dana Toenjes and Jordan Leep as they got engaged on May 20! Dana is living in Rochester, Minnesota, and works at the Mayo Clinic. She recently became certified to administer chemotherapy and was trained as a day/night shift charge nurse. Dana is using her leadership skills as she is on the unit council for her hospital. Her fondest memory of SLFP was her CSI.

Congratulations to Katie Trevor and Russ who will be getting married next July! Over the summer Katie lived in Ishpeming and worked at Bell Memorial Hospital, while working on a partial-practicum at Marquette General Hospital’s cytogenetics lab. Katie just moved to Rochester, Minnesota, to complete the cytogenetic technology program at the Mayo Clinic. When asked to reflect on the Student Leader Fellowship Program (SLFP), Katie writes, “I miss Anne Marie Swanson. What an awesome person!”