Welcome Emerald Blocks!
SLFP UPDATE

At the Fall Retreat this year, Dave Bonsall gave a tremendous keynote address. While sharing his wonderful words of wisdom, he also announced his plan to make the 2012-2013 academic year his last year at the helm of the Center for Student Enrichment. Thus, in honor of Dave’s retirement announcement, I need to write about the thanks and appreciation I have for all that Dave Bonsall has given to me over the years. I have no doubt that most, if not all of you, feel the same way I do about Dave. To say that I consider Dave a leadership mentor is an understatement.

As each year goes by, we all are confronted with ethical decisions, usually small, but occasionally the big ones too. In these moments, we would be well off to ask ourselves, “What would Dave do?” This great man has championed the development and implementation of multiple community engagement programs at NMU, which collectively hold much of the honor delivered to the university by achieving Carnegie Classification as a Community Engaged Institution a few years ago. A major piece of his legacy is the Student Leader Fellowship Program. Not only did Dave help create the idea, co-author the original grant, and serve as a steward of the program for 22 years, he has exemplified the spirit of servant leadership and displayed the values behind SLFP traditions in his daily life.

Now, let me share a few quick updates. The past year was truly exceptional for the SLFP. We received the 2012 Jon C. Dalton Institute on College Student Values’ Best Practices Award, gave featured presentations on the SLFP at regional and national conferences, were highlighted in the Character Clearinghouse publication and have completed final edits on our publications for NACA’s Programming magazine and the Journal of College and Character. We had another record-breaking year with 128 SLFP applicants and from those we welcomed 62 Emerald Blocks. Our Gold Blocks graduated bringing our total to 816 SLFP graduates. Kevin Corkin won the Bill & Wilma Verrette Outstanding Community Service Internship Award for his work with the Hiawathaland Boy Scouts.
We have collectively recorded over 90,000 hours of service in positions of leadership through the CSIs. The 2011 UN 250: Leadership Theory and Practice classes developed and implemented 1) anti-bullying workshops for middle school students at two local schools and 2) an art workshop for local elementary students coupled with a public exhibition event for students to show off their art at the Marquette Public Library. Our 2011 Block Challenge Fundraiser pushed the SLFP endowment passed the $150,000 mark and a tremendously generous alum pledged a $4,000 matching gift to help motivate donors in our 2012 fundraising cycle.

These are truly exciting times in the SLFP! As always, we hope to see you when you visit Marquette and as you send us updates and pictures through email. 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!

~ Jon Barch

**RED BLOCKS**

Eric Bolduc was recently married to Daniella Vasquez and is looking forward to a relaxing honeymoon in Hawaii. He is excited to take his first surfing lesson! Currently, he is working with Holmes Murphy on an insurance program for charter schools in the state of Arizona. He’s very proud of the progress of the SLFP!

**BLUE BLOCKS**

Dave Bonsall and Gold Block Kevin Corkin

**GREEN BLOCKS**

Krista (Jenson) Malley is enjoying being a new mom to her nearly one-year-old daughter, Emma, and spending time with her husband, Dwayne. She’s keeping herself busy working as the assistant dean for student services at OUWB School of Medicine. She has great students and is still learning new things. She enjoyed the summer in Oxford, Michigan, with her family.

**PURPLE BLOCKS**

Congratulations to James “J.J.” Royer on his new job as the director of digital and social media for the Tampa Bay Lightning! He remembers watching professional hockey player, Steve Yzerman, play for the Detroit Red Wings, and now his office is just down the hall from J.J.’s. It’s going to be an exciting job! He and his wife, Kimberly, have a four-year-old-son named Ethan.
He has fond memories of the SLFP and reflects on how much he has been able to use his leadership skills and theories in the real world.

It’s been a busy year for **Karen Saari**. On December 28, she married David Pausch at a surprise wedding at her home! Their family and friends thought they were going to a Christmas party and were surprised with the wedding. On June 15, they welcomed a beautiful baby boy named Max, and they have a little girl on the way! She is due November 1 and is very excited for the new addition to the family. Congratulations! Karen, David, and Max, reside in Madison, Wisconsin, where Karen is working as the recruitment coordinator at Madison Area Technical College.

**AQUA BLOCKS**

Rev. Allen P. Mott currently resides in Houghton, Michigan and has been working on some interesting projects. He is designing an original stained glass window for St. Albert’s, the parish where he works. He raised most of the funds for the project, including receiving a donation of $151,000 to put toward various projects. Way to go, Father Al! As an extension of his work at the parish, he also planned a Spring Break Missionary trip to Bay Cliff Health Camp, where they spent time refinishing some floors and helping...
to make the camp a better place for the campers!

**YELLOW BLOCKS**

Congratulations to **Kristina Balzarini** and Christopher Wommer were married on October 11, 2011 at a beautiful wedding on Waikiki Beach in Hawaii! They celebrated with a small group of family and friends, and honeymooned in Istanbul, Turkey. They loved soaking up the culture, food, and sites. They are now living downstate, but Kristina misses the U.P. and being active in NMU life! She says that she, “always enjoyed working with each new student group in the SLFP as a site supervisor and loved the enthusiasm each SLFP’er showed in wanting to make the world a better place.”

**Kristi (Kujala) Mickelson** spent her summer soaking up the sun with her two little girls, Sofia, 3½, and Zoe, 1. Sofia started pre-school this fall! Karen currently teaches in the Lansing School District and will begin teaching at a Performing Arts Magnet School, teaching remedial math to middle school children. She says that she continues to use many of the things that she learned while participating in the SLFP. It’s important for her to be a leader to the children that she teaches and to her own children.

**TEAL BLOCKS**

**Megan E. Forrest** finished her internship with the NMU Clinical Sciences Department, was hired by Mayo Clinic, and is currently living in Rochester, Minnesota. She is a clinical technologist in the hepatitis/HIV molecular laboratory. She will be sitting for her molecular biology technologist certification exam, which will conclude her NMU program. She is hoping to begin an employee Master’s program in biochemistry/molecular biology through the Mayo Graduate School. She has been exploring the city, getting involved in church events, and spending time getting to know her co-workers. She also recently participated in a few isolated community service activities and has volunteered to serve as the United Way advocate for her work unit in the upcoming Mayo-wide United Way campaign. She hopes to get more involved with the United Way and other local organizations in the near future! She reminisces about being at Bay Cliff for the SLFP fall retreat on a clear night looking at the stars with her fellow Teal Blocks. She says that, “It perfectly summed up the sense of peace, wonder, and awe that Bay Cliff imparts and helped us realize how important it is to appreciate the moment instead of constantly stressing about what needs to be done—this realization was very important as we started our CSI’s!”

**Lexi Wagner** started work on her Master’s degree in speech-language pathology at Western Michigan University. She lived in Mt. Pleasant but is excited about moving and starting school in Kalamazoo. This summer she worked with adults with disabilities, which she has been doing since she graduated from high school. She also spent time going camping with her parents and younger brother. One of her favorite SLFP memories was attending her first fall retreat and participating in the yoga *Skill Builder!* She says that she wasn’t that great at yoga, but she had a blast laughing with friends!

**BURGUNDY BLOCKS**

**Jill (Aldrich) Dark** has been spending a lot of time using the leadership skills that she learned through the SLFP! She is living in the greater Grand Rapids area and just finished her first year as a Girl Scout troop leader. Through this experience, she was able to mentor and develop the confidence of nine young girls. She can’t wait to start back up in the fall! She also recently started a position at Spectrum Health System
as the director of talent mobility. Her job is to seek out and develop the next generation of executives. She applies many of the principles that she learned in the SLFP every day!

**Jon Barch** is currently living in Marquette and is continuing to coordinate the SLFP. Things have been going great! The SLFP has had record numbers of applicants, and the outcomes data shows wide success in terms of student development. Jon has also recently received an Excellence in Service Award from the university last spring, AND was elected president of the Administrative Professionals Union at NMU. Jon keeps himself busy through his involvement in the Lake Superior Leadership Academy planning committee, the Marquette Sister City advisory board, and the NMU Institutional Review Board. His children also keep him busy. Lenora and Fiona are seven years old, and his son James is five. He loves spending time with them! Jon reflects on his UN 250 class with Dave Bonsall and his overhead projector slides. Jon says, “I don’t use those anymore, but I am still using the same pins and straws activity when teaching the class these days.” Some things are too good to change!

**NAVY BLOCKS**

**Jennifer (Shaffer) Cathey** and her husband, Glenn, are living in Grand Rapids, Michigan, with their 10-month-old baby boy, James Jeffrey Cathey. She is teaching high school business and computer classes at a charter school in Cedar Springs. She continues to spend a lot of time running, completing both the Riverband Run 25K and the Cellcom Green Bay Half Marathon this year. She’s a busy mom!

**ORANGE BLOCKS**

Lots of changes this year for **Meg (Hartley) Schneider**! She recently moved from her home of 10 years in New York City out to Chicago. On June 11, 2011, they had a baby boy named Benjamin. Chicago offers a lot more space and it’s closer to home! She is still working with the Radio City Rockettes and will head back out to New York City for the fall.

**LIME BLOCKS**

Welcome back to Marquette, **Andrew Hill**! After five years in Washington, D.C., he has returned to Marquette and is working as the assistant director of annual giving at NMU. He has been married for six years and has two children. He has a daughter, Dylan, who is three-years-old, and a son, Ben, who is one-years-old. In his free time, he likes to go mountain biking, but he mainly enjoys staying home and playing with the kids! They tend to drain his energy every day, but he wouldn’t want it any other way. He also remembers how much of an influence his mentor had on him and his career. “If there was one person in my life outside of my family that inspired me to lead my own path, it would be her. She empowered me to make my NMU experience mine and helped me learn that I could define my own educational goals and career pursuits.”
SKY BLOCKS

Marina Dupler and her husband, Nick Van-Court, are calling Marquette home. She is now the assistant director of alumni relations at NMU, and her husband, Nick, is the brewer at the new Ore Dock Brewery Company on Spring Street. “It’s been exciting getting the new business up and running,” says Marina (they are part owners). She’s glad to be back on campus and see the SLFP staff. Marina is an SLFP mentor this fall.

Congratulations to Carissa Waters who has recently been accepted into the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at Rush University in Chicago! She will be pursuing a career as a nurse practitioner starting in June. She just finished working as a bedside nurse. She loved her job! She is also on the alumni board of directors for NMU, where they are working on a project to bring alumni back on campus to connect with current students.

There has been no shortage of rain in Augusta, Georgia, this summer according to Amanda Daniel. They seem to be getting the rain that everyone else is looking for! She and her husband, Erik, were expecting a baby girl at the end of August. Congratulations! Normally, they love participating in various outdoor activities over the summer, but she took it easy this summer because of the pregnancy. She is also in the United States Army and was recently promoted. Congratulations, Amanda! Thinking back on her time in the SLFP, she remembers the skit that her group did at the fall retreat where she ended up doing the crab walk across the stage. “What a blast!”

JADE BLOCKS

Adria (Danis) Laplander is living in Hubbell, Michigan, with her husband, Jason, her four-year-old daughter, Eliza, and their two dogs, Lola and Lacy. She spends a lot of her time trying to keep up with her daughter who is involved in gymnastics, dance, and figure skating! She teaches middle school English and math at Houghton Middle School, coaches varsity cheerleading, AND teaches Zumba. She recently graduated from NMU with her Master’s degree in reading specialist K-12. Congratulations!

Nichelle Middleton bought her first home in Minneapolis, Minnesota this past July! She is back in school working toward a degree in management information systems, while also holding a job as a specialist in operations and data management for Xcel Energy. She is also doing a lot of traveling to
fill her free time. She traveled to Puerto Rico in June and will be going to Europe in November. Have a great time! She has enjoyed helping out with the youth programs for Hennepin County Libraries. Recently, Nichelle was at the library and came across the book that she had written her report on for the UN 250 class. It reminded her of all the good times that she had with her fellow Jade Blocks, especially the getting-to-know-you and teambuilding activities!

**MANGO BLOCKS**

**Katy Morrison** and her husband, Chris Hatherly, celebrated the birth of their first child on January 25! Mason was a 9 lb., 11 oz. healthy baby boy. They have been spending a lot of time with Mason, and he has changed their lives in a very positive way! Congratulations! Katy has also changed positions at the university. She is now the academic support service coordinator at NMU and is responsible for assisting undeclared students explore majors and careers. In her free time, she has been remodeling her rental property with her husband. They are finally finished, and it was well worth it. She also just organized and fundraised for her first adult mission trip as mission’s coordinator at First United Methodist Church of Marquette.

**Lindsey (Pepin) Butorac** recently moved to Ishpeming with her husband, Tyson, and they are expecting their first baby any time. Lindsey is still working as the NMU payroll manager. She also served as the service area treasurer for the Northern Lights Area Girl Scouts and mentored her fourth SLFP student. She is taking a break from both to adjust to being a working mom! She has enjoyed her time as a student fellow and as a mentor, and she plans to mentor another student sometime in the future.

**Jane Stieber** is currently living in Seattle, Washington, and is a resident in pediatric dentistry at the University of Washington and Seattle Children’s Hospital.

**CRIMSON BLOCKS**

**Katie Berger** got engaged to Aaron Racine this past February, and they have been busy planning a June wedding. She is living in Ishpeming and working in the Admissions Office at NMU where she recruits students from Florida, New York, and New Jersey. She is very excited about finishing her Master’s degree in education administration and supervision this past May. Congratulations!

**Jess (Olson) McGurn** is enjoying her time as a stay-at-home mom! She recently moved with her family to Dickinson, North Dakota, where her husband is driving a tanker in the oil fields. She is doing part-time bookkeeping from home for an oil transport business. She has two sons, Jackson, 4, and Mason, 2. She loves having some extra free time to spend time with the boys. Since moving to the area, they have joined a great church called Evangelical Bible Church, and she has become a group of new resident moms. So far, they are loving the area!
FUCHSIA BLOCKS

Shalynn (Brandt) Domke is currently living in Antigo, Wisconsin, with her husband of about a year, Rick. Congratulations! They raise steer to sell for beef, and she is also a first grade teacher in the Antigo District. They are doing very well and still stay in touch with friends from the SLFP.

Manda Frederick was recently married this past October. Congratulations! She is living just outside of Philadelphia and recently obtained a MFA in creative nonfiction and an MA in literary studies. She is now an assistant professor of writing arts at Rowan University. She is also acting as the managing editor for a literary magazine called Glassworks. Beyond writing and publishing, she has taken up rock climbing and kite flying to occupy her time.

MINT BLOCKS

Kerensa Bauman made a big move to Chengdu, China, in August to teach kindergarten at an international school. For the past two years, she has been living in Globe, Arizona, where she was a first grade teacher on an Apache Reservation. She loves working with children and is very excited for the move!

Ellie Luce is enjoyed her summer on the East Coast. She is living in Bel Air, Maryland, and is teaching high school special education classes. She also just finished up a Master’s program in curriculum, instruction, and assessment. She had a blast at the 20th SLFP anniversary party and can’t wait to see everyone again!

CERULEAN BLOCKS

Melissa Engelmeier completed her 6th Grandma’s half marathon in June and just finished running in the Warrior Dash in August. Way to go! She has also been doing a lot of volunteering for church-related activities in the Duluth, Minnesota, area where she is living. She’s been dealing with a lot of crazy floods this year, but luckily her home didn’t sustain any damage. She works at the University of Minnesota-Duluth as an events supervisor for UMD Catering Services.

Stephanie Johnson recently got a job as a latent print examiner with the Indiana State Police. She moved to Indianapolis, Indiana, a couple of months ago and is enjoying exploring the town and looking for activities to take part in. She misses attending the SLFP fall retreats and her fellow SLFP blocks!

Megan Schneider is beginning school with her third group of students in Raleigh, North Carolina. She is teaching 7th grade math and science. This summer she traveled around the coast and enjoyed her free time! As she thinks back on her time in the SLFP, she remembers how much fun she had participating in teambuilders and the photo scavenger hunt at the retreat. She misses all of her fellow Ceruleans!

Nicole Stumpf is shocked at how much of an impact her CSI has made on her career choices. She is currently completing a one-year service term with AmeriCorps in which she is directing an after-school program for elementary students in Granton, Wis-
Abby (Starich) Lengas has had a busy and exciting year. She was recently married to Eric Lengas, and they purchased their first home together in Durham, North Carolina. Congratulations! She started vet school this fall at North Carolina State University. Eric graduated with his Master’s degree in athletic training last May and is now working as an assistant athletic trainer at Elon University in Elon, North Carolina. They still have their cat, Schmoe, and their dog, Ellie! Abby has been working at a vet clinic for the past two years but had to leave there because of her decision to attend vet school. She hopes to someday work in the Caribbean Islands helping with the stray animal population.

**KIWI BLOCKS**

Kurt Brandly took every advantage of the beautiful Marquette summer. He’s went hiking, fishing, mountain biking, and camping in his free time. He is applying to medical school and is spending time in Marquette while he waits to be accepted into one. Meanwhile, he is working as a medical assistant and brain tumor research aid.

Anna (Ewing) Miller has had an exciting year. She celebrated her one year anniversary to her husband, Nate, and they welcomed a daughter, Lillian Sophia (Lilly), on September 16. Anna was working as a substitute teacher in the Houghton School District and spent her summer teaching 4-8 year-olds in a summer program in South Range, Michigan. Because of the new baby, her plans have changed somewhat. She will now wait to apply for teaching jobs. Her husband will be graduating with his Master’s degree in December, so she will begin looking for a job in whatever city her husband finds work. They’ve enjoyed their summer hiking around the area and traveling.

Since graduation, Steph Felton is still calling Marquette, Michigan, home. She is currently working as a personal trainer, group exercise instructor beach body coach, and massage therapist at Motions Personal Training. Steph is now pursuing her Master’s degree in exercise science as well. While attending grad school, she will be working as one of the grad assistants in the Center for Student Enrichment. She’s excited about the job and is hoping that going back to school will be a great opportunity!

Molly Grala is working at Medline Industries in Linderhurst, Illinois. She has been working in the corporate office in the marketing department since March 2012. In her free time, she enjoys playing softball and volleyball in co-ed leagues and spending time walking her dog, Chloe. Reflecting on the SLFP, she says that she misses the UN 250 class the most. There were a lot of fun activities, and they were very beneficial.

Jenny Grasch is currently living in Worcester, Massachusetts. Attending optometry school at MCPHS, her engagement to Jason Kehrer, and her new hometown have been keeping this SLFP grad busy! Congratulations! As she reflects on the SLFP, she remembers her great mentor experience and the time that she spent helping out at the U.P. Children’s Museum. She’s having a great time exploring her new surroundings!

Becky Rasmussen is working toward a Master’s degree in the exercise science program at St. Cloud State University. She also has a graduate
assistant position in fitness programs where she is working as the fitness center manager. She only has one year left until graduation! She recently got engaged to another NMU graduate, Mitch Foster! They are looking forward to their wedding in the summer of 2013. Congratulations!

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.”

Molly Davis interned at a Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Roseville, Minnesota, where she worked as the mammal nursery intern, taking care of injured and abandoned animals found in the metro area. She also took care of animals such as mink, beaver, woodchucks, raccoons, bunnies, opossums, and even some mice. Her love for animals has also inspired her to volunteer at the Minnesota Zoo as a summer seasonal volunteer. She spends her free time as a nanny and also volunteers as part of the technical theater crew for the Eagan Summer Community Theaters production of Cinderella.

Graduation is in just around the corner for Ashley Foster. She is finishing her criminal justice degree in December and will graduate in May with her forensic biochemistry degree. She is currently working in NMU’s Campus Visit office and is trying to decide what to do after graduation. To keep herself busy, she played in a summer soccer league and is now playing for NMU’s club team. She also wants to volunteer again with Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Living in a house in Marquette with her friends, Brittany Loomis had a blast this summer. She also did her clinicals for speech therapy, worked at the Country Inn and Suites, and tried to decide which graduate school she wants to attend. Exploring the trails, kayaking, and enjoying the beach with her friends occupied much of her time!

Tracy Pickering was living in Midland, Michigan, but recently moved to South Korea where she is teaching at the Haenam Dong Elementary School in Haenam, Jeollanam-do, which is the southernmost province in South Korea. She says, “I’m so excited to start this next chapter, and have enjoyed the summer with my family, while getting ready for the next phase of my journey!” She misses all of her SLFP friends and can’t wait to hear how everyone else’s summer went. She wants to wish the Banana and Emerald Blocks the best of luck as they start up a new school year!

Congratulations to Becky Schmidt and Dan Fiorenza who were married on July 28! For the
summer, she lived in Slinger, Wisconsin, but is
now back up in Marquette to finish up her degree
in social work. This summer she worked with the
Slinger Varsity Soccer Team, worked for a sum-
mer program for youth with physical and mental
disabilities, and also went sailing with her family.
Her favorite SLFP memory was completing her
CSI at the U.P. Home, Health and Hospice. She
says that it’s been one of the best experiences that
she has had.

Mia Shawhan is excited to be moving from her
parents’ house in Negaunee to Laramie, Wyoming,
where she is attending graduate school. She
will be doing research and teaching introductory
courses at the University of Wyoming. While she
was waiting for the big move, she read, went hik-
ing and swimming, did some traveling, attended
concerts and festivals, and did all that the U.P.
has to offer before she leaves. She hopes to find
the same sense of community and commitment
in Wyoming that she found at NMU through the
SLFP!