Ice Blocks
2014 - 2016

still connected
volume 18/issue 1/october 2014
New this year is the Alumni Committee. The current Leadership Programs Coordinators have been working hard to create a committee to help connect current Student Fellows and Alums. They look out for emails or phone calls from current SLFP members asking where you are living, what you do for a living, and/or how you are involved with your community. They will also be asking if you would be interested in becoming a source for Student Fellows to contact for advice about a variety of topics (careers, involvement, or lifestyle information if they are thinking about moving near your town).

Thank you for your continued involvement in the Student Leader Fellowship Program!

**RED BLOCKS**

Heather (Zevran) Recknale graduated in December from Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi with her masters in special education. This past February she accepted a position with her current school district, Flour Bluff, as an educational diagnostician. She enjoys her family and spending time at the beach.

**BLUE BLOCKS**

Sherry (Sweszpinska) Rosenkraus recently made a move to the client side after being on the agency end for nearly 20 years. She is a global advertising manager with General Motors and absolutely loves it.

It was an invaluable experience and a place where she could put her leadership skills to use. It resulted in one of the most valuable relationships with Pat Ryan O’Day. She is family to her and she is forever grateful for the opportunity that led to that.

Damien Barrett has sad news as his beloved wife, Katie, lost her 16-month battle with oral cancer in February. He is fortunate to be surrounded by a caring and supportive community. Damien and his two kids are coping one day at a time. Since he thrives on chaos, he figured why not start his masters in instructional technology at Wilkes University. Losing his wife has taught him firsthand the value and honor in compassion and empathy. He strives every day to pay it forward to others in need so they may be helped as he’s been helped.

Craig Downs has a 11½-month old granddaughter named Chloe. He will be retiring next June after serving for the last eight years as the Air Force reserve command liaison to the Community College of the Air Force. He remembers using some of the team-building exercises while coaching his son’s Little League baseball games. He was known as “The Fun Coach!”

**GREEN BLOCKS**

Kristen (Olson) Kroger is working as an attorney for IAA and Affiliated Companies, an Illinois-based family of companies. Since she and her husband moved to Geneva, Switzerland in 2010, she has continued her work for IAA remotely from Geneva. She continues to desperately learn French, which is the language spoken in Geneva.

**YELLOW BLOCKS**

Jill and Jason Malek have been married for 13 years, and they have two children. Evan (6) is in first grade, and Clara (4) enters her last year of preschool. Evan is all boy while Clara is all girl, so they keep them on their toes. Evan loves most sports (especially the Packers and Notre Dame football, basketball, and hockey) and enjoys playing soccer. Clara is very keen on dance and gymnastics. Jason is in charge of mobile surveys for North America for TNS, a London-based market research company. They moved to Sylvania (suburb of Toledo, Ohio) last summer so he can work in their office where the operations are headquartered. They are very happy to be out of fast-paced Chicago and have settled into Northwest Ohio very comfortably. Jason coached Evan’s soccer team last fall and has decided that youth coaching isn’t his cup of tea. He loved working with the kids and running around but couldn’t deal with the parents and their commentary. On a brighter note, he continues to play golf when he is able, between shuttling around suburban Toledo with the kids. The “F” in SLFP remains the most memorable...spending time and learning from other Greenies.

**AQUA BLOCKS**

Congratulations to Brian and Kristi (Kujala) Mickelson on the birth of their third daughter, Lucy, this past Christmas! Lucy had a very memorable birth. While in Lansing for Christmas, they had a massive ice storm that tore down trees and knocked out power for 6-14 days. Lucy, their own little “ice” princess, was born in the middle of that ice storm. Kristi and Brian went from the hotel to the hospital and then brought Lucy back “home” to the hotel. Their
other two daughters are Sofia (5½) and Zoe (3). Kristi teaches remedial math for the Lansing School District where she works part-time, which is a good balance between work and family. She is responsible for assessing the entire school three times a year and uses the data to form remedial groups for specific instruction. With three little kids, it’s hard to partake in her own fun activities, but she enjoys her children’s activities: dance, t-ball, soccer, and volunteering at their school and church.

Burgundy Blocks

Maggie and Jon Barch’s kids are growing up fast! Le- nora and Fiona are now nine and James is seven. Jon was promoted to associate director of the Center of Student Enrichment. He is still coordinating the SLFP, but is now working with another SLFP alum, Hannah (Krats) Lewis, after Rachel gave Dave’s job when he retired. He is excited to get to know the new Ice Blocks. He currently is on the Marquette Sister City Advisory Committee, Lake Superior Leadership Academy Planning Committee, and learning Karate (So Balik Do) with his three kids. They are all green belts. Jon’s favorite memories are fruit pizza and fun chats about internships at the fellowship meetings, the Greed game gift exchange at the holiday party where he got a blank VHS tape, and swimming in Lake Superior at the Fall Retreat beach bonfire. It was all a ton of fun. “Oh yeah, I learned a ton about living a meaningful life and social responsibility too.”

Erik Koeing is deputy county counsel III in the County of Kings, California (Central Valley). He represents the Assessor-Clerk/Recorder-Registrar of Voters, the Community Development Agency, Department of Finance, Planning Commission, Local Agency Formation Commission, Water Commission, and Agriculture Advisory Committee. He said he had to stop to think about what his job block color was. As he looks out of his office, he can’t help but laugh about the activity that they did in the Leadership Theory and Practice course after taking the MBTI. After getting their results, they had to get into groups (NT, NF, NT, IF), and as a group, design a dream office. His office is nothing as imposing or organized as his group’s dream office. He says, “Either his score was off or he’s changed.”

Navy Blocks

Kelly Anderson has two children: Trevor (10) and Annie (8). She is employed by the Michigan Department of Human Services, currently working in Ottawa County as the community resource coordinator.

Happy 7th Anniversary to Russell and Star (Dor- pel) Staabch! They have three amazing children: Meadow (5), Zariah (3), and Gunther (5 months). Congratulations to them on the purchase of their new home, where the kids have a sense of autonomy, but she feels safe watching them from one of the many windows that overlook their expansive backyard. This transition has been wonderful for their growing family. They are surrounded by other families whose children will be her own future colleagues. Her family is also busy with camping, bird watching, and enjoying all that life happens to throw their way!

Star is the founder and owner of IgniteRadiance.com. She is an aliveness coach, supporting others to experience joie de vivre! Through moving beyond her own dark shadows and thanks to the foundation that she gained through the SLFP, she now provides others with finding the answers that they’re seeking in life. This summer, she hosted a Virtual Summer Camp for moms! What mom doesn’t want a sense of community, have access to on-the-go, good-for-you recipes, and support to make it through the day. She has private clients, runs online programs for busy moms and entrepreneurs, hosts a radio show, and does a lot of public/motivational speaking. She is involved in building community both in her neighbor- hood and among other mothers of young children. Feeling a sense of connection is important, and it is wonderful to provide a space where they can gather and create community.

In her move, she came across her SLFP folder; (yes, she still has it). She remembers this being her first experience with personal development. She studied and appreciated psychology and sociology, but having the opportunity to do personal reflection through the SLFP has been life changing. Her greatest memories of the SLFP are by far the community service and being a mentor. When she was in Marquette with her family last summer, she visited with her “mentee,” now 26. They still call one another sisters. They hiked Sugarloaf—both pregnant at the time. THANKS for putting this together and giving her the space to share and connect!

Orange Blocks

Congratulations Erin (Elliott) Bryan and her husband as they welcomed their first child, Noah Thomas Bryan in October 2013. He is doing all sorts of wonderful things and is a joy to be around. Erin is the community news editor at the American Jewish World, the biweekly newspaper of the Jewish community in Minnesota. She has been in this position for almost nine years and loves it! No two days are ever the same, and she’s always learning something new. Plus, she has the privilege of helping to document the history of the Jewish community there, something that her newspaper has been doing since 1912. This summer, she supervised an editorial intern, which was a lot of fun. She is a member of the Hopkins Area Jaycees and a past volunteer for the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life. She recently wrote a story about an Israel advocacy program for high school students that sounded wonderful to the SLFP. Among other things, there was a class and a project (very much like the CSI), and it brought back all kinds of wonderful SLFP memories! It reminded her how valuable the SLFP is and how much of an impact it still has on her and what she does today.

Zach Lorber is now uncle to seven as two of his sister-in-laws had babies: one on May 1 (Harrison Morath) and another on June 9 (Parker Heynes). He is the chief at Penn State University’s Altoona cam- pus, and it keeps him quite busy. He and his wife Megan recently bought a house; projects around the house keep them busy outside work. He will always love the trips to Bay Cliff. It is one of his favorite places to visit, and he looks forward to his next trip to Marquette.

Jenny Jo Mueller doesn’t have any little ones planned, but Jenny Jo is expecting a big one...or two. She is in the process of becoming a certified foster parent and expects to foster middle or high school students in need of a home starting sometime this fall. Jenny Jo is approaching nine years as an officer in the US Navy. She was promoted to Lieutenant Commander in September 2013. She is proud to announce that she successfully defended her PhD dissertation in physical biochemistry at Michigan State University a month before her promotion, which made 2013 a year of great milestones. Congratulations!

She has since moved to a new Jersey command, and she recently wrote her first grant proposal. For the three years in her PhD program, Jenny Jo regularly volunteered at the Potter Park Zoo and misses it! She is trying volunteer opportunities in her new city to find a good fit. She has taken up beginning figure skating in addition to her regular activities like running and swimming. Now that she lives five miles from the nearest library, she realizes how fortunate she was to never live more than a mile from a library during the first 33 years of her life! An especially memorable SLFP memory for Jenny Jo was a Skill Builder! led by Bill Hill on personality types: Gholier, Phleg- matic, Sanguine, and Melancholy. As everyone ar- rived enjoying themselves before the Skill Builder! began, Bill walked up and handed her a folded paper asking her not to look until he gave permission. She is still amazed that her personality type was so clear to a person she’d never met, but he had pegged her!
Caelum. She was recently hired as a STEM teacher has a 3 year-old son named dos.

Kembry Alison, to their family Congratulations to Tami and Der-
ting with alumni volunteers and career support for ing with the mentorshops and icebreakers reminded her start her career has been immensely rewarding. Do-
ing a new program for first generation students. She Monique Yoder has become an item-writer for Eng-
and her husband, two children, and golden doodle, Gus! She has been married for three years to her wonderful husband, Jason. They have two wonderful children: a son, Sam (2) and a daughter, Claire (11 months). Kayla is the human resources/curriculum assistant for Saginaw Township Schools. This will be her second year and she loves it! She serves on the Board for Great Beginnings Child Care Center and has been running in her free time—her goal is to complete a couple 5K races this year as a fam-
joying everything New England has to offer (biking, the beach, great friends, exploring new cities, etc.). Her favorite memory is redoing the Gilligan’s Island theme song on the bus to the Fall Retreat. She’s not sure if there’s video but remembers it was very funny! Pete Pelletier completed his anesthesia residency resi-
dency in Boston at Brigham and Women’s Hospital/ Harvard Medical School in June and is now complet-
ing a fellowship in Pediatric Anesthesiology at Lurie Children’s Hospital/Peinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University in Chicago. He has been vol-
unteering with the Global Smile Foundation and was able to travel to Ecuador in September with a medi-
cal team where he provided anesthesia for children undergoing cleft lip and cleft palate repairs.

LIME BLOCKS

Congratulations to Lea Karovicov and her husband, Gabe, who are expecting their first child any day!

Congratulations to Morgan and Lindsay (Hayden) Noland as they welcomed their second son, Bennett Hayden Noland on August 27, 2013! Michael is three years old. She recently became the assistant dean of students at Park University. She is working closely with her Student Success team to focus on a variety of retention initiatives.

SKY BLOCKS

Tami (Robillard) Oxley is still calling Hillsdale, Michigan home. Congratulations to Tami and Der-
rick as they welcomed a baby girl, Kenbry Alison, to their family on September 22, 2013! Her big brothers: Keegan (6) and Cooper (4) think she’s the most wonderful thing ever! Her favorite thing about teaching is that she gets to spend the summer with her kidd-
dos.

Patty (Egeler) Dosed has a 3 year-old son named Caeahn. She was recently hired as a STEM teacher at Ottawa Hills Local Schools. She will get to teach some really fun, interdisciplinary classes like Robotics, CAD, Modeling & Simulation, and Computer Programming to students in grades 7-12. With her former school, she had the opportunity to travel to Turkey for 10 days over spring break.

Congratulations to Erin (Larsen) Williams and her husband as they welcomed their daughter Ruby Elizabeth, into their fam-
ily in September of 2013. She has been back at NMU working as the assistant alumni relations director for over two years now. She has become involved in campus by being a mentor with the SLFP and also as a co-chair of NMU’s Gender Work group. In the community, she’s a member of 40 Below, Marquette’s young professionals’ group, and also completed the Lake Superior Leader-
ship Academy in 2013. Last month, her friend Jess and her put on an upcycling furniture contest and fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity Marquette County. Participating in the program on the mentor side has been fun! She absolutely loved her mentee and seeing how much she has done. Seeing her mentee start her career has been immensely rewarding. Do-
ing the mentorshops and icebreakers reminded her how much she loves that stuff.

Congratulations to Cody Fleming and his wife, Karen, as they welcomed their second child, Br. Nicholas Dustin Blackwell’s son Klaipeda, Lithuania where she taught academic writing, language acquisition, and language assessment to undergraduate students at LCC International University. Creatively, she has taken up quilting. For community service, she has been active in the local Methodist church with missions work, youth educa-
tion, and music.

JADE BLOCKS

Br. Nicholas Dustin Blackwell’s brother and sister-in-law had their first child in August named Claire Marie Blackwell. He is currently studying at the Catho-
lic University of America working on a joint degree for his religious order. He is preparing to take final vows in the Order of Carmel in a year. He hopes to be ordained in the priesthood in the Catholic Church in two and a half years. He works at St. Steven the Mar-
ty Parish in Washington, DC, and is helping at local hospitals. He is in the theology school student union, representing the seminarians and the religious. The silent time during the retreat is his favorite memory.

Lina Blair will be in the Dean of Students Office as assistant dean after four years as the assistant di-
rector of ACA/IDirector of Orientation. She will be working with the student conduct program and creat-
ing a new program for first generation students. She and her wife, Lucy, are visiting every town that has a post office in the Upper Peninsula (there are 131 and they have about 30 left)! Congratulations to Monica (Drusch) Wolf and her hus-
band, Ryan, who have been married for three years, and they welcomed their son, Jordan, on St. Patrick’s Day this year! Monica is current-
ly a stay-at-home mom.

Sara (Barceley) and Gaein Tefer are enjoying spending time together as newlyweds. They celebrated their first wedding anniversary (10 months). Sara was promoted to associate direc-
tor of Alumni and Parent Relations at Keene State College, where she spends much of her time work-
ing with alumni volunteers and career support for students and alumni. They spend a lot of time en-
joying everything New England has to offer (biking, the beach, great friends, exploring new cities, etc.). Her favorite memory is redoing the Gilligan’s Island theme song on the bus to the Fall Retreat. She’s not sure if there’s video but remembers it was very funny! Pete Pelletier completed his anesthesia residency resi-
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unteering with the Global Smile Foundation and was able to travel to Ecuador in September with a medi-
cal team where he provided anesthesia for children undergoing cleft lip and cleft palate repairs.

MANGO BLOCKS

Kayla (Rice) Pionk and her family Kayla’s two kids Sam and Claire

Kayla (Rice) Pionk resides in Freeland, Michigan, with her husband, two children, and golden doodle, Gus! She has been married for three years to her wonderful husband, Jason. They have two wonderful children: a son, Sam (2) and a daughter, Claire (11 months). Kayla is the human resources/curriculum assistant for Saginaw Township Schools. This will be her second year and she loves it! She serves on the Board for Great Beginnings Child Care Center and has been running in her free time—their goal is to complete a couple 5K races this year as a fam-

Cody Fleming and his wife, Karen, as they welcomed their second child, Boston Heritage Fleming on March 22nd. Boston joins his three-year-old sister, Cameron. Cody is teaching English at Es-
canaba High School and will be taking over honors English 11 and creative writing this coming school year. He remembers the fun times he had going to various schools to read books and perform skits for the little kids as part of his community service internship. Fun times!

Erin (Larsen) Williams kids Joey, Jimmy and Jessica

Erin and her daughter, Jessica

Kayla (Rice) Pionk and her family

Kayla’s two kids Sam and Claire

Kayla’s two kids Sam and Claire
Hoyt, that is what UA is modeled after. Her chapter assistance to participate in a variety of events—swimming, local athletes and individuals who require physical assistance to the Williamsburg area. UA’s mission is to pair chapter of United Athletics (UA). UA was founded in 2014, she organized the Williamsburg, Virginia, County Schools) Teacher of the Year! In January Hornsby Middle School’s (Williamsburg-James City Congratulations to Scott and Cassiopeia (Zeratsky) Charlier for celebrating their seven year wedding anniversary in July! Cassie and Scott have two children: Katelyn (3) and Austin (7 months). She has been at JJ Keller for six years now and in her current position for three and a half years. Cassie enjoys working out at the gym, being outdoors with her family, camping, and gardening. Her favorite memory is volunteering at the UP Children’s Museum which was very fun and rewarding. She also enjoyed having dinner with her mentor, Karen Dubow. Brieanne Rogers had an article published in the April 2014 National Association of Campus Activities’ magazine called “Student Learning = Administrative Assessment. An Equation that Works!” Congratulations to Matt Wellens for accepting a position on the sports staff at the Duluth Neziz Tribune. He was previously the sports editor at The Mining Journal since January 2011. FUCHSIA BLOCKS Congratulations to Melissa Natter for being named Horsebys Middle School’s (Williamsburg-James City County Schools) Teacher of the Year! In January of 2014, she organized the Williamsburg, Virginia, chapter of United Athletics (UA). UA was founded in Richmond, Virginia, in 2012 and she spread its mission to the Williamsburg area. UA’s mission is to pair local athletes and individuals who require physical assistance to participate in a variety of events—swimming, biking, running, and triathlon races. If you’ve ever heard of the father-son team, Dick and Rick Hoyt, that is what UA is modeled after. Her chapter has participated in three 5Ks, three 8Ks, a sprint triathlon, and a half-marathon to date. They have as many as 11 teams at one event, pairing local people with disabilities of all ages with local running members of the community. CERULEAN BLOCKS Congratulations to Danielle Brandreth and Isaac Smith on their engagement? They are in the process of planning their June 13, 2015 wedding. She is entering her third year as the Greek Life Advisor at Alma College. She is currently part of the Big Brothers Big Sisters program of Gratiot County. Jessica Elbe graduated her master’s in social work in 2013, sat to become a Licensed Social Work-er in 2013 (passed), and will be sitting to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in December 2014. Congratulations! Currently, she is the managing director of Partnership and Development for a non-profit organization, Northwest Compass, Inc. Their mission is to enhance the community by providing emergency services, education, and empowerment which foster personal responsibility for those who are vulnerable or in crisis. For leisure she enjoys running competitively, early morning that she would like to reflect on is the long lasting friendships she has maintained since graduating from the SLFP. She is still in contact with friends that are divided amongst the United States because of the foundation the SLFP provided. KIWIBLOCKS Anna (Ewing) Miller’s daughter Lily will be turning two in September. She spent last year as a teacher assistant in a third grade classroom and plans to spend next year with the same students as fourth graders as she finishes up multiple tests to be certified to teach. Anna is hoping to find a teaching job this fall. Good luck! TEAL BLOCKS After some soul-searching and careful thought, Megan Forrest applied for admission into the Biomedical Sciences Training Program at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) in Cleveland, Ohio. Thankfully she was accepted into the program and is leaving her job at Mayo Clinic. She started her coursework and lab rotations for her PhD this July. She is hoping that this biomedical research program will allow her to stay connected to the field of cells and tissues and provide a means to help with the most complex of diseases. She has many talents and will bring a great deal of enthusiasm to the SLFP. She is currently on a 12-week clinical rotation actually getting to practice what she’s been taught! She has two more 12-week rotations in Wisconsin and will then, hopefully, graduate next May of 2015. She’s continued to do research since her time at NMU introduced her to the field of biomechanics having just attended the World Congress of Biomechanics in Boston, Massachussets, this past July with a poster presentation for one of the projects she had been working on in PT school. Sarah is considering continuing on with a Ph.D. program in some sort of biomechanics/motor control program or finding a “big kid” job for a few years before contemplating going back for the Ph.D again in the next year or so. She has fallen into place because of her involvement in the SLFP. Had it not been for this program, she may not have met her mentor and may not have had the two amazing summers at Bay Cliff Health Camp which ultimately led her to her final decision to pursue PT school. Congratulations to Chad and Hannah (Krats) Lewis on their marriage last summer in Marquette! They are the proud parents of their dog, Marshall, a six-year-old black lab/golden retriever mix. Hannah is the coordinator in the Center for Student Enrichment at NMU and works for the Marquette Yacht Club. Her favorite memory is singing at the bonfire at the Fall Retreat-so much fun! Dani Thoune is enjoying the great outdoors working for a youth summer camp at Michigamme as a head lifeguard, registrar, and assistant director. She gets to enjoy the presence of youth mixed with the glory of the environment around them. GOLD BLOCKS Casey Lewis is attending the University of Washing- ton this fall for graduate school and will be studying museology. She is still interning at the Marquette Regional History Center, where she did her CSI four years ago. She really enjoyed the Fall Retreat and all of the friends she made through the program. The SLFP is truly a unique experience, and one she will never forget! BANANA BLOCKS Cassy Hastings is attending medical school at Oak- land University William Beaumont School of Medi- cine and is extremely excited to embark upon her schooling to become a doctor. She doesn’t know what kind of doctor she would like to be quite yet, but she is sure medical school will help her decide. This summer she volunteered at Bay Cliff Health Camp at
Their Children's Summer Therapy program. She also helped prepare for her brother's wedding which was at the end of July. She really enjoyed her CSI with the SLFP. She made so many connections with people in the community and still maintains a great relationship with Bay Cliff partially because of her CSI. Her CSI involved serving as an activities leader at Bay Cliff during the school year, and she got to know so many kids through the program!

Alcya Heckathorn is heading to grad school at New York University to pursue a Master's in Dance Education.

Congratulations to Julia McLean who started working at Marquette General Hospital in March on the cardiac unit! She is now on day shift, after having orientation on afternoons, and working briefly on nights. She has been working with Room at the Inn and donates blood regularly. This year she will be a mentor for one of the Ice Blocks, the newest SLFP group.

Alex Nye started a graduate assistantship at the Academic and Career Advisement Center at NMU. He will be advising undeclared students while he pursues a Master's in English. He is also the Graduate Studies representative for ASNMU.

Sara Pingel was recently admitted into the Higher Education in Student Affairs program at NMU and is serving as a graduate assistant in the Center for Student Enrichment. She enjoyed her first summer in Marquette and trained for her first half marathon. She loves thinking back on the times at her second Fall Retreat, especially the trivia on the bus ride and the name tag contest!

Olivia Steil is working with the wonderful people of the Center for Student Enrichment as a Superior Edge student coordinator.

Alanna Toro will be graduating after this upcoming semester and is planning to continue on to get a Master's in Linguistics.

Emily Stutz is currently a student office assistant in the Identity, Brand and Marketing office at NMU, but she officially started her graduate assistantship this fall. This fall she will be a part of the Higher Education and Student Affairs Master's program. After two years as an RA, she’s been spending a lot of time working out and reading the books she hasn’t had a chance to enjoy! Her favorite memories were the fellowship meetings during her second year, because they gave her a chance to reconnect with some of her friends she didn’t get to see as often during the school year.

EMERALD BLOCKS

Jordyn Dowd started grad school at NMU this fall!

Alicia DenHerder is applying to physical therapy schools with her top choice being the University of Denver-Colorado. Alicia will be graduating with her bachelor’s degree in sports science in December 2014! This summer she volunteered at UPAWS. In the fall, she will volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters and Make a Difference Day. She loves being outdoors (hiking, biking, running, kayaking, and camping). She hopes to participate in a half-marathon and marathon in the next few years! Her SLFP experience as a whole was filled with positive memories and constant reminders of the importance of leadership and community service. Being a part of the SLFP was one of the best decisions she made as an undergraduate student at NMU.

Kara Jacoboni is currently set to graduate from NMU in May of 2015, and she hopes to continue her education and get her Master's in Communication Studies. For two months this summer, Kara was in Chile studying Spanish. She also volunteered at an English language institute helping teach English classes. She is a leadership programs coordinator in the Center for Student Enrichment helping to coordinate the SLFP. Her second year with the SLFP was the greatest experience of her college career. At this point, her Blocks really began to understand the "fellowship" part of the SLFP. Thanks to this program she has made so many amazing friends and even more unforgettable memories.

At the end of July, Chelsea Koskie moved to Denver, Colorado, to get settled into her new home before she started graduate school at the University of Denver. She is working on her Master's Degree in International Development through Master's International with the Peace Corps. She has been nominated for the Peace Corps, which isn't an "official" acceptance yet because the application process is over a year long. After she completes her 1½ years at DU and has cleared all medical and legal requirements, she can get an invitation for placement for June 2016 in which she will serve 27 months overseas!

This summer Savannah Mallo did an internship with Oregon Wild in Portland, an environmental non-profit that works to get legislation to protect wilderness areas in the State of Oregon. It’s her dream internship! This internship was unpaid, and she didn’t get school credit for it. So, technically, Savannah volunteered 35-40 hours a week helping Oregon Wild with outreach. She will always remember the Fall Retreats as being a fun bonding time with everyone in the program. It was nice to get away from everyday life and just spend quality time with amazing people who are all driven by the same passion for community service and leadership.

Danielle Morrison is attending graduate school this fall at the University of Glasgow. She participates in Irish dance and Eddy Flute Choir.

Brittany Ridge is currently looking for a full-time position as a RN. She worked at Bay Cliff Health Camp this summer.

Jackie Rodriguez would like to become a pediatrician so she has started shadowing other doctors and volunteers within the medical field. She’s hoping to start an internship soon. Jackie has been volunteering at a local nursing home and helped coach a flag football team. Soon she will be assisting in a soup kitchen and leading the kindergarten group for her church’s Vacation Bible School. The games played during the SLFP retreat were always the best. You not only had the opportunity to meet more members of SLFP, but you were able to practice and learn different leadership skills all while having fun!

Katelyn Rogers just submitted her medical school applications. It will be a year-long process of waiting, but she is confident that she will get in. Until then, she is working at a local group home. She is continuing her internship at the Medical Care Access Coalition (MCAC) and volunteering at the Upper Michigan Brain Tumor Center researching a protein found in glioblastoma cells and stem cells. The SLFP opened many doors for her, and she is very thankful for their help during her dad’s death! The SLFP opened many doors for her, and she is very thankful for their help during her dad’s death! She will always be glad that she was supported through that bleak time in her life.