Dear Alumni and Friends:

The 25th year of SLFP has come to a close and what an awesome year it has been! In April, we surpassed the 1,000 graduates mark as the Ice Blocks brought us to 1,001 SLFP graduates. Our UN 250 Leadership Class projects included a dodgeball tournament that raised funds for Bay Cliff Health Camp and a fundraiser/awareness campaign for the Marquette Women’s Center. We welcomed the 26th group of SLFP members and they decided to call themselves the Superior Blue Blocks!

A particularly exciting announcement we would like to share with you is the approval of concept and location for an SLFP commemorative landmark to be placed on campus in the Academic Mall next to the new Jamrich Hall. The hope is that this landmark will promote the prestige of our program and further solidify the SLFP as a permanent NMU tradition. Budget cuts this year have reminded us that when times get tough, everything is on the table. Fortunately, the interest from our endowment, the tuition raffle, and alumni contributions from our annual ask letter will allow us to keep the program going this year. The landmark is just an idea until funding for it is secured as well. Anyone interested? Our plan is to have donors’ names engraved in the bricks that surround the landmark. Wouldn’t it be fun to come back to NMU, see your name as part of the landmark, and tell your SLFP story to family and friends?

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

Special thanks to the 2015 - 2016 contributors

Ancona, Peter
Anderson, James
Anderson, Kevin
Bacula, Karen
Bailey, Jr., Brendon
Barch, Jon
Barrett, Damien
Bartel, Zachary
Bennett, Timothy
Bishop, Robert & Sierra
Blood, Daniel
Bohl, Michael
Bolduc, Eric
Bonsall, David
Bowles, Allison
Boyle, Kevin
Brandimore, Merry Jo
Buick, David
Butorac, Lindsey
Champion, Inc.
Chevron Corporation
Cialek, Charlotte
Dale, Brenda
Daniels, Gerri
DeCaire, Nancy
Dever, Rhea
Diebolt, Alysa
Dubow, Karen
Duby, Paul
Dupler, Marina
Ernst, Heidi
Flink, Drs. Gene & Dara
Foster, Ashley
Franklin, Brendan
Gadzinski, Theresa
Gulesing, Gabriel
Goetz, Greg
Gooch, Barbara
Gosian, Lynn
Harger, Brett
Harris, Rachel
Hawkins, Amanda
Hefke, Norman
Hetrick, Jean
Hilton, Miriam
Huhta, Greta
Jamsen, Jane
Janisz, Michelle
Jedd, Shannon
Johnson, Jane
Jones, Kenneth
Kamps, Cara
Kamps, Jane
Kanka, Jerry
Kellermann, Mary
Kerlin, Mary
Khoury-Hanold, Layla
Kordich, Diane
Kotz, Paul
Krueger, Karen
Lang, Nicole
LaPointe, Melissa
Lewis, Hannah
Lunn, John
Malaney, Dennis
McAllister, Bryan
Murray, Thomas
Myers, Jr., Robert
Nesbitt, Brant
O’Brien, Amy
Ostrowski, Laurie
Owens, Elizabeth
Paavola, Cindy
Pearson, Jessica
Peters, Lindsay
Place, Nickolas & Sarah
Prahl, Anna
Reese, Karen
Rickard, Angela
Rogers, Brianne
Rotary Club of Ishpeming
Sabin, Elizabeth
Sargent, Mary
Schmit, Laurie
Schneider, Jacqueline
Schulz, Amy
Schuster, Shannon
Seayov, Tami
Shawhan, Mia
Stefanski, Robert
Sterzick, Amanda
Surrell, Dr. James
Telfer, Gavin & Sara
Toevs, Ann
Uecke, Amy
VanDyke, Brent
Vango’s Lounge and Pizza, Inc.
Voorheis, Keith
Watson Olson, Judy
Weber, Nicole
Williams, Connie
Wolf, Monica
Zalewski, Dr. Donald
Zeller, Sarah
Zubiena, John
Red Block

Melissa (Diehl) Black is a stay-at-home mom with four kids ten and under. She previously worked 15 years as a Human Resources Generalist. She is a Girl Scout Troop Leader, PBIS behavioral rewards program volunteer at the elementary school and is part of the parent volunteer group at the preschool. Melissa said although she is currently not working out of the home, the SLFP helped her teach her children the power and importance of volunteering in the community. Since college and the SLFP, she has volunteered on countless projects. It has become a staple in her life and family. She feels honored to have been selected to be in the program and feels it helped her build skills she would not have obtained on her own.

Eric Bolduc became a shareholder of Holmes Murphy this year. Eric says having been a part of the very first class, he is very proud to see the legacy of the SLFP grow. His experience in the program was one of the best things he did during his time at NMU. Eric is pictured with his daughter, Emma Grace.

Marleen (Domke) Brown is a special education teacher and 6th grade language arts teacher at Onaway Area Community Schools. She also is a Lay Leader for the Onaway United Methodist Church. Marleen said by being involved in the SLFP, she learned valuable core lessons as a young adult that still live within her today. She said giving back in various leadership roles over the years has humbled her and made her love the people she encounters even more. Marleen said the SLFP internship experience taught her that she could make a difference in people’s lives by giving them a tiny bit of encouragement to succeed in an everyday life that was difficult and she is grateful for that.

Renee (Crame) Carroll is excited to announce the adoption of her daughter, Ali (age 20 months) on May 18! Ali was her first foster care placement and has been with her since birth. Renee never imagined she would be adopting at this stage in her life, but can’t imagine life without her! Also pictured in the photo is Renee’s son, Brendan, who is 14. Renee works for Michigan State University Extension and is the 4-H Program Coordinator for Newaygo County. Renee mentioned she was talking to a recent graduate in her church who shared with her that she’d be attending NMU. Renee was excited to tell her about the SLFP and recommended she check it out! Renee said it is so great to see this program still going strong after 25 years, and she can hardly believe it has been that long.

Kristine Day has been at the University of Michigan-Dearborn for 15 years and is now the Assistant Director of University Unions and Events. She built a new home last year in South Lyon, Michigan, and moved in June 2015.

Annette Johnson stopped by the CSE with her husband and two boys, Joshua (7) and Jacob (4). Thanks for stopping by!

Michele (Strantz) Kneisel is a Clinical Application Manager at the Cleveland Clinic and works in Project and Employee Management. Her group is responsible for the electronic implementation of clinical workflows for the Surgical areas and Emergency Department at Cleveland Clinic. In addition to working full-time, Michele is a mom of three, so she keeps pretty busy. She is a Twinsburg Band Booster Board Member, Girl Scout Leader and is involved with youth soccer. Michele said, although it’s been 25 years, the leadership qualities that were fostered in the SLFP are just part of the core of what she does today. She has learned that we never really stop learning, and that the tools that you are introduced to today have really been around for many years under different names, but the fundamentals you will learn today will follow you for life.

Kendra (Seney) Knox has a daughter, Kalin (21), who is a senior at NMU and a son, Mitchell (19), who is a sophomore at MTU. Kendra is a Case Manager at Upper Peninsula Health Plan - a great place to work because of the outstanding leadership. This is a company that is steadily growing and clearly holds staff as their most valued asset. Kendra said she worked in healthcare for 22 years, in a leadership position for much of the past 5 years. In her one year with this company, she has truly enjoyed witnessing the different styles of leadership practiced by different generations of leaders within the company - all very effective and complementary to each other. Kendra is learning to enjoy an empty nest - gardening, yard work, reading, and building a new camp near Big Bay, sawing logs now, and building themselves. Kendra says memories of SLFP were a long time ago, but appreciates the commitment Dave, Cara and many others over the years made to the program. It surely wouldn’t have prospered like it did without people like them!

James McClelland provides management, training and coaching of staff, volunteer recruiting/development, fund-raising, membership development, event planning, and project management in his job at the Michigan Council Crossroads Boy Scouts of America. James said the SLFP provided a foundation of skills related to effectively working with and motivating volunteers. He is a member of Rotary and an active volunteer with the local scout troop.

Tracy O’Rourke is married to his wife, Melissa, and has three children, Isabella (9), Rachel (7) and Livia (4). He is a principal at Lyndon H. Strough in Rome, New York, teaching 800 students in the 7th and 8th grade. He is a member of a number of educational committees within the school district. Tracy really enjoyed the retreat at Bay Cliff, internship with Ken Godfrey and interacting and developing relationships with fellow Red Blocks.
Krista (Jenson) Malley gained during the SLFP to listen to various groups and lead. Tamara said she has found she uses the leadership skills committees about renovations for their building or department. It helped her in her career when working with multiple companies or engineer. She said the SLFP taught her the skills to design all types of spaces for the university. Tamara is an Architect at the University of Michigan AEC-Architecture, which designs and manages renovations and additions to the many historic buildings on its campus. She designs all types of spaces for the university. Tamara does events specifically for girls about a career as an architect or engineer. She said the SLFP taught her the skills to interact and lead in various group situations and specifically helped her in her career when working with multiple committees about renovations for their building or department. Tamara said she found she uses the leadership skills gained during the SLFP to listen to various groups and lead them to a focused-shared outcome.

Krista (Jenson) Malley is a Manager for Student Success at Oakland University, where she works on student persistence initiatives campus-wide from their Michigan Student Success Conference to early alert warnings and also splitting her time with the Integrated Studies Office doing various retention efforts. Krista said this is a brand-new position and she is thrilled to have the opportunity to make it her own. She is one of the classroom moms that gets to plan, coordinate, implement fun parties and teacher appreciation at her daughter’s school. Krista said she STILL has the binder from her SLFP course that she took over 20 (wow!) years ago, which had so much good information and she has such fond memories of the class, colleagues, and staff.

Heather (Brownlee) Murphy lives in Midland, Michigan and married Dan Murphy (MTU grad) on June 15, 1996. They have two sons, Aiden (14) and Ryan (12). Heather and her husband own an insurance company, MAG Insulation, located in Auburn, Michigan. She enjoys watching her boys play sports and is an active volunteer in their church, their kids’ school and little league.

Jana (Vaughn) Tappa is a Graphic Designer in the Marketing Department of Sentry Insurance. She is a Pee Wee Association Board Member, is on the Iola-Scandinavia Strategic Planning Committee, volunteers at the elementary school and is a booster club member/volunteer. She said she often uses skills learned in the SLFP, including Myers-Briggs, Robert’s Rules of Order, and her community service project, which was part of a skit group, to help her become less shy and more aware of challenges facing kids in our schools.

Sierra McLeod Bishop volunteers as an elementary basketball coach and a Sunday School teacher.

Chris (Lang) Byrne is married to John Byrne (NMU ’96) and has two children, Patrick (14) and Molly (11). Chris is the Coordinator for the Grand Traverse Bay Safety Around Water Program, servicing 3rd grade students in their region, which teaches skills to keep them safe in and around water. She is a member of the North Coast Masters Swim Team and is training for the M-22 triathlon style race in Glen Arbor! Chris is grateful for the foundation that the SLFP experience gave her for leadership in business, personal life, and most important, creating and sustaining relationships within the community to have a positive impact!

Jennifer (Storey) Dunton is a Community Resource Coordinator at Chippewa County Department of Health and Human Services. Jennifer serves on several boards, volunteers through school and is a Rotarian. She said the SLFP simply gave her the confidence to interact with other creative and active individuals.

Alexis (Johnson) Eckard is a self-employed, contracted Wound Care Physician, is on the Leadership Board for the local elementary school, is involved in the PTO and church activities, as well as coaching local sports teams.

Erin (Haughey) Neumeyer is an actress/Voice actress/photographer and is the owner of Erin Leigh Photography and ePhotoLA.com. She is involved with her children’s PTA at Roosevelt Elementary in California, is the chair of the yearbook and spends at least 10 hours a week volunteering either in the classrooms or serving on one of the school's
committees. She donates photo sessions to families in need in her community and participates in her local neighborhood group that works with the city council. She said she gained a lot of confidence in herself because of the SLFP and said the experience helped her say yes to opportunities that she might have otherwise let pass by, for example being the American Marketing Association President and working in the student-run FM station as a DJ.

Karen Saari and her husband, Dave, have two kids: Max (5) and Ginny (3 1/2). She said she is a playwright (trying to make it) and a voiceover talent. By day, she works as a Marketing Copywriter for Madison Area Technical College and is still very involved in theatre. Her focus is on writing these days, but she also regularly participates in a story share series called, “That’s What She Said.” Karen volunteers for the Clinton Campaign and is writing an advent drama this year for the church she attends. When she’s not playing with her kids or working, she’s working with Dave on their U.P. vacation house, gardening and playing guitar. Karen said she loved the leadership theory class and enjoyed her internship at Republic Elementary School.

**Aqua Block**

Michael Bohl is married to his wife, Ginger Bohl, whom he said he won’t list her age because she might not like that. He has 3 children, Olivia (11), Silas (8), and Madeline (6). He successfully launched a new business last year, which merged his passion for history, antiques, and “picking” attics and barns with his furniture restoration skills. Michael makes lamps, tables, coat racks, and shelving out of old wood and metal that is salvaged, and likes to highlight items that contain old advertising in them. You could call it “upcycling” or “repurposing.” He was in the Outback Art Fair this summer. Michael’s wife and three kids keep him pretty busy in itself, but he’s also restoring a 1914 bungalow and landscaping the four city lots it is situated on, and is still active in his church. Michael appreciated how the leadership class and other opportunities with the SLFP made him observe how various leadership styles helped to accomplish the same goal, and as a leader, his way isn’t necessarily the “best” or “only” way of doing things. The SLFP helped challenge him to be a better listener, and how to help encourage and foster the leadership styles of those serving with him, so that everyone may benefit.

Chad Coolman is a teacher at Rogers City Area Schools, teaching 6th through 12th grade physical education and social studies. He is also a firefighter and EMT with the Rogers City Volunteer Fire Department. Chad said the SLFP made his whole college experience a positive one. He said it was one of the best choices he made while at NMU and he learned a lot about leadership and had a chance to grow.

Melissa (Pelkola) Copenhaver is a Nursing Instructor, teaching mental health nursing at NMU and is self-employed as an Infant Mental Health Consultant, where she provides consultation, reflective supervision and home visits. She is trying to establish a post-partum support group in the community and other early childhood committees. She said the SLFP gave her the skills and confidence to work towards her goals.

**Mark Kemner** has been married to his wife, Connie, for almost 17 years and they now have 2 little ones, Abigail (5) and Cameron (1). Mark is working for Flagstar Bank as a Call Center Customer Service Representative.

Julie Majurin and her husband, Chris, recently moved out to the country outside of LaCrosse, Wisconsin. They have three dogs and many good friends that they share their lives with. Julie is working as a principal engineer and chemistry manager for Ingersoll Rand, leading a team of ten chemists and chemical engineers across the globe. They are working on many sustainability strategies to reduce their environmental impact. She is a grant writer for an animal rescue and volunteers at Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) events for grade school and middle school students. Julie and her husband enjoy all outdoor activities and traveling. Her favorite SLFP memory will always be Dave Bonsall’s kindness and understanding when faced with some challenges during the program. It was an example that she carries forward as a people leader.

Matt Maki is an English teacher, teaching English of all levels to Ukrainians of all ages (currently ages 4-72). Matt has volunteered significantly with the EuroMaidan revolution and movement to reduce corruption in Ukraine and help its fight for freedom from Russia. Matt’s SLFP experience has made it possible to speak confidently in front of people every day for his job, often going blindly into a new group for an as-yet uncertain goal and succeed in conducting that meeting/lesson, etc. Matt said it is difficult as an introvert to speak in front of groups and strangers, especially as an outsider, and would not have the coping techniques and communication/relaxation methods without the SLFP nor the knowledge that this supposed weakness is really just a personal leadership/communication style and how to best adapt it to a situation.

**Yellow Block**

Michael Axford is an Account Director in Marketing and Advertising at Aisle Rocket Studios and facilitates agency/client relationships, as well as drives strategic and creative direction to meet client objectives. He said the greatest things that came out of the SLFP are the things you don’t always learn in the classroom: you learn to work together, sometimes negotiate and compromise, to meet a common end goal. You learn to be a resourceful professional, respectful of those you interact with. You learn to be a self-starter (one of the more valuable assets for employers), able to take on projects with confidence. In short, you learn how to be a professional.

Heidi (Van De Hey) Kavanaugh is an Art Manager at 4imprint and this position is based on graphic design for a leading promotional products company. She said there are two areas she learned the most in through the SLFP. One is being a better listener, hearing what others say before acting on impulse to a situation and the other is getting better and better at speaking in public or in front of a group of people and has found value in both of these.

Danielle (Thurau) Owen says things are always changing at the Owen house! Her and her husband, Adam, are expecting a surprise FIFTH child in December! They have 3 daughters, Kate (13), Julia (9), and Laura (4), and a son,
Isaac, who is 16 months. She left her “career” as a recovery auditor in May 2011, when they were expecting their 3rd child, so she’s been home with the kids for five years. Danielle said it was a huge sacrifice when they first made the change, but it was probably the best decision they’ve made and she is where she’s needed most. She said there is no way to adequately value the ability to be present for nearly every milestone, question, crisis, and even the “ordinary” moments in these ever-changing lives we have the privilege to raise, and is thankful. Their larger family keeps them fairly busy, but they are very active in their small church, which is like an extended family. They also try to be involved in what is happening at the small, private Christian School where their girls attend. They planned their first small camping trip during the summer with all the kids. Danielle said the retreats at Bay Cliff were a highlight and mainly appreciated always having a way to “plug in” and be useful and also to never be alone if craving wholesome social interaction. The projects worked on with various committees strengthened her weaknesses and made her better able to tackle the next challenge. She said having to consistently step outside her comfort zone lead to “new” things in a “new” way and helped her grow and mature faster than she would have otherwise. The SLFP was definitely a bright spot in her college days.

Kristina (Kraus) Reignier married Brian Reignier in 2006. She is the Director of Community Outreach and Language Services at St. Norbert College in DePere, Wisconsin. She volunteers at the National Railroad Museum regularly. Kristina says she had the best SLFP mentor, Darlene Inch, from the Ishpeming-Negaunee Chamber of Commerce, who invited her to sit in on Chamber meetings, took her to lunch and went with her to speakers on campus. Almost 20 years later, they still send each other Christmas cards.

Burgundy Block

Jon Barch is still engaged as a member of the boards of the Marquette Area Sister City Partnership and the Lake Superior Leadership Academy. This year Jon really enjoyed helping coach his son’s little league baseball team. When reflecting on his SLFP experience, Jon said, “The SLFP helped me discover the powerfully motivating force that results from engaging in socially responsible servant leadership. It’s an intrinsic satisfaction and sense of purpose that seems to fulfill a psychological need for acceptance and appreciation by one’s community. I am so grateful to the

Kelly (Carson) Bray is an RN in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of Beaumont Royal Oak Hospital and is part of a committee raising funds for a new elementary school playground.

Jodi Filpus-Paakola celebrated her 1-year anniversary this July to her husband, Jaren, and has a home filled with love with their 11-year-old son, JJ, and their 2 Alaskan Huskies – Dusty and Riley. She completed her 1st year as the Coordinator of Academic Services (Academic Advisor) for the School of Business and Economics at Michigan Tech University and says it is so great to be working with undergrad students again. Her family has a labor of love right now as they continue to renovate and fix up their turn of the century-1908 farm house. Gardening is their focus this summer and last summer they raised pigs. Next summer, they hope to have a beehive and chickens. During their down time they like to entertain family and friends with dinners (Jodi loves to cook!). They also spend time boating on the lake and four wheeling around their property.

Navy Block

Jennifer (Shaffer) Cathey works at Grand Valley State University Michigan Virtual School as an Office Coordinator for the General Education Program. She maintains all data and marketing materials related to the 300+ Gen Ed courses offered and teaches two online business courses. She also works closely with their children’s daycare center. Jennifer said the SLFP gave her the knowledge and confidence in assuming leadership roles and helped her recognize needs in her area, which she tries to fulfill in any way she can.

Lynda (Looker) Crawford recently celebrated her 10th anniversary with her husband, Kent! They have 2 very active girls, Madeline (8) and Brittany (6), who are very involved in sports, as well as other after-school activities. Lynda taught girls, Madeline (8) and Brittany (6), who are very involved in summer school program in Beaverton, Michigan. Her family is very involved in church, bowling and farming, as well as the girls’ sports and says life is never dull at the Crawford house! Lynda says her internship and Bay Cliff are the things that stick in her head so well. For Lynda’s internship, she was at Messiah Lutheran Church with an evening homework help time and is looking into starting a similar program at her own church since she enjoyed it so much!

Lynn (Kiesow) Edmunds is an athletic trainer and owner of Essential ATC LLC, Wheaton Franciscan Health Care, Aurora. She offers personalized in-home rehabilitation and does
athletic training event coverage. She is also involved in her children’s school.

Jerry Lombardo is a special education teacher and President of the Midland City Education Association at Midland Public Schools. He said the SLFP helped him define his leadership style and gave him confidence in himself. He said the SLFP was one of the reasons he has had a very successful teaching career so far and is respected as a leader in his building and with his union, since they elected him as their President. He said he has a lot of great memories from the SLFP.

Orange Block

Megan (Hartley) Schneider just completed her 3rd season with the Chicago Bulls Entertainment Team as their athletic trainer. She is still with the Radio City Rockettes, but says it’s nice to be able to provide medical services for performers in Chicago. She took her sons ages two and four out skiing for the first time and can’t wait to get them going so they can get them up to Marquette for some real snow! Denise Hartsock works for Kaiser Permanente doing evaluations for public health programs. She loves doing anything outdoors, especially mountain biking, downhill skiing, fishing, hiking, and backpacking.

Amy Hovis teaches the Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Program for the Negaunee Public Schools and is a part-time teacher consultant for the district. She volunteers at her church and works with the children’s ministries. Her favorite pastime is cross-country skiing.

Zach Lorber is a Managing Chef at Penn State University and is the President of the local American Culinary Federation Chapter (Southern Allegheny Chef’s Association). He is a member of Nittany Kiwanis Club, committee member of March of Dimes, Signature Chef Event (Fundraiser) Committee, and a member of Chefs on State Event (Fundraiser). Zach said the SLFP taught him countless leadership skills and techniques he uses every day, from icebreakers that he does with his staff, to listening skills, to dealing with difficult situations and public speaking. He said the effect of the SLFP on his development was phenomenal.

Joshua Pung has been volunteering as the Waverly Band Boosters Treasurer for his second year and also added planning Band Camp to the plate! Joshua said it’s great being involved with the community while also getting to spend extra time with his two daughters who are in band.

Megan Schneider is a 7th grade math and science teacher in North Carolina at Wake County Public School System.

Kori (Bjorne) Tossava is the Executive Director of the Greater Ishpeming-Negaunee Area Chamber of Commerce and Western Marquette County Health Foundation. She’s a member of the Zonta Club, 40 Below: Marquette County Young Professionals Board, Aspen Ridge Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization, and Economic Club of Marquette County. Kori said as funny as it sounds, the SLFP mainly helped her work through uncomfortable situations. She said as a naturally introverted person, it was always difficult for her to be thrown into a group of strangers and to try to introduce herself and find common conversation. It never came naturally and still doesn’t, but having that experience in college, to make new acquaintances and feel confident in a room full of strangers, has laid the foundation for those skills to grow in a career in nonprofit and community relations.

Lime Block

Diane (Michelsen) Armstrong is an Animal Resources Technician at Midwestern University, taking care of lab animals. Diana is the Children’s Director and Communications Director at First Baptist Church of Bolingbrook and the Correspondence Secretary of Murphy PTO.

Jessica (DeBacker) Pearson is currently living in Wahoo, Nebraska. She and her husband had their 3rd child, Jonathan, this year. He is joined by big sister, Mary (6) and big brother, William (2). Jessica loves being a homemaker and is really getting into healthy meals from scratch and slow cooking. She volunteers a lot with the church community, and co-ordinated a week-long summer catechesis called Totus Tuus, which is Latin for totally yours, the motto of St. Pope John Paul II; chairs the Right to Life Committee; and volunteers with the library at her daughter’s school. Jessica was hired for her first job because of the experience she received from her SLFP internship and met her husband because of the job and now has three beautiful children! Thank you, SLFP!

Lindsay (Anderson) Peters is a Project Director at Move-Plan Group and does resource and project management and client engagement. She also is a DNR volunteer and Sunday School teacher. Lindsay said the SLFP helped her with confidence, leadership skills and networking experience.

Erin Spencer and her husband, Mike Berkowitz (NMU alum), celebrated their 5th wedding anniversary in September. They currently live in Chicago with two rescue dogs named Maddie (Beagle mix) and Jack (Chiwinie). Erin said the great staff at NMU inspired her to pursue a career in higher education. She is currently the Director of Advising in the College of Science and Health at DePaul University. Erin is very active in a number of university-wide committees and team teaches a course for 1st year college students about privilege and social justice in Chicago. Erin was fortunate to be selected as 1 of 30 faculty and staff at DePaul to participate in the Vincentian Heritage Tour in August. This is a two-week professional development trip to France to learn about the life of St. Vincent De Paul. Before her time at DePaul, Erin was an Academic Advisor at St. John’s University in Queens, New York and a residence hall director at Central Washington University (Ellensburg, Washington). After moving to Chicago in 2010, Erin started running marathons, with her 1st marathon being the Chicago Marathon in 2010. Since then she has completed 10 marathons with the most recent being in Phoenix this past February. She is the social chair of her local running group, Clocktower Runners. Erin also completed her 1st sprint triathlon in May and plans to participate in a century bike ride in Michigan this fall. Erin enjoyed the many great memories from SLFP, particularly the fall retreats and getting to know fellow Lime Blocks.

Lea (Karavias) Vega is a Biologics Inventory Manager at Bacterin International, Inc., where she tracks and monitors human tissue and bone distributed to various medical facili-
ties across the country. Lea is also a board member for Colorado Healthcare Strategy and Management. She says the SLFP gave her the interpersonal/social skills and confidence that has stayed with her long after leaving NMU!

**Sky Block**

*Patricia (Egeler) Dowd* and her husband, Troy, had their second baby, a boy named Caelum, their 5-year-old, is very excited about being a big brother. This fall, Patricia will begin her 3rd year as a STEM teacher at Ottawa Hills Junior/Senior High School. She feels like she gets paid to play with toys all day because she teaches classes that include robotics, CAD programs, electronics, programming, using a 3D printer, and learning about flight and space. The school she teaches at is a very high-achieving school. Among many other acknowledgements for academics, they were recently the first school in the state of Ohio to earn all A's on their state report card. She said as a teacher, she's in a leadership role every single day in her classroom. The SLFP helped give her the skills and opportunities to practice as a leader so she's comfortable in leadership roles. Patricia says school and kids take up most of her time. Patricia loved her community service internship that she did with Annika Stewart and Katie (Riling) LaMott. They were Girl Scout Leaders and it was a ton of fun. Having only boys, Patricia says she is probably going to be involved with Boy Scouts now instead.

*Marina Dupler* is an Assistant Alumni Relations Director at NMU, fostering and facilitating relationships that alumni want to have with their alma mater using a variety of communication tools. She is a member of 40 Below: Young Professionals of Marquette, Co-Chair of NMU President’s Gender Working Group, part-owner of the Ore Dock Brewing Company, SLFP mentor over the years and pet projects like the Around Harlow for Arlo Charitable Adventure Benefit and Mom Prom Benefit. Marina said the SLFP helped her realize how important community service is to your community and how incredibly rewarding it can be. Volunteers are leaders, and from the career standpoint, volunteering can also be great networking.

*Katie (Riling) LaMott* has been married to her husband, Ryan, since 2004. They have 2 children, Paige (10) and Garrett (8). Katie is a reading and math intervention specialist in an elementary school in Traverse City, Michigan. In addition, she serves as a district math leader, instructional rounds facilitator, and building coordinator and facilitator for TASC (Team Addressing Student Concerns). She will be transitioning to teach 2nd grade this year. She enjoys competing in triathlons, cross country skiing, cooking, and cheering on her children at their sporting events.

*Katie Allen* is happy to say that the year has been full of wonderful service opportunities through her company, Hilton Worldwide. At the beginning of 2016, Katie and a colleague were made co-champions of the McLean Community Committee located at Corporate Headquarters. On Earth Day, they had a chance to work with REAL School Gardens to create an outdoor classroom space complete with compost bins, raised vegetable beds, and grapevines for a DC Elementary School. Their committee will also be instrumental in planning projects for their team members during their Global Month of Service this upcoming October. Katie served as a mentor to one of their corporate interns this summer.

*Alyssa (Bosel) Barto* is a member liaison at the American Coal Ash Association and is also on the parent council at her kids’ school. She said the SLFP taught her that being a servant leader and supporting those around you to achieve a higher goal is just as important to an organization’s well-being as having a person representing the organization in a more obvious leadership role.

*Monica Drusch* has a son, Jameson, who turned two in March, and baby number two is due at Thanksgiving!

*Adria (Danis) Laplander* and her husband, Jason, just celebrated their 11-year anniversary and spend most of their days driving their daughter to dance, figure skating, and golf! She said they are a busy family and love it! She finished her 10th year of teaching at Houghton Middle School and currently teaches 6th grade language arts.

*Nichelle Middleton* is a Project Analyst and System Specialist at Xcel Energy, working on strategic workplace planning, organizational redesigns and new technology system integration. She is a computer tutor and tech fix-it as part of the school district's IT team. Additionally, she serves on committees for TASC (Team Addressing Student Concerns) and was recently named the Lean Community Committee liaison to the American Coal Ash Association. Nichelle is also a member of the Marquette County Chamber of Commerce, the Marquette County Area Agency on Aging and the Marquette Area United Way. Nichelle served as a mentor to one of their corporate interns this summer.

**Jade Block**

*Monique Yoder* is an English instructor at LCC International University, teaching academic English to university freshmen in the Intensive English Program. Her students are non-native speakers of English who come from countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Monique also teaches language acquisition and language assessment to BA-level English majors who want to go on to teach English as a foreign language. She volunteers teaching with LCC International University’s English Language Institute. As an educator, Monique feels that a fair amount of her job involves reading people and knowing how to interact with students. Through the leadership class that she took as part of the SLFP, she still remembers the activities that were done involving evaluating personalities and leadership tendencies. Monique said she was skeptical when Rachel asked her class to take the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator Assessment as part of the leadership course, but feels she benefited greatly knowing her personality traits.

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of the Hennepin County Library Board and fosters animals for Twin Cities Pet Rescue. Nichelle said this was her 13th year coming back for Science Olympiad at the Seaborg Center. She said the SLFP allowed her to practice at being part of committees and organizations and helped prepare her to step up into a leadership role and to actively seek out ways to get involved in her community.

Krisy Petersen got engaged to the love of her life, Scott Fendley, July 2015, and will be getting married on October 7, 2016 in Portland, Oregon! She has been serving as a Career Services Specialist for Perry Tech (a post-secondary trade school) in Yakima, Washington for nearly two years and is loving the experience. She empowers students in their job searches and helps them feel comfortable and confident with their skills, abilities and selves. She also reviews a LOT of resumes! Krisy was recently voted in as President-Elect of the Washington Career Development Association and is excited to learn, grow and apply the skills learned in the SLFP in new ways! Her free time is spent training her adorable diva dog, Maebey, because she is a bit sassy. Krisy reads a lot and spends weekends exploring the Pacific Northwest with Scott. Krisy says the SLFP brought together such a remarkable group of people and seriously bonded them for life. Her best friends were in the SLFP and she can’t imagine life without them. Krisy said she is having a really small ceremony, but some of the top names on her guest list are lifelong friends she met through the SLFP and thanks the SLFP for the huge gift.

Jill (Frazee) Schmitt is continuing her role as Business Unit Manager of Quality and Compliance Services at Sequence, Inc.

JoeyLynn (Selling) Paquette is a full-time Ph.D. student at the University of Michigan and is studying literacy, language and culture. She is also on the U of M School of Education Student Advisory Board. JoeyLynn said she still relies on the self-improvement plan she created in the SLFP and occasionally will revisit it and make it a focus once again.

Sara (Barclay) Telfer is the Assistant Director of Alumni Engagement at Southern New Hampshire University. She said her work focuses on community development, planning events such as homecoming and regional networking events, as well as developing volunteer opportunities for alumni to give back. She participates in many community functions: fundraisers for the homeless, toy collections and discussions around local issues. Sara said the program, staff, and fellow SLFPers all had a tremendous impact on her, saying it’s not every day that you get to spend time surrounded by passionate people who share similar interests. She said the program challenged her in some areas and helped highlight her strengths and is part of the reason higher education is her choice for a career path.

Mango Block

Lindsey (Pepin) Butorac is married to her husband, Tyson. They have a son, Mitchell, who will be four in October and are expecting their second child in November. She continues to work at NMU as the Assistant Director of HR for Payroll/HRIS. Lindsey serves on the Board of Directors for Great Lakes Recovery Centers and usually teaches for NMU’s First Year Experience Program. Lindsey has also served as a mentor for the Student Leader Fellowship Program and has mentored six student fellows over the years. She is taking a break from both to adjust to life as a mom of two. Lindsey said she really enjoyed all of her experiences with SLFP - both as a student fellow and as a mentor.

Chera LaForge is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Indiana University East. She is involved in the Advisory Plan Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, and the Center City Board of Directors (Main Street Development Organization) of Richmond, Indiana. She said the SLFP helped to develop her leadership skills and to find the value in service to her community.

Andrea (Jerabek) Neumann lives in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and is married to Terry (35), who is a university biochemistry professor. She has 3 kids: Gus (5), Lucy (3) and George (6 months). Andrea manages IT Projects for the Dallas Cowboys, currently focusing on digital assets (mobile apps and websites) related to AT&T Stadium and their new World Headquarters, The Star in Frisco. Andrea's family loves Texas BBQ and they plan adventures to taste the best brisket, pulled pork and ribs in the country--and the Pitmasters who make it. They build their sense of community through their kids’ Montessori School, which is helping to shape their kids into confident little leaders. Andrea says she only remembers brief snapshots of SLFP: playing the Ha-Ha game at the annual retreat and sitting in the back of the class with Scuba Steve and Nate Windy (although these aren't the ONLY things she remembers). Miss you guys!

Nick Spittlemeister is an Environmental Scientist/GIS Specialist at Hey and Associates, Inc., where he does environmental consulting focusing on geographical information systems. He teaches Sunday School and is a leader within his church. Nick serves as a board member with a nature center and a local land conservancy. He said the SLFP provided him with the tools to be a leader in his profession, community and church and gave him the opportunity to interact with people who he normally wouldn’t have, which helped him grow in confidence as a person and a leader.

Journey Steward is a Ph.D. candidate at Northern Illinois University and is completing her dissertation in Comparative History. Journey said the skills she gained during the SLFP helped her to be much more assertive and confident, which has translated well into everything she has done, especially having to be a self-guided and disciplined graduate student.

Amy (Pruner) Wiseley is a 2nd grade teacher at Marquette Area Public Schools and is also a figure skating coach. She said the SLFP gave her the tools to use for interviews and the confidence to go for jobs she never thought she would get.

Crimson Block

Nicholas Brown is an Internal Medicine Physician Hospitalist at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center. Nicholas said in his position as a physician, he finds himself often reminded of the lessons taught by the SLFP. He said he works on hospital committees, with residents and students in academic medicine, and with patients, and in every one of these situations, there is a leadership opportunity that the SLFP has prepared him for.
**Fuchsia Block**

**Allie (Mundell) Bowles** is self-employed as a restaurant/ small business owner and works closely with the charity, Smiletown. They’ve done fundraising events, ran a marathon and did a clinic trip to Mexico for this charity. Allie said the SLFP has helped her learn early on how to lead all sorts of different personalities, which is a must in the restaurant industry. She said learning these skills before entering the job world helped her advance so much quicker and helped instill a strong sense of community and a focus on giving back.

**Amanda (Lobsinger) Campbell** is the Assistant Director of Alumni and Student Engagement at the University of Washington and works with students, young alumni and college-bound students of UW alumni. She also co-chairs the Husky Leadership Certificate Committee, which allows her to stay very connected to student leadership programming on campus. Her involvement with the SLFP and passion for student leadership led her to her career in higher educa- tion administration/student affairs. After graduating from NMU, Amanda went on to receive her master’s degree and worked in the Leadership and Service Office for two years at Illinois State prior to moving out to Seattle for her job at the UW. She said the SLFP taught her the power of reflection, often looking back on her personal growth and understanding of leadership and service and how its changed and evolved in the past 10 years. Amanda currently works with amazing college students and LOVES her job as it’s inspiring every day. She said the SLFP gave her the confidence to see herself as a leader and helped identify her value in the communities she’s a part of. It also taught her to think about what she’s bringing to the table and what she can do to make a difference where she is, whether at work, in her neighborhood or home.

**Megan Lazier** is a graphic designer at Aramark, designing catalogs, emails, marketing pieces, presentations, etc.

**Amanda Moraska** married Bradley Benson from Marquette, last June 2015. The wedding was in Marquette and Dave Bonsall was actually able to attend. Amanda graduated from Anesthesiology Residency in June and started a one-year Critical Care Fellowship in July at the Cleveland Clinic. She will be done with training in June 2017. Amanda enjoys fly fishing, free medical clinics and medical research. What she enjoyed most about the SLFP were the amazing friends, great mentors, and the best organized experience of college.

**Melissa Natter** has completed her 1st year of employment as the Autism Specialist for the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) in Seoul, South Korea. She took a short vacation back to the states over the summer and continues in this position for next school year. She is participating with the Overseas Council of Girl Scouts by leading a Daisy Girl Scout Troop. She also participated once with a residential center outside of the city of Seoul for people with disabilities and plans to volunteer more often in the coming time. She enjoys participating in many of the monthly 5K’s that the Army MWR puts on.

**Skyla Vandervest** works at Nature’s Way (formerly Schwabe North America, formerly Enzymatic Therapy) for the marketing department of the practitioner channel of the business, Integrative Therapeutics. She is involved in programs of the Greater Green Bay Chamber of Commerce and teaches Zumba classes. Her employer encourages wellness-focused initiatives and offers fitness classes on their on-site fitness center. As a participant of these classes, she became motivated to do more for her health and expand the classes available. With a background in dance and desire to promote healthy lifestyle options, she became certified and has maintained a fitness class as an instructor for a few years. Skyla said being a part of the Student Leader Fellowship Program taught her the importance of being a well-rounded student and gave her the motivation to be a well-rounded leader for the rest of her life. The program provided an opportunity to nurture new relationships with positive and motivating members of the Marquette community. She graduated from the SLFP with a greater understanding of the needs and opportunities for immediate and ongoing civic involvement both locally and nationally and left Marquette knowing she wanted to find her place as a competent, ethical and community-centered leader wher-
Because of her experience with the SLFP, she is more confident and continues to identify ways to personally contribute with the skills and information she was exposed to through the experiences in the program.

**Mint Block**

**Karensa Bauman** is a 1st grade teacher at Quality Schools International-Chengdu, China. Her time in the SLFP helped her gain confidence in leadership roles. She says leadership comes naturally to her in her career and she thanks the SLFP for that.

**Brooke Graham** is pictured below with her husband Kelley, son Elijah, and daughter Sophia.

**David Hedberg** is married to his beautiful and wonderful wife, Bethany, and has 2 precious daughters, Claire Liona (4) and Cadence Lydia (1) and his sweet son, Caleb Luke (3). He works in the corporate labs for Gentex Corporation as an Electromagnetic Compliance (EMC) Test Engineer - basically ensuring their product is “electrically quiet” and “RF hardened.” David enjoys spending time with his family and volunteering at their local church. He said the SLFP helped him to have a “servant leader” attitude at home, church and work. By serving others, we all can succeed.

**Alexandra Marshall** is currently the Assistant Director of Residence Life at NMU.

**Anne (Swanson) McMahon** is a Director at Five Brothers. She leads a team of around 70 employees, half client relations, half operations. The SLFP assisted her with gaining confidence in herself and improved her public speaking.

**Klamesha Richards** finished her MA in Intercultural Studies at Wheaton College in Illinois and is currently working at Gordon College in Wenham, Massachusetts as a Resident Director. She enjoys advising service learning and short-term mission teams with the school. Klamesha recently led a group of 10 students through the streets of Boston to learn more about homeless, refugee and LGBTQ issues and said it’s a good way to use her degree and help students understand the world beyond their cultural context. She remembers the year after the Mint Block, the next block got hooded sweatshirts and being so bitter because she felt that the SLFP sweatshirt was outdated. As a mentor to the RAs on her staff, she often speaks about the unique experience she had in the SLFP and talks about her mentoring relationship and how they are still in touch after eight years.

**Cerulean Block**

**Richard Andersons** said seeing the postcard with the Cerulean Block members on it really tugged at some heart strings. He said it was such a time of growth and discovery and it all happened in a beautiful place with beautiful people. He’s hoping everyone is doing well and said everyone continues to make an impact in the different places they’ve gone. Richard enjoys spending time with a lot of family, still volunteering and traveling!

**Lindsey DelAngelo** is currently married to her wonderful husband, Brandon, and has one son Logan (2) and a little girl due in October. Lindsey finished her Masters as a Speech Language Pathologist, but is currently a stay-at-home mom. Lindsey enjoys volunteering at their church and working out at the gym. Lindsey and her husband attend several mommy and me classes, which he loves. She loved the time spent at Bay Cliff and still hopes to get back up to Marquette for the summer one of these years.

**Katie Marie (Jensen) Loest** married Tylor Loest on July 6, 2013. Their first child, daughter, Meryl Rose, was born on March 28, 2016. Katie currently works as a 4-12th grade School Counselor at Green Lake School District in Green Lake, Wisconsin.

**Faren Peterson** is self-employed, working as an artist and art therapist offering classes, sessions, workshops and a self-help blog. She said the SLFP helped her to access mentors that could help her explore what she was curious about, to accept the challenge of graduate school, and know she was capable of it all.

**Thomas Rich** is an Instructional Designer at University of Michigan Health System, preparing training materials for electronic medical records. He also teaches part-time at Washtenaw Community College. Tom said the lessons he learned as part of the SLFP in leadership and teamwork have repeatedly proven useful in the workplace.

**Ben Scheell** is the Program Manager for the Ocean Foundation and graduated with a certificate in nonprofit management from The George Washington University in May. He is currently pursuing a Master’s of Public Administration (MPA) from The George Washington University.

**Anna (Prahl) Sharkey** married Dan Sharkey, HS2 U.S. Coast Guard, on January 10, 2014 in Honolulu, Hawaii. She works as a Medical Technologist Specialist for Michigan Medical Genetics Laboratory, in the Pediatric Genetics Division at the University of Michigan Hospital. She is working on finishing a Master’s Degree through the new Clinical Molecular Genetics Program at NMU. Currently, she spends free time visiting with family and friends since they were on the island of Oahu for three years and missed out on family time. Regarding the SLFP, she may not have a specific
Kiwi Block

Jessica Elbe is a Primary/Family Therapist at Timberline Knolls Residential Treatment Center and volunteers at Northwest Compass, Inc., as a clinical supervisor for their social work internship program. Jessica said the Student Leader Fellowship Program provided her with the passion, knowledge and skills in order to extend her reach into the community to make long-lasting positive changes. She said as a licensed clinical social worker, she has made it her priority to advocate for those who can’t themselves, provide education, link those to resources, assist those that are vulnerable, counsel those who need support and look at social problems on a micro and macro level. Through the years, she has learned that a true leader is somebody who provides empowerment to individuals and/or families in order to enhance their overall well-being.

Rebecca (Rasmussen) Foster is a health coach at Agnesian Healthcare, where she writes exercise prescriptions, teaches group exercise and works individually with the residents of their assisted and independent living facility to achieve their wellness goals. She plays drop-in volleyball, volunteers at community fundraisers and the Village Beautification Committee. Rebecca said she was an extreme introvert prior to joining the SLFP and after the program, started raising her hand in class, asking questions of her superiors and peers and confidently sharing her opinions in her career. Rebecca said she looks for ways to become more involved at work and encourages her coworkers to succeed. She believes the SLFP teambuilding activities taught her to offer her suggestions and opinions without fear of being looked down upon, and the numerous Skill Builder! workshops gave her the tools to succeed in a variety of settings.

Andrew Kandell and his wife, Harriet, had their first child, a baby girl, in June. He recently completed a Master’s Degree, M.Ed. in Student Affairs Administration. He currently works as a Residence Hall Director at South Dakota State University. He enjoys spending time with his wife and new daughter, along with their two dogs, while making the most out of the Brookings, South Dakota summer. Andrew said the SLFP retreat was an amazing time and he wishes he lived closer to attend and help with future retreats. Getting everyone together to kick off the year really was a lasting experience.

Victoria Leonhardt was 1 of 50 emerging non-profit leaders from across the country to be selected to participate in the American Express Leadership Academy at the National Conference on Volunteering and Service. Her role at the Great Lakes Center for Youth Development continues to expand and she now oversees the marketing, publications, fundraising and some of the project management from the organization. Victoria is halfway through her year as 40 Below: Marquette County Young Professionals President and is the 1st female and 1st person in their 20s to hold the position. Victoria finished up her 4th year as an SLFP mentor and loves to be able to compare memories with the students, especially the fun times spent at Bay Cliff.

Kirsten (Hoklas) Wyatt moved from Illinois to Wisconsin in June. She married Michael Wyatt on July 19, 2014, and their boxer/lab mix, Tucker, just turned two. She finished her 1st year of teaching kindergarten. Kirsten completed a triathlon, competing in Nationals in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She also plans to volunteer at the Brookfield Zoo. Kirsten enjoyed the SLFP because it was great always having/knowing someone in the community.

Teal Block

Benjamin Ellenberger is a Doctor of Physical Therapy, evaluating and treating patients at Phoenix Rehab. He is a volunteer athletic trainer for local high schools that cannot afford one and is a member of the Knights of Columbus. Benjamin said the biggest thing he learned from the SLFP is to get out there and not be afraid to try new things in both his professional career and personal life.

Nik Krawczyk is a Teen Center Coordinator at the Boys and Girls Club of North Lake Tahoe, which is a non-profit for youth development, empowerment, education and support. Nik said the SLFP taught him how to break out of his shell. After graduating from the SLFP, he felt much more confident in who he ultimately could become, which has led him on quite a path of self-discovery, albeit a circuitous path.

Carrie (Johnson) Kronberg is living in Bellingham, Washington and loving life! She said it is a wonderful community with endless outdoor recreation to explore! Carrie married Ben from Michigan Tech in June 2015 and currently is a critical care/ICU registered nurse working full-time in a 24-bed
ICU. She enjoys skiing, mountain biking and trail building days, hiking, traveling, yoga, gardening, a healthy lifestyle/preventative nutrition and enjoys open community events such as farmer’s markets and outdoor movies. Her favorite SLFP memory was the fall retreat at Bay Cliff. She said it was always well organized and fun for all.

George Peterman II is an English conversation teacher at Amity English School, teaching conversational English. George said SLFP has definitely helped him build his confidence and he is able to take on adventurous opportunities without worrying about the uncertainty of the unknown.

Lexi (Wagner) Pulling lives in Kalamazoo with her husband Jerod, who she married in October 2015, and her two dogs. She has been working for two years in skilled nursing facilities, as a speech-language pathologist with the adult and geriatric populations. Lexi spends her free time writing, painting, and working with her husband on renovating their house and updating their backyard. Her favorite SLFP memory was trying yoga for the first time at her first retreat and laughing with those around her when unable to complete many of the positions.

Gold Block

Courtney Brown volunteers three to five days a week at the Midland Center for the Arts (MCFTA) in Midland, Michigan, working on costumes and helping organize stock and accessories. She received an internship at MCFTA for summer 2014, and they called wanting her back as a costume assistant for summer 2015. Now, she is more than happy to donate her time to such a diverse organization. CenterStage Theatre at MCFTA finished a successful run of the American classic, “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof,” and they are working on costumes for the musical, “The Mystery of Edwin Drood,” the play, “Boeing, Boeing,” and the beginning stages of the youth show, “James and the Giant Peach, Jr.” Courtney said the organization relies heavily on volunteers and considers herself lucky that she gets to learn from a knowledgeable staff and looks forward to working on the productions. She is learning hat-making (millenary) skills, as well as helping with the huge amount of sewing “Drood” requires! Courtney teaches 7th grade English every day, but is usually at the Center from 3:00-6:00 p.m. on weekdays, weekends, and snow days. She has reached over 50 hours volunteering at MCFTA just in 2016 alone, and plans on continuing, because volunteering provides balance to her life! The picture is from her 2014 internship, the youth sewing summer camp, “Threadheads.”

Kevin Corkin is a District Executive for the Boy Scouts of America, where he recruits new scouts, does budgeting and raises money, trains leaders, recruits and manages volunteers, starts new units, does event planning and meets with community leaders. Kevin is involved with the Marquette Breakfast Rotary, Youth Connections Network, Great Lakes

Ashley Foster graduated this year with a Master’s Degree from the University of Nebraska and accepted a position as a Forensic Scientist with the Texas Department of Public Safety Headquarters Crime Laboratory in Austin, Texas.

Geneva Martin recently started a position with the State of Minnesota in the Department of Administration, working in the Office of Continuous Improvement. Her position entails doing improved processes work, training on continuous improvement methods and problem solving, running their monthly newsletter, and more. It is a one-year position through a fellowship program through the state called Star of the North, with the intention to be integrated into a full-time position. Geneva hopes to plan a trip in the upcoming months - possibly to New Orleans for their annual Voodoo Music Festival in October and/or planning some sort of international travel within the year! She is getting acclimated to living in a bigger city again (Minneapolis/St. Paul) and is enjoying all the different restaurants, live music, and other events that the Twin Cities has to offer! Geneva said that all of the lessons and practices in servant leadership are resurfacing in her new job as servant leadership is a model that is used in her work at the state, specifically in continuous improvement. She said it's been great using knowledge and skill developed from her two-year experience into practice in her career!

Tracy Pickering is thrilled to be sharing her work and her life with her boyfriend, Danny Wimmer. She is currently one of four staff writers for the Michigan House Democrats who are assigned clusters of state representatives, based on area, whom they write everything from speeches to press releases for. She says it is very hectic (especially given that it is an election year!), but so rewarding. Tracy has had the pleasure over the last year, volunteering weekly with the Refugee Development Center (RDC) in Lansing as an ESL tutor. Lansing is one of four cities in the State of Michigan that accepts relocated refugee families, so after their initial transition period, the RDC helps the families acclimate to American life and culture. She also volunteers once a week at Ele’s Place, a center for grieving children. Tracy said after losing her father unexpectedly a few weeks after graduating from high school, helping children process their grief after loss is very close to her heart. Tracy joined the campaign to help fund and build a new Ingham County Animal Shelter, which includes joining the committee to host the Ingham County Animal Shelter Fund’s annual Halloween party--this year the theme is Ghostly Gala. It will be a wonderful time for a great cause, and she highly recommends anyone in the area able to join, to do so! Even though there were only two trips, Tracy misses the Big Bay weekends! A lot of her friends were in the SLFP, but because everyone was so in love with NMU and the City of Marquette, they were often very busy, and it was difficult to get together. The Big Bay trip was a chance for everyone to reconnect, share excitement about the coming year and a beautiful place to go to do it in!
Charlotte Cialek made it through her 1st year of graduate school! She’s in Colorado State University’s Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Ph.D. Program.

Rozemary Howard married Jordan Bal in August, whom she met while attending NMU. She just finished her 2nd year of Veterinary School at Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine. In two years (May 2018), she will be graduating as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. In the meantime, Rozemary works as a Veterinary Assistant at MSU and at Blue Pearl in Grand Rapids, and helps out with things through the college as much as possible. Other than that, she was busy planning her wedding and spending time with her dog over her last summer break ever. Rozemary states she will never forget her mentorship with Laura Klar-Pless. Laura is still a close friend and mentor and Rozemary is so grateful to have met her through this program. She has found a lifelong friend who has done so much to help her grow over the years. That is the best thing that could have happened to her with the program and she’ll always be grateful.

Julia McLean sat for her boards in April to become a certified emergency nurse—and passed—adding the credentials CEN to the end of her name. She enjoyed the Marquette summer having spontaneous adventures with her old dog, Howie, planning a family reunion, and is trying to get back into triathlon training with her new bike! Julia thinks often about all the fantastic people she met through the SLFP—fellow Banana Blocks and CSE staff and hopes everyone is doing well! In March, Julia volunteered at Bay Cliff Health Camp for their annual “snow days” program. Serving as the camp nurse, Julia oversaw the health needs of camp participants and staff, including medication administration, first aid and emergency care, and health and wellbeing checks. When her nursing skills were not needed, she was able to spend some time with the campers, enjoying all that Bay Cliff has to offer in the winter!

Rachael Williams is a Speech-Language Pathologist at Borgess Medical Center and enjoys spending time with family and friends.

Emerald Block

Shelby (Guilbault) Anderson’s husband and brother, who was recently accepted into SLFP (2016-2018), are the voices of the girls basketball games on Sunny 101.9. Shelby volunteers her time as the statistician. Go Miners!

Kara Jacoboni is completing the College Student Affairs Leadership Graduate Program at Grand Valley State University and is a Graduate Assistant in the Office of Student Life working with campus programming. This summer she interned at Michigan Tech with their housing and residential life office working with summer conferences. Kara is currently doing an internship at Aquinas College, where she’ll be getting experience in academic coaching. She graduates in April 2017 and is excited to start looking for career opportunities (hopefully in the U.P!). She has been working hard to continue her student involvement at Grand Valley State University and lucky for her, it’s not difficult! Kara helped lead Make a Difference Day, was a mentor for the First Year Leadership Experience Program, and taught an Academic Success Course. It’s been a busy year, but she had fun staying involved and active in the campus community. As for leisure, Kara discovered and embraced hot yoga and is also training for a half-marathon. She says she is so happy for social media, because it has allowed her to stay in touch with so many of her fellow Emeralds! She said she is not surprised that they are doing such amazing things. Kara has been reflecting on her time with these friends that she made in the program and had no doubt they’d do great things once she saw them all succeeding in their community service internships. Completing her CSI, and watching all of the Emerald Blocks complete theirs, was so inspiring and something that is so unique to this program.

Chelsea Koziel is currently serving in the Peace Corps in Moldova and is in the last Peace Corps Master’s International cohort. She spent the last year-and-a-half working towards completing the coursework portion of her Master’s in International Development at the University of Denver. She left the beginning of June to head to Moldova to be a health education teacher for the next 27 months, which will complete the last 18 credits of her degree. She is in pre-service training, which is an intensive 10 weeks of language (Romanian) and technical training to prepare her to begin teaching health education in Romania with 2 partner teachers in a village called Truseni, which is located near the capital.

Danielle Morrison is a Ph.D. candidate in non-verbal communication in Glasgow, Scotland. She is in her 2nd year of her Ph.D. in Psychology. She enjoys Irish dance and experiencing other cultures.

Trent Podskalan married Leann Herrmann this past June and was very busy working on his wedding. Trent has worked as an Admissions Recruiter at Ferris State University since September 2015 and is involved in the MACAC professional development committee with the admissions counselor that recruited him to NMU! Trent misses the fall retreat, which was his favorite part of the program, as well as the friends and fellowship.

Cole Swiston finished his 1st year of medical school at UW-Madison! Cole enjoyed commercial fishing for sockeye salmon in Alaska this summer.

Onyx Block

Anthony Carlson is looking for the right job in the Detroit/Ann Arbor areas, although substitute teaching in the NICE District has been both fun and rewarding! He lives in Ishpeming for the time being.

Rachel Eckert is currently living in the Metro-Detroit area
and is loving it. She said she loves seeing Detroit come back and they just opened a Nike! Rachel is interning for Bedrock, which is a property management company that takes care of all of Dan Gilbert's 80-plus properties. She started a container garden this summer and it was awesome! She earned her green thumb. Rachel said she has been going to festivals, events and exploring new breweries and restaurants in Detroit and is loving it! Her favorite SLFP memory was having Rachel Harris as her mentor and said she is blessed that she got her!

**Emma Finkbeiner** is currently serving as the National President of the Public Relations Student Society of America and pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Relations and Advertising at DePaul University in Chicago. She really enjoyed how the retreats fostered peer mentorship in the program. The first year, you were able to learn about the year ahead and be mentored by the block ahead of you. In the second year, you were able to pay it forward and mentor new SLFP students.

**Aaron Mellesmoen** is completing his Master's in Cancer Biology at NMU this coming spring under Dr. Robert Belton. He will then be going to a Molecular Biology Ph.D. program in the fall. Aaron enjoys mountain biking, hiking and grilling. Aaron said the fall retreats in Big Bay were fun!

**Cassandra Ross** currently works for the Women's Aid Service as a shelter advocate while waiting to continue her education. She volunteered with the Women's Aid Service before being hired. Cassandra also continues to play ice hockey in an adult league.

**Abby Roberts** accepted a job as a 2nd grade teacher in Zumbrota, Minnesota. It is about 20 minutes north of Rochester, Minnesota. Abby was a long-term substitute in the district for 1st grade and loves the community feel and goals of the district. She makes sure all her kiddos know she is from Michigan. On a spelling test the word was “from” and she said Miss Roberts is from Michigan and one little boy shouted out, “we knowooow...”. It made her chuckle. Abby enjoys mountain biking, connecting with a few other NMU grads who also found themselves in Minnesota, and getting involved in her new school district. Abby and fellow Onyx Block member, Brooke Linn, recently worked together to bring ocean conservation closer to home for 1st graders in Minnesota. Abby worked in her district and was able to video stream Brooke into the auditorium where 100 first graders were able to learn about the ocean, and how they can help too. It was a very cool connection for them, and they even got to ask Brooke some of their own questions. It was a lot of fun! Abby was happy for the friendships made and being able to look upon everyone’s success with a smile on her face.

### Ice Block

**Jamie Albert**a has a few interviews around town for a 3rd job and wonders what she is thinking. Hopefully it goes well!

**Abby Austin** and fellow Ice Block, Matt Trefilek, got engaged in June in Rocky Mountain National Park! She is graduating in May with her degree in Secondary Education Integrated Science. This summer, she worked with Upward Bound Math and Science as a residential mentor and physics tutor.

**Ben Harris** chaperoned a team of youth journalists to both the Republican and Democratic Conventions in Cleveland and Philadelphia.

**Gwen Hoenke** has one year left of undergrad and then will be looking for a full-time teaching job. She enjoys running, is in Superior Edge, had an internship in New York through Uncommon Schools, is a member of Platform Personalities, and is on the all student conduct board. Congratulations to Gwen for receiving the Michigan Council for Teachers of Mathematics Miriam Shaffer Scholarship. She was 1 of 3 that was given out over the whole state.

**Lindsey Lieck** began a new job in August with training in Denver, Colorado and then she’s off to an undetermined location to work on the presidential campaign before settling in Des Moines, Iowa in November to work on issues campaigns with Impact. Lindsey plays her bassoon when possible, bikes around Madison, and takes many trips around the state getting ready for her sister’s wedding this fall. Lindsey said at first she underestimated the social aspects of the SLFP, but as she geared up for her new job training where she will meet about 50 other new fellows, she’s glad she had the opportunity to meet and work (and become friends) with the other members of the SLFP. It made her move to a new city with a ton of new colleagues less frightening.

**Megan McCormick** worked as the Director of Kindergarten at Orton Park Camp for the summer and will continue her position as a Peer Educator in the Health Promotion Office. Megan was asked to be a part of the midwest regional team for the, “It’s On Us Campaign!”

**Kate Meade** is applying to the Peace Corps after graduation. She is a part of Partridge Creek Farms in Ishpeming. Kate said her CSI in the jungle in Peru has been on her mind lately, as it was a life-changing experience. She said she was so lucky to have had the SLFP to guide her in that and push her to be a leader there.

**Emily Quinn** is graduating in May 2017 and is currently working in Marketing and Communications for Northern as a student designer and is President of PrimeTime Productions for Northern Michigan University. Emily said the retreats each year were some of the best memories she has of the program because they were a great chance to meet so many people from her block and interact with new friends.

**Nicole Taylor** has one more year of undergrad and then she’s on to real life! Her summer vacation consisted of weekend trips, nannying, and archaeology classes on Beaver Island.