



still connected

Wildcat Statue
Madison Sculpture Studio
Gift from the estate of
Gilbert L. Ziegler
Dedicated September 1988

FOR THE ALUMNI
OF THE STUDENT
LEADER FELLOWSHIP
PROGRAM

VOLUME 23

ALUMNI & FRIENDS

Hello SLFP alumni and friends! We hope you enjoy reading updates from the program and your fellow alumni as much as we enjoy getting all the updates from you. You all are amazing!

Here are a few highlights from the 29th year of the SLFP:

- **New Staff:** 2019 brought a whole new leadership team to the SLFP. Hannah Lewis (previously the assistant director) took over as the associate director of the Center for Student Enrichment and coordinator of the Student Leader Fellowship Program after Jon Barch started a 3-year term position in the NMU Psychology Department. Julia Santa Maria was hired from NNU's Admissions Office as the assistant director. Also, Ann Parent, the principal secretary of the SLFP for the last six years retired, and Nichole Wisslead from NMU's Financial Aid Office was hired.
- **UN250 Service Learning Projects:** As always, the service learning projects in the class were a unique learning experience for the new Space Blocks.
 - The Tuesday night class hosted a spaghetti dinner fundraiser for a weekend food program called Cat Packs, where they collected almost \$400 and raised awareness about childhood hunger in the community.
 - The Wednesday class created a workshop series for a class at Bothwell Middle School to teach the kids about community service, mental health, sustainability, and servant leadership.
- **New Office:** In September, the Northern Center renovation was completed and the Center for Student Enrichment and the Student Leader Fellowship Program got a new office! We are now located in 1101 Northern Center, across from the new Wildcat Den and the NMU Barnes and Noble Bookstore.

2019 Program stats (cumulative since 1991):

- 1,131 SLFP graduates
- 794 different community members have served as mentors
- 126,108+ hours of community service in positions of leadership
- 490 different community service internship sites

Thank you all for staying connected with the SLFP, and we wish you a happy and healthy 2020!

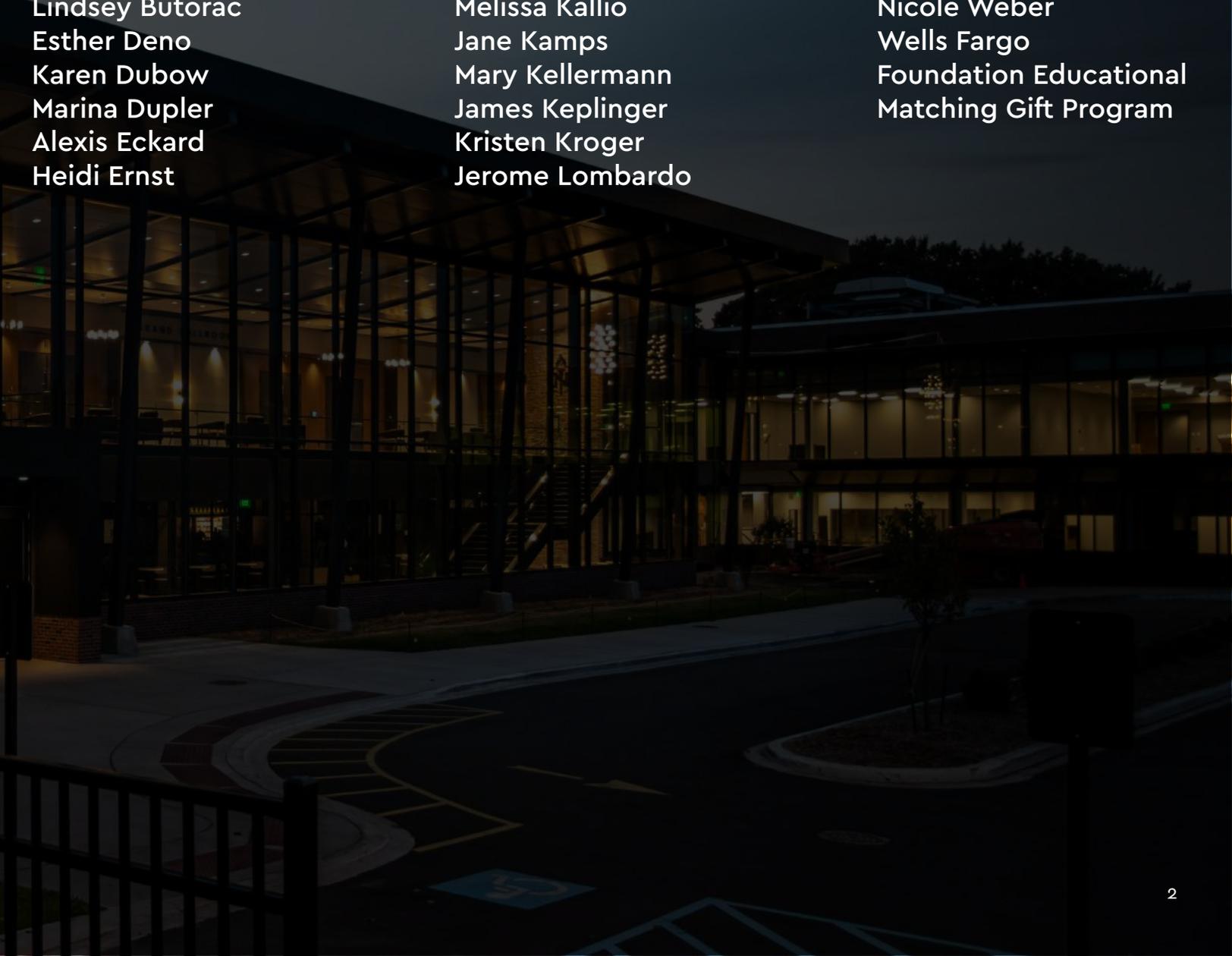
THANK YOU

2019-2020 CONTRIBUTORS

Damien & Alise Barrett
Timothy Bennett
Ronald & Carol Bergman
Michael & Erin Berkowitz
Daniel Blood
Eric Bolduc
Mark Bolton
BorgWarner Foundation
Courtney Brown
David Buick
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Laurie Schmit
Shannon Schuster
Brienne Stele
Ronald Stump
Stephanie Taylor
Michelle Todzy
Bonnie Walk
Nicole Weber
Wells Fargo
Foundation Educational
Matching Gift Program



REDBLOCK

Eric Boldue continues to work as an insurance broker for Holmes Murphy. Recently, he was part of a team that developed and launched a new captive insurance company. Eric said this was a very exciting and rewarding project for an industry he has served for nearly 25 years. He serves on the athletic board for his church where they promote/support various activities for the church community. Eric is still inspired by how the SLFP has grown over the years. As a Red Block, he had an amazing experience and gained tremendous value over the two years and just can't imagine how dynamic the program is today. He continues to be thankful for Dave Bonsall encouraging him to apply for, "this new leadership program we are starting."

Marleen (Domke) Brown is in her 26th year as a high school special education teacher and sixth grade language arts teacher and is also the National Honor Society faculty advisor. When she is not completing school stuff, she is very active in the Onaway United Methodist Church where she serves as the Lay Leader, the head coordinator for a women's group called, "Sisters In Spirit," sings in the choir and frequently leads a Wednesday evening bible study. She often thinks about the internship she completed at the low income housing area just off of Wright Street and says that experience really struck her heart strings because she could totally identify with that underprivileged population. Marleen said she came from a similar environment and hopes many success stories have evolved as the children grow up.

Alicia Chenhalls is the NAFTA Senior Manager of Talent Acquisition for a tier-one automotive supplier, Marelli (previously Magneti Marelli). The scope of her role includes: recruitment and staffing strategy, supplier and university relations, internship program standardization, pre-employment process and onboarding program design through the first 90-days. Before she started over a year and a half ago her position did not exist, so it has been a tremendous challenge to establish the TA function and to align the HR teams across the region. With the company's recent merger with another company, Calsonic Kansai, they now have the added challenge of integrating the teams from two very different cultures; an Italian-owned company with a Japanese-owned company. Her International Studies Degree from NMU will continue to serve her well in this role. For more than six years, she has been a member of the Rochester Junior Women's Club (RJWC). During this time, she was recognized as, "Volunteer of the Year," and served as President-Elect, Club President and Parliamentarian. Each year, the RJWC selects up to four organizations to raise funds by hosting fashion show luncheons, lobster boils,

Kentucky Derby Parties, etc., and have raised close to a million dollars for the community since the club began in 1956. Alicia also volunteers within the community with various local organizations. Being a member of RJWC has been a tremendous way to get involved within her local community. Alicia just went through her SLFP binder a short time ago. Yes, she still has it, along with all of the newsletters! She was amazed to remember how many incredible experiences they had in the two years of the fellowship and said she is so honored and grateful to have been a Fellow, and thank you to all of the wonderful people who were a part of it.





BLUEBLOCK

Craig Downs is finally enjoying the retired life and playing plenty of golf! He said some of you may remember his son coming with him to class, and now he is 33. Craig doesn't know how he got that old! His son is an EMT instructor, paramedic, and SWAT team medic. Craig now has a six-year-old granddaughter, who just started first grade. He says being, "Pop Pop," is a lot more fun than being a parent!



GREENBLOCK

Krista (Jenson) Malley celebrated her tenth anniversary this past January at Oakland University and is currently serving as the Director for Student Success in the Office of Student Success (the office turns three years old in November). Krista continues to enjoy serving students and partnering with purpose for students. She is in her third year on the school board for her daughter's school, Oakland Christian School, and hopes to be re-elected. Her daughter, Emma, is in second grade Spanish Immersion. She is so excited for her and this awesome opportunity of learning another language! It has been an incredible experience to see how much the faculty, staff, administration and board members care about the children/students and want what's best for them. Krista has fond memories of good talks with Dave Bonsall and Cara Kamps about life and leadership.

Suzanna Schroeder has spent the last year-and-a-half working in an elementary school library which serves a diverse population, and wanted to do better for the kids, so decided to work on a second master's degree. She completed her first year in the MLIS program at The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Because of her daughter's involvement with her high school's FIRST robotics team, she has been a volunteer mentor, aiding them with their writing and communications skills. Her oldest daughter, Octavia Grimes, accepted a CBYX Scholarship and will be spending a year in Germany after her graduation from high school. Suzanna doesn't have time for much else outside of working full time, going to school three-quarters time and having a family, husband and two daughters, but with the MLIS curriculum, in three weeks, she read over 50 books! She says

there are four novels sitting on her lap that she needs to tackle and complete (if she can get them out from under her cat). Suzanna said that in order to be an active member of any community, you need to engage with others, and you need to work hard. Had she not had the experiences she did with the SLFP, she would not have made some of her best friends, since she met them while volunteering at her daughters' school the year they were in first and fifth grades. She put in nearly 800 volunteer hours that year, and chaired two major fundraisers. Interestingly, that was also the first year she had ever volunteered in a school library, and realized that she might want to switch careers. She put herself out there and started helping and saying yes. Switching careers at 43 felt like the right decision for Suzanne, her family, the students and teachers she helps.





PURPLEBLOCK

Sierra (McLeod) Bishop said after nearly 21 years at Houghton Middle School as a School Counselor, she took a position at the Copper Country Intermediate School District as a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Specialist. Part of her position includes advising the local High Schools' Youth Advisory Council/Student Leadership Committee. She looks forward to sharing some of her SLFP knowledge with these students.

Courtney (DeBoer) Hazzard is in her 20th year as a Speech Language Pathologist for Sparta Area Schools. She visited Marquette with her daughter, Lara-18, as she completed NMU orientation. Lara entered NMU as a nursing major and loves it as much as Courtney and her husband did. Courtney said it was scary sending her seven hours away, but Lara has already said she's, "never felt like she belonged anywhere more." Courtney's already been talking with Lara about the SLFP program.

Jennifer Passmore recently moved from Chicago and bought a small resort in Hulbert, Michigan. She works at Technomic, a leading food service research firm in Chicago. She changed roles from VP of Sales to Director of Sales so she could move back to the Upper Peninsula and run her new business. She is involved in the American Legion Auxiliary and Newberry Chamber of Commerce.



AQUABLOCK

Matt Maki is living in Kyiv, Ukraine, as director of the English program at DataRobot, an AI data-analysis platform. In the summers, he teaches readiness for cultural differences and conflict resolution techniques to teens in post-Soviet countries who will study in an American high school for a year through the Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) program. This summer, he did this in Azerbaijan and Lithuania, his first

time in these countries. Matt has been running in races for the past two-and-a-half years, which is the first sport he's done in his life. This year, he will run in 25 races, 19 of them half-marathons. These races have led him all around Ukraine, which has given him the opportunity to volunteer in these various cities by providing free English speaking clubs in local schools, community centers, or cafes.





YELLOWBLOCK

Kristi (Kujala) Mickelson is calling Lansing, Michigan home. They expanded their family by one to a family of six. Kristi and her husband, Brian, have three beautiful girls, Sofia-10 ½, Zoe-8, Lucy-5 ½ and now have a baby boy, Tobias. Kristi is a math teacher for at-risk tweens and early teens, however, this past school year, she became a stay-at-home mom, partly due to their new little bundle and partly



because daycare for four children costs as much as a teacher's salary. She says it's been a wonderful blessing to be at home with their children and perhaps she'll return to teaching soon. Kristi says being a stay-at-home mom allowed her to volunteer a lot in her children's classrooms, help with the World of Art Programs and attend many field

trips, which she was unable to do while she was teaching. Her family is active in their Catholic Church. Kristi runs the used uniform closet at the schools and is involved in their children's extracurricular activities, such as scouts, girl

scouts, basketball and T-ball. She enjoys directing musicals with children ages 5-16 through Mid-Michigan Family Theatre and is a breastfeeding advocate at the local Laleche League Chapter. The SLFP memory she finds herself often recalling is that a member of a block ahead of her worked with her on many plays in the Theatre Department at NMU and nominated Kristi for the Program, twice. The first time, Kristi didn't know what she was talking about and did not take the risk to come and find out, but that didn't stop her friend. The next year she nominated Kristi again. Kristi said all she can recall all of these years later is that her name was Karen and how blessed she is because Karen didn't give up on her. Her life changed for the better because she was given the opportunity to be part of this Program. Kristi thanks the SLFP for giving so many young leaders the opportunity to develop their skills.





BURGUNDYBLOCK

Jon Barch's twins, Leo and Fiona started high school this year. His son, James, is in seventh grade. The twins both play cello in the orchestra. Leo plans to join percussion in the marching band. Fiona plans to join the cheer team. James plays on a travel soccer team and likes wake boarding. Jon's wife, Maggie, has been choreographing and performing with her TaMaMa dance company. Jon began this fall as an Assistant Professor of Psychological Science at NMU. While he truly enjoyed leading the SLFP for the past 13 years, doing social cognitive psychology research and teaching psychology courses has always been his primary career goal. In the community Jon is still chair of the Lake Superior Leadership Academy planning committee and a member of the Marquette Area Sister Cities Partnership. For NMU, he serves on the Institutional Review Board, the Service Unit Assessment Committee, and the President's Sustainability Advisory Committee. Jon remembers the hiring of Ann Parent as Principal Secretary for the SLFP. Right away, it was clear that she would be a tremendous asset for the Program and the Center for Student Enrichment more generally. Her organizational skills, her compassion for the students, her work ethic, and even her taste in music make her the perfect person for the job. Jon says he will absolutely miss working with her.

Stacey MacDonald has two children, Tessa-13, Rena-10 and her husband, Ron who is celebrating one year cancer-free. Stacey is the Behavior Specialist at the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District and was recently elected to the board of the Hiawatha Skating Club, where her girls have been skating for 10 years. Along with the skating club, Stacey volunteers for the Sault High Booster Club.





NAVYBLOCK

No alumni responses. We miss you and look forward to your response next year!



ORANGE BLOCK

No alumni responses. We miss you and look forward to your response next year!





LIMEBLOCK

Amber Baillargeon is working for KeyPath Education as an Admission Representative.

Erin Spencer and her husband, Mike Berkowitz (class of 2004), are looking forward to the arrival of their first child. Erin works at DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois, as the Director of Academic Advising for the College of Science and Health. She was elected to serve as Staff Council President for the 2018–2020 term, representing the staff to DePaul's administration and the Board of Trustees. In this

role, Erin is a voting member on a number of committees that have a direct impact on students, faculty and staff. Erin also started the coursework to earn her EdD in education leadership earlier this year. In Erin's free time, she enjoys running along Chicago's beautiful lakefront. Since moving to Chicago in 2010, Erin has completed 12 marathons, countless half-marathons and several triathlons.





SKYBLOCK

Cody Fleming teaches full-time in the social studies department at Oswego East High School and is now the advisor to the student group, Unsolved!, which focuses on real life mysteries and mystery board and card games. He is the varsity coach for scholastic bowl for their school. Cody remembers the Skill Builders! he led back in the day and how they helped him form leadership and speaking skills. He said so much character and professional development was done through the SLFP.

Erin (Larsen) Williams has three children: Joey-12, Jimmy-9, Jessie-6 and accepted a position as a community liaison for the first stand-alone pediatric psych hospital in the state of Texas. They are opening two facilities bringing 230 beds to the DFW Metroplex for kids ages 5-25 in need of inpatient mental healthcare. Erin enjoys adult kickball.





JADEBLOCK

Shannon (Carmichael) Jedd had her third child, a daughter, Aubrey, who was born August 8, 2018. She joins big brothers Wyatt-6 and Zachary-4. Shannon continues to teach third grade.

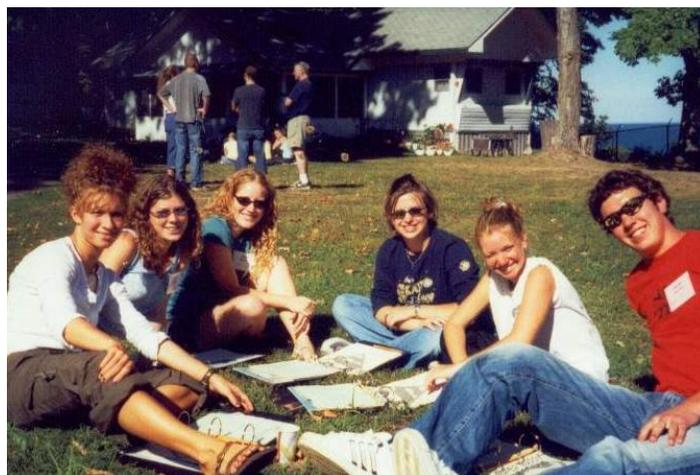
Monica (Drusch) Wolf has been married to Ryan Wolf since February 26, 2011 and they have two children, son Jameson, born March 17, 2014 and daughter, Abigail, born November 15, 2016. She is a stay-at-home mom (aka personal attendant, short-order cook, maid, chauffeur, tantrum tamer, chaos coordinator).



MANGOBLOCK

Dayna Keranen is married to Brent Watson (NMU alum 2007) and they have two daughters, Evelyn-4 and Eloise-3. Dayna is currently a stay-at-home mom. She was recently for her first two-year term as part of her town's, Greenville, Wisconsin, planning commission. She is working on some career training in coding and digital marketing.

Kayla (Rice) Pionk has been married for eight years to her husband, Jason, and they share together two energetic, life-loving children: Samuel-7 and Claire-5. Kayla recently celebrated her seventh work anniversary as Human Resources Administrative Support for Saginaw Township Community Schools.



CRIMSONBLOCK

Cassie (Zeratsky) Charlier has three children: Katelyn-8, Austin-5, and Gavin-3. She has been a Senior Sales Representative at JJ Keller & Associates for the past 11 years. Cassie donates her time to her daughter's fast pitch softball team, takes runs with her kids, camps, and they are butterfly caretakers. Cassie enjoyed the team atmosphere of the SLFP and is friends on social media with many of her fellow Crimson Blocks! She loved working with her mentor and spending time at the Children's Museum for her community service internship.



Breanne (Rogers) Steele celebrated her one-year anniversary with her husband, Brian, whom she married in June 2018. Breanne started this past July as a career specialist at Macomb Community College.

Kathy (Stenlund) Varda and her husband, Nick, have two children, Henry-3 and Abe-1. She teaches Spanish to eighth graders and high schoolers (Spanish 3-AP) at Beloit Turner High School.



Katie (Berger) Racine is the Director of Teacher Education Student Services at NMU. She enjoys working with future teachers and serving her alma mater.





FUCHSIABLOCK

Megan (Lazier) Danahy is the Art Director at Aramark.

Melissa Natter is teaching in Rutherford County as a self-contained special education teacher at the elementary level. She is focusing on school events for now until she can find her place in the community. She remembers having too many great times in the SLFP!



MINTBLOCK

Dana (Toenjes) Leep and her family are enjoying the Florida life, recently moved within their city and are watching their 2.5 and 4-year-old grow up way too fast.



CERULEANBLOCK

Nicole "Niki" Weber recently received the 2019 Outstanding Young Alumni Award from Northern Michigan University. Niki is a senior specialist at Save the Children and an adjunct with the Dornsife School of Public Health at Drexel University. She holds a bachelor's degree in community health education and Spanish, and a French language certificate from NMU. Following graduation she was the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar to Geneva, Switzerland, where she completed a Master of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Aid and interned with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. She subsequently received a master of public health degree, completed jointly between universities in Spain, Poland and France. After seven years abroad, she returned to the US and completed a research fellowship with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Congratulations, Niki! She is pictured here with Rachel Harris and Dave Bonsall.



Ben Scheelk recently graduated from The George Washington University with a Masters of Public Administration (with focus on non-profit management). He is managing a new seagrass and mangrove restoration project in the Jobos Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Puerto Rico, where they are expanding climate change mitigation and habitat restoration work under The Ocean Foundation's new "Blue Resilience Initiative." He serves as Treasurer on the Board of Directors for Chesapeake Commons, a 501(c)(3) that empowers Chesapeake Bay restoration stakeholders with access to high quality digital services and open tool kits. He also serves as Treasurer on the Advisory Board for Ocean Connectors, a fiscally sponsored project of The Ocean Foundation, which uses classroom activities, field trips, and "knowledge exchanges," to connect youth and build global stewardship in San Diego and Mexico. Ben loved working with EarthKeepers with his mentor, Andrew Bek, to promote environmental education and activism in the U.P.

Nicole Stumpf is celebrating her four year anniversary in October and has a son, Landon-3 ½. She is working in the non-profit sector at the moment and is looking to return to school counseling in the near future. She spends most of her free time with her son.

Keith Voorheis' son, William, was born on January 2, weighing just over 6 pounds and 19 inches long. Keith left private practice at Hunton Andrews Kurth last fall and started as in-house counsel for Volkswagen Group of America. Their family has relocated to northern Virginia and enjoy spending as much time in the Blue Ridge Mountains as they can. They look forward to hiking with William once he is old enough to fit in the hiking backpack. Bay Cliff retreats were still some of his fondest memories of the Program.



KIWIBLOCK

Andrew Kandell is living in Williamsburg, Virginia. His daughter just turned three, they added a new puppy and closed on their first home last December. Andrew has been a Pre-Professional Health Advisor at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) for the past year. They are still getting settled in with their move and new house, but hope to join some recreational sports or find some volunteering. Andrew's favorite SLFP memory is the retreat. He can actually still remember parts of the interview for the Program and talking about the stepping stones of experience he could gain.

Victoria Leonhardt and Sarah (Eberhart) Santiago are on the Board of STAR Children's Bereavement Services. Victoria is the President and Sarah is the Vice President.

Reconnecting and working on STAR with Sarah reminded Victoria of how important this Program is to the Marquette community and beyond. Being at Bay Cliff for Camp Star brought back fall retreat memories. Victoria and Sarah both recognize that the skills they learned through the SLFP helped them get their current role in an awesome organization that makes a huge difference for kids in our community. Victoria recently took on a community organizing role within her position at Grow and Lead. She is coordinating the Be Counted Michigan Census 2020 working on grants for nonprofits that work with hard to count populations. Victoria is also on the Marquette Chamber of Commerce Board and Chair of the Marquette Fireworks Committee. They are pictured together at Camp Star.



TEALBLOCK

Megan Forrest is in her sixth year of her Ph.D. Program in Genetics and Genome Sciences at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio and is hoping to finish sometime late in the fall or early spring. She received the 2018 CWRU School of Medicine Graduate Student Leadership award this past spring as a result of her involvement in organizing their student-run Biomedical Graduate Student Symposium for the past five years. She hopes to continue to be involved in her future postdoc organization and community.

Hannah (Kratz) Lewis was promoted to Associate Director in the Center for Student Enrichment at NMU and is Director of the Marquette Junior Yacht Club. Hannah's Community Service Internship was probably her favorite part of the Program. Hannah said it was a ton of fun and made her see that if she took the initiative, and stuck with it, she could make a positive impact in her community. She also gained some mentors and friends that she is still in touch with today.

Sarah Morrison married Michael Evans on June 22 at Saint Louis the King, Catholic Church. Earlier this year, she accepted a Communications Coordinator position with the Leadership Institute in Arlington, Virginia. Both she and her husband are part of the Alexandria Citizens Band, where they met and fell in love. Bonding during the SLFP retreat at Bay Cliff Health Camp at the beginning of the fall semester is her favorite memory.

George Peterman transferred from Crater Lake National Park to Yellowstone National Park this year, working as a Human Resources Generalist, doing a variety of administrative duties in the national park. Being in a beautiful, mountainous environment, George loves to hike and continues to do his language studies in his free time. This past winter, he traveled overseas for two months to practice his Japanese and Korean. George said he's been thinking about the Myers Briggs presentation in the SLFP Leadership Theory and Practice Course and how it was a huge professional development opportunity that he uses now, even almost a decade after he took the class. He's been training Resident Coordinators and stressed the importance of understanding how to communicate effectively with your coworkers. He also enjoyed the retreat and community service project.

Amanda Race is engaged to Brett Hastilow (NMU alum 2011), after his proposal in Nice, France and 11 years of dating. They met at NMU and plan to be married in Maui, Hawaii in 2020. Amanda is an aircraft records clerk at Endeavor Air headquarters in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



GOLDBLOCK

Brendan Franklin took on the role as Assistant Manager of Nursing Services for the Emergency Department and Observation Unit at Munson Medical Center in July 2018. He was elected Vice President for a two-year term, then President for two years thereafter, for the NMU Alumni Association Board of Directors. Brendan remembers the great discussions in the SLFP leadership class.

Geneva Martin works for the Minnesota Office of Continuous Improvement at the Minnesota Department of Administration, as a Senior Continuous Improvement

Consultant. She started working for the State of Minnesota after she completed her MPA from NMU in 2016. In the past couple of years, she has begun working closer with agency leadership, focusing on organization development and improvement work. She loves her job because every day she gets to lead and collaborate on projects that improve workplace culture and work to make government services to be more efficient and effective for all Minnesotans.

Mitchell Stephenson recently moved to Dillon, Montana, which is a beautiful, small town surrounded in the mountains they so dearly miss.

Mitchell recently was engaged to Ashley LeMaire (a 2012 NMU grad). He completed his PhD in Kinesiology from Iowa State University and accepted a tenure-track professorship at the University of Montana Western. He also will be supervising the Northern Warfighter Initiative for the Department of Defense. He and Ashley are getting their backpacking gear and snowshoes back out. There are tons of wonderful opportunities in Montana. Mitchell will be starting a program in Montana to provide homeschoolers access to university labs for science classes.



BANANABLOCK

Ronald Allen is working for Volkswagen Group of America as a Procurement Analyst in Auburn Hills, Michigan. He is fundraising for Make-A-Wish Foundation in the yearly Wish-A-Mile fundraiser, which is a 3-day, 300-mile ride that goes from Traverse City to Marshall, Michigan.

Rozemary (Howard) Bal recently celebrated her three year wedding anniversary with her husband, Jordan Bal, whom she met while at NMU. Rozemary is an emergency veterinarian in Appleton, Wisconsin and just completed a one-year internship/mentorship program at the same hospital. She was recently in the news for helping to save the life of a canine police officer who was stabbed in the neck. She now volunteers her time teaching first responders how to care for wounded animals in the field. Rozemary has been working on training of her new puppy, a husky named Dimitri and wants to train him to be a helping dog in hospitals and retirement homes. She is trying to get outside more and go exploring with her dogs. She is looking for other opportunities to talk with children in schools about veterinary medicine and pass along information on proper animal care. Rozemary loved her entire time in the SLFP, but the best thing that ever happened to her was meeting Dr. Laura Klar, who was her mentor and an incredible role model as she went through her veterinary schooling. To this day, they are still friends, and now colleagues who are very close and thanks the SLFP for putting them together in the first place.

Cassy Hastings recently finished the intern year of her residency in pediatrics at the University of Arizona-Tucson. She said it was an incredible year in an incredible place and learned so much from her patients, colleagues, and friends in the community. She is looking forward to continue her learning this next year as she starts to narrow down her career path and think about what she would like to do/where she would like to practice following residency. She joined the Tucson Ultimate Frisbee community as soon as she moved and said it has been a huge blessing! Cassy said she has made many friends that have kept her 'sane' through the long hours of residency and they have a blast hanging out on the weekends. This summer, she joined a competitive club team, "Venom," that traveled to Oregon, Colorado, and California for tournaments. Cassy wants to shout out to the people she was in the Program with and who she has stayed in touch with as a result of the SLFP. There are people she had the opportunity to meet that she may not have otherwise and said it's so cool to see how each of them is changing their corner of the world! Cheers to all those making a difference! Cassy is rooting for you all! These photos are of Cassy and fellow Banana Blocker, Katie Miller, on their latest visit to

Alaska. Cassy said Northern was such an incredible place to make long lasting friends and it was a blast being able to catch up this year in the midst of a busy first year of pediatric residency.



Alecia Heckathorn was recently married on July 13 and is teaching dance at PS 38 in Brooklyn. She is a member of The Complete Theatre Company that presents improv, showcases, and plays about every six weeks.

Rachael (Williams) Scoby is working as a Speech Language Pathologist at Spectrum Hospital.

Rachel (Gruler) Zervoudakis lives in Petoskey, where she grew up. She is working at McLaran Northern Michigan Hospital as a circulating nurse in the Operating Room, is currently on the cardiothoracic team and works as a charge nurse. Rachel married Stratton Zeroudakis, who she met her freshman year of college, on July 21, 2018. They had their first child, Jack Stratton on June 6 and he weighed 6 pounds, 3 ounces and was 19 inches long. Rachel says work and raising a newborn are currently taking up all of her free time. Her favorite SLFP memories are the fall retreats where she met one of her best friends.

EMERALDBLOCK

Shelby (Guilbault) Anderson took a new position with VAST in Marquette as an Account Manager. Next year will be her third year as an SLFP mentor!

Lindsey (Spooner) Copus lives in Tacoma, Washington, which is just south of Seattle, and enjoys lots of festivals, going to markets and endures earthquakes. She got married to the love of her life last year, who happens also to be a NMU graduate. Lindsey completed her final clinical year post graduate school and is now a clinically certified Speech Language Pathologist and splits her time between school and medical settings. Lindsey says work is busy, so any extra time is spent exploring the rainforests, volcano, city, waterfalls in the area and have made several trips to the ocean. Her favorite SLFP memories are the yearly trip to Bay Cliff. The time around like-minded people was inspiring and empowering.

Samantha Forintos was so lucky to get a job right out of college in Marquette. She just began her fourth year of teaching fourth grade at Cherry Creek Elementary School. This summer, Samantha gave tours of the mine to employees' family members and took summer classes. She is in her last year of grad school! Samantha has been spending a lot of time reading, outside, and working. Throughout the school year, she helps out with volunteer activities the teacher's union participates in. She goes with the fifth grade

classes to Bay Cliff every year and it always reminds her of the SLFP retreats.

Megan Marquardt is happily engaged to Steven Scott and is overjoyed to gain a stepdaughter, Tilly. They will be married in January. Megan is directing the morning newscasts at KARE 11 in Golden Valley, Minnesota.

Vince Mottes lives in Grass Lake, Michigan, but will be moving to Marshall, Michigan in the near future. He has been dating Kelsey King, and she has a little boy, Mason. Vince is in his fifth season of being an athletic trainer for Homer High School. He enjoys paddle boarding, boating, being on the water and drinking adult pops. He will never forget going to Big Bay and meeting/interacting with cool people. Vince is pictured here with Mason and during athletic training.



Trent Podskalan left his position as a Hall Director at UW Stevens Point and continues to focus on and pursue motivational speaking and podcasting. He enjoys walking his dog.





ONYXBLOCK

Lizzy (Owens) Arnquist is working towards her master's degree in applied behavior therapy. She volunteers with SheJumps.

Alisha Arnsperger is working as Box Office Manager for Logjam Presents, a prominent entertainment promoter and production company in the northwest region. They currently run four venues in Missoula, where they're based, and are reaching into Bozeman with two new venues (one of which is in construction, opening winter 2020). Logjam has booked talent such as Norah Jones, Lord Huron, Bon Iver, Sheryl Crow and Mumford & Sons. Alisha kept busy with a very full summer concert lineup. When she has free time, she likes to find herself floating the river or hiking one of the many trails around. The mountains are gorgeous. Alisha always thinks back on her time with the SLFP fondly. She recently spent some time visiting Washington, D.C., where she was able to meet up with fellow Onyx Block member, Genna McKenna! They were able to talk about memories they made in the leadership class and at Bay Cliff. Alisha said it was great to cross paths and see where they've both ended up after leaving NMU.

Cassandra Ross finished her master's of public health in May 2018 and has worked as a medical scribe for the last two years. She began medical school this fall and no longer works as a medical scribe. She continues to officiate and play ice hockey and has had the opportunity to officiate two national tournaments. Cassandra also enjoys spending time with her family and spending time on the water. Within the last year, she traveled with her church on a missions trip to Ecuador. Cassandra said she always enjoyed the retreats at Bay Cliff and fell in love with Bay Cliff through these retreats and later worked a summer at the camp!

Kelsey Springstroh currently lives in Marshfield, Wisconsin, working at the Marshfield Clinic. She coaches volleyball and softball. Her favorite SLFP memory is the Fall Retreat.

ICEBLOCK

Elizabeth Dow is getting married to Matthew Gamalski on July 4, 2020. Elizabeth was promoted to contract manager at Jetco Federal this past May.

Hannah Desmet is a registered pediatric nurse and gets to hang out with little people at Children's Hospital Colorado and sometimes helps them heal from illness. Hannah enjoys backpacking, mountain biking, hiking, and researching how to convert a van into a home. She appreciates that the SLFP connected her with experiences she would not have otherwise been inclined to partake in, such as going door to door for the county Democratic panel election party, being a camp counselor for kids with incarcerated parents, etc.

Molly Egelkraut lives in Appleton, Wisconsin, where she happily works on projects and processes related to Microsoft at Hartland Business Systems. She is newly engaged to Jared Jacques. Molly enjoys exploring Wisconsin and trying out volunteer opportunities.

Lindsey Lieck is in her second year of her Master's Program at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. This year, she will be working full-time as a student teaching resident at a middle school in the Metro Nashville School District.

Molly Smith was engaged to Stephen Luty on February 14 and are planning a wedding for the summer of 2020. She is working as a special education teacher at Bothwell Middle School in Marquette, and is working on her Master's Degree as a K-12 reading specialist. She continues to volunteer as a robotics coach for the Robotic Narwhals at Bothwell, participated in Lake Superior Theater's summer production of "Fiddler on the Roof," and continues to serve on the church council and various boards for Messiah Lutheran Church in Marquette. She has fond memories of her CSI at Lake Superior Youth Theater.

Victoria (Kerlin) Steinbrunner married her high school sweetheart, Phil, on October 6, 2018. For two years, they lived in Lansing where Victoria taught freshman Earth Space Science at Everett High School. Recently, they moved to the Chicago suburbs (LaGrange, Illinois), where Phil started a new job. Victoria is in the process of looking for a new teaching job and is excited to move to a new area and see what the community has to offer. Victoria thanks the SLFP for teaching her the leadership skills she uses in her classroom.



Abby (Austin) Trefilek is in her third year of teaching Biology and Anatomy/Physiology at Hononegah Community High School in Rockton, Illinois. She has also started her Master's Degree at UW-Madison in Educational Psychology. She enjoys playing in their church sports league with her husband, Matt, and plans to volunteer with various agencies in the Madison Area (food pantries, St. Vincent DePaul, etc.). Abby's experiences in the Leadership Theory Class definitely helped her this year at her school. Her experience working with various leaders has helped her effectively work with coworkers on some new initiatives committees at her school. Abby said implementing new procedures is already difficult, but acknowledging the different leadership types and utilizing the skills she learned in the class have helped these processes run more smoothly!

Carina Vowels is back home in Crystal Lake, Illinois where she grew up. She lives with her boyfriend, Dan, (whom she met in Crystal Lake after her first year of college and who also loves Marquette), at his sister's home, which is a ten minute drive from her parent's home and is a stones through from two of her sisters homes, where she has nine nieces and nephews nearby. She and Dan moved for two years to Madison right after NMU graduation, then moved closer to family, before hopefully heading to Portland next year. Carina works a seasonal position as a summer environmental camp counselor with the conservation district of her county. It is her first job that is 100% related to environmentalism and for that she is stoked. She said this will be a great Litmus test for seeing if she enjoys working with children. This winter she plans to apply to the Food Corps, which is a program that works with low income schools to team with farmers to get fresh foods and knowledge, at a Portland location. She may look into further education regarding environmental education. Carina teaches Yoga and created a garden bed at their house. She's been creating relationships with people in the area who are also passionate about taking care and doing well for oneself and others. She previously worked at a coffee shop and revamped their recycling program and connected with a farm to pick up the kitchen scraps and grounds. Carina loved all the time spent together in the SLFP, in the class and especially the retreat. The teambuilding games/activities were awesome. She and her co-workers are always on the lookout for children's teambuilding games.





FIREBLOCK

Breah Carter lives in Grand Rapids and started her final year of grad school at Grand Valley State University. She is currently the data science intern for the outcomes and evaluation team and Spectrum Health-Healthier Communities and joined her first book club. Breah said she met some of her best friends through the SLFP.

Maggie (Hartman) Dietrich lives in Greenbelt, Maryland, outside of Washington, D.C. and she is attending the University of Maryland for graduate school. She married Scott Dietrich, a 2012 NMU alum and they have a son named Theodore who just turned one. She is a master's student in the Entomology Department of the University of Maryland, is a part-time Teaching Assistant, and is conducting her own research. She is trying to find time for leisure and community engagement, but most of her leisure time is spent showing her son the natural world, usually during evening strolls. Maggie said she missed the friends she made both adult and child during her internship at Peter White Public Library. There are so many awesome programs and ways to get involved at the library. She said it was a great experience and hopes to get involved with their local library when Theodore is a little older.



Emily (Ross) King married Nick King on July 15, 2017. She is starting her third year of graduate school studying for her PhD. in analytical chemistry. She is part of the Ames younger chemist community. Emily said she still remembers putting together the dodge ball tournament and how much fun that was to work on together.

Breanna (Knapp) McGuire moved from Baltimore to settle in a smaller community to raise her family. They have enjoyed getting back to "small town" life and reminiscing about the U.P. Breanna and her husband (Tyler McGuire, NMU 2017) are celebrating two years of marriage, and their daughter, Emelia, who recently turned one. Breanna completed her Master's Degree in Clinical Social Work at Boston College this past May. She is pursuing licensure in Maryland and is excited for new job prospects. She anticipates joining a company focused on local families and at-risk youth. Breanna and her family are settling into their local community by supporting their local volunteer fire station, farmer's market and religious community. While finishing her degree in Boston, her mentor, Leslie Warren, connected for an afternoon and they were able to explore Boston Commons. Leslie's husband was running in the Boston Marathon and she reached out to visit Breanna. Breanna said it was so great to reconnect after two years and is so thankful for her mentor relationship and being able to maintain connections even after graduation.

Sarah Ponzer is partway through her second year at an international medical school (AUCSOM) in Cupecoy, St. Maarten. She is the Research Coordinator of a disaster medicine interest group and they are in the process of identifying communication styles between government agencies and NPOs on the Dutch side of St. Maarten.

Joseph Roberts moved to Plymouth, Wisconsin from Manitowoc, Wisconsin. He enjoys typical Wisconsin things like beer, cheese, and marauding herds of cows. Joe finished two of four of the CPA exams and is gearing up for the third one. He worked at an accounting firm for a year, but corporate America isn't his thing, so he started his own accounting company which caters to farms and is also actively farming with plans to buy into a farm. Joe is on the board of the county farm bureau and is getting back into Toastmasters. He enjoys public speaking, running and hiking. His favorite memories of the SLFP were the great group of people, great mentor, and is happy he joined and was lucky enough to be accepted in.



SUPERIOR BLUE BLOCK

Jenna Happach completed a year-long service at Conservation AmeriCorps at the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia and is now beginning her Master's of Landscape Architecture at the School for Environment and Sustainability at the University of Michigan. She created a curriculum on non-native invasive species (NNIS) in West Virginia for PreK-twelfth graders, which consists of four interactive lessons that build upon each other with a focus on Citizen Science by using mapping apps, like Wild Spotter.

Jackie Menzel-Cranney began her Doctorate of Pharmacy Program at Ferris State University this fall. She loved all of the friends she met in the SLFP. Jackie said the retreat was one of the best adventures she had in college and loved spending time with other students who had similar values as herself.

