



Still
Connected

FOR THE ALUMNI
OF THE STUDENT
LEADER FELLOWSHIP
PROGRAM

VOLUME 24

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 some highlights from the 30th year of the SLFP:

The 30th block of the SLFP, the Beach Blocks, made it through their first year and we welcomed the 31st block to the SLFP, the Dream Blocks, who started the program this fall.

COVID 19:

This past year presented some major challenges to the program, namely the ability for Student Fellows to connect and form relationships. The UN 250 course was a hybrid class, but we were still able to host some guest speakers and do some socially-distanced teambuilders. Mentorshops and Internship Meetings were all done on Zoom, as were a good portion of the Community Service Internships (CSI). We were incredibly proud of the second-year Student Fellows, the Space Blocks, who showed a tremendous amount of patience, adaptability, and dedication to finish their CSI's during a global pandemic. The social distancing orders were relaxed just in time to have an in-person graduation ceremony for the Space Blocks, which was a particularly special time to recognize all that they had accomplished despite the challenges. We were also proud of the Beach Blocks who made a fabulous effort to get to know each other and stay engaged with the program, even if it was just over Zoom.

Program Stats:

2020 Program Stats (cumulative since 1991):

1,227 SLFP Graduates

815 different community members have served as mentors

133,203+ hours of community service in positions of leadership

548 different community service internship sites

Reunion:

To help celebrate the 30th anniversary, the SLFP hosted a reunion in conjunction with NMU's Homecoming on October 1. The open house was at the new Northern Center, formerly the University Center.

New Staff:

This fall you will see some new faces working with the SLFP. Gavin Telfer (Crimson Block) was hired as the new associate director in the CSE and coordinator of the SLFP. Gavin is an NMU and SLFP alum. Hannah Lewis, the previous CSE associate director, moved to Oregon to start her PhD in Economics at the University of Oregon. Nichole Sandoval, the former secretary of the SLFP, was hired as the coordinator in the CSE, replacing Julia Santa Maria who moved back to her home state of Arizona to continue her career in higher education. We also hired Melina Walenga as the new principal secretary for the SLFP. Our new student staff includes two leadership program coordinators, Jakob Lippert (Space Block) and Bailey Gomes (Beach Block), and a graduate assistant, Chris Black (Sun Block). Welcome, everyone!

**Thank you all for staying connected with the SLFP,
and we wish you a happy and healthy 2022!**

REDBLOCK

Eric Bolduc is working as an insurance broker for Holmes Murphy. His daughter, Emma, just completed first grade, and he serves as an advisory board member at her school, as well as staying involved in his church community.

Michelle Halley's law firm is overly busy – any attorneys out there wanting to relocate to Marquette, give her a call! The NMU-MTU rivalry is going strong in her house; her son is about to graduate from MTU (mechanical engineering) and her daughter is going to NMU (ecology and pre-med). They are also guardians for a 3-year old, who brings great joy. Michelle is a foster parent and is on the board of the local homeless shelter.

James McClelland is working as a field director for the Boy Scouts of America in the greater Metro Detroit area, leading a team of 5 professionals in recruiting volunteers, youth, and fundraising. He recently celebrated 25 years of marital bliss with **Amy (Cooper) McClelland (Green Block)**, and they have 3 kids: Elliz, a junior studying geology at Michigan Tech; Jake, a senior in high school; and Katie, a 1st grader. In his free time, James is a member of Rotary Club and is also involved in his children's activities.



BLUEBLOCK

Damien Barrett moved to Painted Post, NY, with his family in July after spending more than 20 years in the NYC area. He is starting an IT position with Corning, Inc., a glass company in the Southern Tier of New York state. His son, Casey, will be going into eighth grade and loves lacrosse, football and building stuff. His daughter, Maggie, is going into seventh grade and loves art, design, drawing, the family cats, and her phone. His wife, Alise, continues to excel as an official trainer for US Lacrosse. In his free time, Damien has continued his involvement with the Boy Scouts of America, teaching digital citizenship courses to local Cub Scout packs. He also spends time refurbishing donated laptops that are given to underprivileged youth.

Kristen (Olson) Kroger is working as an attorney in the General Counsel's office of a Midwest Company.



GREENBLOCK

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



PURPLEBLOCK

Courtney (DeBoer) Hazzard is starting her 21st year as a speech-language pathologist for Sparta Area Schools. Her oldest daughter, Lara, is currently studying for a social work degree at NMU and will graduate in May 2022. Her parents are very proud of their Wildcat, since NMU is near and dear to both of them (they met at NMU in 1994.) Her middle son, Ethan, will be heading to Ferris State University to study nuclear medicine technology. Her youngest daughter, Kaitlyn, will be a freshman in high school. In her spare time, Courtney currently volunteers for an organization called MomsBloom, which offers in-home support for new mothers that are struggling with adjusting. She remembers the program fondly: "My entire experience with the SLFP was memorable. I met amazing people, some of whom became lifelong friends."



AQUABLOCK

Chad Coolman just completed his 22nd year of teaching in Rogers City, and recently took over as coach of the track and field program.

Craig Jones is thrilled to have his daughter, Paige, coming to NMU as a freshman this fall. He hopes that it has just as much of an impact on her as it did on him.



YELLOWBLOCK

Sara Cambensy is serving as the state representative for the 109th district, since her election in 2017. She believes that the leadership skills she gained while being an SLFP member were crucial in preparing her for an elected position in state government and is grateful to have been part of "such a monumental skill-building program" at NMU. Remembering her fellow Yellow Blocks, she says, "It is so cool to see what SLFP members I graduated with are doing today. There were so many of us in the Yellow Block that motivated and pushed each other to step outside our comfort zones and achieve our goals. I will forever be grateful to be part of that cohort." In her free time, she cherishes her weekly walks with her golden retriever, Ziggy, along the beach or in the woods to reset and reconnect with her roots at home.

Kristina (Kraus) Reignier began working with the American Red Cross in July 2020 as an account manager for Brown and Oconto Counties. In addition to being a decade-long volunteer at the National Railroad Museum, she has been on the Board of Directors for the Brown County Community Gardens since 2018 representing the Olde North Community Garden. She also serves as the vice president of the Bay Area Genealogical Society and edits the Society's newsletter *GEMS of Genealogy*. Kristina remembers, "I loved the whole program, especially the retreat, *Skill Builder!* workshops and the mentor experience!"

Ann (Rezmer) Toevs is in her 18th year working at the same pediatric clinic. She spends a lot of her free time at the ice rink, where her son plays hockey and her daughter plays hockey and figure skates.



BURGUNDYBLOCK



Jon Barch teaches psychological science classes at NMU, conducting social cognitive neuroscience research with his students. He worked on four research projects with 21 students last year, all of which were presented at the May 2021 Association for Psychological Science conference. On his experience as a Student Fellow and working for the program, he says, "I think a lot about all of the awesome students that I got to know while working for the SLFP. I look forward to seeing everyone at the 30th year anniversary celebration." In his free time, he likes to spend as much time as possible with his family at their cabin on Helen Lake. His twins recently turned 16 and are driving now and work at Sol Azteca in Marquette. Jon is still chairperson of the Lake Superior Leadership Academy planning committee, board member of the Marquette Area Sister Cities Partnership, and president of the Helen Lake Association.

Alison (Miller) Marshall is currently studying for her personal trainer certification. She enjoys running, helping to coach her daughter's cross country team, doing occasional art (painting or mural) commissions, raising two children, two cats, and a puppy with her husband, Todd (a '99 NMU graduate). On her SLFP experience, she says, "I have used the skills learned in the leadership class throughout my career (former teacher and counselor) and in raising our family. I hope our children will be a step or more ahead of where I was when I started university. I do remember the fun of the teambuilders during camp. My SLFP experience was part of why I chose to go into education and the counseling field. I love experiential therapy and teambuilding."

Stacey MacDonald-Miller is a behavior specialist with the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District, where she was named the 2020–21 Employee of the Year! She volunteers with Feeding America and serves on the board of the Hiawatha Skating Club.

NAVYBLOCK

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



ORANGEBLOCK

Zach Lorber is working as a culinary arts teacher at State College Area High School. He has been married for nine years and has three sons, ages 13, 11 and 8. Always busy with his kids, Zach finds time to volunteer with Taproot Kitchen which teaches culinary skills to developmentally disabled adults and puts them to work through their catering business. He misses the fall retreats at Bay Cliff!



LIMEBLOCK

Carissa (Villa) Chase and Eric Chase have been married for 15 years and have three kids: Brodie (13), Crosby (10) and Harper (6). Carissa works as a private practice pediatrician, and Eric is an emergency medicine and critical care physician at Spectrum. Carissa is the vice president of the PTO at her childrens' school, and spends her spare time exercising and reading; Eric is active in cycling and always looks forward to the Ore to Shore and Marji Gesick in Marquette.

Amalea Karavias-Vega is a senior consultant of advisory solutions for Vizent, Inc., the largest member-driven health care performance improvement company in the country. She has two amazing little ones: Caleb (6) and Abigail (4). She is on the board of a healthcare organization in the Denver area and supports her church in community service projects. She enjoys lifting weights, running, biking and hiking, traveling and spending time with her family. Recalling the SLFP, she says, "I recall the strong sense of community and support as a SLFP member – thank you for that!"



SKYBLOCK

Carissa (Waters) Quinn recently returned to Mayo Clinic in an advanced practice nurse position for the Medical ICU. Her twins, Kellan and Holden, are two and a half years old, and she spends her free time teaching them how to swim and play catch, as well as gardening. Carissa loves to visit the UP and remembers the SLFP fall retreats fondly, especially the bonfires on the beach.

Chris Rysso works for Clarke Aquatic Services, managing lakes and ponds. He works to control invasive weeds and algae, install aeration systems, and perform surveys. He and his wife **Laura (Rouch), Mango Block**, adopted two boys, Michael (6) and Gabriel (3). They are active in their local church, and enjoy the outdoors playing softball and working on their property. They also enjoy playing board games with friends and hosting friends at their house for group dinners and game nights.



JADEBLOCK

Matthew Abel is working as a fourth grade teacher and attending NMU Global Campus to earn a master's degree in education.

Kristine (Petersen) Fendley currently works as an academic advisor at Central Washington University and blogs for a feminist boudoir company on the side. She will be celebrating her fifth anniversary with her husband, Scott, this October! They welcomed a new little bundle of joy to their home in December in the form of a fluffy black kitten named Aaron Purr. His older dog sister, Maebby, has begrudgingly accepted him into the home. Kristine continues to be a voracious bookworm and listen to bad pop music, much like she did in college! Remembering the SLFP, she says, "Every fall I think about the SLFP retreat and what an amazing experience it was! It was so fun to bond with our cohort and meet the other one. I learned so much about myself in such a short amount of time and strong friendships were forged during those amazing days!"

Toni (Bielas) Hernalsteen works as a clinical social worker.

JoeyLynn (Paquette) Selling graduated from UM in August 2020 with a PhD in literacy, language, and culture. She is currently working as a literacy consultant.

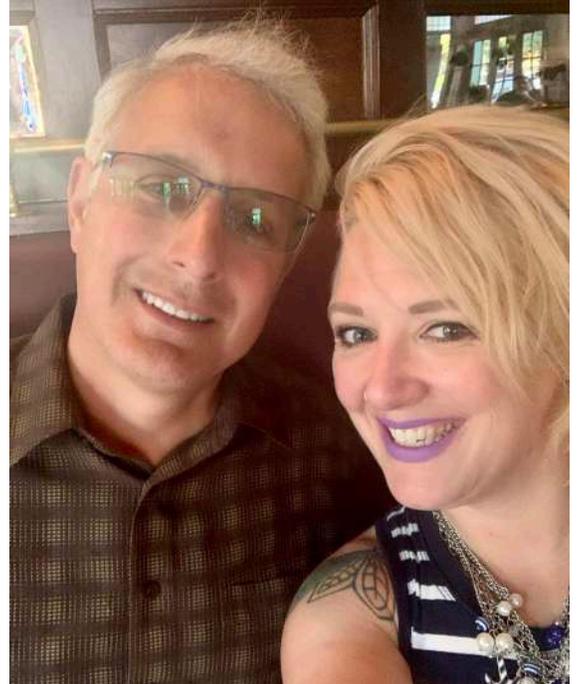
Monica (Drusch) Wolf has been married to her husband, Ryan, for ten years. Their son, Jameson, is 7 and their daughter, Abigail, is 4.



MANGOBLOCK

Journey Steward is planning to defend her dissertation and earn a PhD in history from Northern Illinois University with a December 2021 graduation. She currently teaches Western Civilization Surveys at Elmhurst University and works as a course content reviewer developing online courses for Kaplan North America's University Partnerships program. Journey has been married to Dennis Kunstman since November 2012, and they spend much of their free time with their five-month old pyrenees/lab puppy Pippin. She is also training over the summer for her 6th marathon in October.

Nate Windy is the agreement sales manager for the US North Area for Konecranes, primarily focusing on new business development with his team of salespeople. He and his wife Rachel welcomed their third son, Lincoln, last November. That rounds out their family for now with Leo (6, almost 7 years), Lenox (2 in August), and Lincoln (born in November 2020). In his free time, he enjoys fishing and working on projects in his new home, including having some fun raising chickens for the first time with his boys. His goal as he travels throughout the region for work this summer is to attend an MLB baseball game in every city he can. On his SLFP memories, Nate says, "I'll always remember the great times had on our annual retreats to Big Bay. I also can't help but laugh remembering the time Gavin Telfer and I located the source of the odor in the student organization offices and stunk up half of the UC basement getting those rotten eggs to the dumpster."



CRIMSONBLOCK

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



FUCHSIABLOCK

Melissa Natter is teaching in a self-contained elementary special education classroom for Rutherford County Schools (a district just outside of Nashville). In her free time, she participates in a book club and travels around the US as much as possible. She remembers her good times with the SLFP, especially with Dave Bonsall.



MINTBLOCK

David Hedberg is a laboratory validation engineer II (Electromagnetic Compliance) at Gentex Corporation in Zeeland, MI, employed there for the last 11 years. He and his wife, Bethany, have four children: Claire (9), Caleb (8), Cadence (6) and Carolyn (1). He and his wife enjoy hanging out with friends from their church and visiting with family. They love their children dearly and like to spend time with them doing outdoor activities, reading, playing games, and watching movies. David is currently a board member for South Olive Christian School, where his three oldest children attend. He appreciates the kindness of the SLFP staff and their investment in his life (a special shout out to Jon Barch).

Angela (Neumann) Ingold is about to start a new job. It'll be very different with lots to learn but it is exciting! She spends her spare time running and volunteering as a running mentor, church lector, eating disorder mentor, spending time and helping family members. She just got a one year old Shih Tzu named Bentley! On her time in the SLFP, she says, "I loved doing a *Skill Builder! Workshop*. While it was nerve wracking to put together, I am grateful it was a requirement because I was very proud of myself for doing it and having a few people show up."

Klamesha Richards has accepted a job in full-time ministry on Chicago's South Side. She enjoys going to Disney World and spending time with her godchildren, twins Olivia and Elias.

Jeron Schmidt recently joined the team at OneGoal, a non-profit that is working with schools and school districts nationwide to support their students to achieve their greatest postsecondary aspirations. He and his wife, Claire, are expecting their second daughter in September! They are excited to be a family of four. This fall, he will be entering his 11th year as a high school football official and his fourth as a division III football official.



CERULEANBLOCK

Melissa (Engelmeier) Plante is trying to adjust to the thought of returning to working in-person this fall at UMD. She spends her free time with her children, Easton (4) and Audrey (1), and running; she participated in the Fit4Moms Run Club to train for the Grandma's Garry Bjorklund Half Marathon.

Tom Rich married Dr. Ruth Boeder in fall 2020, and volunteers as a vestry member at St. Clare's Episcopal Church.

Keith Voorheis works as a corporate counsel at Volkswagen Credit. He spends his free time staying busy with his wonderful kids, William and Abigail, and trying to get out hiking as much as they can in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Nicole (Stumpf) Zehren returned to education as an elementary school counselor for the 2020-2021 school year. She enjoyed summer vacation with her son, Landon, before he started kindergarten in the fall. She has started a craft business doing mainly personalized cups, shirts, and decor.



KIWIBLOCK

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

TEALBLOCK

T.J. Carter is working with a health technology company coordinating COVID mass vaccination sites and smaller community clinics. He enjoys playing ultimate frisbee. Remembering the SLFP, he has "So many great memories from the retreats...the delicious late night pizza, skits and singing songs, euchre tournaments and teambuilding activities. And the gorgeous location."

Kelsey (Christianson) Fetters has been a revenue manager for Lake State Railway since August 2016. She welcomed a daughter, Jordyn, on May 9, 2020.



Ashton Tay is currently an audiologist at the largest hospital in Louisiana, Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans. She works as a cochlear implant audiologist, helping "restore" patients' hearing when hearing aids no longer provide any benefit or if someone has a sudden profound hearing loss and hearing aids would never help, or if someone is hoping to hear sound for the first time in their life. This year they will be implanting their 1,000th patient, which she is very excited about! In March 2020, she was re-deployed to the ICU to help assist other health care professionals (i.e., nurses, physicians, etc.). During that time she was interviewed by ABC News, because you won't typically find audiologists working in an ICU. Now that things have started to open up, Ashton has started to do more community outreach with her employer. Ochsner Health has a summer program where they select about 20 high school students and give them an inside look at the various healthcare fields. Ashton recently gave a presentation to the students about audiology, and it made her realize that not only does she enjoy being in clinic and helping patients, but she loves to teach others about the field. Reflecting on the SLFP, she says, "I loved our retreat weekends at Bay Cliff! Not only was the scenery absolutely gorgeous but meeting new people and getting out of my comfort zone I think helped give me the confidence that I have today. When I came to NMU I was shy and soft spoken. SLFP pushed me to speak up and voice my opinion or thoughts and helped me become a leader. I know for a fact, being in SLFP helped me become the audiologist I am today."





Courtney (Porter) Knudson works as a community school coordinator through Kent School Services Network. She provides resource coordination and access to mental health services to students and their families. She recently got married to fellow Wildcat Alex Knudson, and enjoys gardening, fly fishing, playing with their dog and mentoring a high school student. In the SLFP, Courtney enjoyed the mentorship and relationship building opportunities with fellow Teal Block members.



Lexi (Wagner) Pulling is working with teenagers and adults as a speech-language pathologist in an outpatient clinic at Spectrum Health Lakeland in southwest Michigan. She is currently leading a team of the SLPs in her local system on improving care of patients with head and neck cancer, and planning to expand the team to other disciplines. She and her husband, Jarod, welcomed their first child, Adam, in spring 2020. He is now 1 year old. Lexi enjoys spending her free time with her husband and son, playing outside and going for hikes. She also enjoys different arts and crafts that are hard to find time to work on. Of her time in the SLFP, she says, "I remember learning how to make paper cranes as part of our classes service project to make 1000 cranes and sell them to raise money for the hospital. I still make them on occasion and remember making many while at NMU that year."



Alex Wolfe just finished his first year as a physical therapist at the Children's Hospital of Colorado, as part of their Sports Team. He just got married to Elisa Eminger, a fellow Wildcat, at the beginning of May. Alex loves getting outside and rock climbing/skiing! He also loves working at the hospital for their heavy involvement in the community, which is part of the job. Remembering the SLFP, Alex says, "Loved having Dave Bonsall as a mentor, working as an leadership programs coordinator, and looking out for my fellow SLFP members with Hannah Kratz (she'll know what that means)."

GOLDBLOCK

Ashley (Korsakas) Foster is working in forensics in Austin, TX, where she lives with her husband, Mike, and their rescue dogs, Calvin and Sadie. She is grateful to the SLFP for the opportunity to complete her Community Service Internship with Big Brothers Big Sisters, which was "such an amazing experience!"

Brendan Franklin started working as the manager of Nursing Services for the Emergency Department at Munson Medical Center in February 2020 (right before the pandemic!). He and his wife, Sara, are expecting a baby boy in November. He also just started his two-year term as president of the NMU Alumni Association Board of Directors. Brendan remembers that "The camaraderie of the SLFP was something very special! The retreats, community service projects, and the leadership class greatly impacted who I am today."

Kacey Lewis left the non-profit world about a year and a half ago to the corporate world of Amazon where she is now an executive assistant to the VP of Global Delivery Services. It's been amazing! She recently got engaged to her partner, Brad, after almost six years of dating. Wedding plans are still TBD! With working from home the past 15+ months or so, Kacey has grown her indoor plant collection to over 50 plants in a one bedroom apartment! It's been a fun hobby. Her book collection may or may not have also doubled while she's been home too. Kacey remembers, "The retreat was always my favorite part of the SLFP. It was a nice break from campus and a great way to bond with each other."

Geneva Martin lives in St. Paul, MN and works for the State of Minnesota as a senior continuous improvement consultant. Her work focuses on process improvement, organizational development, employee engagement, and strategic planning. Starting in March 2020, Geneva has helped lead the COVID response work for her State agency.

Kimberly Randolph started working for NMU Admissions in November 2019, as a regionally-based admissions counselor in Madison, WI. She is now serving as a senior admissions counselor and has relocated to Ypsilanti to recruit new Wildcats in southeast Michigan! Kimberly married her husband, Jeremy, in October 2018. She enjoys volunteering with UPAWS, walking dogs and occasionally fostering as needed. She and her husband have been kayaking, hiking, and camping, enjoying all the U.P. has to offer before moving downstate. On her time in the SLFP, Kimberly says that "I always really enjoyed meeting up with my mentor Stacy Welling and shadowing her work meetings. She was actually one of my biggest cheerleaders while applying to work for NMU Admissions again in 2019. I'm so grateful for her support."



BANANA BLOCK

Hayley Smith currently works managing wetland restoration and monitoring projects. She remembers meeting many genuinely good people during her time in the SLFP.

Charlotte Cialek just got her PhD in biochemistry and molecular biology! She is still applying/interviewing, but hopefully, will land a job in biotechnology soon. She has had a busy year, having helped her college respond to COVID-19 by working in the lab to develop and implement a saliva test for the coronavirus. She then worked around the clock to screen 100s to 1000s of CSU folks every day with the lab test so that they could notify people who were COVID-positive, even if they didn't have symptoms, before they could spread COVID to others. Charlotte fondly remembers swimming in Lake Superior at the SLFP retreat.



EMERALDBLOCK

Kara Jacoboni is currently a client partner for Leader in Me, FranklinCovey's whole-school social emotional learning process. She gets to talk to principals and superintendents everyday about their dream K-12 leadership learning environment and then set them up for success in reaching those goals. Kara married her middle school sweetheart, Casey Henehan, on September 5, 2021 in Marquette. Besides spending way too much time wedding planning, Kara and Casey have passed the time this last year playing cards, reading, binging Netflix and doing house projects – a pretty standard 2020. Kara says, "I am forever grateful for my experience with SLFP. I have no doubt that working with this incredible program had a direct impact on where I am today. It gave me my first experience developing leaders and that's a passion that hasn't left."

Jordyn David has left the biology field to obtain her masters in nursing. She got her dream job as a labor and delivery nurse where she brings life into the world every day! She is also building a side business as a photographer. Jordyn misses all of her friends from the Emerald Block and the awesome fall retreats they had!

Shelby (Guilbault) Anderson welcomed a baby boy, Everett Anderson, in December 2020!



Troy Morris has co-founded a space startup based in Marquette, Kall Morris Inc (KMI), with Fire Block Adam Kall and his younger brother Austin! KMI is focused on orbital debris research and solution development, and they were interviewed for this summer's edition of the NMU alumni magazine. He is engaged to Jenna Allen, with whom he enjoys rock climbing, and are volunteering this summer as belayers for Over The Edge urban rappelling fundraisers, which lower donors down the face of Chicago skyscrapers. It is like a charity fun run, but vertical! He has continued to be an active alpine ski patroller, volunteer medical first responder, and served 3 years on the Board of Directors for his local organization of the National Ski Patrol. During that time, he was also the assistant slope leader for his weekly winter shift and will now serve the local organization as assistant patrol director. Troy remembers his time in the SLFP fondly: "One of the strongest (memories) is sadly one of the last, but a good one! Enjoying and reflecting on all our block achieved at the SLFP graduation. Even recall the closer of my speech, May the road rise to meet you, the wind to your back, the sun shielded from your eyes, as you never forget the Emerald Isle."



Trent Podskalan recently started a job (in May) as an interview logistics coordinator for Capital One. He celebrated his 5-year wedding anniversary with Leann (Herrmann) Podskalan on June 18. Trent has continued his podcast, Trent Speaks, where he shares the stories of others. He also recently gave a 3-hour talk on mental health to student affairs professionals at Purdue Fort Wayne. On his time in the SLFP, Trent says, "I miss the people. The retreat was always a blast and I'm always reminiscing on the friendships I made that have lasted to this day. In fact, a fellow Emerald Block member took family photos for us last year!"



Vince Mottes has accepted a job as the assistant sports medicine director for Orthopaedic Rehab Specialist. He married Kelsey King on December 5, 2020, and they enjoy fishing, paddle boarding, hanging out on the lake, and traveling around Michigan.

ONYXBLOCK

Elizabeth (Owens) Arnquist started teaching at the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind in August 2020. As the school year wrapped up, she was awarded the "Rookie of the Year" award for excellence as a first-year employee. She is happily married to Jacob Arnquist, and enjoys volunteering with SheJumps, an organization which seeks to remove barriers for women and girls to access outdoor sports. During her free time, she is loving the mountain life – skiing, camping, hiking, and paddle boarding!

Cassandra Ross is currently a medical student and enjoys officiating ice hockey in her free time.

Emma Finkbeiner was recently promoted to senior coordinator of Digital Content at the Chicago Cubs. This is her fifth season working for the team. She and Alex Nye, also an NMU alum, got engaged in November of 2020. They are getting married in Marquette in February of 2022.



ICEBLOCK

Matthew Trefilek and Abby (Austin) Trefilek are expecting their first baby in October! Matt is working for Rentable out of Madison, WI, as a software engineer and will be graduating with his Master's in Computer Science from UW Madison in December. Abby is teaching high school science in Rockton, IL and graduated with her Master's in Educational Psychology from UW Madison in May. They have been hiking and exploring the many Wisconsin State Parks. They have also been helping at events at Abby's school, which has been a great way to be involved in the community. They miss attending the SLFP retreats and *Skill Builders!*

Eliza (Groll) Beaulier recently became the operations director at a small company called Rim Guard. She married Austin Beaulier on April 27, 2019. Eliza is in charge of the design and marketing for a beer non-profit in Grand Rapids called The Well. The Well works to serve Christian women in all parts of life.

Janice (Hamachek) Kellner got married in August 2020 after postponing from April. They were married at Camp Rokilio, which is where she and her husband met, started dating, and got engaged. Janice enjoys coaching youth soccer and is Co-Chair of Aquatics for the Boy Scouts of America Bay-Lakes Council.

Jamie (Alberta) Gilbert works as a marketing specialist at Holiday Stationstores/Circle K.

Ben Harris is still working from home, but the office will likely be an option soon! His girlfriend, Maddie, moved in with him last fall. Ben enjoys sailboat racing in the summers. He also runs a large computer club online that he volunteers time and computers for. Ben fondly remembers all the friends he made in the SLFP, and having a blast at the fall retreats.

Lindsey Lieck is going into her second year as a 7th grade teacher in Nashville. This year she'll be co-leading the 7th grade team and coaching track & field. Lindsey says that, "In a time filled with a lot of hopelessness, I keep coming back to the memory of gazing at the stars on the shore of Lake Superior during the SLFP retreat. I remember feeling empowered, hopeful, and grateful. There were so many people (some who are my closest friends and others I haven't talked to in years) with big dreams and the drive to not only chase their dreams but also lift up others as they grow."



FIREBLOCK

Meghan Hohenstein is just starting grad school to become a certified nurse midwife and women's health practitioner! While in school, she is still working as a labor and delivery nurse and serving as a new nurse preceptor and now also a nursing student preceptor as well. Meghan volunteers for the unit she works on and has worked on some educational material on physiologic birth and intentional labor positioning. She has also joined an adult sand volleyball league and has been spending lots of time at her family's cabin. Meghan says, "Missing my fellow Fire Blocks and our fall retreat bonding time! Wishing everyone the best and love seeing everyone's different life updates!"

Abby Person is currently an education instructor at Walt Disney World with Disney's Animals, Science, and Environment. She married Tyler Flores on October 24, 2020. In addition to her career, Abby also hosts a podcast called Conservation Queens with some of her friends, and runs a small art business where she helps create animal-based logos and designs, @crocuscreates. She also loves playing with her cat, Izumi. Abby serves on the board of directors for a pet rescue in central Florida. She remembers that, "I met some of my best friends in SLFP, and am so happy that I met Pterodactyl Paul."



SUPERIOR BLUE BLOCK

Nicholas Beattie currently teaches middle school social studies for Hanson Park Elementary of Chicago Public Schools, after joining in February 2020. It's been a crazy year teaching from his computer, but a fulfilling one knowing what his students are capable of and the impact on the future they're going to bring. Outside of work, he is coaching soccer for 3rd-5th graders, virtually this spring and then an in-person summer program. For leisure, he is keeping busy through running and the occasional trivia night. Nicholas remembers, "I have many fond memories with SLFP, the one I look back on the most is the Leadership Theory & Practice class. Learning of the many types of leaders has helped me immensely working in a school with well over 100 teachers. Although I may be more reserved, it does not make my position as a leader to my students any less different. This has helped not only my skills as a leader but also with my psyche. Being in a large school in a large school district, it can be easy to feel like a non-important member of the group. But the SLFP helped me realize leaders come in all types."

Brooke Quinn is working at the Lake Superior Community Partnership, a local economic development organization, as a business development representative. She works with businesses of all sizes and stages of life and assists them the best way she can. Through her career, Brooke has assisted with startups, talent and workforce needs and trends, along with education, and loves every bit of it! For the UP 200 race, she is the assistant checkpoint coordinator for the Wetmore Checkpoint. The overnight checkpoint is one of her favorite volunteer experiences and winter activities. Brooke recently volunteered for Rock the Locks in Sault Sainte Marie, MI, which was a blast cheering on the runners, joggers, and walkers! On most weekends, she can be found at the farmer's market or walking by Lake Superior. During the school year, she is a mentor for the SLFP. On her time in the program, Brooke says, "One of my favorite memories I can remember from the Student Leader Fellowship Program was the retreat. Finding out who our mentor was going to be and the numerous activities to bond with your block were one of my many memories in the program. Being a part of SLFP has helped me to understand what it means to be a leader and who I am as a leader. It also gave me the opportunity to become more involved in the community through volunteering and more. I am glad that I was given the opportunity to be in the program."



Tristan Ruiz is moving into his 3rd year of medical school at the Medical College of Georgia, doing clinical rotations in hospitals around Georgia. He also works with the Army Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP). Tristan fondly remembers the UN 250 class and its lessons on leadership philosophy, especially servant leadership. Those lessons still stick with him as a medical student helping patients.

Jamie Whiting is currently working as a collection management associate at Live Oak Public Libraries, cataloging and purchasing books for the system and managing interlibrary loans for their 16 branches. She also serves on the grants team and hopes to start her Master's in Library Science very soon. She is engaged to Brandon Warner. Jamie currently volunteers with the Ogeechee Riverkeeper, an environmental non-profit that protects the Ogeechee watershed. She does water and soil sampling and data analysis projects. She has recently gotten into running, completed her first 5k and is training to do a 10k! Remembering her time in the program, Jamie says, "I always loved the retreat, and the welcoming environment SLFP provided me in college. It helped me grow as a person and refine my leadership skills. I've made some of my best friends going through this program!"



STORMBLOCK

Liz Caputo just accepted a job at Steps Academy, which is a private charter school that works with kids using applied behavioral analysis. She is getting married to Jacob Ashley on October 16, 2021! They are currently exploring Ohio; since they moved there during the pandemic, most things were closed. As things open up, they love sightseeing around the greater Cleveland area.

Alexa Olgren is currently working as a tax accountant at Plante Moran in Colorado. With the pandemic, she hasn't been able to volunteer but is looking forward to doing it again soon. She spends a ton of time going on hikes in the mountains, skiing at the best resorts, and enjoying all the outdoors has to offer. Alexa reflects, "I'm super thankful for my CSI. This gave me the confidence to push past any obstacle in life and know that if I'm determined, I can accomplish anything!"

Nicole Moore is finishing her first year of dental school at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, as well as her first year working on her Master's in Public Health. She completed a research project last summer titled, "Laser-treated Dentin Surface Improves SDF Occlusal Retention and Dentinal Penetration". It won the American Association for Dental Research (AADR) Houston's chapter Best Dental Student Presentation award at UTSD Table Clinic in April 2021. She presented this research at the Star of the South and the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) General Session in July 2021. Nicole is also starting the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Academic Dental Career Fellowship Program (ADCFP) this June, where she will be mentored in the academic career path for dentists, completing a classroom lesson plan and small research project. Reflecting on her time in the SLFP, Nicole says, "As I prepare to become a mentor to an incoming D1 student, I think of all the wonderful mentorship I had through the SLFP, and I want to provide that same guidance and friendship as I continue through my career."



Marissa Lindstrom absolutely loves her career working as an interpretive naturalist and environmental educator in Land Between the Lakes, Kentucky! In this position she works with native rescued wildlife, interacts with visitors (showing off native flora and fauna), and spreads messages of conservation and the value of spending time outdoors. Marissa spends most of her free time hiking, kayaking, and visiting local farmer and artesian markets in her new town. Marissa remembers that the, "SLFP took place in such a formative time for me, showing me how leaders take many different forms. I loved the class project we did, partnering with a local farm to put on a seed saving event while advocating for environmental education. This event showed me I can be a leader in my career field and get such a rewarding experience from it while sharing my passion with the community."



Jailin (Kaiser) Peterson is currently working at Aspen Dental and applying to PA school. She married Luke Peterson in 2019. Jailin enjoys playing Dungeons and Dragons, and fondly remembers, "The fun weekend retreats with my great friend Riley Jepkema, and graduating from the SLFP with her!"



SUNBLOCK

Autumn Woosley is a senior project manager at Innovate Marquette SmartZone. She enjoys exercising, and misses the fall retreats from her time in the SLFP.

Amber Manitowabi-Huebner has accepted a new job as a public health specialist at Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council. She spends her free time training for a half marathon, and fondly remembers the Fall Retreats, making new friends, and the bonfires.

Catherine (Boileau) Peterson is getting the opportunity to be a teacher intern for the NASA Gene Lab 4 High School program this summer, and is so excited! She got married to the love of her life Ryan, on June 5, 2021 in Marquette. They had to delay the wedding from 2020 because of COVID, but it ended up being the perfect day and they were so happy to celebrate with everyone! Catherine is involved as a Science Olympiad coach and volunteers with her church. She says, "I remember how fun it was to pick our block name and get our crew neck sweatshirts!"



SPACEBLOCK

Tyler Davis is working at NMU in the Center for Student Enrichment. He is proud of his Community Service Internship with the NMU Food Pantry and of completing the SLFP during the pandemic.

Sydney Flourre is working on finishing her classes at NMU and applying for graduate schools.

Emily Kendall spent a month in Charleston, SC working for Spoleto Festival USA as a box office apprentice after graduating from NMU in May. For the rest of the summer she is back in Marquette working for Double Trouble and Superior Arts Youth Theater!

Jakob Lippert is spending his summer working at the Center for Student Enrichment at NMU, where he helps run the SLFP as a leadership programs coordinator. He is excited to continue his involvement with the SLFP during his last year as a Wildcat!

Heather Peterson is currently working with Walgreens as a senior pharmacy tech and will be heading to graduate school in the fall to study nuclear medicine! She enjoys traveling, most recently to North Dakota, and will also be going to South Dakota and Tennessee this summer! Heather fondly remembers the fall retreats at Bay Cliff Health Camp.



THANK YOU 2020-2021 CONTRIBUTORS

James Anderson & Vicki Wurzburg
Richard Andersons
Dr. Jon & Maggie Barch
Timothy & Dianne Bennett
Erin & Michael Berkowitz
Daniel Blood
James Boileau
Dave & Sandy Bonsall
Gladys & Dewar Bosel
Merry Jo Brandimore
Kelly & Brett Brende
Courtney Brown
David Buick
Lindsey & Tyson Butorac
Esther Deno
Alysa Diebolt
Karen Dubow
Dr. Alexis Eckard
Heidi Ernst
ExxonMobil Foundation
Brendan & Sara Franklin
Barbara & Andrew Gooch
Rachel & John Harris
Amanda Hawkins
Mary Snyder-Henschel & Jeremy Henschel
Henschel Hoof Care LLC
Thomas Humphrey
Kara Jacoboni
Michelle Janisz
Shannon Jedd
Melissa & Daniel Kallio
Jane Kamps
Meredith Keck

Mary Kellermann
Dr. James & Kathleen Keplinger
Mary Kerlin
Gregory & Christina Kleinheinz
Lisa & Paul Kotz
Victoria Leonhardt
Dency Lippert
J'Aimee & David Lippert
Jerome & Jennifer Lombardo
Amanda Lynch
Savannah Mallo
Michaela McLeod
Robert & Carolyn Myers
Edward & Sara Niemi
Cindy Paavola
Karen Saari & Dave Pausch
Mary & Joseph Sargent
Amy Schulz
Shannon & Christian Schuster
Schwab Charitable Fund
Anna & Dan Sharkey
Erin Sikkema & Darryn Adams
Brienne Steele
Ronald & Janet Stump
Jane & Matthew Surrell
Stephanie Taylor
Michelle & Roger Todzy II
Amy Uecke
Ryan Watling
Connie & Faye Williams
Alexander Wolfe
Nicole Weber
Morgan Zoeller