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Alumni & Staff Newsletter

February / March, 2004

Portfolios are due March 1



Personal Professional Portfolio Overview

At the core of the SLTP experience is the integration of learning with personal and professional development. It is possible to view the experience of SLTP as a set of training sessions, skills to learn, lessons to present and experiences to share. As you can see, when we write that perception it seems shallow and incomplete because it is. Purposeful



learning is our goal. Purposeful learning requires connecting and relating your specific learnings and

understanding gleaned through your SLTP experience to life's lessons acquired in the college classroom, in your co-curricular activities, through your service experiences, through your part time job or through other your volunteer work.

A Personal Professional Portfolio is designed to be systematic, intentional, visible and creditable. It should enhance your professional image for job applications, college applications, scholarships and interviews. That however is truly only a byproduct of its primary function.

Creating a Personal Professional Portfolio will involve writing about ALL of your learning experiences as they relate to the important dimensions and skills that professionals possess. As you assemble a collection of your best work, you will naturally and systematically be reflecting on those experiences thereby increasing your learning and understandings.

Your task is to assemble a valuable set of credentials, a paper trail of reference that showcases your talents, accomplishments and personal strengths.

Dimensions and Skills

In creating your Personal Professional Portfolio, you will be documenting your acquisition of knowledge, skills and expertise in six Dimensions and six Skills that are essential to a true professional.

Dimensions

Career Exploration
Intercultural Perspectives
Leadership / Initiative
Responsibility / Citizenship
Values and Ethics
Teamwork and Teambuilding

Skills

Analytical Ability
Cooperative Learning & Collaboration
Interpersonal Skills
Oral communication
Written Communication
Information / Computer Literacy



Nuts and Bolts – Putting it together

1. Buy the book AND a box

Purchase a quality 3 ring binder now, it will serve as a reminder. The box will be for storage of the “stuff”.

2. Divide and conquer

Use tabbed dividers to organize and separate the contents of your portfolio.

3. Use this list as a starting point for ideas of information and items to include in your portfolio:

- Table of contents
- Statement of purpose
- Resume – full

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- References
- Letters of Recommendation
- Transcripts (if required)
- Personal statement (educational philosophy; business philosophy – depending on aims)
- Personal Goals
- Leadership / Management theory
- Samples / evidence
- Photos of relevant experience
- Successes / failures / results

4. Tips

- **Keep it simple.** Don't overload the portfolio with page after page of lengthy text or repetitive photos.
- **Keep it manageable.** That means easy to hold and peruse.
- **Keep it timely.** Keep it current and up to date.
- **Include pictures.** Not too many and not too few – just right.
- **Make copies.** Use copies in your portfolio. For the picture pages, make copies on a color copier. Keep the originals on file.
- **Make it clear.** Use clear plastic inserts to keep your pages neat and clean.
- **Keep it reader friendly.** Use 12 point type for readability.

5. Work your plan

6. Learn from the experience

Are you a Blogger?

Recently the SLTP LT's joined a growing trend among student organizations nationwide. They became *bloggers*. A BLOG is cyber-speak for a

Web Log. Essentially it is a bulletin board where groups may post comments, ideas, thoughts, etc. And for student organizations it provides serious opportunities for brainstorming or thorough discussion which too often is limited due to time constraints.



Part journal, part clipping service, part running commentary on the interests of the members, WebLogs offer some of the best online journalism around. The best sites combine the Web's greatest attributes -- personalization and interactivity.

Since most student leaders utilize email subscription services with limited storage capacity, Blogs provide the means to achieve important discussions and brainstorming sessions without losing valuable storage space.

There are a whole bunch of **free** Web Log Services that offer **free** hosting and formatting tools -- Diaryland (www.diaryland.com ; Pitas (www.pitas.com) and Blogger (www.blogger.com)

A Celebration

Early in January, the staff celebrated the New Year with our annual



Family Feast. We gathered at Nichols bringing our Moms and Dads and lots of wonderful food. There we tried to help our parents and families understand SLTP and why we feel so strongly about what we do. It was a fun filled and very full afternoon. As part of the festivities the new CC's took their office (more on that later). We took

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some time to celebrate some individual achievements – Beth Croteau and Chris Rhie were feted for their spirit of collegiality. Both share a drive to share what they learn with others and both have contributed tremendously to SLTP during the past year.

We presented "*Stop, look and Listen.*" Presenting the play to a room filled with adults was both different and challenging.

Finally, we closed out the program with the entire staff (all 62) circling the room to sing and sign "*The Rose.*"

Scholarship Fund Created



Giving back ...

it's a common theme for SLTP, isn't it? All of the staff are volunteers. SLTP is committed to making a difference. We are a service organization. We are a

not-for-profit educational organization.

That's been our history from the beginning. Since 1990 over 300 selfless men and women have found ways to give and give to build SLTP. SLTP exists to enable students to become difference-makers.

To date "*stop, look and listen*" has earned a substantial amount of money through its presentations at area high schools. The Administrative Board of SLTP has decided to put that money where it can do the most good. It will be used to help some kids to learn and grow.

This sum is to be the Staff Special Resource Fund and each staffer will be eligible to draw scholarships for

deserving applicants. Every staffer will have an opening account of \$100 to be utilized as 4 \$25 scholarships to either LTC or ALC. Obviously these are not retroactive (applications we have already are not eligible – all were Early Birds) and cannot be combined with other scholarships (Baltren or Circle Awards). Applications must be accompanied by a full deposit to be eligible. The Deadline for eligibility for these awards is **March 10**, which is when the applications must be in Marshfield.

We can think of no higher tribute to the actors, authors, and developers of "*stop, look and listen*" than to have the fruits of their labor being transformed into kids attending camp.

"*stop, look and listen*" made a world of difference to our camps last summer, and it made a very large impact on the places it has toured. It's nice to know that it will continue to have an impact this summer too!

These scholarships are available through any of the current SLTP staff.

Investiture of officers



Student organizations like any organization must have traditional ceremonies as part

of the package. Corporations, the military, sports teams, branches of government – every form of organization has some degree of pomp and circumstance integrated into their operation. Yet, with the exception of National Honor Society, Key Club, Vica, Decca and some Student Councils –

The Student Leadership Training Program

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most student organizations are lacking in this traditional element.

Establishing a seriousness of purpose is fundamental to group cohesion and identity, isn't it? Doesn't it then make sense to establish traditions to accentuate and underline that seriousness? Can you imagine the President of the United States taking office with the lackadaisical routine that most students assume their offices?

The DifferenceMaker Showcase

The *DifferenceMaker Showcase* is a very special conference. We believe that service should not be a "have to." Service should be a "get to." Service is leadership in action. This conference is about expanding service opportunities, learning how to stage particular events and exploring the possibilities for service inside and outside of school.

The seminar is held on a Sunday afternoon at Nichols, we will bring together all manner of experts to present workshops and to showcase the opportunities to make differences. This year our focus is community activism and we are bringing all manner of community difference-makers to share their ideas and schemes.

Additionally we will be celebrating the nominees for SLTP's Student Leader of the Year and the biggie – SLTP's Lifetime of Difference Awards!!!!

So mark your calendar now – reserve the date. Bring your friends for a spectacular spring afternoon. It's **Sunday, March 28 and it's only \$10!** And if you submit 10 registrations, you can bring 12 delegates as two will be admitted free.

A registration form for the conference is attached to this newsletter and they are also available on line (www.sltp.info).

The Showcase Packet will be mailed to all of the schools in New England after vacation.

The 2004 SLTP Conference Schedule

at

Nichols College in Dudley, MA

Where leaders learn HOW to make a difference!

Leadership Training Conferences (4)

July 6 - 10; July 13 - 17; July 27 - 31;
Aug 3 - 7

Advanced Leadership Conferences (3)

July 14 - 17; July 28 - 31; Aug 4 - 7

The Leadership Center - - July 7 - 10

Officer Training Seminar - - July 1 - 2

Adviser Certification - - July 28 - 31

The ReEnergizer Conference -

Saturday, November 27

