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student leadership

The Student Leadership Training Program

Leaders walk their talk.

Linkage

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 1 THE SLTP ALUMNI NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER, 2005

From where I sit by Jim Fitzgerald

Welcome back to school, and to the September issue of Linkage.

We are excited to begin a new year of publication, and SLTP's 17th year serving student leaders!

As always, please send along your thoughts and experiences. Remember, we want to help, so reach out if you need us.

*Wishing you the best, wherever you are,
Dr. Jim Fitzgerald
SLTP Founder and Director*

~~~~~

*"Just" is a very damaging word, isn't it? Often it is used in sympathy but in reality, it is quite a put down.*

*"It's just a phase."*

*"It's just something you have to live through."*

*"Just take it easy."*

*"Just try harder."*

*"Just relax."*

*Continued on page 7*

## Coming soon: The ReEnergizer



In just over 75 days, the entire SLTP family, together with all of their friends will be coming together at Nichols College for the annual ReEnergizer Conference.

Last year, the ReE hosted over 600 participants from nine different states and over 90 schools. There were even two students from Viet Nam, and two from Spain! The conference was louder than ever, and it featured workshop tracks for advisers, parents, collegians and student leaders.

Last summer we hosted over 250 students from 131 different schools. It doesn't take a whole lot of math skill to

realize that we should have a really huge crowd at the REE this year. At Nichols we will have access to the entire campus, so our only limitations will be the number of people who can be accommodated at lunch. We are currently planning two lunches so our registration limit is upwards from 700. Due to the size crowd we are expecting, our advice is to register early.

On the Crew Photo CD there are copies of the REE Registration Form. And additional forms can be found on our website—[www.sltp.info](http://www.sltp.info)

The REE is scheduled for **Saturday, November 26** at Nichols College and is sure to be the **loudest, funnest** and **learningest** conference to be held in New England this fall.

The ReE comes at just the right time of the school year. First term is over and done. Most school activity groups

*Continued on page 6*

**2005 Photos**  
In your manual and on the Crew CD you will find an order form for the Camp Photo CD.  
The Photo CD includes both of the slide shows featured in the Closing Ceremonies as well as all of the photos taken by the staff throughout the week – from Dorm Squad through closing circle. This summer the staff took over 6,000 pictures!!!

## 2005 Summer Programs



It was quite a summer. The six weeks beginning with the

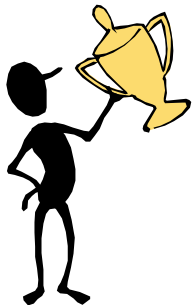
Officer Training Seminar and including Session 1's LTC & TLC, Session 2's LTC & ALC, Session 3's LTC & ALC and Session 4's LTC & ALC were all filled with SLTP's magic. There were well over 250 attendees and every session included every bit of learning and fun than we could cram into the schedule.

Highlights included: the unconditional acceptance; the friendships; the crazy Pirates; the Trust Walk; the Trust run; a Blindfolded meal; blindfolded elevator rides; the Wall Fall; Vaudeville;

Face to Face; Really Rally; Candlelighting; "who's on first?"; the Breakaways; "silence is NOT an option"; the Socials; the Pony; the Hookers; Cheryl our DJ; the ornaments; the video for kids; Achievement Night; the slide shows and the final closing ceremony ...

It was quite a trip to "Build today and tomorrow."

## 2005 Campership Awards ~ Baltren & Inspiration Awards



One of the chief responsibilities leaders share is the recognition of effort and achievement. The primary means the SLTP staff has to carry out that responsibility is through the Peter J. Baltren Awards which are presented each week to the outstanding contributors to the success of the LTC.

This summer there were more deserving candidates than ever, and each week the staff talked into the wee hours of Saturday morning grappling with the choices. The resounding applause from the camp audience to each name each and every week enabled the staff to feel very good about their selections.

Generally to be considered for a Baltren Award, a camper must exhibit the leadership ideals and leadership skills we are teaching. They must possess the attitude and the desire to make a difference, and must be

empowering their Crew to complete their tasks.

The Awards included a certificate and a campership (a partial scholarship) to ALC.

The 2005 Baltren Awards went to:

- ◆ **Week 1** ~ Ashley Vinhateiro, Martha Snow, John Gubernat & Elijah Williams
- ◆ **Week 2** ~ Ethan Palmer, Christina Santana, Chris Testa, & Molly Burman
- ◆ **Week 3** Ali Beretta, Alanna Kelley, Yunna Leschinskiy & Justin Quartararo
- ◆ **Week 4** ~ Danielle Sacks, Jerry Guo, Brittany Perro, & Sarah Bashein

Since 2003 with the establishment of The Leadership Center, SLTP opened up the means to recognize the effort and achievements of ALC campers. So the Inspiration Awards were created to honor the contributors to the success of each ALC.

Once again the criteria for

the award is based on "walking our talk" by putting into action the skills and practices of effective leadership.

The Awards included a certificate and a partial scholarship to TLC (if accepted).

The 2005 Inspiration Award winners were:

- ◆ **Week 2** – Kayla Wilcox and Sarah Groh
- ◆ **Week 3** Erica Pieroni and Ethan Palmer
- ◆ **Week 4** Cathryn Cortesa and John Gubernat

**"MY WHOLE  
CREW DESERVES  
THIS AWARD NOT  
ME"**

## SLTP Student Elections

The annual Alumni Executive Board Elections will take place at the ReEnergizer Conference.

To be eligible for election the candidate must be a student in middle school, high school or in college (undergraduate only) and must be a graduate of OTS, LTC or ALC.

To place your name on the regional ballot, Alumni need to register by email.

Registrations should include:

Alumni Name—  
Conference attended/year (i.e.,

LTC2 / 2003); School; Grade level; Town; address; phone & email address

### **Election Registrations must be received by November 3.**

Candidates will be contacted prior to the conference and will be expected to present a one minute speech at the ReE.

Each of the three established regions Region 1) Massachusetts; Region 2) Rhode Island; and Region 3) Connecticut — will elect three representatives to comprise Alumni Executive Board.

### **Expectations for the Regional Representatives—**

1) to stage a regional differencemaker event prior to June 1, 2005.

2) to develop a means of communication between and among SLTP Member schools in their region to help alumni in their region.

4) to represent their region to the SLTP AB

5) to elect the SLTP Student Executive Officers

## ReEnergizer Conference Activity Fair

At the ReEnergizer Conference there will be dozens of tables representing key groups and activities from all across New England. Our intent is to display the best activities, ideas, and projects so that we can all benefit.

All not-for-profit community service organizations are eligible for a free presentation table.

All member schools and alumni are encouraged to set up a presentation table. (the tables will all be judged by a special committee and camp scholarships will be awarded for

the best ideas and best displays)

There were over 50 groups participating in last year's Fair.

Please help us. Consider setting up a table to display and explain your group's best project.

Is your group interested in a space at the Fair?

If so, please tap to Adam Travis at [activityfair@sltp.info](mailto:activityfair@sltp.info)

**THERE WILL BE  
SPECIAL AWARDS  
FOR THE BEST  
DISPLAYS.**

## On your Conference CD

Check out the CD you received when you turned in your key. On it you will find:

- ALL Crew Photos & the staff photo
- A Staff Application
- Earliest Bird Applications for 2006 SLTP (these include an incredible break on next year's tuition)
- The ReEnergizer Application
- Information about the Leadership in Action Grant Program
- The Grant Application
- The Student Leader of the Year Forms
- Alumni Benefit Information
- The Alumni Election Registration Form
- The Personal Development and Public Service Portfolio guidelines
- Portfolio Submission Forms and Assembly instructions
- Photo CD Order Form

## Mix it up Day ~ November 15

Last fall, more than 200,000 students accepted the challenge to begin bridging social boundaries in their schools. On Mix It Up at Lunch Day 2004, they stepped out of their comfort zones and sat somewhere new, with someone new. 34 of SLTP's member schools participated in this event. A few were unable to schedule their participation on the same day as the National effort, but were able to schedule and stage a "Mix it up" event at their school.

On November 15, Mix It Up at Lunch Day 2005, students like you are going to stir things up in their school cafeterias – again.

Will you accept the challenge?

### How to Mix it Up

At many schools around the country, the cafeteria at lunch-time is a social map of the whole school. It's a map with many, many boundaries.

These boundaries exist for many reasons — habit, friendship, status, fear, prejudice. The simple space of a cafeteria table is, for many of us, a comfort zone where we can be ourselves with those who know us best. The simple fact is that most people sit where "they always sit."

For others, the lunchroom with all its boundaries is a world

with its own pressures — a world of familiar strangers and rigid expectations. And for more than a few – the cafeteria is a site where humiliation and ostracism are the norm.

But, on November 15, students across the country are going to stir things up in their school cafeterias. And you can do it, too. Here are some ideas to help you Mix It Up at Lunch.

### 1. Reach out

All it takes is one person venturing outside the comfort zone to stir things up, but on November 15, 2005, why not have a whole crowd sitting someplace new?

Ask your friends to join in. Pitch the idea to the clubs, sports teams and other groups you belong to. Invite other clubs to participate. Get teachers and administrators on board. Publicize the event.

### 2. Plan

How are you going to "do the day?" Here are 5 ways to mix up lunchroom seating.

- Create a "calendar" out of 12 tables and sit by birth month or by Zodiac signs.
- Number several tables and draw your seat assignment from a

hat.

- Draw colored candies out of a bag and sit with the matching tablecloth.
- Find a table where you don't know more than two people.
- ◆ Give each person a "ticket" that matches the color tag on a chair.

### 3. Act

The day has arrived. It's November 15th, and you're sitting at a new table staring at a bunch of people you don't know. What now? Here are 5 ideas to jump-start the conversation.

- What's the last CD you bought?
- Imagine you rule the world. What's the first law you'd make?
- What's the craziest thing you ever did in public?
- You're signing autographs. What are you famous for?
- ◆ You're the principal. What's the first class you drop -- and what class do you add?

For more information and materials visit: [www.tolerance.org](http://www.tolerance.org)

## Inclusion in Action—Get Help!

Have a great idea about how to challenge social boundaries and bring down the walls that divide your school?

The Teaching Tolerance Organization wants to help, and, to prove it, they will give \$500 grants to support youth-directed programs and projects that address social boundaries in schools or communities. Their guidelines

are simple:

- Youth must serve as decision-makers in the project. Ideally, the project is created and implemented by youth.
- Projects must promote collaboration across social boundaries — different youth groups, clubs or community groups working together.

- The project or program should be a part of an ongoing effort, or an effort that's just getting started, but will continue.

Grants are non-renewable. Be creative. We're definitely open to new ideas!

Apply for a grant! Download and complete the application: [www.tolerance.org](http://www.tolerance.org)

## Ask the doctor (send your questions to: askthedoctor@sltp.info)

Dear Doctor SLTP,

I'm the President of our Student Council. My little sister, a sophomore, was elected to the StuCo last spring. We recently had our end of summer / pre-school get-together for the Council and one of the senior girls was extremely mean to my sister, treating her as an outcast and doing everything to hurt my sister's feelings. I hate seeing her hurt, but I am afraid if I step in I will only make the situation worse. I am at my wit's end as to how to handle this. Frustrated in NY

*Dear Frustrated,*

*It sounds like this senior girl has some issues. I assume you have not seen this behavior directly but have learned of it from your other officers. As President, you have to deal*

*with this—so does your entire officer team.*

*You must treat this situation just as you would if the mistreatment were happening to ANY member of your group. Call her aside. You might begin this way: "Obviously there is something bothering you, and I want you to know that I am here for you if you need me. Do you want to tell me why I'm hearing that you are having a hard time getting along with some of the others in the group?" State what you have heard. Seek her side. Let her explain. Play it tough. She is testing you as much as she is bothering your sister.*

Dear Doctor SLTP,

Our group is considering applying for a Leadership in Action Grant. We'd like to clean up the area

around our school's flagpole and make it the centerpiece it was when our school opened 40 years ago. Wondering in MA

*Dear Wondering,*

*The Crew Photo CD has all the information you will need to get the paperwork started. You will have a lot to organize, but you have until September 30 to submit your proposal.*

Dear Doctor SLTP,

My social studies teacher (US History) insists that leaders are born. He goes further to assert that all leaders are megalomaniacs who desire power and fame above all else. A lot of my classmates agree with him, and when I talked it over with my Dad—he agreed too! Disturbed in CT

## A new opportunity for SLTP Alumni

At the most recent meeting of the Administrative Board (the governing committee for SLTP), a proposal to dramatically expand the outreach of SLTP was heard and acted upon.

This summer the students attending SLTP will be given information about a very new and most exciting opportunity to exercise STUDENT leadership back in their schools and communities.

CASA will sponsor the

Leadership Action Grant Program. In a nutshell, this program is designed to provide funds for a specific project designed by an SLTP graduate.

We all know many ideas for wonderful service projects do not get off the ground because funding cannot be found.

While it will not be possible to fund every idea an SLTP graduate has (at least not yet), we hope to be able to fund several pro-

jects this coming Fall..

Details about the program and the grant application process are available on line.

All of the information about the grant program was included in the Crew Photo CD and in the Parent Orientation Packets last summer.

## Leadership Action Grant Program ~ Deadline September 30

The CASA Leadership Action Grant Program has been established to further empower students who graduate from the Student Leadership Training Program by providing the means to engage them as a resource to bring positive community change by supporting their initiative.

Any student who has completed LTC, ALC or TLC and any adviser who has completed our Adviser Certification Conference is eligible to apply for a grant to fund an action plan of their design.

Proposals should be submitted on the forms provided and must

be submitted by September 30. The CASA Administrative Board will select proposals based on the feasibility and community impact. CASA will offer support, advice and various levels of funding to help implement the action plan.

### Grant Requirements

- Must be initiated by a graduate of SLTP (LTC, ALC, TLC or Adviser Certification Conference)
- Must be planned and carried out by school aged youth

- Must improve or benefit the community
- Must have at least one adult supervisor
- Must submit complete grant application by deadline
- Must interview with the Grant Committee
- Must make available a presentation to the SLTP community to discuss the successes and failures

Visit our Website for more information and applications:

[www.sltp.info](http://www.sltp.info)

## The ReEnergizer continued from page 1

have “normed,” and the biggest time of the year is just ahead.

Traditionally the busiest term of the year for school activities is second term and the ReE provides the necessary “booster shot” of motivation and positive energy to keep yourself and your organization on the right track.

Register early. Bring lots of friends – bring your whole student council and even the “cookie cupcake club. Bring your principal and bring your adviser—there will be a special session for them. Get your parents to drive—we even will have a program for them! You should also bring lots of enthusiasm and bring ideas to share and questions to be answered.

The program will begin early (by 9:00). Don’t miss a minute.

It is vital to note your email address on the Registration Form — we will contact delegates via email regarding conference news and updates. **No one will be admitted who has not pre-registered.**

Formal registration will take place in the Gym Lobby at Nichols.

The conference will run from 9—3 on Saturday, November 26.

**When**  
**November 26**  
**9:00 to 3:00**

**Where**  
**Nichols College**

**Tuition**  
**\$15**

## The 2006 SLTP Conference Schedule

Where leaders learn HOW  
to make a difference!

- **The Core Adviser Seminar**  
October 17
- **The ReEnergizer Conference**  
November 25
- **Spring Leadership Forum**  
April 1
- **Officer Training Seminar**  
July 6 - 7
- **Leadership Training Conferences (4)**  
July 11 - 15; July 18 - 22;  
Aug 1 - 5; Aug 8 - 12

- **Advanced Leadership Conferences (4)**  
July 12 - 15; July 19 - 22;  
Aug 2 - 5; Aug 9 - 12
- **Leadership in Athletics**  
July 27 - 28
- **Adviser Certification**  
July 27 - 28
- **The Leadership Center**  
July 12 - 15

We’re on the Web!

[www.sltp.info](http://www.sltp.info)

Information for  
Parents, Teachers,  
Students,  
Administrators  
Applications \*  
Photos

## Ask the Doctor continued from page 4

Dear Disturbed,

*There is a bumper sticker that asserts: "Education is a terrible thing to waste." I am afraid it was wasted on your social studies teacher. The study of history allows for ample examples of both power and leadership. He should know better.*

*For most people, power and leadership are often confused. It is a difficult concept that we have explored many times in this newsletter and one of the subjects for discourse during The Leadership Center.*

*As to the concept of "born leaders," there are always those people who feel entitled to lead, who believe it*

*is their birthright. And there is a great deal of confusion between the traits of an extrovert and actual leadership skills.*

*Being an extrovert will only get you so far. Learning leadership skills takes you all the way.*

*Now as to your father—try this. Ask him the difference between being a leader and being a boss. Ask him about the worst bosses he has had in his life. Ask him how many of them felt entitled to lead. He will come around.*

Dear Doctor SLTP,

My adviser does not want to go to the ReE. He does not want to

give up a Saturday. Does this mean we cannot attend?  
Flustered in RI

Dear Flustered,

*The best situation for any student leader is to share the ReE experience with their adviser. It is not a requirement, however. The ReE, like LTC and ALC is a personal development opportunity. It is for you. If your adviser attends then it will be for her too (there is a separate Adviser track of workshops)*

## From Where I Sit continued from page 1

***As leaders we realize the real power and limitations of words. Words can hurt. Words can heal. Words can unite. Words can separate. We need look no further than our political leaders to see all four of the above.***

***One word we use a lot in SLTP is "Inclusion." Simply, we feel it is the primary function of student leadership.***

***Every school everywhere has a mission statement***

***that alludes or infers that the school is inclusive. Yet, that is rarely the case.***

***Student based leadership is the only way to overcome the systematic division.***

***Involved students do better academically. Involved students have better attendance. The more involved students are in the school community, the safer the school is. Those facts are clear.***

***What is also clear is***

***that most schools have less than 30% of their student body involved in student activities.***

***Active, aggressive student leaders are key to including and involving the student body.***

***At the ReE, we plan to explore the dynamics of inclusion as well as building an atmosphere within each organization to motivate its membership to become active.***

***Join us!***

## 2006 Earliest Bird Applications

If you already know you want to return to SLTP next summer. Take advantage of the "earliest bird" applications which are on your Conference CD.

The earliest bird applications allow us to make our plans and preparations with some money in the bank. This enables us to offer a substantial reduction in the tuition.

The deposit to hold the space in only 105 dollars and the tuition reduction is intended as a benefit for your attendance this summer.

You may extend the earliest bird offer to your close friends and members of your family.

But don't wait—the deadline for the Earliest Bird applications is October 30!

## The Jester and Pharley Phund



The Jester has lost his jungle is among our favorite stories. Reading it at camp after the difference makers is one of the highlights for every CC and Director.

The Saltzman family has created an opportunity for you to bring your favorite book to kids in the hospital suffering with cancer.

It is called "the Reading To Give" Program. It is a read-a-thon to raise funds to bring copies of the Jester to those kids in the hospital.

The mission of the organization is as follows: To provide educational experiences that give every child a sense of hope, a feeling of self empowerment, a love of learning, the joy of laughter and a desire to live up to Pharley's motto: It is up to us to make a difference. It is up to us to care.

We recommend and endorse this worthy cause.

Visit: [www.thejester.org](http://www.thejester.org)

If you decide to sponsor a read-a-thon, please keep us posted. At this point quite a few SLTP Alumni are sponsoring drives, and we want to publicize everyone's efforts. Keep us posted on your results.

## A Gift from a friend



SLTP recently received the gift of a test prep course from Kaplan. The course can be any one of the excellent prep courses that Kaplan offers from their SAT prep course to any of the courses

they offer for graduate school test preparation.

This was and is an enormous gift as these courses cost hundreds of dollars.

All of the attendees of last summers programs received an opportunity to get a shot at the course. The final opportunity will be at the ReEnergizer Conference. During lunch tickets will be available for the special drawing. The tickets are \$10.

Add one more item to the list of benefits for SLTP Alumni!

## Principal and Adviser Program at the ReE

There will be a special presentation for advisers and principals at the ReEnergizer Conference. Our own Dr. Jim Fitzgerald will present "Helping teens to help teens who are hurting."

Today's student leaders face very real challenges and need real support systems to be able to "take back their schools." Jim will share what he has learned traveling around the country from suc-

cessful practitioners of student based activity programs.

The aim of the special workshops for advisers and principals is simple. We hope to inform and encourage every principal and adviser to maximize the development of their student leadership.

We will also provide them a "peek behind the curtain," which will enable them to better

understand the environment we create at SLTP and how they might be best able to empower their student leaders.

Please encourage your principal and adviser to attend. We think you will be glad that they did.