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**The Student Leader of the Year Awards see page 2**

# *student leadership*

## The Student Leadership Training Program

**Leaders walk their talk.**

# Linkage

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 8    THE SLTP ALUMNI NEWSLETTER    APRIL, 2006

## It rocked! By Helen Fitzgerald, CASA Executive Director

The InterLead rocked. Jim called the conference one of the "milestone moments" for SLTP. How big was it, well he went on to say that the conference was an absolutely turning point for our program. We had over 200 students, parents, administrators and their teachers who were joined by legislators from MA, CT and RI. We experienced "the Yellow Dress" and that experience gave us a level of awareness from where we could all enter into discussions about solutions. We broke into small groups called forums (Jim is a former history teacher can you tell?). In those forums, we each struggled with answers to the problem of violence against women in our schools. We looked for REAL solutions -- for today and for tomorrow. We began with what should each of us DO and SAY when we see instances of abuse. All of the forums created a consensus of their best solutions and reported to the general assembly. The SLTP Administrative Board is going to compile these into a "white paper" to distribute to our member schools. And will be available through a link from our website upon its comple-

tion.

We had 8 legislators and a candidate fro Lieutenant Governor attend and participate in the program. Their attendance made a big difference. We are very proud of what we did. We know we did not solve the problem, but we all feel better having worked on it. I cannot wait to see the "white paper."

It's is not possible to say enough about "the Yellow Dress" either. The presentation is riveting. The content is eye opening, the acting is amazing. But make no mistake it is NOT about the drama. The real substance of the play is in the processing of the play, one of our CC's, Ashley Robshaw, joined the team from Denna's Fund (the group that owns the production) to process the play. As usual with an SLTP crowd, the debriefing went pretty deep.

And that is when the fun began, Jim split us into 11 small random groups, with most groups getting one of the community leaders. And we experienced our first forum. A forum is an open yet pointed discussion, it's purpose it to find

*Continued on page 6*

## Newsletter Submissions

SLTP welcomes contributions to our newsletters from our alumni and friends.

Articles should be no longer than 200 words. Each article submitted for publication must address a topic of interest to student leadership. The article must include a bio of the author - name; address; email address, phone; school; year in school; & SLTP graduation year.

Opinions must be clearly identifies as those of the author.

We reserve the right to edit for length, clarity and style. We also reserve the right not to publish articles which do not meet the criteria established in our guidelines.

For additional information, please refer to the guidelines posted on sltp.info

## The Student Leaders of the Year—2006

Each year we endeavor to celebrate and honor the achievements and involvement of SLTP graduates through the prestigious Student Leader of the Year Awards.

The accomplishments and involvement level of the graduates of SLTP is well known across the country. SLTP Alumni continue to make their mark in their high schools, in their communities and especially at the colleges they choose to attend. This year we had 14 finalists for the award. Each of the fourteen clearly demonstrates the effectiveness of student leadership and the evidence of that effect was plain to see in their accompanying resumes and testimonial letters.

All were feted at the Inter-Lead Conference in front of their parents, teachers and peers. All received SLTP scholarships and camperships for deserving students back at their school.

Here are the finalists:

Sarah Bashein—Sharon HS, junior

Becky Damon—Rockland HS, junior

Liz Duclos—Attleboro HS, senior

Jared Katz—St John's Prep, senior

Bridget McDonough—Braintree HS, senior

Greg Mills—Masconomet HS, senior

Lauren Nutter—Uxbridge HS, senior

ior

Ethan Palmer—New Milford HS, senior

Brittany Perro—Northbridge HS, junior

Justin Quartararo—Walt Whitman HS, senior

Christina Santana—Doherty HS, junior

Christina Wieggers—New Milford HS, Senior

Kayla Wilcox—Cumberland HS, senior

Doug Williams—Belchertown HS, senior

### The 2006 Student Leader of the Year

The 2006 SLTP Student Leader of the Year is **Lauren Nutter**.

Lauren attended LTC in 2003, ALC in 2004 and TLC in 2005. She is heavily involved at Uxbridge High School and has participated in virtually every leadership program that has become available to her. Like her fellow finalists, Lauren's resume and academic record are exemplary.

She has striven to learn all

she can about how to make a difference. For the past two years, Lauren has served as a Leadership Trainer with SLTP and was recently elected to the Alumni Board.

According to Lauren "among the most valuable lessons I learned at SLTP has been learning the relationship of cooperation to collaboration. It helps me to know when to step back and when to step forward. Leading from the

middle is a difficult concept to grasp."

Lauren received her award from two past recipients of the Student Leader of the Year Award—Meg Dobro and Alyssa Currier.

### In your mailbox soon

The third and final Mailing of SLTP's entire Application Packets will arrive at your school in the next two weeks -- please direct this packet to the students and advisers who are interested in learning how to make a difference.

Applications for all of our summer conferences are rolling in at this point. We are expecting our highest enrollment to date. (Check

the article on page 3 for the available openings as of the publication of this newsletter.) One very important note—because of staffing limitations this year, we may have to restrict the size of some of the sessions -- so if a particular session is the only one you can attend -- register soon. Applications are readily available on line as pdf files.

Do not be left out.

One deadline is fast approaching -- and that is the deadline for TLC (the Leadership Center, which is our most advanced leadership seminar) -- the deadline to apply for TLC is APRIL 25 or as soon as it is full -- we only had 3 spaces available at press time.

## This Summer—what’s available?

Registrations for all our summer conferences are underway in earnest! There are just over 15 weeks to go before our summer conferences kick off. All of the applications are available on line as pdf files at [www.sltp.info](http://www.sltp.info)

### OTS

There is one session which is open to all forms of officer teams – from full cabinets to co-captains – from clubs to classes to student government. (The team requirement is that there must be at least a pair of officers)

July 6-7

### LTC

There are four sessions. Although there are just over 100 slots available at this point.

July 11-15;  
July 18-22;  
August 1-5  
and Aug 8-12

### ALC

There are four sessions and approximately 30 slots available.

July 12-15;  
July 19-22;  
August 2-5;  
and Aug 9-12

### TLC

There is only one session and there are 3 slots left.

July 12-15

### Adviser Certification

There is only one session which is open to all teachers, coaches and collegians and there are 10 slots left.

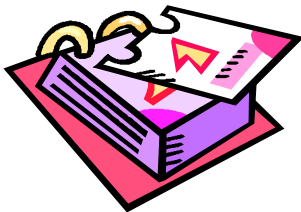
July 27-28

### Leadership in Athletics

There is only one session which is open to secondary and collegiate athletes and their coaches and there are 24 slots left.

July 27-28

## National Teacher’s Day



Mark your calendar. The date is May 9. Celebrate the day by making a difference. Celebrate the day by sharing an affirmation. On each and every one of our personal thankful lists teachers names can be found.

Reach out to one or two of them. Send them a real thank you note. Be specific. Make their day. When you do, you know that you will also be making the day for all of the students they reach.

## Staff Appreciation Day

For staff appreciation day, for new teachers, or substitutes the survival kit can be filled with a variety of little gifts or classroom necessities.

Start with a plain white lunch sized bag or a small plain white gift box. Incorporating the school logo, design labels to apply to the top and front of the box. Line with tissue paper. Attach a hand written card indicating the use of the items inside the box. Fill the box with the items (see below). Be sure to hand deliver personally to each recipient.

For the new teacher: the box might contain, among other things,

- a package of Life Savers,
- a red pen,
- school plan and map,

- a history of the school,
- 

- a logo button to wear, and an engraved name tag for back to school nights.

For staff appreciation: Among other things

- Big Hunk Candy bars - We'd be missing a big hunk without you
- Hersey's Kiss & Hugs - Hugs and Kisses from the students
- Band aids - prevent infections from some of us cut ups
- Alka Seltzer - for those rare moments when the Zoo goes wild
- Pencils - to rewrite the history

school

- 
- 
- box of raisins - Thanks for your help in Raisin school spirit
- ruler - with us excellence is the rule.
- Post-it note pad - Thanks for helping us stick to our goals.
- Baseball cards - with us you're in the major leagues.

### Activity idea

## National Day of Silence

The Day of Silence, a project of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) in collaboration with the United States Student Association (USSA), is a student-led day of action where those who support making anti-LGBT bias unacceptable in schools take a day-long vow of silence to recognize and protest the discrimination and harassment -- in effect, the silenc-

ing -- experienced by LGBT students and their allies.

The Day of Silence is scheduled to take place on **April 26, 2006**.

The Day of Silence is an awesome opportunity to create more inclusive school environments and make some noise by being visibly silent. The Day of Silence has been taking place annually since 1996 and this

year tens of thousands of students are expected to participate. Last year many of the SLTP member high schools and colleges participated. And already 18 of our member schools have tapped to indicate they are participating this year.

For more information about the Day of Silence visit:

<http://www.dayofsilence.org/>

## A New Feature

On the next two pages, you will find a new monthly component of our Alumni Newsletters. The Alumni Bulletin Board.

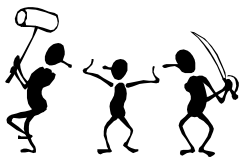
Each month we will publish Alumni submissions, grouping them as much as possible.

For these pages we ask that you limit your submission to 25 –40 words.

The “regular features” of the Bulletin Board will be:

Get Organized; Lamest Excuses; Dumbest rules; Best Fundraiser; Best Activity; Best website, the HELP LINE; Camp Rememberies; Best Community Service Project; Warnings; plus whatever is submitted.

Send your submissions to: [newsletters@sltp.info](mailto:newsletters@sltp.info) Include Bulletin Board in the title



## Spring—tis the season for conflict

In any group conflict is inevitable because different people have different viewpoints. A conflict can be defined as a situation where the concerns or interests of two or more persons appear incompatible. Group members may see the needs of the organization differently because of their different ages, values, situations, jobs, or prior experiences. In most organizations conflicts arise over questions such as:

What should we be doing?

How should we be doing it?  
Who should do it?  
Should it be done at all?  
Why can't we do it MY way?  
Who says?

Since conflict is natural AND inevitable, the goal of the group should not be to eliminate conflict, any more than it should be to eliminate mistakes. Both conflict and mistakes go hand in hand with growth! At the same time though, it is not a good idea to ignore conflict any more than it is to ignore a mistake.

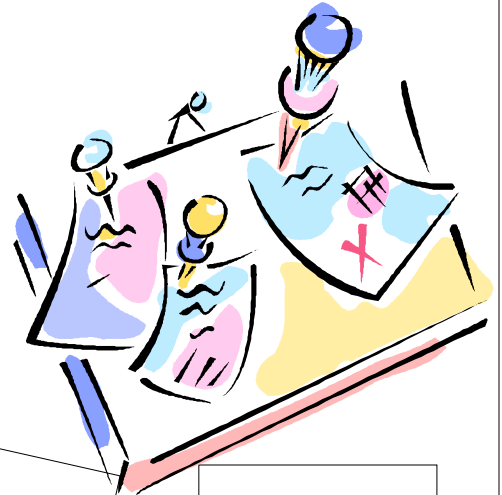
When conflict is ignored, or approached on a win/lose basis, communication breaks down, animosities develop and the ability of the group to function is destroyed or at least impaired.

Conflicts need to be resolved constructively. When conflict arises and is dealt with openly, group members are stimulated to employ creativity as alternatives are considered and commitment continues because collaboration allows positive relationships to develop.

## Alumni Voices Bulletin Board

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call this person, write this paper and post them on your computer or up in front of your desk area, a wall works for a place to put them. When you complete one you get to take it off, ball it up and throw it in the trash- very satisfying.



**POST IT NOTES**  
**Get Organized**  
 Make individual post-its for things that you have to do, i.e. mail this letter,

**Not so fast—NO POST IT NOTES!**  
 Keep a pad by the computer instead of sticky notes. That way, when you answer e-mails or find stuff you want to remember, you can make a list or a series of lists instead of having a lot of notes covering your walls. (I switched and I feel like it's more manageable- one paper instead of 30 different colored reminders.)  
 Submitted by Olicvia Harris

**MORE POST IT NOTES:**  
 One thing I've started doing that's helped me become more organized is sticking post-it notes everywhere. Each time a thought pops into my head or I remember something I need to do later, I jot it down and stick it to my planner or locker door. It's helped me keep my thoughts organized and reminds me of what's on my "get to" list.  
 Submitted by Eliza Stopa

**GET A SMALL WHITEBOARD TO GO ABOVE YOUR DESK AND WRITE YOUR GET TO LIST THERE, SO YOU CAN ERASE AS YOU COMPLETE THINGS AND ADD AS NEW THINGS COME UP.**

**EVEN MORE ABOUT POST IT NOTES**  
 Use Post its. Write what you need to do or get to do on the post it and put it somewhere that you'll see it a lot. For example put it on the bathroom mirror, so you see it when you're brushing your teeth. Don't take it down until it gets done and you'll have a constant reminder. Submitted by Kara LeBeau

## The Help Line—official requests for help from fellow alumni

**Request # 1. RUNNING FOR SLTP**  
 I officially have a number for the marathon this year, which means I can run for a charity. I was hoping I could work it out so that I could run for SLTP. I have no idea what I need to do for that, except ask people to give me money. If anyone

would like to contribute to SLTP by sponsoring me to run the Boston Marathon this year, I promise to run my face off! I could die at this race- do you really want the last thing you said to me to be "no?!" Contact: meg@sltp.info  
 Submitted by Meg Dobro  
**Request # 2 MR HIGH SCHOOL CONTEST**  
 About six years ago, we had a Mr.

High School contest. It was similar to a beauty pageant, but much more humorous. We would like to bring it back this year. However, we're struggling with how to get it going. Has anyone done anything like this recently that has some good ideas? They would be most helpful.  
 Contact: laurenharris@sltp.info  
 Submitted by Lauren Harris

bb 2

The Alumni Bulletin Board



I hated that we weren't supposed to eat anywhere but the cafeteria. School started at 7:25 am, and sometimes we wouldn't eat lunch until 12:21. That was a long time to wait for food! I was always so hungry, and the teachers would eat at their desk between classes, but we weren't supposed to!

Some of our bathrooms are locked to prevent smoking. To get into the unlocked bathroom, you must sign in before entering. Also,

there may only be one person in there at a time. No going in groups!

In my school, for P.E. classes, if you miss a day, you are forced to make up the class by spending 30 minutes in the weight room working out if you wish to receive the points for the day. You do not receive credit if you spend 2 hours working out with a sport that meets after school and prevents you from attending the makeup session.  
Submitted by Meg Dobro, Lauren Harris & Ethan Palmer

The lame excuses files

"I didn't hear the morning announcement saying that the activity was meeting today (implying that the person somehow didn't hear the announcement, see it on the TVs that scroll the announcements, see it on the school website, or hear from someone who knew about it)."

The lamest excuse I have ever heard for not being involved in something is "It's too late." It is never too late to get involved - and better late than never! :)

The lamest excuse for not being involved I have ever (and often) heard is, "I'm too busy." Yes, you need to take care of yourself and schedule in time for yourself to relax and reflect, but everytime I

add an activity or class I find more time to do it. It's easy to say no because you don't want to find more time, but if you truly care about something time seems to be everywhere. Make your lunch a working lunch like we do at camp. Plan mentally while driving somewhere. It's surprising how much time we really do have.



Someone said he couldn't go to events because he was always busy, but that's what he said to all the groups. He was so busy belonging to everything that he was unavailable to participate in activities!  
( a real quote) "I'm a senior, i won't be here next year

when this really gets off the ground."  
Submitted by Ethan Palmer, Bridget McDonough, Laura Murphy, Lauren Harris & Olivia Harris



A film festival! This activity is great because it allows so many students to get involved in a project and learn to work together. Students are able to display their creativity by making their own movies and recruit other students to be actors or actresses in them. They write their own scripts, borrow each other's equipment, and ask for editing advice. This year we event decorated our auditorium with a pretend red carpet and had appetizers carried around on trays to create a total movie-event atmosphere! It's an excellent way to promote school spirit and make some money! Submitted by Eliza Stopa

## National Bullying Awareness Week—April 16-22

Seven years ago, on April 20th, 1999, our nation's worst school shooting took place at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. Thirteen students and a teacher were killed, and 23 other students were wounded. The two young attackers, who had been bullied by their schoolmates, also died.

We must learn from this tragedy. We must join the organizations, school districts, teachers, and parents who have already

spoken out against bullying.

We must do our best to make people understand the harm it can cause. In addition, we must show younger students, through actions as well as words, that their emotional and physical well-being is important to us.

SLTP's fight against bullying in school must not, of course, be limited to one week a year. However, in remembrance of the Columbine shootings, and as a

symbol of our year-round struggle against bullying, we invite you to do something and to join the national effort to raise awareness.

For most schools in New England, this national week coincides with the April vacation—so plan events before or after the week.

For more information visit:  
<http://www.bullypolice.org>

## The InterLead continued from page 1

the best answers to questions that a group can extract from its talent and experience—and then to report those answers to a decision making body.

All of the group reports were gathered and will find their way into a cumulative report that will answer:

- ◆ what should we Do and SAY as individuals and as leaders about the problem of violence against women?

The responses went from the general to the specific — as in what to say and do when you

SEE abuse. only weeks away now.

Following the forums we had a PICNIC — Spring Conferences are the best! After the picnic we had 9 workshops to choose from, which varied from specific community service needs like the walk for Hunger to a session that explained the types of service that exist.

InterLead - short for Inter-State Student Leadership Forum - Our goal was to attempt to be a forum for the expression of student ideas and opinions on

the real issues. And in joining the student voices with the voices of community leadership, we hoped to create a real spirit of activism. It worked!

This was a conference that made a statement. It raised awareness as to the seriousness of today's student leaders. It also raised awareness of the quality of today's political leaders.

We closed out the InterLead in our traditional closing for the Spring Conference honoring the Student Leaders of the Year and the Lifetime Differencemaker.

## SLTP Brochures to check out

Currently we have the following brochures posted on line:

- <http://staff.sltip.info/brochures/athleticsflyer.pdf>
- <http://staff.sltip.info/brochures/otsflyer.pdf>
- <http://staff.sltip.info/brochures/LTCflyer.pdf>
- <http://staff.sltip.info/brochures/ALCflyer.pdf>
- <http://staff.sltip.info/brochures/Adviserflyer.pdf>
- <http://staff.sltip.info/brochures/interleadflyer.pdf>
- <http://staff.sltip.info/brochures/Generalflyer.pdf>
- <http://staff.sltip.info/brochures/whysltip.pdf>

## Alumni Voices—taking a stand

### This month's question: Should schools make activities mandatory?

#### **NO** by Laura Murphy, SLTP Alumni Board

Every time I hear the word require, I personally become a little fearful.

So often at camp we talk about our get to's rather than have to's. As far as student activities are concerned I'm on the fence. It sounds great to have students

involved in activities.

My questions are:

- ◆ How many activities are there out there?
- ◆ Do outside activities count?
- ◆ How easy is it for students to start their own clubs?

I think activities serve as a great way for students to find a purpose and a sense of be-

longing, but many schools lack a wide variety of activities. A student can not go to an activity and be fulfilled as an individual without a willingness to do so.

#### **NO** by Lauren Harris, Holbrook HS

Becoming involved is probably the single most significant way of fulfilling your need of belonging. Students who find an activity within their school become more fulfilled, purposeful, and ownerful. It seems this feeling would be destroyed if the activity was

forced.

Isn't part of the fulfillment the idea that it is one's own choice? They are the ones who pick their interest.

When the administration is pushing activities to the same level as course offerings; you may be able to pick the activity, but you must pick at

least one—will the one you pick when it is required have as much personal meaning and satisfaction as the one you would pick on your own?

#### **Yes** by Kara LeBeau, UConn

I think it is a good idea to make mandatory activities, but it also depends on each student. Many students are not involved at school, but are involved in outside activities such as sports,

community service etc.

It should only be allowed if those kinds of activities could be counted also. I think the reason it would be good is not only would it help for colleges and resumes and

stuff but I think the students would have more fun and it would be a way to meet and get to know people.

#### **No** by Ethan Palmer, New Milford HS

I do not believe that public, private and charter schools should require their students to belong to activities. At this age, students cannot be baby-stepped into being active in their school, but must

do it on their own. Those who will contribute significantly to an organization will join one anyway, whereas those who will not would probably only distract the group if they were forced to join one. Those who

are forced to join an activity will not "own" the activity and thus will not care about it wholeheartedly.

## Walk for Hunger by Mina Makarious, Harvard

Imagine that you could make a dramatic statement about your generation's willingness to make a difference by simply taking a walk. Imagine if going on a very fun walk on a morning in May through some of the most scenic parts of Boston could help thousands of Bay State residents throughout the year. With the Walk for Hunger you have precisely this opportunity. For the 37th Project Bread's Walk for Hunger will be held on May 7th to raise money for the over 400 foodbanks and soup kitchens with which the organization works.

The Walk, which starts and ends on Boston Common involves over 30,000 annually and spans 20 miles. You can even

sign up as a volunteer to marshal at any of the checkpoints.

You can walk one mile or all 20. Throughout you will enjoy music, food, and the support of the thousands of Walk for Hunger Volunteers all over the course.

Additionally, through the pledges for donations that you get, you will be helping to address the problems of hunger and malnourishment facing 449,000 Massachusetts residents.

Collect the pledges either by mile or for the whole Walk. To make the walk even more enjoyable think of bringing your whole student council, sports team, or community group.

Since the walk's inception

in 1969 Project Bread has raised 59 million dollars for 400 local food banks and shelters.

Of course, Project Bread doesn't sit still during the rest of the year. Project Bread constantly collects food to distribute to food banks and shelters, operates an emergency food hotline, works with individual families to end hunger issues, and even lobbies for hunger issues in Massachusetts.

Visit the website:

<http://www.projectbread.org>

Or contact them directly at:

Project Bread - The Walk for Hunger  
 145 Border Street, East Boston, MA 02128-1903  
 Tel 617-723-5000 • Fax 617-248-8877

## Ubuntu—the InterLead Program & Action Guide booklet

Copies of "Ubuntu" the program/newsletter are available on line.

The pages of Ubuntu provide a road map to follow to engage your school and community in a collaborative response to the violence against women in our schools.

Among the articles are: "warning signs," "teacher awareness," "student awareness," "community support," "what to do," and "where to begin."

It is a pdf file located at:

<http://www.sltp.info/newsletters/Ubuntu1.pdf>

## The 2006 SLTP Conference Schedule

Where leaders learn HOW to make a difference!

- **InterLead—the Inter-State Student Leadership Forum**  
April 2
- **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

- ♦ **The ReEnergizer**

November 25, 2006

We're on the Web!

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

**Information for Parents, Teachers, Students,**

**Administrators**

**Applications \***

**Photos**

## From where I sit by Jim Fitzgerald



Why should anyone attend SLTP? What makes us so special? Why should attending SLTP be on every kid's to-do list? Why do kids and adults thrive in our environment? Take a

look at the following quotes:

**The best way to get praise is to die.**

-Italian Proverb

**The only way to get praise is to die.**

- Ben Franklin

**It is easier to praise people when they are dead.**

- Woody Allen

**Praise is spread like a carpet on graves.**

- Abe Lincoln

Praise seems to happen when it is too late to enjoy it! The common practice at SLTP, "catching people doing things right"

is **revolutionary**. I was looking for quotes on praise (part of my preparation for Tranquillity introductions) and I came across these. Anyway, the quotes above were prominently featured in four of the sources under the topic PRAISE as were a whole bunch of others which followed that train of thought

It's no wonder kids and adults thrive in our atmosphere. At SLTP praise is freely given with no strings attached, it is almost surreal in comparison.

One of my friends who is a college recruiter asked me rhetorically, "why are kids so negative today?" I replied, *it certainly does make the positive ones stand out, doesn't it?* He said, "it sure does, and those kids jump to the top of my list, but the problem is they are at the top of everyone else's list too."

In the past few weeks I have been reminded over and over again by my collegiate friends how important *Personal Development* is to anyone's aspirations for scholarship money and admission to college. As I always do at this time of year, I reach out to everyone I know who is in the business of either accepting students to college or advising them how to get there. In a very short time I will be speaking to the parents of this summer's SLTP campers and even sooner to the parents of HOBY and MassSTAR delegates. Those parents are at a loss about the whole college admission "thing." It is different from years ago when the parents were applying and while the parents want as much information as they can get, they don't have a lot of access. Generally the guidance people at school are too busy or have very little information. So I make it my goal to know what I am talking about -- at least in the

*Continued on page 12*

## SLTP Staffers of the Year by Helen Fitzgerald, CASA Executive Director

Once a year SLTP's entire staff attends a weekend-long conference to begin to prepare for camp and become a more cohesive staff. Our staff conference is every bit as intense as you might imagine—only more so. It is three days of serious learning, planning and fun. With 60 of us contained in one small camp building you can imagine how loud and crazy it gets.

One of the best traditions of our program is always finding ways to recognize and celebrate those who make differences. The highlight of this tradition is the annual announcement of the SLTP Staffer of the Year Award. The CC's and Jim slave over this award, it measures a year in the life of our program from march to March.

We are blessed to work with such extraordinary people, everyone of them a volunteer, everyone of them makes huge sacrifices of time, money, energy and passion. Every one makes a positive significant difference.

This year, they added a little twist—there were two! Honored with the Award were Alyssa Currier and Ashley Robshaw.

Alyssa Currier, a Leadership Instructor (LI) who's been on SLTP's staff for 9 years. In addition to serving as an LI, Alyssa is the Director for Connections, our theatrical troupe.

Ashley Robshaw, a Conference Coordinator, was a surprise selection—surprise to Ashley anyway, as the CC's and Jim conspired to present her with the award as well. Ashley has served on staff since 2002.

This celebration came towards the end of the conference, after both had demonstrated their ownership of SLTP by their thorough and complete involvement in the SC program.

Ownership of our program is a hallmark of our staff involvement. Our staff do not merely work for SLTP, they take ownership of the program as if it were their own small business. For Ashley and Alyssa taking ownership in SLTP was not just apparent during the staff conference but in their constant dedication throughout this past year.

SLTP is part of their daily life;

first and foremost, they are dedicated to their college pursuits, but even there their thoughts often turn to SLTP. It is impossible to number the differences they each have made for SLTP this past year. The best measurement was the volume of the applause and the tears of their fellow staffers as both announcements were made.

In the celebration only Alyssa and Ashley were surprised when they were honored as Staffer of the Year, everyone else recognized how much each deserved the award and gave each a standing ovation as they remained seated, happily baffled by this recognition.

Each of these young women serve as role models for our entire staff. They have helped to make this year the success it has been.

## A Lifetime of DifferenceMaking by Helen Fitzgerald, CASA

One of the best traditions we have is the way we close out the annual Spring conference, and it is the celebration of SLTP's Lifetime DifferenceMaker Award.

As with all of the awards in our recognition program, this award is intended to honor and respect individual effort and achievement.

The key word which defines the award is "lifetime."

We are blessed in our business, we get to meet and work with extraordinary people who go about their daily business doing good things for people, making differences and changing lives.

There are hundreds and hundreds of people who dedicate themselves to making a difference for young people everyday.

A few do so for a lifetime.

This year the Lifetime DifferenceMaker Award to a woman who has included SLTP among those for whom she makes a difference. Marty has toiled at her craft for over 30 years and goes about her day to day dealings

with students and collegiate staff with both zeal and grace. Students are greeted with a smile and genuine caring.

Nichols may not be a large school, and Dudley may not be a metropolis, yet it is certainly large enough that knowing everyone requires a lot of effort — or maybe it is simply caring. Driving around with Marty (which is scary in the golf cart or car) is a constant wave festival she seems to know everyone and something about them. Walking around campus, she has a greeting for every student she meets on the way.

Among the recommendations and testimonials we received a comment from Reverend Judith White stands out, "Marty is a beloved member of our religious community. She goes above and beyond to find ways to help out." Cindy Brown a colleague at Nichols offers "Marty knows when to offer her advice and when to listen. She has a heart of gold." Jim Fitzgerald added "This award is a wonderful way to give back to a

woman who never stops giving."

From Union College to Nichols ... from the athletic fields to the college offices ... Marty makes a difference. What has impressed us the most is that she never loses sight of the students for whom she makes the difference.

So we congratulate Ms Martha "Marty" Morrison for all of her years of making positive significant differences with and for the college, her church, her family, the college students, and our SLTP campers and staff.

## Conference Profile: Adviser Certification

Everyone involved in student activities understands the value of cocurricular programs to both school and community. That value has been acclaimed in virtually every national study of our system of education. Yet very little training has been offered for the advisers, sponsors or coaches who are charged with those activities.

Essentially this program provides the opportunity to learn and master the techniques and methodology of advisership. It is a comprehensive program quite unlike most hour long workshops and even day long seminars that merely skim the surface by offering only idea sharing. To begin with, our program reviews the basic skill

areas that are essential to successful advisership - *organization, group process, structure, project planning, involvement, motivation and leadership training*, then we approach the step by step progression through all the aspects of activity programming as teacher preparation.

Fundamentally we hold that successful advisership is the result of actively teaching and preparing students to lead themselves. So the intent of the program is to enable and prepare advisers to teach leadership skills to their students. As a result, our program is experiential in nature.

The registration fee covers program materials and meals for the four days. The dorm and class-

rooms are air-conditioned. The program materials include: a leadership manual, an adviser's manual, a book of ideas, an adviser's "toolbox", a program shirt, and a group photo.

Registration is limited. Professional Development Points will be awarded.

Applications and more information can be found on line. You owe it to your advisers to give them a chance to attend SLTP too!

Get them to join us—July 27 & 28

## Who should attend SLTP?

So, who should attend a program like SLTP ?

Our answer is based on just one qualification.

We believe SLTP is for *any student or adviser* who is interested in learning how to make a difference ! **Student leadership does not require a title.** Nor is it defined through membership in certain activities. Nor is it defined by popularity. To that end, we do not believe that ANY one activity is THE most important activity in a school. Each activity helps to create the fabric of belonging, and therefore ALL of the activities are THE most important.

The majority of students who attend SLTP are very involved in their school and in their community. All are seeking to learn how TO DO more.

The willingness to learn is

vital. So is the understanding that leadership is about DOING. Leaders are defined by what they do - - not by the titles they hold or by the organizations they belong to.

The only program requirements that exist are based on experience.

- *Delegates to the LTC's* - must be secondary students (junior high or high school).
  - *Delegates to the ALC's* - must have completed the first level.
  - *Delegates to the TLC* - must be graduates of both LTC & ALC.
  - *Delegates to the Adviser Program* - must be practicing or aspiring coaches or advisers.
- Delegates to the OTS* - must be officers and /or advisers and have **at least one** other team member in attendance.

What each participant should "bring"

*a desire to make a difference  
a willingness to learn  
enthusiasm  
an acceptance of growth  
a desire to master change  
a dream to work on*

**What SLTP will provide**  
*an atmosphere of unconditional acceptance  
significant learnings and understandings  
the opportunity to practice what we teach*

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broadest possible senses.

In a nutshell, the four legs of the admission table remain - SATs, grades, citizenship (proof provided by resume of involvement in activities and service) and the essay. The "strength" or importance of each leg varies from school to school and a few add on a fifth leg - an interview.

SLTP is a vital part of this picture - it's in the *Personal Development* resume references -- attending a leadership camp is not a "have to," students are not required to take the course. Students attend for themselves and BY themselves, it is not a school field trip. Attending a leadership camp is done purely for educational growth. It says a lot about the person who has taken that step. It says even more when that student attends a program with a reputation for excellence.

Each year I receive hundreds of letters from alumni noting the difference SLTP made in your acceptance to college. For most it made a positive significant difference in the amount of money they received from that college. More importantly though, SLTP made a positive significant difference in YOUR life way beyond the college admission process.

It is time to give back to SLTP. It is time to pay your debt. Help us by spreading the word. Help some kids to make better choices this summer -- sure, they can get a job at the local CVS and make 6 bucks an hour. And wow oh wowie when they get their first paycheck after taxes, they will have 83 whole dollars and that will help pay the cell phone bill BUT that won't help them get into college, nor will it put one cent in their scholarship account.

Last week I attended a conference for Peer Mediators in Massachusetts. One parent came to me with a question - it seems her school participates in both the MA HOBY & MassSTAR (both host conferences for high school sophomores, each asks that the school send one representative—MassSTAR is free; HOBY costs 170 dollars). There are 200 students in the sophomore class at her town's school -- and the principal choose to recognize and reward only ONE of them to attend both HOBY and MassSTAR.. The woman asked me how many I thought should go to SLTP -- I answered 150.

How many kids should go to SLTP? My God, what a question!! I can only think of a few from any

school I know who should not go. At Holbrook for example there are about 63 kids in the junior class -- probably 59 of them should go. At Warwick, there are about 400 kids in the sophomore class -- probably 398 of them should go. At Belchertown and Uxbridge, the classes are about 100 students each -- 98 plus should go from each. I measure the "should" with the answers to the questions: *would they benefit?; and are they going to college?*

Help us give a whole bunch of kids the best week of their entire lives! *It is up to us to make a difference. It is up to us to care.*