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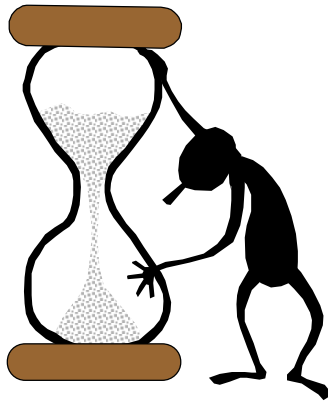
**student leadership**  
**The Student Leadership Training Program**

**Leaders walk their talk.**

**Linkage**

**VOLUME 7 ISSUE 10 THE SLTP ALUMNI NEWSLETTER MAY, 2007**

**Time is slipping away!**



I'm sure you remember the feeling that is SLTP. I am sure you remember the fun, the smiles, the noise, the friends and the spirit. Well ...

**Don't be left out!**

The final mailing just went out to all the schools. The final staff development and preparation meetings are happening this month. The curriculum is getting set. Time is slipping by.

There are lots of new things being put into place. Like what, you ask? Well this summer:

- SLTP delegates will author a Student

- Bill of Rights.
- This summer, SLTP delegates will experience the new play "a place at the table"
- This summer, there will be increased training in critical thinking skills

Come and join us again this summer. Bring your friends. Choices are getting very limited so call ahead.

If you are thinking about Session One — call ASAP.

If you are thinking about ALC — there are just 12 spaces left.

If your officer team is considering OTS — we have spaces left but you must call soon.

If you want to come later this summer, there is still room right now, but that might not be true later on because for the first time in our history, we will have to turn away campers once the maximum for each session is reached.

Please don't be left out — and don't let your school go un or under-represented.

Visit our website for more information or for more applications.

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

**The InterLead rocked! by Sarah Bourbeau, Conference Coordinator**

The InterLead rocked. Jim refers to the conference as one of the "milestone moments" for SLTP. How big was it, well he went on to say that the conference proves that SLTP walks its talk. We had nearly 200 students, parents, administrators and their teachers who were joined by community leaders from MA, CT and RI. We experienced "a place at the table" 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. In those forums, we each struggled with answers to the problem of hatred (racism, homophobia, classism, etc.) 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 hatred. 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 completion. Look for it later this month in a special bulletin newsletter.

The community leaders,

*Continued on page 2*

## The Student Leaders of the Year—2007

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 15 students nominated for the award. Each 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 InterLead Conference in front of their parents, teachers and peers. All received SLTP scholarships and camperships for deserving students back at their school. We celebrated the nominees:

**Sarah Groh**—Warwick Vets HS, senior  
**Danielle Desrosiers**—Warwick Vets HS, senior  
**Jared Katz**—St John's Prep, junior  
**Michaela Tracy**—CoventryHS, sophomore  
**Micaela Relihan**—Belchertown HS, senior  
**Brittany Perro**—Northbridge HS, senior  
**Mary Hogan**—Farmington HS, sophomore  
**Yunna Leshchinskiy**—Beaver

Country Day, senior  
**Gena Ricciardi**—Tahanto HS, senior  
**Sam Pellerin**—Burrillville HS—senior  
**Chris Sullivan**—Nipmuc HS, Senior  
**Liz Clapp**—Norwell HS, senior  
**Alex Schaller**—East Greenwich, senior  
**Doug Williams**—Belchertown HS, senior  
**Farrar Cooper**—Beaver Country Day—senior  
 The finalists were:  
 Sarah Groh; Danielle Desrosiers; Brittany Perro and Michaela Tracy.

The 2007 Student leader of the Year is: Sarah Groh

### The InterLead continued from page 1

administrators, teachers and parents participated in the program side by side with the students. 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 not possible to say enough about "a place at the table" either. The presentation is riveting. The content is eye opening, the play is amazing. It is so real. But make no mistake it is NOT about the drama. The real substance of the play is in the processing of the play, and 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. And we experienced our the forums. A forum is an open yet pointed discussion, it's purpose it to find 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 hatred in our schools and communities

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

Following the forums we had a PICNIC — Spring Conferences are the best! After the picnic we attended two workshops specific to the skillsets necessary to effect the solutions we discussed. The topics were Problem Solving and Consensus building.

InterLead - short for InterState Student Leadership Forum - our goal when we established this conference 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 works.

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

Like I said, this conference rocked!

## This Summer—what's available?



Registrations for all our summer conferences are underway in earnest! There are just over 10 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 gov-

ernment. (The team requirement is that there must be at least a pair of officers)

July 5-6

### LTC

There are four sessions. And there are just over 90 slots available at this point.

July 10-14; July 17-21;

July 31– August 4  
and Aug 7-11

### ALC

There are four sessions and approximately 26 slots available.

July 11-14; July 18-21;

August 1-4; and Aug 8-11

### TLC

There is only one session and there are 2 slots left.

July 11-14

### Adviser Certification

There is only one session which is open to all teachers, coaches and collegians and there are 7 slots left.

July 26-27

### Leadership in Athletics

There is only one session which is open to secondary and collegiate athletes and their coaches and there are 21 slots left.

July 26-27

## In your principal's and adviser's hands



The third and final Mailing of SLTP's entire Application Packets arrived at your school in the past few days. 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 above 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 ses-

sions -- 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.

## SLTP offers funding for activities

At a recent meeting of the Administrative Board (the governing committee for SLTP), a proposal to continue to expand the outreach of SLTP through our Grant program.

This summer the students attending SLTP will be given information about one of our most exciting efforts to exercise STUDENT leadership back in their schools and com-

munities.

CASA will once again 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 projects this coming Fall.

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

We will have information about the grant program included in the camper manuals and Parent Orientation Packets this summer.

## Best reasons to go to camp



The best reason to go to camp is to learn to just be yourself.  
Sarah Volkmann

The best reason to go to camp is that everyone, in some individual way, finds themselves capable of doing something they didn't think possible. Not only is that an awesome thing to find out for oneself, but it is also something campers can bring back to their communities, families, and friends.  
Farrar Cooper

ABSOLUTELY BEST reason to come to camp:  
camp changes your mindset; in school with group issues I tackle them with the question: if I were at SLTP how would we solve this? this way I get some great solutions to common group problems and I get

to remember camp each time there is a problem.

Ali Beretta

One reason—wow, this is crazy! It has to be the investment in yourself.

Sarah Bourbeau

Because we ALL can make a difference to someone, and camp makes us see that.

Laura Murphy

Because it is just plain fun.  
Greg Moffitt

Because it inspires, because it provides hope, because it allows us to rise above the negativity.

Brenda Stewart

Today my answer is for the life-long friendships you make. I went to camp quite a few years ago now, and the friends I made there are still with me today.

Carolyn Labuda

Because I can be my best self there.

Beth Croteau

Because I want to learn more.  
Olivia Harris

Because it is up to us to make a difference and it is up to us to care.

Chris Boie

Because someone has to stand up for what is right, and because it feels better knowing that even if you must stand alone that all of the SLTP alumni and staff will be standing with you.

Jim Fitzgerald

## Leadership in Action Grant Program

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

## Leadership Lessoning: Conflict proactivity—the SLTP way—fist to 5



Often the biggest conflict catalyst in groups is also one of the tools that groups use to conduct their business “efficiently.” Most groups utilize some form of Parliamentary Procedure which relies on the concept of majority rules. A majority vote on most motions requires 51 percent of the members to agree. That leaves 49 percent disagreeing, doesn't it? As should be imagined and envisioned this minority voting group is ripe for resentment and conflict.

One way to avoid this black hole of negativity is to include consensus building into the decision

making process. The idea behind consensus is not to have every group member agree, but simply that everyone holds a position that they can at least support an idea. Incorporated into this concept is the time saving idea that allows groups to address the issues and concerns of the minority without rehashing or arguing the majority opinion.

The method we advocate at OTS is a technique called “Fist to five.” To begin the leaders restates the group's position (perhaps the motion on the floor) and asks everyone to display their degree of support by displaying one of the following hand signals:

- ◆ **5 fingers** *It's a great idea and I will be one of the leaders working on it.*
- ◆ **4 fingers** *It's a great idea and I will work on it.*
- ◆ **3 fingers** *I support this idea, but I am not crazy about it.*
- ◆ **2 fingers** *It is not my first*

*choice, but I can support the idea.*

- ◆ **1 finger** *I don't agree, but I promise not to block it.*

- ◆ **Fist** *I completely disagree with this idea and I will try to block it if you try to accomplish it.*

Members who display fewer than three fingers are the root of the opposition and they are the people with the issues and concerns that most need to be addressed. By inviting them to articulate their concerns, the entire group can address the issues (not personalities) and hopefully resolve them. Frequently this will allow / enable those who don't support an idea the opportunity to persuade others to withdraw their support and thus save an organization from a costly error.

## So why do we need student leadership?



Imagine a school without student activities. Imagine a school where

adultism reigns, where students have no voice, where students have no input in curriculum, in rules, in course selection ...

If that sounds like we are describing a prison, it is because we are.

Education is not about rules and regulations. Education is about freedom. Knowledge sets us free. It allows humankind to create, ideate and grow. Learning

thrives in freedom and shrivels when imprisoned.

Humans learn best when they are comfortable. Comfort thrives when there is real responsibility. That is, real ownership of what is being learned.

Consider the issues faced by students today ~ body image, violence against women, sexism, bullying, sexual harassment, racism, classism, homophobia, religious bias, misogyny, drugs, STDs ~ all of which will require moral and ethical judgments.

The strongest foundation for those judgments come from the lessons learned at home and some of it may be learned at school. But all of it is experi-

enced at school.

Student activities and to a lesser degree sports allow students the practical experience in life.

Adult guidance through these activities is necessary. But STUDENT based leadership is vital. Humans learn best cooperatively and collaboratively. When students can experience the full measure of responsibility (when the word is used correctly and not merely to express obligation), that is when students maximize their growth.

## What's in the future for SLTP?



Obviously we have a full summer ahead — but even before and after that SLTP will be busy.

- ◆ In the coming weeks, the majority of state legislators in CT, MA, ME and RI will receive copies of the White Paper ~ which will also be distributed to all of our member schools

- ◆ through an on line posting
- ◆ The play “a place at the table” will be available once each month throughout the coming school year to member schools. The fees collected for the presentations will be used to fund SLTPs camper-ships
- ◆ In a few short weeks, SLTP will jointly sponsor with Nichols College the START Conference—which is a tuition free conference for freshmen student leaders
- ◆ This summer, SLTP will sponsor TWELVE conferences beginning with OTS.
- ◆ Applications to join the 2007 SLTP staff are available on

line and are due the second week of August.

- ◆ The Leadership Action Grant Program will sponsor several community service projects initiated by SLTP alumni this Fall.
- ◆ Soon, SLTP will be sponsoring a day long leadership conference in Northern California.
- ◆ The Core Adviser Seminar will be held this Fall for advisers and coaches across New England.

Join us. We pledge to continue to stand up for what is right, even if we are standing alone. We pledge to continue to do everything we can to empower student leaders.

## Thank you—webbie to webbie!



Thank you for all of the contributions, notes and emails in support for our newsletter during this academic year.

This issue will probably be the final full edition for this year as we must concentrate all of our effort in the next

two months on preparation for the summer conferences.

Just a reminder that contributions, suggestions for the SLTP newsletter are quite welcome.

Send them to: [jim@sltp.info](mailto:jim@sltp.info)

We'll see you “at camp.” Good luck closing out the school year.

## Conference Profile: The Officer Training Seminar



Even though leadership does not require holding a title, SLTP recognizes the need to train and prepare student officers for their SPECIFIC roles, which is the role of the Officer Training Seminar.

The primary objective of OTS is “nuts and bolts” preparation for the roles, procedures, duties and

responsibilities associated with the traditional student officer and adviser positions.

Separate practical workshops will be held for each of the cardinal offices—president; vice president; secretary and treasurer. Other officerholders or team captains will attend either specific job related workshops or tutorials to be determined by the enrollment.

In addition to the specific officer and adviser workshops, the curriculum includes workshops on building effective teams, calendaring, **modern** meeting management, motive-action, time management, goal setting and project

planning.

Since the roles and responsibilities of student officers are interdependent, student officers may only attend this seminar as a TEAM. The minimum number of officers for each team is 2 which may include any combination of student officers including the adviser.

Registration is limited and since many schools & organizations do not hold their election of officers until later in May or in early June - schools may deposit registrations to hold / reserve spaces for their officer teams.

Applications for OTS can

## A teen poet responds to racism from Tolerance.org

*Given the content of our play, "a place at the table, we searched for a non-SLTP generated teen response to the racism in our world. We found a great one on the Teaching Tolerance WebPages. Teaching Tolerance are the folks who initiate the National Mix it Up Day and you will find a link to their site from ours.*

*April 11, 2007 -- One teen poet uses the written word to dissect contemporary racism.*

by Ashley Thornton

Why does the color of our skin  
Affect the world we're living in?

Many people worked to stop the fight,  
The fight between the blacks and whites.

Too bad their dream did not come true,  
Bridges ought to be built between me and  
you.

The Civil Rights Movement  
Didn't end segregation.

I still see it living  
All over the nation.

It may not be as blatant as in 1908,  
But there's still a barrier  
Between each race.

Many might wonder  
About the cause of this grief.

How come both worlds  
Will not live in peace?

It is not impossible  
Nor an unreachable goal,  
For both worlds live  
In the depths of my soul.

I am half black, I am half white.  
In my heart both worlds unite.

### Think it through.

- Have you ever felt uncomfortable in your own skin? In your own family? Why?
- Do you ever look for people who look like you? Why?
- How has your sense of self changed as you've gotten older?
- Have you ever felt, like the author, caught between two separate worlds? What did you do? Were you forced to choose or did you adapt?
- Do you think America is a melting pot or a cultural stew?

## The 2007 SLTP Conference Schedule

Where leaders learn HOW  
to make a difference!

- **The Core Adviser Seminar**  
March 28
- **Spring Leadership Forum**  
April 29
- **Officer Training Seminar**  
July 5 - 6
- **Leadership Training Conferences (4)**  
July 10 - 14; July 17 - 21;  
July 31 - Aug 4; Aug 7 - 11
- **Advanced Leadership Conferences (4)**

July 11 - 14; July 18 - 21;  
Aug 1 - 4; Aug 8 - 11

- **Leadership in Athletics**  
July 26 - 27
- **Adviser Certification**  
July 26 - 27
- **The Leadership Center**  
July 11 - 14
- **The ReEnergizer Conference**  
November 24

We're on the Web!

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

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

**Administrators**

**Applications \***

**Photos**

## From where I sit by Jim Fitzgerald



### Being thankful

Being thankful is most difficult during difficult times. Yet it is exactly when we have the strongest need to be thankful. A thankful list is easy to visit when times are good, and if that is all we use it for then it is most under-used.

Each of us have had plenty of people, plenty of events, plenty of things to be thankful for. When times get tough, when life throws us a curve, we need to maximize all of the valuable contributions that have helped us to be who we are.

Visiting a thankful list does not require a ceremony, or candles, or chanting, or sitting in a weird position, all you need is your memory. I visit my list often. And I think that is important. It is important that we make it a habit. Wish lists and second guessing are the ultimate mind traps, and thankful lists are like a 'get out of jail free card' for your mind.

The lists we all have share a lot of commonalities – they are certainly populated with lots of extraor-

inary people. Many of whom are family, many are friends, and every now and then, there are some perfect strangers. All of these people left footprints on our minds and spirits. All contributed. Revisiting your thankful list is a way of saying thank you all over again.

When I find myself especially troubled, I will extend my visit to my thankful list to go beyond the people who have shaped my life. I will visit the things and events. Typically it goes something like this:

*I am thankful for the difficulties I experienced as a teen; for the tragic illness my father faced with courage and dignity. These experiences became lessons I learned in becoming a man. Lessons my father was skilled enough to debrief.*

*I am thankful for the painful need for acceptance I had as a teen. The need gave me an understanding and empathy for others. The experience shaped my ability to give myself away and to demonstrate caring through attentiveness and listening.*

*I am thankful for all of the*

*feelings of inadequacy that I have felt and do feel all too regularly. Having felt the pain of failure, I know that the fear of failure is the worst of all human fears – and that knowledge makes me a more understanding teacher.*

*I am thankful for all of the self doubt that rages within me, as it presses me to prove myself to myself and it allows me to really empathize with student leaders.*

*I am thankful for the love given me by my parents. The impossible loss of my father taught me by example of my mother's equal loss and how strong a person can be in the face of the unthinkable. Her dignity, compassion and strength were beyond my comprehension and yet, through her example, I grew.*

*I am thankful for all of the curiosity I have and for the drive to learn.*

*I am thankful for all the willing and wanting students who I have had contact with over the past 30 plus years.*

*I am thankful for the courage to continue our program, when the only logical thing to do was to bail out 12 years ago.*

*I am thankful for all the love I have been given, for all the love I have shared, and for all the love yet to be shared.*

*And most importantly of all, I am thankful that I learned that love is the an-*



### A personal plea from Jim

I hate seeing anyone left out. My worst nightmare is that someone who should be attending SLTP will not be doing so. The remainder of the school year is now measured in just double figures, and it is not just the seniors who are doing a count-down. That means that before you know it SLTP will throw open its door to welcome hundreds of kids to the experience of

their lifetimes.

PLEASE, don't be left out! Come and join us again this summer. Bring your friends. Send in your application now. The applications are starting to roll in, and very soon choices may be limited.

If you are thinking about ALC – please keep in mind that there were 175 kids who attended LTC last summer and we do not have space for everyone (we are offering only

6 crews of ALC this year)

Please don't be left out – and don't let your school go unrepresented.

All of our applications are available on line as PDF files, and every school in New England received the final packet of applications in the last week. Visit our website for more information or for more applications.

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

## 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*

## Conference Profile: Leadership in Athletics



Every day teens are in a battle that is really not a game at all. It is a battle. It is a fight. It is a race . . . for their social lives, for their spirit, for their friends, for their reputation.

It's real. It's raw. It

gets dangerous.

So are you ready?

Are you?

The Leadership In Athletics program offers extreme training to prepare student athletes for the challenges they face.

Make no mistake, Leadership in Athletics is more than "X's

and O's." It is life training.

Today's student athletes are perceived and portrayed in the media as bullies, druggies and cheaters. We believe that perception to be false.

In the two days of training we plan to prepare the

student athlete to be an effective leader for their team and for their school.

Athletics can and should inspire the best in student leadership. The athletic field offer many tangible applications for student based leadership.

The conference is scheduled July 26 and 27 at Nichols College. Applications are available on line.

Don't wait. Sign up today.

# Why?

## For student and adviser training conferences—why look to SLTP?

**Individual attention.** Our intimate training environment guarantees each participant the opportunity for individual attention from the staff and allows every participant to talk, laugh and purposefully engage with every other participant.

**Choices.** There are seven different levels of overnight conferences—START, OTS, LTC, ALC, TLC, the Leadership in Athletics Seminar and the Adviser Certification Conference.

Each and every time you participate in a SLTP training event you'll ..

- ⇒ Take home practical ideas and skills.
- ⇒ Grapple with the “larger” issues
- ⇒ Find out how your life and leadership can make more of a difference
- ⇒ Engage yourself with other committed difference makers
- ⇒ Find more answers and more questions.

It's our commitment to intentionality that makes the difference in our training events. No time is wasted. Every opportunity to learn is engaged. Every learning style is addressed. Every thing we do, we do for a reason.

For more information: [www.sltp.info](http://www.sltp.info)