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Thank you for joining us at the ReE. It was a day filled with SLTP smiles and seriousness!

student leadership

The Student Leadership Training Program

Leaders walk their talk.

Linkage

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 4 THE SLTP ALUMNI NEWSLETTER DECEMBER, 2007

START, a conference for freshmen

The second annual START Conference will be held early in June in 2008. SLTP and Nichols College will continue the successful collaboration which touched so many lives last year.

SLTP, the leader in leadership education, is joining forces with Nichols, one of the leading business schools in the United States. Our collaborative effort has one goal, to improve leadership development in the high schools in New England.

We will stage a two day overnight

conference where we intend to invite one student from every high school in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island and then to provide those students with a guided interactive experience with leaders from the collegiate, business and political worlds while providing those students with an introduction to leadership. We are targeting freshmen so as to provide the maximum benefit to schools.

Think about that ... one student

Continued on page 6

Enthusiastic — you bet!



On Saturday, November 24, the eleventh annual ReEnergizer Conference was held at Nichols College. Delegates from over 100 schools joined us to make it one of the largest conferences, as well as the **loudest**, the **funnest** and the **learningest** conferences held in New England this fall.

We had a seriously large crowd. Even with the big crowd, registration and Confluence went very smoothly. It seemed like everyone brought lots of friends and everyone was in the mood to have some fun.

We celebrated the region's Champions for Youth, and were featured with a special presentation of our new version of the play "if not you, who?"

Again this year we offered sepa-

rate workshop sessions for all our groups—students, collegians, parents and advisers. There were 100 plus colleges, middle and high schools represented, with attendees traveling from as far away as NY to be with us.

Attendees left with the coveted Early Bird Applications as well as lots of specific information regarding the new START Conference and all of our residential conferences.

The skillshops focused on Ethics and Communication within groups and during projects and how those skills impact on student activities. Naturally the activities involved were pretty active, with lots of incredible conversations

"if not you, who?" focuses on the left behind, left out, ignored and excluded. It is about everyday exclusion in schools. It raised awareness about the everyday and ordinary things that happen in schools that are often very painful. The discussion and processing of the play seemed to involve nearly everyone in the audience.

The next two big events on the SLTP Calendar are the Spring Adviser Conference (the Core) and the InterLead Conference, which is a student leadership forum on current issues and community service. The Core will be March 26 in

Service Portfolio Awards

Service portfolios are a collection of artifacts and personal reflections that document your commitment to community service and personal development. Portfolios are an excellent conversation piece for college or graduate school interviews. They can also bring your resume to life for scholarship selection committees and other award programs. So with all of those benefits in mind, here are some tips for making an award winning service portfolio:

- Organize your portfolio in a binder with a table of contents, page protectors and dividers
- Include letters of recommendation, certificates and notes of appreciation from organizations with whom you have worked
- Write a brief summary of skills and lessons that you gained

- from each service experience
- Fill your portfolio with pictures (this means remembering to take photos during service projects)
- Copy and insert news clippings that highlight your achievements or a project that you were involved in
- Describe the leadership roles you held during particular projects
- Document the time commitment involved in each service event, including the number of hours and duration (ie three hours a week from November to January)
- For a personal touch incorporate creativity and self-expression
- Remember to be sincere and

brief-- you want the portfolio to honestly speak for itself and spur additional questions

- Cap off the documentation with a list of your short and long term goals for service and leadership

SLTP will award its next service and personal development portfolio awards at the InterLead Conference at Nichols College during a special ceremony on April 27, 2008:

There are three levels of Awards based on time and level of commitment:

Bronze
Silver
Gold

To be eligible submit a copy of your service or personal development portfolio by **February 15,**



From where I sit by Dr. Jim Fitzgerald

In one of my recent speeches, I spoke about the five different factors that make up a person's S.H.A.P.E.: Spirit,

Heart, Abilities, Personality, and Experiences. Why is this important? Why should we bother figuring out how our life experiences have shaped us? I'll give you five benefits.

1. Understanding your shape reduces stress. You stop comparing yourself to other people. You stop trying to do what you're not gifted to do, and you build on your strengths. You recognize your limitations. You maximize what you're good at and don't worry about the rest. That's a stress reducer.
2. Understanding your shape increases success. What is success? I can tell you what it's not -- it's not making a lot of money. I know a lot of people making a lot of money who aren't successful. Success is figuring out who you are and then being it! Finding your

niche and saying, "That's me!" That's true success.

3. Your shape determines how you learn. Only about 25 percent of people learn by reading and studying. Others learn by listening, by discussing, or by seeing something modeled and then actually doing it. If you happen to learn the way the school system teaches, you get A's; but if you don't happen to learn that way you probably don't get very good grades. It has nothing to do with your intellect. It has everything to do with your shape. We all learn in different ways, so schools ought to be teaching in various ways.
4. Understanding your shape deepens satisfaction. A satisfying life is what you experience when you're doing what makes you happy. Happiness is much more than merely feeling good -- happiness is a combination of satisfaction,

belonging and fulfillment. Happiness leads to freedom. Freedom comes from doing what you're gifted to do.

5. Understanding your shape builds self-esteem. There's an epidemic of low self-esteem in our society today. Most people don't like themselves! Studies have shown one reason for this is that more than 50 percent of all people are in the wrong jobs.

Keeping balance allows us to develop our own special shape.

The great philosopher Popeye said, "I am what I am." That is where it begins, we are who we are and we can become who we want. All it takes is spirit, heart, ability, personality, and experiences.

T-Shirt Designs, Anyone?



Do you have a design floating around in your head for a tee-shirt that would be perfect for SLTP? A slogan? A design idea?

If you do – send it to us. If we select the design, you will earn four campership scholarships for your school or community organization and you or the de-

signer will receive a special citation at the InterLead Conference

Designs we are looking for right now:

- **Live the Adventure—LEAD!**
- **Be the change you wish to see in the world.**
- **Walking the talk.**
- **Live out loud.**
- **Enthusiastic!**
- **The longest journeys begin with a single step.**
- **Go light your world**
- **Choose to learn, choose to live, choose to lead.**
- **Live life on purpose.**
- **Building a place to stand.**
- **Building today and tomorrow.**

Send to:

Helen Fitzgerald, T-Shirt Designs
108 Observatory Way
Marshfield, MA 02050-4101

Parent Newsletters

Among the features of website is the full service section for the parents of student leaders. We sought contributions from Parents at all of the Parent Orientation Programs last summer, and the results are plain to see.

In the Parent section there is a great deal of information to help explain the feelings and the dynamics of

SLTP. Something we all struggle to explain to anyone who has never attended our program. There are resources. There are suggestions on how to support an active student leader, and beginning this month—there is a sign up for a monthly newsletter.

The newsletter is called “True

Points” and like this newsletter it will be available each month electronically.

We hope to provide parents with information on what is going on in student activities and we hope to provide as much support as we can—check it out yourself, and then get them to check it out.

Service Action Idea



Chances are there are seniors living near you who need help caring for themselves, or who would be grateful for some help with their day to day tasks.

Volunteering to help the elderly provides some of the most satisfying

work you can do. Much of it is one to one—which means you'll see the results of your efforts personally.

There are many different opportunities. You can help the elderly in nursing homes—reading, chatting, playing games, cleaning, answering mail, etc. You can organize activities—field trips, senior citizen proms, hair-dressing and make-up parties, holiday parties, living history tapings, etc.

You can work in shelters — serving meals, sorting clothing, record keeping, etc.

With senior housing complexes—you can clean kitchens, mow lawns, rake leaves,

paint walls, do basic repairs, etc.

You don't have to join an organization to help the elderly. There are things you can do right in your own neighborhood. Offer to clean the yard of an elderly neighbor, shovel driveways, carry or deliver groceries . . . Think about it.

Bullying & violence won't be wished away



Recently there has been a lot of talk in education circles, in the media and certainly from our politicians regarding harassment issues in

schools.

To hear the talk one would think that the only harassment issue that exists in schools deals with sexual identity. While I applaud the new found awareness, I am appalled that this awareness is wearing blinders.

SLTP will remain focused on bullying and harassment of ALL students and staff. We see this as an issue of exclusion vs. inclusion. At the ReE we examined the students who are left out and left behind through our play "if not you who?" We believe that inclusion is the number one priority for ALL student leaders.

The US Department of Education reports that in 2001,

12 percent of students ages 12-18 reported someone at school used hate-related words against them. Further, the Department of Education reported that the nature of this hate speech varied—from words related to race, religion, political view, disability to sexual identity or orientation. 12 per cent reported it — clearly a sign of a very broad problem.

One of the best anti-bullying sites www.bullypolice.org, reports that 90 percent of students felt being bullied caused social, emotional, or academic problems and that both bullies and their victims have problems later in life.

The facts about bullying and violence are staggering.

Each month, 250,000 plus students are physically attacked in schools! The American Association of School Psychologists estimates that over 1,000,000 high school students suffer through hate-related verbal abuse at school. Further 69 percent of high school students report that school officials including guidance counselors and administrators respond poorly or not at all to reports of bullying.

Our schools must teach students and teachers to interact with civility and respect among and toward all persons regardless of status, or condition. Schools should and must model those expectation and teach guidelines which equip students with the skills to become positive citizens in the school.

Bullying is not just the issue of the month. Being the issue of the month is why it is a problem that continues to go unsolved.

It is time to stop talking a talk. It is time to walk the talk we have started with our plays—"if not you who?" and "stop, look and listen."

When schools take action to include, things get better. When schools take action to disavow words that hurt, things get better.

There are too many kids who are left out and left behind. There are too many kids who are victimized at school. There is too much exclusion.

The Jester and Pharley Phund



The Jester has lost his jingle by David Saltzman is among our favorite stories. Reading it at camp after the differ-

encemakers 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

Remember, if you decide to sponsor a read-a-thon, please keep us posted. We want to honor your achievements.

Announcing START continued from page 1

from EVERY high school in those three states! That's about 650 students if they all come!

The conference which will include room and board will be nearly free of charge (the registration fee is only \$25). The fee will cover some of Nichols expenses and will provide a minor investment by the parents or the school which may insure better attendance.

So what's going on?

Right now, we are assembling the curriculum, determining what we need and don't need, and we just sent the mailing packet to every guidance office. The invitation packets include advice as to

how to make the selection and of course include the official registration form.

We are going to need a very large staff to pull this off. Some of whom will be involved purely in the planning. Some of who will be involved in inviting business and community leaders to present workshops. Some of who will be members of the teaching staff.

Needless to say, this is a HUGE undertaking. It is unique and without precedent anywhere in the country. 3 States ... Free ... a collaboration between a non-profit and a college — STUDENT led. WOW!

Help us to make this hap-

pen. Certainly you could volunteer, but even without that extraordinary effort, we can use help. We need help insuring that schools advantage the opportunity. Don't let your school be left out. We need to see that this application goes to the people who will act on it.

Watch this newsletter and watch the website for more details. Registration forms were mailed to every school in early January.

Staffing START



Are you interested in joining the SLTP teaching team, but you cannot afford to give up an entire week of your summer?

Perhaps the START Conference is exactly the opportunity you need.

We are expecting over 200 delegates to this conference, which means we will need around 30 staff.

If you were not able to visit our table at the ReE, it is still not too late to join us. Tap to Liz

Agosto or George Briggs to pick up an application.

We are planning three full days of training (over 20 hours) to prepare our staff to meet the challenges of this new and very large residential program.

For more information email either of the conference co-chairs: Liz Agosto or George Briggs
lizagosto@sltp.info
george@sltp.info

How can you help START



How can you help?

At the ReE every school received the START registration materials. Please bring them to your principal and guidance counselor.

The mailing went out to every school in Southern New England, but you can get your school started by helping us get the information out.

Our collaboration with Nichols makes this introductory leadership conference possible, and

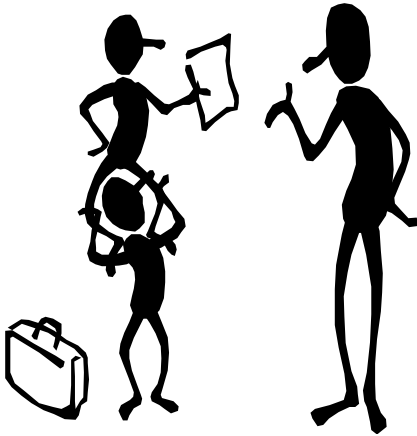
we know it will be an extraordinary experience for the freshmen selected to attend.

Help us to get the word out.

Talk to the guidance counselors about SLTP. Volunteer to serve on the selection committee for the delegate from your school.

Spread the word to the freshmen to apply for consideration.

Leading SLTP



The Conference Coordinator and the Conference Director comprise the C-Team, together they administer every session of our program.

The Conference Coordinator (CC) is **the** student leader of our student leadership program. Together with the Director the CC

shares both the authority and the responsibility to administer and facilitate our program. Ideally the CC and Director demonstrate an equal partnership guiding the program.

Serving as Staff manager, the Director must enable all of the members of our teaching staff to optimize their contributions.

Serving as facilitator of the entire program, the CC must guide our staff and students through the array of learning experiences, smoothing out the rough spots, enabling both to relate to each other and then connecting all of the lessons and setting the expectations of involvement and attitude.

Chiefly, the C-Team must set the standard for the staff. They must be equally excited about learning and teaching, and

part of the role is to transfer this excitement to the staff. To enable this transfer, they must have a demonstrable knowledge of the depth of the program combined with a clear appreciation of the incredible contributions of the staff.

Since 1990 there have been only 19 CC's and 6 Directors. Each one has played a pivotal role in the only role that matters - - that is optimizing the learning experience for our campers.

Serving as Conference Coordinators for 2008 are: Laura Murphy and Sarah Bourbeau.

Serving as Conference Directors for 2008 are: Krissy Butler, Liz Agosto, George Briggs and Adam Travis.

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

Another Difference you made- Mix it Up Successes!



Last month more than 1,000,000 students accepted the challenge to begin bridging social boundaries in their schools. On **Mix It Up at Lunch** Day 2007 schools all over the country helped students to step out of their comfort zones and sit somewhere new, with someone new. More than 40 of SLTP's mem-

ber schools participated this year.

To read specific stories related to this National Event, visit their website. There you will find lots of information about the struggles and triumphs that students faced to pull this off.

www.tolerance.org

Ask Santa for SLTP



Already we have lots of kids registered for next summer. There are nearly 40 students who have signed up for LTC and ALC and it is only early December.

In the student packets at the REE, there were special appli-

cations. These applications are the “Early Birds” and they include a discounted tuition offering substantial savings for making an early decision. The deadline for these applications is January 10, 2008

Like the Earliest Birds, these applications offer significant discounts and are NOT be available on line. Only those students who attended the ReE or their friends have access. So if for some reason you could not attend the ReE but you are in a position to sign up now for camp — reach out to your crew-mates from last summer and get a hold of an Early

Bird.

Next summer is shaping up to be SLTP’s largest ever. We have added staff and we are exploring every means to increase our capacity.

But the best advice we can give is to register EARLY. So put on your nicest smile and go ask Santa to give you SLTP for Christmas!

**The
Early Bird
Application
is due
January 10!**



**Activity
Showcase**

Officer Induction, a time to get serious

Student organizations like any organization must have traditional ceremonies as part of the package. Corporations, the military, sports teams, branches of government – every form of organization has some degree of pomp and circumstance integrated into their operation. Yet, with the exception of National Honor Society, Key Club, Vica, Decca and some Student Councils – most student organizations are lacking in this traditional element.

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

offices?

At the SLTP Staff Family Luncheon in January, we traditionally invest our officers, that is our new CC’s and our Directors.

There is no oath of office, nor are hands laid on the bible. Each CC and Director does accept their role and make promises to the staff in a formally-informal ceremony. There is a seriousness of purpose that began with the choice of the nomenclature for the ceremony. It is an **investiture**.

Investiture is an old fashioned term for an officer induction ceremony. We chose the term because it really seems to fit with the personal promises being made. We are investing our faith, our hope, and our trust in our officers and they are investing themselves in us and in our program.

The theme of our ceremony is the unification of our Past, Present and our Future. There are candles and proscribed speaking parts. The ceremony concludes will all of the past and present CC’s joining to sing and sign “Go light your world.”

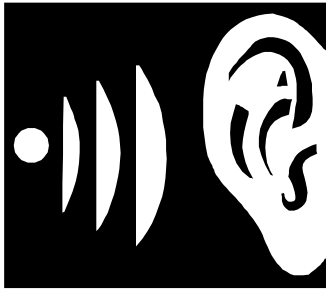
We recommend starting a tradition of your own for your club and activity.



“The investiture of our officers confirms our commitment to STUDENT based leadership. That it takes place in front of the entire staff and all of the staff families drives to mark the intentionality of SLTP.”

Jim Fitzgerald

Tis the season of "killer phrases"



Perhaps more than any other time of year, "killer phrases" abound in December and January. These short sentences stifle initiative and often keep groups spinning their wheels.

Developing ways around these blocks to communication is essential for student leaders.

Be on the lookout for:
We tried that once and it didn't work.
It costs too much.

That's not our job
I like your idea, but ...
They're too busy to do that.
We don't have the time.
Not enough help.
It's too radical a change.
The faculty will never buy it.
It's against school policy.
We don't have the authority.
Let's get back to reality
That's not our problem.
I don't like the idea.
I'm not saying you're wrong but...
Now's not the right time.
It isn't in the budget.
Let's give it more thought.
Let's just do it the way we always do
Not that again.
Where'd you dig that one up?
We did alright without it before.
It's never been tried.
Let's put that one on the back

burner for now.
Let's form a committee.
It won't work here.
I don't see the connection.
Let's all sleep on it.
It can't be done.
It's too much trouble to change.
It won't pay for itself.
It's impossible.
I know a school that tried it and it bombed
We've always done it this way.
Why bother, it won't make a difference
Don't rock the boat.
Has anyone else ever tried it?
Let's look into it further.
Quit dreaming.
If it ain't broke, don't fix it.
It's too much work.

The 2008 SLTP Conference Schedule

Where leaders learn HOW to make a difference!

- **The Core Adviser Conference**
March 26
- **The InterLead**
April 27
- **The Start Conference**
June 8 & 9
- **Officer Training Seminar**
July 1 - 2
- **Leadership Training Conferences (4)**
July 8 - 12; July 15 - 19;
July 22 - 26; July 29 - Aug 2
- **Advanced Leadership Conferences (4)**
July 9 - 12; July 16 - 19;
July 23 - 26; July 30 - Aug 2
- **The Adviser Training Seminar**
July 12-13
- ♦ **The Leadership Center**
July 9 - 12

It's about making a difference

Bringing a smile to a child at any time of year is special, but during the holiday season, it is even more so. Last year, I met an amazing seventh grade girl and her two best friends. For the past two years beginning just before Thanksgiving, the trio collect stuffed animals.

They then begin washing them, using needle and thread to make repairs, adding bright new bows and neckties, and then start bringing them to homeless

shelters or to other charitable agencies.

Sure they were told that it doesn't make a difference. Sure they were told that some shelters will have rules against recycled toys. But that didn't matter.

The three girls wanted something to do. They were excluded by the "in group" at their school and their guidance counselor recommended making a difference instead of anger. I like their choice!

SLTP presents “why me?” by Helen Fitzgerald

The newest theatrical presentation coming from SLTP is titled, “why me?” We are planning to premier one or two scenes at the SLTP Staff Family Luncheon. It is our hope to involve our families in the intentionality. We hope to foster an awareness of the seriousness of purpose in our curriculum. We are more than energizers and “polar bears.”

At the Administrative Board Retreat we fleshed out a framework and recently Laura Murphy and Jim have been playing with all of the suggestions and ideas. The focus of this play is violence in schools.

Given all of the shootings that have happened over the past years—specifically the most recent in Virginia Tech, it is our response-ability to make a difference in our lives and our campers by writing and presenting this play.

Laura and Jim applied the framework created by the AB to the story line created in “bang, bang, you’re dead”, the nationally acclaimed play by William Mastrogiacono, which SLTP first brought to the east coast back in 1999.

For a while we considered offering that play again, but even with the considerable rewriting we did for it back in 2004, it is a muddled production. We do not want anything getting in the way of our message.

Violence and exclusion go hand in hand, and unlike the common response that there is nothing that can be done — we feel there is a great deal that can be done to prevent violence.

We want to make it personal and the feelings to be real. When we think of these situations we must think of confusion, we must think of loneliness, we must

think of frustration. We see lots of victims and we see that the victims are upset because they cannot fathom exactly what has happened. They just don’t know.

But we’ve got to try. We owe it to our communities to make this difference.

This theatrical effort is being designed to maximize the participation of the audience — up to and including dialogue with the characters during the production—one of the student leaders will ask the audience what to do.

While Laura and Jim have provided a solid beginning — to be real, this play will require a lot of real dialogue and that is going to require a lot of effort from the student members of our staff.

The plan is to debut the play at the InterLead.

Involvement ideas

Mix It Up Day, Teacher Appreciation Day, Secretary’s Day, Principal’s Day, Custodians Day, Café Staff Days . . . All very traditional, all fun—but is that all there is to school service?

The obvious answer is no. But seriously what else is there? Okay, let’s throw in tutoring. Is that it? The days of clapping erasers, washing blackboards or sweeping the floors are long past.

A look around at most high schools, and it would appear that service is limited to the above suggestions.

The challenge is to expand this envelope. A school just like any community desperately needs voluntary efforts to grow and to thrive. Isn’t that what good citizenship is all about?

The possibilities include but are not limited to:

- Peer mediation—to respond to school safety issues;

- Wall murals—to create more ownership and improve the atmosphere;
- Welcome wagon service—for new and transfer students;
- Survival kits for teachers—with special kits for new teachers;
- Garden development — to improve the atmosphere and add more green to the environment;
- Painting girls rooms and boys rooms;
- Parking lot line painting;
- General clean-ups, scrub downs or painting days . . .

There is a lot you can do! AND the more you do, the more people you can involve!

In Massachusetts alone there are approximately 280,000 students in high school.

Of those students, less than 2,000 participated in ANY form of leadership training (.007 %).

In those schools there are approximately 50,000 student leadership positions available, which were filled by approximately 18,000 students. (.06 %)