

# True Points

a newsletter for the parents of student leaders

November, 2006

Volume 3, Issue 2

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## From where I sit By Dr. Jim Fitzgerald, SLTP Director



Once upon a time a carpenter was hired to build a house. Though he had never built a house, he wanted the job bad enough to agree to do a “rush job,” with no blueprint, no trained workers, nothing but the expectation that he’d be able to build a fully functional house without hassling his bosses.

Extraordinary enthusiasm accompanied the start of construction. He was greeted by countless numbers of people who offered to help—each one shouted, “just call if you need me.”

When the first volunteer showed up, she said, “I love wallpapering. I’ll start on that right now.” The carpenter hesitated but said, “sure, I’m glad to get all the help I can.”

A second worker

arrived, he said, “I love roofing, can I get started on that?” “we’ll definitely need a roof, Go for it,” the carpenter replied. “I’ll go buy some shingles,” said the worker who left for the store.

Within a few hours work was underway all over the place, with volunteers all working on the projects that they wanted.

In addition to all of the volunteers, there were almost 100 people looking on, all shouting advice and instruction. Some calling the carpenter on his cell phone. “Paint it red.” “Have you looked at the house down the street, we need a house just like that.” Watch your workers, some on them cannot be trusted.” “Haven’t you heard, you can’t build houses that way any more.” “No, no, no, we tried that once before and it did not work.” “You are doing it

just like the last guy.”

But if one message was heard more than any other it was “hurry.” Activity boomed, hammers flew, people screamed orders, trucks arrived from Home Depot every hour on the hour. The boss came by regularly and gave no advice, nor any encouragement.

You don’t have to be an expert builder to predict the end to this story, do you? But if we are honest this picture is a far too accurate picture of the way most student activity programs get built. It is assumed that an enthusiastic adviser and eager students will be enough, and that assumption is inevitably wrong.

Don’t misunderstand, it is possible to have “flash-in-the-pan” dramatic growth if you happen

*Continued on page 2*

## It is not too late: The ReEnergizer Conference

In just over 2 weeks, the entire SLTP family, will descend on peaceful, sleepy little Dudley for the most raucous event on our schedule—the ReEnergizer Conference.

Last year, the ReE hosted over 500 participants from nine

different states and over 90 schools. The conference was louder than ever, and it featured workshop tracks for advisers, parents, collegians and student leaders.

We should have a really huge crowd at the REE this year. At Nich-

ols we will have access to the entire campus, so our only limitations will be the number of people who can be accommodated at lunch. We are currently planning two lunches so our registration limit is upwards

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## Why leadership training at all?

Teens today face many interesting challenges. Whether the challenges of today are more difficult than the challenges of yesterday is the subject for editorials and sermons. What we do know is that kids today live in a fast paced world filled with extraordinary pressures, responsibilities and requirements.

Schools today offer more after school activities and organizations than ever before. Within the context of these activities, teens can find opportunities for greater personal growth than they can within the confines of the classroom. In student activities, teens can learn more about learning and life than they can anywhere else.

That's why colleges favor involved students. Yet, colleges are not simply looking for filled resumes. Colleges look for evi-

dence of meaningful activity and leadership.

Students leading students. Students working cooperatively on meaningful projects. Students solving real problems and dealing with real issues — that is what STUDENT leadership is all about. Leadership is a set of skills that must be learned. There is no such thing as a “born leader.” Yes, there are traits and qualities, such as being an extrovert, that are inherited, but applying those traits to lead requires skill.

Listening is a skill. Communicating is a skill. Problem solving is a skill (actually a set of skills). Time management is a skill. Goal setting is a skill. The list goes on.

And then there are the qualities of leadership. These too can be learned. Commitment, determination, empathy . . . The qualities can not be learned

through preaching—teaching works though.

What does it take to be a leader? It takes the desire to make a difference. That begins as the desire to belong to something meaningful. Desire alone won't do it. In the end to lead takes skill.

Teens live in a very real world. One that includes all sorts of scary issues. Student leadership is the answer and SLTP is the best place to begin.

## From where I sit continued from page 1

to find an intensely energetic kid-magnet who is unafraid to build a program entirely around his own personality. But a long term, sustainable, deep impact student activity? Nope.

It is time for schools to stop building hurry up activity programs and to realize that the kinds of programs they yearn for won't come quickly and will never come without real building plans. That is, plans built around developing student leadership and the personal development and growth of the student activity adviser.

Whether it is the Drama Club, the Student Council, Key Club, Yearbook, National Honor Society, the Cookie Cupcake Club, or any other student organization —

ALL need to be operating according to a plan. Creating that plan requires the leadership team (adviser plus officers) and the membership to agree as to the purpose and mission of the organization. The mission and purpose should be defined in concert with the administration.

With a mission and purpose in place, then the leadership team can go about setting the goals of the organization and thereby provide the necessary activity.

All of that requires training much more than willpower.

We suggest four steps.

**Step One:** Enroll the leadership team in the Officer Training Seminar — this is a nuts and bolts conference specifically designed to assist student activities.

**Step Two:** enroll the student officers in LTC. Their Personal Development will greatly enhance the development of the group.

**Step Three:** enroll the adviser(s) in the Adviser Certification Program. Here they will find the know how.

**Step Four:** get as many of the younger members to enroll at LTC as possible. Grow the future.

## Help SLTP and help yourself too *by Krissy Butler*

Exciting raffle opportunity!  
Help SLTP raise \$, and help yourself  
(or someone you know) pass an exam!

Kaplan, the world leader in test prep, recently agreed to donate a course for SLTP to raffle as a fundraiser! This course is good for ANY of the test prep courses that Kaplan offers. That's right, we said ANY! Kaplan offers preparation courses ranging from the SAT (a \$900 value) to the MCAT (a \$1650 value).

Tickets are \$10 each and the winner will be announced at the Re-Energizer Conference on November 25, 2006. You can purchase a raffle ticket from a current SLTP staffer, or you can purchase your ticket at the ReE. Don't be

left out, this is an incredible opportunity!

About Kaplan: With nearly 70 years of experience, Kaplan is the world leader in test prep and has helped more than 3 million students prepare to take the tests necessary to achieve their education and career goals. Kaplan offers complete preparation for entrance exams for secondary school, college, graduate school as well as English language and professional licensing exams.

Course examples  
College admissions: PSAT, ACT and SAT  
Graduate school: DAT, GMAT, GRE, LSAT and MCAT

English language: TOEFL, TOEIC, GMAT, GRE and SAT preparation for non-native English speakers  
Professional Licensing exams  
Professional Certification & Designation exams

For more information, please contact Krissy Butler  
([krissy@sltp.info](mailto:krissy@sltp.info)).

## Financial Aid for College

As soon as your teenager is ready to apply to college, it's time to start financial aid planning. But this isn't simply a matter of filling out forms and hoping you get a good response from financial aid officers.

These tips from the U.S. News and World Report may help you to get your future scholar a better deal:

- ◆ Make an appointment. Arrange a time for you and your teenager to discuss your application with a financial aid officer, either in person or by phone.
- ◆ Do your homework. Make sure you and your teenager have solid needs-based or merit-based evidence to support your case for a more generous award.
- ◆ Review the forms. Keep financial aid officers aware of updates or omissions in your family's finances.
- ◆ Cooperate. If your teenager has offers from competing colleges, make this known, without demanding that one college match another.
- ◆ Find other decision-makers. Communicate with the admissions office—they often can negotiate merits-based deals or keep track of openings when other applicants turn down offers.
- ◆ Remember the financial aid offer is just that an offer. Be a shopper.

## Get involved –join us!

Join us. Help SLTP to grow and thrive. Become part of the action. We need help getting the word out. What can you do? Here are some direct action suggestions:

1. Join the Presentation Teams at SLTP information tables at various conferences
2. Join the Welcome Wagon team for our summer conferences to meet and greet the parents dropping off their kids.
3. Join the Facilitation Teams for one or all of the Parent Orientation Programs at the closing of this summer's conferences.
4. Join the Fundraising Teams to seek out in-kind donations from local businesses.
5. Join the Phone Calling Teams to call schools and secure information.
6. Join the Recruiting Teams to present to parent groups.
7. Join the Connections theatrical troupe to present or help stage on of our traveling productions.
8. Apply to join our staff.

## A look at the schedule for the ReE

|                        |                                    |                        |                                      |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>8:15 - 8:55</b>     | <b>Registration</b>                |                        | <i>Dining Hall</i>                   |
| <i>GYM</i>             | Activity Fair / Games / Meeting &  | <i>make?"</i>          | <i>"What difference doe it</i>       |
| Greet                  |                                    |                        |                                      |
| <b>9:10</b>            | <b>Confluence</b>                  | <i>GYM</i>             | <b>All Connections presentation</b>  |
| ing                    | Introduction / Expectations / Mix- |                        | <i>Audi-</i>                         |
|                        |                                    |                        | <i>"stop, look and listen"</i>       |
| <b>9:40</b>            | <b>Welcome</b>                     | <i>GYM</i>             | <b>Students DifferenceMaker</b>      |
|                        | Opening Ceremonies                 |                        | <i>Dining Hall</i>                   |
|                        | Welcome                            |                        | <i>Petition / Letters to Leaders</i> |
|                        | Pledge of Allegiance               | <b>2:05</b>            | <b>Closing Session</b>               |
|                        | Star Spangled Banner               |                        | <i>GYM</i>                           |
|                        | Getting Started                    |                        | <i>Campership Drawings;</i>          |
|                        |                                    |                        | <i>Awards &amp; Recognition</i>      |
|                        |                                    |                        | <i>Raffle Drawing</i>                |
|                        |                                    |                        | <i>Wrap / rap</i>                    |
| <b>All Rooms</b>       | <b>Skills Clinic # 1</b>           | <i>Assigned</i>        | <b>3:11</b>                          |
|                        | Inclusion workshop                 |                        | <b>Departure</b>                     |
| <b>All Rooms</b>       | <b>Skills Clinic # 2</b>           | <i>Assigned</i>        |                                      |
|                        | Assertiveness workshop             |                        |                                      |
| <b>All Dining Hall</b> | <b>Working Lunch</b>               | <i>Din-</i>            |                                      |
|                        | Idea share                         |                        |                                      |
|                        | <i>College/Parents/Advisers</i>    | <b>General Session</b> |                                      |

## Survive and Thrive

**It's often the little things that start wearing on families: time constraints, long commutes, daily chores. Does your family have the resilience to withstand the tension? Use these "traits of resilient families" from Family Life Specialist Ben Silliman to help develop a healthy, supportive environment.**

**Commitment**—Encourage family members to be diligent in keeping their promises to each other.

**Cohesion**—Stick together but respect each other's individuality.

**Adaptability**—Work flexibility into your family rules and traditions.

**Communication**—Speak openly and listen with care.

**Spirituality**—Always act from your faith, and encourage other family members to do so.

**Connectedness**—Keep in touch with extended family and friends, and spend time in community activities.

**Time**—Set aside daily family time.

**Efficacy**—Focus on your family's achievements with pride and optimism, and support each other's explorations and accomplishments.

## The ReEnergizer Continued from page 1

from 800. Due to the size crowd we are expecting, our advice is to register early.

On the Crew Photo CD there are copies of the REE Registration Form. And additional forms can be found on our website—[www.sltp.info](http://www.sltp.info) — those forms are repeated in this newsletter. As we go to press we already have 100 registrations and it is not yet October!

The REE is scheduled for **Saturday, November 25** at Nichols College and is sure to be the *loudest, funnest* and *learningest* conference to be held in New England this fall.

Traditionally the busiest term of the year for school activities is second term and the ReE provides the necessary “booster shot” of motivation and positive energy to keep your sons & daughters and

their organization on the right track.

Register early. Bring your principal and bring the advisers—there will be a special session for them.

Please keep in mind, that we have a special parent’s program with workshops geared just for you.

Due to the size of the crowd – we will begin and end the program at the athletic center in the big gym. Plan to park in that parking lot. There is lots of room there for the buses! Drive to the Remillard dorm turn left and follow the noise and signs to the gym parking area.

As you know the ReE is a true learning experience.

Among the many other activities and planned for the conference there will be: an Activity Fair, a special theatrical presentation (bring your

administration, advisers); Community Leader recognition, the Kaplan Raffle, and much, much more.

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

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

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

The conference will run from 9–3 on Saturday, November 25.

## 2007 SLTP Conferences

Where leaders learn HOW to make a difference!

- **The ReEnergizer Conference**  
November 25
- **The Core Adviser Seminar**  
Marsh 28
- **InterLead 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

We’re on the Web!  
[www.sltp.info](http://www.sltp.info)  
**Information for Parents, Teachers, Students, Administrators Applications \***

## Directions to Nichols College for the ReE

### **Directions to Nichols College**

Nichols College is located in Dudley, Massachusetts 20 minutes south of Worcester.

#### **From the North:**

Take I-290 to Auburn, where I-290 becomes I-395 South\*. Follow to Exit 4B (Sutton Rd./Oxford Center). Turn right off ramp and stay in the right lane. Go straight through light at Oxford Center (Cumberland Farms on right). Follow straight past light for 0.8 miles and take a left onto Dudley Rd. (produce stand on right). Follow this road for 3.7 miles until you come to a fork (you will see water on the right and left). Bear right at the fork and continue for 2 miles through two stop signs, then straight onto the Nichols campus.

#### **From the East & West:**

Take the Mass Pike to Exit 10 in Auburn and get on 395 South. Follow directions from above\*.

#### **From the South:**

Take I-395 North to Exit 2, (Webster) and turn left off ramp. Go straight through the first set of traffic lights. Follow Route 12 South (Route 12 will turn left through Webster Center). Continue through Webster Center. After the railroad tracks, continue straight into Dudley on Route 197 (Route 12 will turn left – do not turn left; stay straight). Turn right at Cumberland Farms onto Airport Rd. Follow Airport Rd. to the Webster-Dudley Golf Course. Bear right and take the first left onto Center Rd.

Proceed to Remillard Dormitory (last building on the left) turn into driveway behind the

Dormitory, follow around until you reach the Athletic Center.

## 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](http://sltp.info)

## Recycling



At the ReEnergizer we will once again be collecting toner cartridges from copiers and printers.

SLTP has signed up to participate with a national organization. They take care of postage,

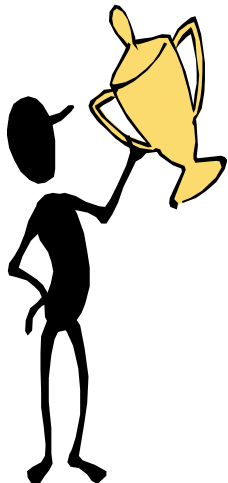
all we have to do is collect the cartridges and seal the box. Upon receipt of the box, the items are assessed for value and a check is cut to SLTP.

We did this at the ReE last year and the result was a 50 dollar contribution to SLTP.

Which is a real bonus for cleaning up the environment.

SO, if your school, home office or business has empty cartridges – don't just chuck them in the trash, bring them along to the ReE.

## Recognizing Community Leaders



All across New England in every community there are ardent advocates for youth whose support and advocacy is not due to any self interest. Since 1993, The Student Leadership Training Program

through its staff and graduates have sought to recognize the contributions of these special community leaders. Without the support of these champions, the goals of community involvement and community service that most student activity programs set would be unattainable.

The idea behind this award program is simple. SLTP hopes to assist local student leaders in their efforts to recognize community support. Essentially this award is about catching people doing things right.

The criteria for this award must vary from school to school, as each school's circum-

stances are different. However, the effective criterion must not be changed. This award is intended for community leaders who are ACTIVELY committed to making a difference for youth. SLTP suggests that : No more than ONE award be given annually to any individual. All Alumni and Staff of the Student Leadership Training Program are eligible to nominate individuals for the awards.

To be effective this program must be implemented with the full cooperation and involvement of the school administration. Involve everyone in the school that is actively involved in the community.

Publicity is vital. Remember praise is much more effective as a form of recognition when it is public.

Yet, this recognition is much more than a certificate and a press release. This recognition offers an opportunity to celebrate and enrich school support. If possible, host an assembly or reception. Provide gifts and/or flowers. Create an event.

Please allow SLTP to

help you honor your community champions. To nominate a community leader, please submit: their name; a brief profile; and a brief explanation of the reasons for the nomination. Send that to Stacey Hurd: [champions@sltp.info](mailto:champions@sltp.info)

SLTP will publish all of the award winners names and profiles on a special website and on the pages of our newsletter. There are two opportunities to celebrate your community Champions. The first will be at the ReE on November 26. Additional Champions will be feted in the spring at the InterLead.

**The Deadline for submitting names and profiles for recognition at the ReEnergizer Conference is November 15, 2006.**

Champions will receive a packet which contains their certificates, press release information and special scholarships which will be created in their name.

## Parent and Adviser Programs at the ReE

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

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

We offer these session not only because many advisers, principals and parents do the driving to get our students to the ReE, but we offer them because we want to do more to enable our student leaders to develop as much as possible.

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

are special workshops for parents that are geared to their needs as the parents of student leaders.

We will also provide both groups a "peek behind the curtain," which will enable them to better understand the environment we create at SLTP and how they might be best able to empower their student leaders.

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

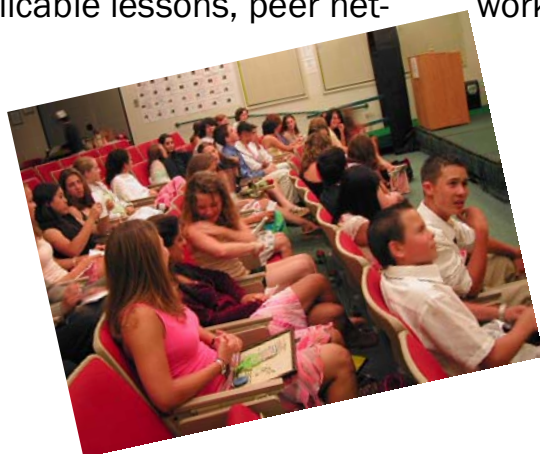
**Interested in learning how to make a difference?  
Need to revitalize your leadership skills?**

Join us on **November 25<sup>th</sup>** at  
The Student Leadership Training Program's

# ReEnergizer

conference

where? Nichols College – Dudley, Mass.  
when? November 25<sup>th</sup>, 8:45am-3pm  
what? leadership skillshops, theatrical  
presentation, keynote speaker,  
collegiate track, fun, practical and  
applicable lessons, peer net- working



**Registration:** only \$15!  
(includes materials and lunch)

**For more information**  
Visit: [www.SLTP.info/REE](http://www.SLTP.info/REE)

**Conference Highlights:**

*Idea sharing ~ Skill building ~ Critical concerns  
Essential Skill training ~ Special Program ~ Student Leader of the Year Nominations  
DifferenceMakers ~ scholarship drawings ~ Celebration of the Champions for Youth Awards  
"Connections" theatrical presentation ~ Large Activity Fair ~ Keynote speaker  
Parent program ~ Teacher Program ~ Collegiate Program  
and much much more ...*

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

