CONGRATULATIONS, FUCHSIA BLOCKS!

We will be recognizing the Fuchsia Blocks at their Graduation Reception on Friday, April 27, at 5 p.m. in the Michigan/Ontario Rooms of the UC. Best of luck to you and make sure to keep in touch!

Ashley Bartkowski
Shea Belanger
Andrea Bianco
Sara Blomquist
Shalynn Brandt
Stacy Bushie
Kelley Carey
Darcie Cook
Brett DeLonge
Jeffrey “Jeff” DeMilio
Michael “Mike” Duckwall
Erica Ehardt
Amanda “Manda” Frederick
Natasha Garcia
Janelle Goodreau
Dayna Haddock
Allison Harkness
Seth Hill-Kennedy
Jessica “JJ” Jannette
Claire Knoche
Rachael Kramer
Megan “Meg” Lazier
Amanda Lobsinger
Mathurin “Matt” Martinson
Jessica Mills
Amanda Moraska
Allison “Allie” Mundell
Melissa Natter
Kathryn “Katie” Paulin
Sarah Poggi
Alana Stuart
Dale Thoene
Robert “Bob” Towers
Skyla Vandervest
Andrew “Andy” Wapneski
Jeremy Wright

Welcome, Cerulean Blocks!

Congratulations and welcome to the Student Leader Fellowship Program (SLFP)! I’m sure you are all excited about what the coming year has in store for you. You probably can’t wait to get to know all the other Cerulean Blocks, go to the Fall Retreat in September (September 7-8), meet your Mentor, and learn more about the SLFP.

Make sure you take advantage of all the opportunities presented to you: meeting the other Student Fellows and building lifetime friendships, going to the Skill Builder! workshops and Special Occasions, and just enjoying what you are doing. This is your chance to get out of this program what you put into it. We look forward to spending the next two years with you!

~Barbara Kerkove
The Philosophy of "Big Jon"

With the recent arrival of my new son, James John Barch, it seems rather appropriate to discuss some aspects of leadership that go along with being a father. Leadership and fatherhood are interwoven concepts to begin with; in fact, there are some languages that only have one word to represent both concepts. Even within our culture the two words are highly related. For instance, the early leaders of our country are often referred to as the "founding fathers," leaders of a particular scientific idea are sometimes called the "fathers" of the idea, and even some religious leaders are known to their followers as "father" so-and-so.

The way I see it, fatherhood is one of the many forms of leadership. Thus, good fatherhood, as a concept, shares many of the same descriptors as the more general concept of good leadership. As I get thinking about it, this topic could easily fill the pages of a thick book. That project will have to wait because fathers, like other leaders, are extremely busy people. For now, I would like to share my thoughts on three qualities that I believe are both critical to being a good father as well as highly useful in leadership more generally.

First, empathy is vital; that is, leaders must try to identify with and understand the situation, feelings, and motives of their group members. As a father, I am constantly reminded of this because the world from my children's eyes is drastically different than I generally see it. Empathetic leaders truly care about their group and try to put themselves in other members' shoes before making decisions that affect those members.

Second, good leaders demonstrate perseverance; they endure when times get hard or when they must perform tasks that they would rather not do. A leader who is truly passionate about their role will be strong and determined in the less desirable times. Fatherhood brings many of these situations; for instance, 3 a.m. diaper changes or the two-year old tantrums.

Finally, leadership is about responsibility. Whether they want to be or not, leaders, like fathers are constantly setting examples of what is acceptable or desirable behavior. Leaders must not only be reliable in terms of getting the job done, they must do their best so others know what to expect of themselves. As a father, I see all of my actions repeated; both the positive ones that I am purposefully displaying for my children to learn, as well as the slip-ups that I don't intend for my kids to see or hear, let alone to repeat. Being a father has given me a new understanding of the importance of empathy, perseverance, and responsibility. What is more, it has given me a fresh understanding of leadership.

Jon's Jokes

The father of five children had won a toy at a raffle. He called his kids together to ask which one should have the present."Who is the most obedient?" he asked."Who never talks back to mother?" "Who does everything she says?" Five small voices answered in unison, "Okay, dad, you get the toy."

Block Talk

What are your summer plans?

"Three bicycle tours and a cruise."  
~Brennen Busse  
Mint Block

"Go back home to Wisconsin and work at the good ol' cheese factory!"  
~Shalynn Brandt  
Fuchsia Block

"My summer plans are actually to work with a fellow SLFPer, Annie Sutter (Crimson Block), as a 4-H Day Camp Counselor in our hometown!"  
~Shea Belanger  
Fuchsia Block

"Work 40 hours per week at Walgreens and payoff my new car."  
~Kevin Wieser  
Fuchsia Block
FUCHSIAS, WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR THE MINTS AS THEY START THEIR SECOND YEAR?

"Make sure you arrange your CSI before you leave for the summer. That way, when you come back in the fall, you can start right up!"
~Dayna Haddock
Fuchsia Block

"Service - it is at the heart of your CSI. To me, service is defined as a means of giving all that you have selflessly to benefit another person or group with no ulterior motive. Be a servant to your project. Learn about service; experience it, grow in it, follow it. It is what some consider to be the greatest characteristic of a leader."
~Seth Hill-Kennedy
Fuchsia Block

"Stay involved with the Fellowship Meetings and social activities!"
~Matt Martinson
Fuchsia Block

MINTS, WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR THE CERULEAN BLOCKS
AS THEY ENTER THEIR FIRST YEAR IN THE SLFP?

"The sooner you get involved in the aspects of SLFP, the sooner you will see the rewards, and the more fun you will have by the end of the program. It is always more fun once you get to know people, so get to know people right off the bat!"
~Angela Neumann
Mint Block

"Have fun and do not be afraid to really get involved in the program, because it is worth the time and commitment."
~Ashley Bollwahn
Mint Block

"Really take the time to get to know your Mentor. Have fun spending time together and developing that relationship. You can form great friendships and career connections with them."
~Brooke Gregersen
Mint Block

Introducing -
The Newly Selected 2007-2009 Student Fellows,
the Cerulean Blocks!

Richard Andersons
Kendra Atkins
Zachary Bartel
Jaclyn Beck
Rachel Bertucci
Amanda Boshell
Danielle Brandreth
Allison Carlton
Lindsay DelAngelo
Elizabeth Dow
Jena Eagloski
Melissa Engelmeier
Katelyn Gadzinski
Stephen Gladwell
Amanda Hawkins
Sarah Herrle
Anke Hildebrandt
Alex Hull
Siranda Jacobs
Katie Jensen
Stephanie Johnson
Monica Lambert
Olabisi Lashore
Erica Lensink
Lola Liljequist
Casey Mallo
Ann Marshall
Sarah McHugh
Megan Meeuwsen
Natalie Naze
Rebecca Paris
Trevor Pellerite
Raechel Percy
John Pinzl
Tom Rich
Jason Richards
Jessica Ritzke
Ben Scheelk
Megan Schneider
Anne Scott
Kelsey Silsby
Abby Starich
Angela Stasewich
Caleb Stripes
Nicole Stumpf
Mandy Tegman
Francesca Tocco
Amanda Umstead
Erik Veen
Robert Vest
Keith Voorheis
Nicole Weber
Aaron Whitaker
Ara Wittwer
Sarah Wozniak
Ashley Zupin
SLFP Birthdays

April
1  Seva Peshehov
8  Allison Carlton
15  Raechel Percy
18  Anne Swanson

May
2  Olabisi Lashore
3  Ben Scheelk
4  Sarah Poggi
6  Sara Kilker
6  Danielle Luce
10  Shea Belanger
11  Abby Starich
14  Erica Ehrardt
16  Liz Jeplawy
21  Andrea Bianco
24  Megan Meeuwesen
27  Klamesha Richards

June
1  Emily Engelhardt
2  Amanda Boshell
5  Amanda Kaminski
5  Sara Blomquist
10  Amber Chiapuzio
12  Betsy Ott
19  Dana Toenjes
23  Zachary Bartel

July
19  Karen Zehler

August
1  Ara Wittwer
2  Erica Lensink
2  Lola Liljequist
5  Kerry Black
5  Christine Johurowe
7  Anne Scott
8  Rebecca Paris
11  Megan Schneider
12  Kelsey Silsby
16  Sarah Cummiskey
16  Trevor Pellerite
19  Abby Kiley
19  Ashley Zupin
23  Katie VanderVeen
25  Skyla Vandervest
30  Brian Bowers

Calendar

Friday, April 27
• SLFP Graduation, 5 p.m., Michigan/Ontario Rooms
Saturday, April 28
• Last Day of Classes
Monday, April 30
• Final Exams Begin
Saturday, May 5
• Commencement
Monday, August 27
• First Day of Classes
Friday, September 7 & Saturday, September 8
• Fall Retreat at Bay Cliff Health Camp

Janet's Jubilee

Congratulations

Shea Belanger for receiving a $500 scholarship from the Council on International Education Exchange! She is studying at the school of health and science at Dublin City University in Ireland to pursue her physical education minor.

Michigan Campus Compact has announced their Outstanding Student Service Awards winners this year. Kelley Carey, Claire Knoche, and Jeron Schmidt will receive a Heart and Soul Award. Nicole Weber will receive a Commitment to Service Award.