

duxSOUP

WINTER 2006



"Dux" is the Latin word for leader. Dux Soup is the semi-regularly published newsletter of Leadership Buffalo, Inc.

SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN!

LEADERSHIP BUFFALO BEGAN AN AMBITIOUS STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS IN 2005; HERE ARE SOME OF THE RESULTS.



In early 2005, under the guidance of the Strategic Plan Planning Committee and Nick Everest, LB set out to examine who we were and where the membership wanted us to go. We met with class members, interviewed First Impressions participants, surveyed the membership, and talked with our strategic community partners, gathering input from more than 400 individuals.

WHAT WE LEARNED IN 2005

Creating effective community leaders who could act as catalysts for change was identified as the most important outcome for LB programs. Educating our members and the community on important issues and providing a forum for dialogue on those issues was seen as an important role for LB. We learned that you feel our customers are people who have demonstrated the ability and desire to lead. You found value in the links to people and relationships you developed outside your normal circle of influence. Strengthening alumni participation and remaining self-funded

were identified as important to the future success of LB.

The revised mission and the operational mission reflect the results of thoughtful discussions by the Planning Committee and the Board based upon this input. The plan reflects the outcomes we will address in five key areas: Board Development and Governance; Organization Development; Funder and Donor Development; Marketing and Recruitment; and Program and Service Development and Delivery.

All of these areas are intertwined. Our programs will only be responsive and strong if our Board governs well, our organization functions efficiently and effectively, our financial base is strong, and people know who we are. To better understand the plan, go to our web site, www.leadershipbuffalo.org, and click on About Us, then Strategic Plan.

LB'S NEW & IMPROVED MISSIONS

Mission Statement

Develop and unite leaders from diverse backgrounds and perspectives to increase their knowledge and understanding of community issues, broaden their vision, and enhance their individual and collective ability to lead and make a positive impact on the community.

Operational Mission

- Support the personal and professional development of those willing and able to provide leadership in the community.
- Enable the creation of powerful networks and collaborations across the community.
- Facilitate important conversations about critical challenges facing the community.
- Promote the fundamental values of service, openness to change, diversity and inclusion.

Strategic Plan Planning Committee Members

Stephanie Barber, LB '88; Chris Brown, LB '03; Daniel Connors, LB '02; Deborah DiMatteo, LB '97; Don Erb, LB '04; John Frederick, LB '92; Francisco Vasquez, LB '04; and Mary Jo Hunt, LB '90.

PLANS FOR 2006

The Board and staff have plans for 2006 which will focus on one or two outcomes in each area and build a foundation for achievement of the total plan. Francisco Vasquez, LB '04, vice president for strategic planning, will provide guidance as we move forward.

You may be asked to assist with this implementation as we embark on the implementation phase. Please say yes. The organization and the community need your collective wisdom.

2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & COMMITTEES

President **Deborah DiMatteo, LB '97**
M&T Bank

President-Elect
Gretchen Fierle, LB '02
Independent Health

Secretary **Stephanie Barber, LB '88**
United Way of Buffalo & Erie County

Treasurer **John Schmidt, LB '02**
Phillips Lytle LLP

Treasurer-Elect
Robert Tocker, RL '05
Buffalo Fiscal Stability Authority

Vice President – Strategic Plan Chair
Francisco Vasquez, LB '04
People Inc.

Vice President – Fundraising
Theresa Kazmierczak, LB '92
M&T Bank

Values Lunch Co-Chair
Larry Cobado, LB '02
Verizon

Vice President – Marketing/ PR
Jennifer Parker, LB '03
Black Capital Network LLC

Vice Presidents – Member Activities
Sally Crowley, LB '01
M&T Bank
Katie Johnson Hoffman, LB '01
The Hoffman Group

Recruitment
Robert Romeo, LB '03
First Niagara
Lavera Johnson, LB '02
Nano Dynamics Inc.
Robert Brunschmid, RL '05
Theatre of Youth Company, Inc.

Chair – LB Values
Susan Swarts, LB '90
WNY Ophthalmology, PLLC

Chair – LB Community Facilitation Team
Chris Brown, LB '03
Independent Health

Chair – LB Class Experience Program
Richanne Mankey, LB '05
Daeman College

Chair – First Impressions
Anne Duggan, LB '01
Ciminelli Real Estate Company

Co-chairs – First Impressions
Barbra Kavanaugh, LB '02
The Hon. John F. O'Donnell, J.S.C.
Joanne Hudecki, LB '04
ADDSF Kids Escaping Drugs Campaign

Chairs – Rising Leaders
OJ McFoy, RL '04
Buffalo Sewer Authority
Gina Dlugosz, RL '05
Enidine Incorporated

Chairs – Youth Leadership Erie Co.
Don Erb, LB '04
University at Buffalo
Christy Sapone, RL '05
Bflo Medical Supply, Inc.

At-Large
Larry Cobado, LB '02
Verizon
Tim McMorrow, LB '02
M&T Bank
Michael Zabel, LB '05
M&T Bank

LB Grads – Class Chairs-at-Large
TBD

LB 2006 Class Chairs
Anthony Billoni, LB '06
The Park School
Mara Huber, LB '06
University at Buffalo

Rising Leaders Class Chairs
Brooke Mentkowski, RL '06
M&T Bank
Melinda Mulawka, RL '06
Buffalo Fiscal Stability Authority

A LOOK BACK AT THE MANY SUCCESSES OF 2005

2006: OFF TO A GREAT START!

Dear LBers,



It hardly seems possible that our first year as Board President and Executive Director is over!



First, we want to welcome our new staff – Kimberly C. Trent, Program Associate for Youth Leadership Erie County and Shelly Hiller, Administrative Assistant. Both have brought a unique set

of skills to the office and the team is working well together!

Second, we want to thank the 2005 Board of Directors for their support and willingness to listen, learn and make decisions about the future of the organization. We were able to approve several policies that have improved our efficiency and financial health. The Board members were enthusiastic and represented the general membership well in their capacity. We so appreciate their time and commitment to LB.

At the Annual Meeting a new Board was elected (see list at left). Several long term board members have now rotated off the Board including John Frederick, LB '92/LBG I (We think he has been on the Board since 1993!); Hal Kinglsey, LB '02/LN '03; and Claude Imagna, LB '02. These three gentlemen have given so much of themselves to our organization and we are thankful.

Third, the Leadership Buffalo website, www.leadershipbuffalo.org, has been redesigned, reformatted and updated. The site is designed to provide both

introductory and in-depth information about our programs. Members can also find updates about Members Activities and the Values Luncheon. Our sponsors are also highly visible. We are grateful to Cian Robinson, LB '00, and 360 Professional Services Group for their assistance and expertise with this project.

Fourth, our development and fundraising efforts have been successful. The Second Annual Values Awards Luncheon netted over \$52,000. We would like to extend our gratitude to Gretchen Fierle and Terry Kazmierczak, chairs, for their leadership, persistence and hard work. Our 2005 Members Campaign netted over \$12,000. These funds support all programs and allow LB to reach out to individuals that perhaps may need scholarship dollars due to their type of industry, career or personal circumstances.

Our major initiative in 2005 was the Strategic Plan. Please take the time to become familiar with the plan for the future of LB by visiting www.leadershipbuffalo.org. We are grateful to Nick Everest for his consulting work on this project.

The new year is off to a great start. The Class Experience and Rising Leaders classes are composed of individuals who are devoted to this community and eager to enhance their leadership skills. We wish them well.

Thank you to everyone who made 2005 successful and to those of you who are committed to making 2006 successful. We so appreciate the volunteers that work with the staff day in and day out. Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Deborah DiMatteo
President

Mary Jo Hunt
Exec. Director

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES!

Member activities are designed to extend the learning and networking opportunities that you experienced in your LB class year. We've held some great events in the past and have quite an interesting and varied year ahead.

The Members' Activities Committee is continually looking for ways to improve upon our calendar and increase member attendance. This year Members' Activities will be held on the fourth Tuesday of the month with some events being planned for the morning and some for the early evening. We hope this approach will accommodate a wide range of schedules. So let's see more of you!

Join us for our next event: "An Evening with Your Parents & Medicare – Part D." You'll learn about the most recent changes in Medicare and how they affect health care and prescription costs for seniors. LB members are encouraged to bring their parents or grandparents to this informative session hosted by Independent Health. It takes place Tues.,

February 28th at 5:00 p.m. at the Independent Health headquarters located at 325 Essjay Road in Williamsville. More details will be sent to our members in the next few weeks.

Plus, be sure to mark these dates on your calendars and check the LB web site (www.leadershipbuffalo.org) for updates:

Coffee With...Your Control Board

Tues., March 28 at 7:45 am
Location: TBD

An Evening With...The 2005 Charitable Report

Tues., April 25 at 5:00 pm
Location: United Way of Buffalo & Erie County, 742 Delaware Ave.
Gail Johnstone, Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo
Arlene Kaukus, United Way of Buffalo & Erie County

Values Awards Luncheon

Wed., May 10 at Noon
Location: Hyatt Regency Buffalo



**Third Annual
LEADERSHIP BUFFALO
VALUES AWARDS**
Service · Diversity · Inclusion · Openness to Change

**Noon Luncheon
Wed., May 10, 2006
Hyatt Regency Buffalo**

*Terry Kazmierczak, chair
Larry Cobado, co-chair*

LEADERSHIP BUFFALO 2006 CLASS CHAIRS

- Class of 1988* Nancy Blaschak, American Red Cross
Class of 1989 Mac Gipson, Buffalo Police Department
Class of 1990 Susan Bring Tobe, Attorney
Judi Spear, The Spear Group, Inc.
- Class of 1991* Gayle Barton, The United Way of Buffalo & Erie County
Class of 1992 Kristin Kight, KALEIDA Health
John Davanzo, Mercy Hospital
Class of 1993 Anthony Latona, Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel LLP
Margaret Turner, Margaret S. Turner & Associates
Class of 1994 Amy Stromberg, Attorney at Law
Tom Giles, McDonald Investments Inc.
Class of 1995 Donna DeCarolis, National Fuel Resources, Inc.
Class of 1996 Becky Landy, MJ & Associates
Class of 1997 Courtney Walsh, University at Buffalo
Class of 1998 Jeff McArthur, HSBC Bank USA
Class of 1999 David Granville, Creativity & Civic Solutions Commission
- Class of 2000* Max E. Donatelli, Jr., Baker Victory Services
Class of 2001 Katie Hoffman, The Hoffman Group
Maura Cohen, RMC Marketing Services
Class of 2002 Jeff Bagel
Philip Okala, Roswell Park Cancer Institute
Class of 2003 Jon Zucarelli, Brody, Weiss, Zucarelli, & Urbanke, CPAs
Graham Smith, Buffalo Niagara Enterprise
Stephanie Zakowicz, Tops Markets, LLC
Class of 2004 Lynn Imagna, M&T Bank
Kathleen Christy, The BISON Scholarship
Class of 2005 Stephen O'Neill, Damon & Morey LLP
Class of 2006 Anthony Billoni, The Park School
Mara Huber, University at Buffalo
- Rising Leaders 2004*
Collin Gehl, Buffalo Museum of Science
Rising Leaders 2005
Edward Watts, Jr., Watts Engineering & Architecture, PC
Rising Leaders 2005 B
Caroline Hassett, People Inc.
Rising Leaders 2006
Brooke Mentkowski, M&T Bank
Melinda Mulawka, Buffalo Fiscal Stability Authority

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M&T BANK: A LEADER IN THE WNY COMMUNITY



ROBERT E. SADLER, JR., CEO OF M&T.

“Leadership Buffalo is about more than making Western New York better,” said Robert E. Sadler, Jr. “First and foremost, Leadership Buffalo is about making Western New York work better.”

As CEO of Buffalo-based M&T Bank, Bob Sadler is deeply interested in WNY – and in making it work better.

“At M&T, we believe that the well-being of the bank is ultimately and inextricably dependent upon the well-being of the communities we serve.” That’s why, Sadler says, M&T is so supportive of organizations that strengthen Buffalo and WNY – especially an organization like LB which is committed to developing leaders across the region.

“The only way to make this community work better is to generate leaders who work better,” said Sadler.

It may seem obvious to say that leadership is required for an organization to achieve success, Sadler acknowledged. But truly effective leadership is often hard to come by, he said. “Take a look across Upstate New York – from Buffalo to Albany – and you’ll see just how ineffective we’ve been in addressing many serious regional problems.”



M&T’S COMMITMENT TO WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL IS JUST ONE OF THE REASONS WHY THE BANK IS RECOGNIZED LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY AS A PHILANTHROPIC LEADER.

Effective leadership can help solve even the most intractable problems, Sadler maintains, as evidenced by M&T’s experience at the Westminster Community Charter School. An inner-city elementary school on Buffalo’s East Side, where more than nine out of 10 families live below the poverty line, Westminster (formerly School 68) once was one of Buffalo’s poorest performing schools. Now, Westminster ranks consistently among the best schools in the city – the result of a 13-year, \$12-million public-private partnership the bank formed to turn the school around. M&T spent millions on supplemental teacher training, summer- and after-school programs, computers and textbooks – but the most important investment was in a new school principal.

“Our experience at Westminster proved the key hypothesis: that leadership matters,” said Sadler. “The partnership was premised on the belief that strong, unfettered leadership could effect real change. Under the leadership of Principal Yvonne Minor-Ragan, Westminster achieved dramatic results.” Test scores rose from the bottom of the district to the top, and now rival many suburban schools. Westminster was named one of NYS’s “Most Improved Schools,” and received the Governor’s Award for Excellence in Education.

In addition to the support it provides to Westminster, M&T contributes millions of dollars – and thousands of volunteer hours – to hundreds of non-profit community-based organizations. And for the second straight year, M&T Bank was ranked by *BusinessWeek* as one of the 10 most generous companies in the U.S.



MORE THAN 20 M&T EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN THROUGH LB PROGRAMS, AND BY WAY OF EXAMPLE, THOSE LBERS (PICTURED ABOVE) REPRESENT M&T BANK AS DIRECTORS AND VOLUNTEERS FOR DOZENS OF ORGANIZATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY, INCLUDING THE ALBRIGHT KNOX ART GALLERY, BISON FUND, CANISIUS COLLEGE, ERIE COUNTY CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION, GILDA’S CLUB, HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, JESSE KETCHUM MEMORIAL FUND, MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY, NARDIN ACADEMY, PINE AVENUE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION, SPCA, UB SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT ALUMNI, WNED, UNITED WAY OF BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY, WOMEN AND CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL OF BUFFALO FOUNDATION, YMCA AND ZONTA CLUB.

“Corporate citizenship isn’t an abstract concept at M&T, it’s part of the culture,” explained Debbie DiMatteo, vice president of business banking at M&T Bank and LB’s chairwoman. “We’re encouraged to get involved in the community. But that’s not something that management can do in a memo – you have to do it through example.”

“M&T wants its employees to be leaders both inside and outside the bank,” DiMatteo said. “So the bank supports Leadership Buffalo, both as a corporate sponsor and by sponsoring employees to participate in the different programs, because LB helps generate leaders that are more committed, more enlightened and more effective. And that’s good for the bank and the community!”

M&T Bank Corporation (NYSE:MTB) is headquartered in Buffalo and is one of the 20 largest bank holding companies in the U.S., with more than \$55 billion in assets, 14,000 employees and 650 offices in NY, PA, MD, DE, VA, WV and Washington, D.C. M&T was recently cited by Forbes Magazine (February 9, 2006) as one of the best-managed companies in America.

REFLECTIONS ON 2006 OPENING RETREAT FOR CLASS EXPERIENCE

I have to admit that my curiosity was piqued. But for some reason, details about the opening retreat had been hard to come by. Now, after spending two days at Beaver Hollow with my 2006 classmates, I can appreciate the difficulty. The specific activities and conversations have somehow lost their definition and have blended into the three stages described below.

For me, the retreat began with a sense of mild anxiety. Coming in late, right in the middle of the “Name Game,” I found all 44 of my classmates sitting in a large circle, taking turns reciting one another’s names. The stress was enough to make even the highest-level VP a little shaky. And, of course, the ultimate nail biter – who would our roomies be?

I am happy to report that this sense of unease did not last long. Instead, it quickly morphed into the second stage of our retreat, which can best be described by the word “testosterone.”

To say that we were anxious to express our very strong opinions would be an understatement. When Cecile Bilttekoff raised an example involving the Scajaquoda in her discussion of stewardship, our collective eagerness/aggression was unleashed. This energy culminated in the “XY game” in which three teams ganged up on the 4th to teach them a lesson for “betraying” the others’ trust. While it was all in good fun, the intense energy was more than palpable.

For me, the retreat really came together on the second day when Frank Ciccio, LB ’00, presented the DiSC profile. While we all liked the idea of learning about our personalities, many of us became a little uncomfortable when presented with our negative sides. The most important moment, however, was when I finally understood that it wasn’t so much about me, or my personality,



SEEING USE OF CHAIRS IN A NEW LIGHT: OPENNESS TO CHANGE.

but instead about my willingness to listen and adapt to the profiles of others. This lesson in humility harkened back to our earlier discussion of servant leadership – although we are all successful, insightful, and intelligent, our true potential lies in our willingness to listen to the needs of others before offering solutions. This was a humbling lesson, one that I will carry with me through my LB experience.

Mara Huber, LB '06

FAILING FORWARD: A LEARNING EXPERIENCE THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME

The Rising Leaders Class of 2006 officially began a journey of discovery and education during the Opening Retreat.

Although, we arrived at Beaver Hollow with different expectations and viewpoints, it did not take long for the diverse group to uncover many shared qualities. The most obvious likeness was each member’s commitment to the prosperity and quality of life within our community.

The first evening of the retreat proved to be one of revelation. An activity simply referred to as, “the XY game,” was a real “eye-opener.” The group was split into four teams that began to work against each other for the hypothetical

“pot of gold,” evoking feelings of anger and mistrust. Afterwards, the facilitators led a discussion which brought about the realization that working together would have created more positive results. It was concluded that this theory, if applied, could perhaps help us revitalize our community.

All of the education and reflection paid off as the group completed the final activity and constructed a tower representing our region. Failing to work as a team during the first activity taught the class to work in partnership. The collaboration resulted in a masterpiece that the entire group was proud of, hence the term “failing forward.” The lessons learned



COLLECTIVE HUMAN TOWER OF REGION’S FUTURE.

at this retreat will truly last a lifetime, and we look forward to the insightful experiences that are sure to come!

Jaime Swygert, RL '06

CLASS NOTES – NEWS, UPDATES & INFO

Leadership Buffalo mourns the passing of **Patricia O. Rehak**, LB '88, on August 15, 2005, **Ann Marie Smith**, LB '04, on December 13, 2005, and **Dennis F. Wilk**, FI' 04, on January 19, 2006.

Class of '88

Nancy Blaschak accepted the Agency award on behalf of the American Red Cross given by the NCCJ of WNY at the 2006 Brother/Sisterhood luncheon.

David Hart has been appointed chairman of the board of directors of the International Association of Holiday Inns.

Marsha Henderson was honored by the Junior Achievement of WNY Inc. as the first female Hall of Fame Laureate at its 19th annual awards dinner.

Muriel Howard took office as chair-elect of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities at the organization's annual meeting. She will serve as chair of the national organization in 2007.

Peter Hunt was nominated for the category of Community Commitment-Individual by Business First for their Buffalo Business Leadership awards.

Judith Shanley has been elected into the inaugural class of 32 Health Leadership Fellows by the Community Health Foundation of Western and Central New York, bringing together leaders and other professionals in the healthcare industry to learn together, share best practices and look for innovative ways to improve care.

Class of '89

Lana Benatovich received the Women of Distinction award from the Girl Scout Council of Buffalo & Erie County Inc.

Jock Mitchell was appointed to the board of directors of the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo.

Paula Alcalá Rosner received the 2005 Good Scout Award by the Boy Scouts of America, Greater Niagara Frontier Chapter.

Class of '90

Cary Haller joined JPMorgan Chase as vice president, commercial banking group.

Lorna Hill was presented the third biennial Marian de Forest Community Service Award by the Zonta Club of Buffalo.

Susan McCartney has been elected to Everywoman Opportunity Center's 2005-08 nomination committee.

Class of '91

Clinton Brown served as a lead adviser to Ryerson University Department of Architectural Science's Team USA students who are designing a new visitor/interpretation center for Toronto's Historic Fort York.

Mark Foley received the Adrian Levy Leadership Award given by the New York State Rehabilitation Association for leading Community Services for the Developmentally Disabled in new and innovative programs for an urban-based population.

Douglas Usiak received the New York State Senate Achievers' Award.

Class of '92

John Amershadian was nominated for Business First's Who's Who in Law in the field of Real Estate law.

John Davanzo has been appointed to the advisory board of the American Heart Association and the American Stroke Association of Western New York. **Luther Robinson** was awarded the Siegal Award for excellence in teaching by the University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Science.

Class of '93

Ruth Bryant has been elected to the board of directors of The John R. Oishei Foundation.

Margaret Turner was appointed to a two-year term as chair of the President's Council of Cornell Women at Cornell University.

Dennis Walczyk has been elected into the inaugural class of 32 Health Leadership Fellows by the Community Health Foundation of Western and Central New York bringing together leaders and other professionals in the healthcare industry to learn together, share best practices and look for innovative ways to improve care.

Class of '94

Sharon Porcellio has been elected to the Fellows of the American Bar Association recognizing her significant legal and charitable leadership, a passion for philanthropic endeavors and her contributions to the advancement of the law.

Class of '95

Jacqueline Culliton has been named senior vice president and district sales manager for First Niagara Bank.

Celeste Lawson received the Arts award at the 2006 NCCJ of WNY Brother/Sisterhood luncheon.

Class of '96

Jill Bond was nominated for Business First's Who's Who in Law in the field of Corporate law.

James Casion has been elected into the inaugural class of 32 Health Leadership Fellows by the Community Health Foundation of Western and Central New York bringing together leaders and other professionals in the healthcare industry to learn together, share best practices and look for innovative ways to improve care.

Jack Connors received the Communications award at the 2006 NCCJ of WNY Brother/Sisterhood luncheon.

Gayle Eagan was elected vice president for 2005-06 of the Estate Analysts of Western New York Inc. Gayle was nominated for Business First's Who's Who in Law in the field of Estates/Trusts law.

John Hoffman has been recognized in Business First's Who's Who in Insurance.

Daniel Scully was nominated for Business First's Who's Who in Law in the field of Health Care law.

Class of '97

David Buck has been elected to the Burchfield-Penney Art Center's board of trustees.

Deborah DiMatteo was on the selection committee of Business First's 40 Under Forty Awards. Deborah was one of twenty-five women recognized at the second annual Women Who Mean Business awards.

Jeffrey Hirshberg was elected to the Literacy Volunteers of Buffalo & Erie County's board of directors.

Paul Kolkmeyer received Canisius College's Business Executive of the Year award.

Michael Piette was appointed to the board of directors of Family & Children's Service of Niagara Inc., which provides human services to people in need.

Courtney Walsh was one of twenty-five women recognized at the second annual Women Who Mean Business awards.

Class of '98

Hugh Russ II was re-appointed to the board of directors of Roswell Park Cancer Institute Corp.

Martha Salzman was nominated for Business First's Who's Who in Law in the field of Tax law.

Class of '99

Mark Brand was appointed to the board of trustees for St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute.

Paula Ciprich was nominated for Business First's Who's Who in Law in the field of Corporate law.

Paul Comeau has been elected to the boards of Hodgson Russ LLP and the Business Council of NYS.

Joseph Cozzo has been hired as chief operation officer and will transition into the CEO position of Buffalo Hearing & Speech Center.

Mitch Flynn was honored by the Association of Fundraising Professionals as the Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year for his work for the Ride for Roswell.

Danis Gehl was re-elected to the board of Child & Family Services as vice chair.

Kristy Long has been promoted to vice president of self-funded services at Independent Health.

Francesca Mesiah has been named senior marketing associate by Kaleida Health at Buffalo General Hospital.

Michael Mistriner has been named principal at Cannon Design, a North American architectural, engineering and planning firm.

William Scarafia has been elected president of the Maryland Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives.

Class of '00

Cindy Abbott-Letro was elected vice president of the board of directors by Burchfield-Penney Art Center.

Monique Crawford was one of twenty-five women recognized at the second annual Women Who Mean Business awards.

Max Donatelli received the Social Services award at the 2006 NCCJ of WNY Brother/Sisterhood luncheon.

Kevin Kelly received Business First's 40 Under Forty Award in Communications.

Brad Nagel has joined the SKM Group Inc. as senior vice president. He's responsible for developing new business opportunities and directing the advertising, marketing and promotion of the agency.

David Nasca has been appointed to the board of directors of the Child & Family Services Foundation. David will also serve on the board of St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute.

Cian Robinson received Business First's 40 Under Forty Award in Business services.

Marlene Schillinger and **Robert Stall** have been elected into the inaugural class of 32 Health Leadership Fellows by the Community Health Foundation of Western and Central New York, bringing together leaders and other professionals in the healthcare industry to learn together, share best practices and look for innovative ways to improve care.

CLASS NOTES – CONTINUED

Class of '01

Aimee Brace has been elected into the inaugural class of 32 Health Leadership Fellows by the Community Health Foundation of Western and Central New York, bringing together leaders and other professionals in the healthcare industry to learn together, share best practices and look for innovative ways to improve care.

Joseph DeBergalis, Jr. was nominated for the category of Community Commitment-Individual by Business First for their Buffalo Business Leadership awards.

James Domagalski was on the selection committee of Business First's 40 Under Forty Awards.

Gustavo Lima has been promoted to associate principal at Cannon Design.

Maureen Rasp-Glose has been elected first vice chairman to the 2006 Amherst Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

Tracy Sawicki has been elected first vice president of the Girl Scout Council of Buffalo and Erie County board of directors.

Renata Toney joined the SKM Group Inc. as public relations director. She will design and implement strategic public relations programs.

Class of '02

Joseph Abdallah was elected to the executive committee of the University at Buffalo's Alumni Association.

Stuart Angert has been honored as the 2005 Executive of the Year by the Buffalo/Niagara Sales and Marketing Executives, Inc.

Sean Beiter received Business First's 40 Under Forty Award in Law.

David Chesebrough has taken a position as president and CEO for the Center Of Science and Industry in Columbus, Ohio.

Gretchen Fierle was hired as vice president of community relations and communications at Independent Health. Gretchen has been elected into the inaugural class of 32 Health Leadership Fellows by the Community Health Foundation of Western and Central New York, bringing together leaders and other professionals in the healthcare industry to learn together, share best practices and look for innovative ways to improve care. Gretchen was also one of 25 recognized at the second annual Women Who Mean Business awards.

Barbra Kavanaugh has been elected to the board of directors of the American Jewish Committee Buffalo Niagara Chapter.

Hal Kingsley has been elected president of the board of directors of the American Jewish Committee Buffalo Niagara Chapter.

Michael Hughes received Business First's 40 Under Forty Award in Communications.

Frank Polino was elected treasurer of the Niagara County Community College Foundation Inc. for 2005-06.

Maureen Rasp-Glose has been elected to the 2005-08 nomination committee of Everywoman Opportunity Center.

John Schmidt, Jr. was nominated for Business First's Who's Who in Law in the field of Technology law.

Class of '03

Marc Adler was elected first vice president of the University at Buffalo Alumni Association.

Luanne Kingston will help head the YMCA of Greater Buffalo's campaign for Resident Camp Weona.

John Kolaga received the William A. Faust Award from the Niagara Frontier Section of the Air and Waste Management Association.

Carol Kostyniak has been elected into the inaugural class of 32 Health Leadership Fellows by the Community Health Foundation of Western and Central New York, bringing together leaders and other professionals in the healthcare industry to learn together, share best practices and look for innovative ways to improve care.

Jennifer Parker received the Communications award at the 2006 NCCJ of WNY Brother/ Sisterhood luncheon. Jennifer was also one of 25 women recognized at the second annual Women Who Mean Business awards.

Denise Paszkiewicz has been elected to the Meals on Wheels of Buffalo & Erie County board of directors.

Mark Stramaglia has been elected to the board of directors of the University at Buffalo's Alumni Association.

Class of '04

Kristin Marusza was recognized by Business First's 40 Under Forty in Finance.

Laura Zaepfel has been elected chair, Advocacy Council of the 2006 Amherst Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

Class of '05

Janet Barnes' firm Stand Advertising was nominated for the category of Creative Company by Business First for their Buffalo Business Leadership awards. Janet was also one of 25 women recognized at the second annual Women Who Mean Business awards.

Sarah Buxton-Smith has been elected to the 2005-08 nomination committee of Everywoman Opportunity Center.

Julie Coppola Cox was named the 2005 Outstanding Practitioner by the Buffalo/Niagara Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.

Lisa Damiani received Business First's 40 Under Forty Award in Government.

Charles Grieco was appointed to serve a two-year term on the Buffalo Environmental Management Commission by the City of Buffalo Common Council.

Denise Gueli received Business First's 40 Under Forty Award in Business services. Denise has also been elected secretary to the board of directors of the NYS Society of Certified Public Accountants.

William Kelly has been elected to the Burchfield-Penney Art Center's board of trustees.

Rev. Kinzer Pointer received the Education award at the 2006 NCCJ of WNY Brother/Sisterhood luncheon. Kinzer also received the William B. Hoyt Memorial Advocacy Award by Child & Family Services.

Richanne Mankey has been named vice president for Student Affairs at Daemen College.

Randy Strauss, partner of the StraussGroup Inc. and SourceOne Professionals, has moved to a new location at 8302 Main Street. The move gives the companies space to grow for at least the next two or three years.

Lawrence Whistler IV has been elected to the CFA Society of Buffalo board of directors.

Class of '06

Kathy Best has been elected to a three year term to the Western New York Grantmakers Association's board of directors.

Patrick Long was elected president of the board of directors of just buffalo literary center.

Sarah Mugel has been elected to the board of directors of the Niagara Frontier Corporate Counsel Association Inc. Sarah was also nominated for Business First's Who's Who in Law in the field of Labor & Employment law.

Rising Leaders '04

Nikki Alieva has been promoted to senior marketing manager of Ciminelli Development Co. Inc. and Ciminelli Real Estate Corp.

Diane Bessel-Matteson has been elected into the inaugural class of 32 Health Leadership Fellows by the Community Health Foundation of Western and Central New York, bringing together leaders and other professionals in the healthcare industry to learn together, share best practices and look for innovative ways to improve care.

Oluwole McFoy has accepted the position of secretary to the general manager with the Buffalo Sewer Authority. OJ will be second in command responsible for the workings of the 250 people at the Buffalo Sewer Authority.

Richard Morrisroe has been named to the board of trustees at Catholic Charities of Buffalo. Rich has accepted the position of director of Housing & Community Services for Hispanics United.

Susan Swiatkowski has accepted the position of communications manager at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

Kristen Wright has been hired by Inergex Inc., a business and technology alignment firm providing integrated, business-driven IT solutions.

Rising Leaders '05

Kara Crider has been promoted to investor relations manager for Buffalo Niagara Enterprise.

Rising Leaders '06

Jill Sessa has been elected to the board of trustees of The Burchfield-Penney Art Center.

Youth Leadership

Marni Rodman, YL '99, was promoted to account executive, brand public relations by Eric Mower and Associates.

Other

Thomas Kucharski has been elected to serve a two-year term on the board of directors of the International Committee of the International Economic Development Council.

Thomas Stewart has been elected to the American Red Cross, Greater Buffalo Chapter board of directors.

LEADER SNAPS



LB MEMBERS ENJOY G-LOVE & THE SPECIAL SAUCE.



RISING LEADERS COMMENCEMENT IN DECEMBER 2005.



EGGS & ISSUES WITH BISHOP KMIEC.



2005 CE CLASS CELEBRATING A YEAR OF SUCCESS AT THEIR GRADUATION.



2001 CLASS – FELIZ NAVIDAD.



YLEC '06: UP CLOSE & PERSONAL.



YLEC '06 WORKS TOGETHER AND PLAYS TOGETHER.