

"DUX" IS THE LATIN WORD FOR LEADER. DUX SOUP IS THE SEMI-REGULARLY PUBLISHED NEWSLETTER OF LEADERSHIP BUFFALO, INC.

INDEPENDENT HEALTH: LEADING BY EXAMPLE

"The highest form of management is the development of people. Leadership Buffalo makes an important contribution in developing stronger leadership to ensure that our community prospers in the future."

– Gretchen Fierle, LB President & Vice President of Community Relations & Communications at Independent Health

Independent Health shares in Leadership Buffalo's commitment to helping lead Western New York to a prosperous future. The locally based health plan has taken on a leadership role by addressing the ever-changing needs of area residents, while delivering the utmost in quality and value.

ABOUT INDEPENDENT HEALTH

Starting as an HMO more than 25 years ago, Independent Health has grown to offer a wide selection of products and services, including traditional, self-funded, government and pharmacy benefit management. Today, the company provides health benefits and services to nearly 375,000 individuals in WNY and throughout the country.

"As a values-driven organization, we strive to be the leader in delivering customer solutions that improve the health of the communities we serve," said Dr. Michael Cropp, president and CEO of Independent Health.

Through effective leadership, Independent Health has found new ways

to support local physicians in treating their patients. Independent Health was the first health plan in the nation to embrace the concept of Idealized Design of Clinical Office Practice (IDCOP), a multi-faceted approach to redesigning physician offices to be more patient-centered and improve patient access. It also partnered with physicians to implement Practice Excellence, the company's nationally recognized pay-for-performance program.

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

Staying true to its mission to be a community leader, Independent Health has lent its support to an array of local and national causes. The Independent Health Youth and Family Center in Amherst offers a complete continuum of programs year-round for children. Independent Health has also sponsored the American Heart Association's Heart Walk, the United Way Day of Caring, the BPO, and *Business First's* First Honors and Pathfinders Award Program.



TOP PHOTO: INDEPENDENT HEALTH SPONSORS ANNUAL "KIDS RUN" IN DELAWARE PARK; BOTTOM PHOTO: CHILDREN FROM THE NIAGARA FALLS HOUSING AUTHORITY TAKE PART IN A BASEBALL CLINIC AT DUNN TIRE PARK AS PART OF THE INDEPENDENT HEALTH FOUNDATION'S GOOD FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD™ PROGRAM.

What's more, Independent Health employees actively participate in giving back to the community in many ways, including choosing to donate by "dressing down" in casual clothing to support a variety of worthy causes, including Coaches Against Cancer, UNYTS, Special Olympics, Community Music School, Leukemia Society, and Habitat for Humanity. Over the last three years, through dress down days and contributions made to

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President **Gretchen Fierle, LB '02**
Independent Health

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

Treasurer **Robert Tocker, RL '05**

Treasurer-Elect
Allen "Pete" Grum, LB '02
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Vice President – Strategic Plan Chair
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Vice President – Marketing & Development
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Vice President – Programs
John Schmidt, LB '02
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Vice Presidents – Member Activities
Kathy Egan, LB '05
Olympic Management Systems
Stephen O'Neill, LB '05
Damon & Morey LLP

At-Large **Archie Amos, LB '88**
NYS Department of Civil Services
Aimee Gomlak Brace, LB '01
Catholic Health System
Don Erb, LB '04
University at Buffalo
Christopher Jacobs
Avalon Development
Michael Keating, LB '98
Wegmans Food Markets
Charles Maclay, LB '95
next Point LLC
Ann Monroe
Community Health Foundation
of WNY and CNY
Zachary Schneider, RL '05
Schneider Digital & Buffalo
State College
David Smith, LB '90
National Fuel Gas Company
Thomas Van Nortwick, LB '92
NYS Division of Housing &
Community Renewal

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear LB Members,

Although we're only early into 2007, this year is already shaping up to be an exciting one for Leadership Buffalo.

There are a number of activities planned in celebration of our 20th year including the partnership formed with WNED to present the new Buffalo City Forum.

There have also been a number of changes that have occurred to the framework of our board of directors. Our nominating committee voted to include non-LB graduates on the board for the very first time. These new board members will give us a fresh perspective when it comes to our relevancy and on how we can better serve the needs of our community.

In addition, many of our past board members are back in leadership roles, either serving on the board or chairing a variety of initiatives offered under the LB umbrella.

The size of the board has also been reduced. It is our hope to have a board that is more strategically focused and less tactical in nature, while at the same time building a stronger leadership base of committee chairs.

We are confident that we have assembled a variety of leaders who will help pave the way for LB now and in the future.

On a personal note, I am honored to serve as your president. Debbie DiMatteo did an outstanding job over the past two years and her business and financial acumen contributed to building a stronger foundation for the organization. It is our good fortune that Debbie will remain on the board this year.

My main role as president will be to serve as a facilitator. Since my background is in communications, I will be looking for ways to better communicate to you and the community at large. I know that many of you have suggestions about what we need to do to improve LB, and where we need to ultimately go as an organization. Over the next two years, I want to give all of you the opportunity to convey your ideas. My goal is to bring our executive leadership and our graduates together so that we can discuss ways to support and design the future of LB as a team.

In closing, I believe we have all benefited from having Leadership Buffalo as part of our community. Although we may take away something different from this experience individually, the value of having had this opportunity is shared by each and every one of us.

I look forward to vigorous, productive participation as we move forward.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Fierle, President

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

THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2007
12:00 NOON LUNCHEON
HYATT REGENCY BUFFALO

Co-chairs:
Patricia O'Brien, LB '95
Peter Hunt, LB '88

THE LATEST ON LEADERSHIP BUFFALO



Dear LB Members,

This year will mark the graduation of the 20th class of Leadership Buffalo. And we have an impressive

group of Class Experience and Rising Leaders participants to help us celebrate this auspicious occasion. There will be several events to help us recognize this year including our Fourth Values Awards Luncheon on May 3, 2007. Watch your email for details and you can also check the web site. We want every class represented, so start thinking about your tables!

RADIO FORUM WITH WNED

Leadership Buffalo has several exciting initiatives underway for 2007. Many of you attended our first Buffalo City Forum on January 25th featuring Lanny Davis, former Special Counsel to President William Clinton. Buffalo City Forum is a collaboration with WNED 970 AM to bring national speakers for a live, one-hour radio broadcast. Modeled after the Cleveland City Club, this venue gives us the opportunity to engage in important state and national conversations. We will be presenting three more opportunities for you to attend in 2007. Details will be distributed as they become available.

PAIRING LB'ERS WITH NONPROFITS

We have also been the recipient of a grant from the Oishei Foundation to create two programs that will assist Leadership Buffalo graduates in becoming involved in meaningful civic engagement while improving the capacity of the nonprofit sector. These two programs will pair LB graduates with nonprofit organizations; enhance their knowledge of boardmanship and

board governance; and improve the governance capacity of nonprofit organizations. LB Connect will electronically match LB graduates with nonprofit organizations requesting access to potential board members. LB staff will interview the LB graduate to assess their interest in a particular board and if appropriate, forward names of potential board members to the agency for their consideration. LB will also be partnering with The Council of Community Services of New York State, Inc. (CCSNYS) to offer trainings in boardmanship and board governance to LB members.

The Board Fellows program is designed to allow those who have never served on a board to experience board service as a learner. LB will identify three to four nonprofit boards that are willing to host a Board Fellow. Board Fellows will also be required to attend a series of trainings offered by CCSNYS during the course of their fellowship and to participate in quarterly sessions with LB staff to discuss their experiences, issues and concerns.

A state-of-the-art web site is crucial to the success of these two projects and we will begin the upgrade of our web site soon.

MEMBER ACTIVITIES CONTINUE

Member Activities will continue to take place on the fourth Tuesday. We are planning events for February, March and September. October will feature our key 20th year celebration with a speaker on leadership (TBD) followed by an all class reunion. Muriel Howard, LB '88, is chairing the speaker event.

Thanks for reading to the end!

Mary Jo Hunt, Executive Director

LEADERSHIP BUFFALO 2007 CLASS CHAIRS

- Class of 1988* Robert Murphy, D'Youville College
Sr. Judith Justinger, Diocese of Buffalo
- Class of 1989* Kate Bukowski, M&T Bank
- Class of 1990* Susan Bring Tobe
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 & Mugal LLP
- Class of 1994* Amy Stromberg, Attorney at Law
Tom Giles, Citizens Bank
- Class of 1995* Barbara Miller-Williams, Buffalo Police Department
- 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, City of Buffalo – Dept. of Economic Development
- 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* Claude Imagna, EDS
- Class of 2003* Paul Muck, Jones Lang LaSalle
Kelly Tyler, NYS Energy Research & Development Authority
- Class of 2004* Kathleen Christy, The BISON Scholarship
- Class of 2005* Stephen O'Neill, Damon & Morell LLP
Tim Stenhouse, Moog Inc.
- Class of 2006* Anthony Billoni, The Park School of Buffalo
Todd Bushway, Colucci & Gallaher, PC
- Class of 2007* Holly Bowser, Catholic Health System
Steven Harvey, Every Person Influences Children, Inc.
- Rising Leaders 2004*
Collin Gehl, Buffalo Museum of Science
- Rising Leaders 2005 B*
Caroline Roeder, People Inc.
- Rising Leaders 2006*
Amity Lippes
- Rising Leaders 2007*
Carl Millender II
Daniel Weinrieb, SourceOne Professionals

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CLASS EXPERIENCE: FOCUS RING & THE DREADED NAME GAME

The 2007 Leadership Buffalo Class Experience group gathered amidst fluffy white flakes of snow at Beaver Hollow on January 19. The 48 members of the



2007 CLASS EXPERIENCE OPENING RETREAT: LOWER, LOWER – GOT IT!

Class of 2007 assembled for an intense two-day opening retreat designed to prepare them for the year ahead and form a lasting bond among the group.

Through participation in team-building activities and the dreaded yet infamous “name game,” the diverse and lively group quickly began working as a team, while wondering all along “who comes up with these activities?” Although the class is chock full of natural leaders (plenty of high Ds and Is, as we learned from our DiSC tests), communication and teamwork prevailed and each task was tackled with tenacity, ingenuity and plenty of humor.

Through activities such as the “focus ring” and the “rope handcuffs,” the class was able to become more comfortable and foster trust among the

group. Day one also included an overview of the LB program, history, mission, and a demonstrative activity articulating the values of inclusion, diversity, openness to change, and service, along with the 2007 Rising Leaders class. On day two, Class Experience members began to identify critical community issues for further examination throughout 2007 and shared their aspirations and ambitions for the year. Before departing, Holly Bowser, of Catholic Health System, and Steve Harvey, of Every Person Influences Children, Inc., were elected as the '07 Class Chairs.

The Class of '07 is eager to study and immerse themselves in issues affecting the quality of life, attitude, leadership, future of the City of Buffalo.

– *Lauren Rozanski and Christine Carr*

RISING LEADERS RETREAT INVIGORATES YOUNG BUFFALO



2007 RISING LEADERS OPENING RETREAT – “SUCCESS WITH LEAN ON ME.”

As the snow swirled on my way up the steep hill of the Beaver Hollow Retreat Center, I'll admit I was a bit nervous. I had no idea what an amazing weekend was ahead of the Rising Leaders group. Thankfully the woodland compound was super nice, the food was delicious, and the surrounding acres were

gorgeous. Perfect for a weekend of invigorating thought. It did snow the whole time (making it a bit “Shining-esque”), but the retreat provided a warmth through the group dynamics and friendships that ensued. It was truly an invigorating experience.

The class participated in activities like creating our own

vision of Buffalo out of cardboard and whatever else was lying around, as well as working in teams to erect problematic marshmallow structures, and creating collages of our passions.

The best part? My group. The people. I honestly really liked everyone in our

class. Everyone was on the same page and approachable. Everyone could relate to the pains and rewards of working 40+ hours a week as a young professional. It was exciting to be around people with similar interests who are also striving for success. We are all doers and amazingly dynamic people. And somehow, none of us fought, and everyone was rather easygoing and fun.

Personally, it made me remember that I have great qualities and ambitions that I sometimes forget about. And that there are other people like me out there with the same insecurities and aspirations. I'm looking so forward to the rest of the program. There's more to life than dates and spats with friends. Sometimes we forget that. There's a city to run, and we're next in charge.

– *Nicole Schuman*

LEADERSHIP BUFFALO 2006: GOOD TO GREAT

LB's Class of 2006 was challenged at our closing retreat to build a plan for Western New York's future through the methods explored and described by Jim Collins in his bestseller, *Good to Great*, and his Social Sectors monograph with the same title. Collins studies the difference between great companies and good companies and translates his findings to the non-profit world in the monograph. (For more information, visit www.jimcollins.com.)

We were asked to make use of his overlapping circles – resources, best in the world at, and passion – to find a hedgehog for Buffalo. Collins describes the hedgehog as “what you understand you can be best at.”

An entirely new approach to the closing retreat, Mary Jo and our retreat leaders gave us their enthusiasm and broke the class into three groups for six hours of brainstorming and the added test: to return with a creative presentation of our hedgehog.

No doubt the group that chose Lisa Avery to represent a recently elected official of the “Work-Life Balance” party gave us the most entertaining performance. Avery rallied her peers in

a press conference, leading the region into an exciting future.

She explained their process, “Once we stepped back, the answer began to appear. Where it overlapped was in the area of Work-Life Balance. This has been a recent catch phrase; however, it applies perfectly to our region. We have a low cost of living, affordable housing, recreation activities for everyone, sports, culture, and diversity. We are the picture of work-life balance, and by capitalizing on that, we can attract the world and prosper.”

The three groups came to many of the same conclusions, with a solid base of the area's strengths and weaknesses. Todd Bushway pointed out one important discovery during the process: “How people on our teams of varied backgrounds, careers and viewpoints wanted similar things for Buffalo.”

Another inspiring element was a look at people as resources, the promising leaders that need to “be on the bus” for our hedgehog to work. The lists created by the three groups had much in common, with leaders coming from every community sector, and a surprising lack of elected officials. In



GOOD TO GREAT – “HAVING THE RIGHT PEOPLE ON THE BUS.”

the end, it was a lot of hard work, but each and every one of us came out with a concrete example of how what we learned in LB will provide us with vital tools to deal with many circumstances.

– Cynn timer Gaasch, Cynn timer Gaasch Grant
Writing & Consulting

INDEPENDENT HEALTH – COVER STORY CONTINUED

the United Way, employees have raised more than \$320,000.

Independent Health's dedication to the health of the community was also the driving force behind the creation of the Independent Health Foundation in 1992. The Foundation is a community resource that establishes collaborative relationships with other business partners to develop and implement programs that focus on changing behaviors and improving the quality of life.

Independent Health looks forward to continuing its relationship with Leadership Buffalo to lay the groundwork for what promises to be a healthier and better tomorrow.

“A successful future will take leadership from all levels,” said Gretchen Fierle. “Independent Health has embraced its leadership role by supporting its employees through the various LB programs. Thanks to the efforts of all LB graduates, our community is in a better position to flourish.”

Headquartered in Amherst, Independent Health was founded in 1980 and has consistently been rated among the top health plans in the country for customer service and member satisfaction. Independent Health's comprehensive portfolio offerings include HMO, POS, PPO and EPO products, Medicare and Medicaid managed care plans, traditional indemnity insurance, coverage for self-funded employers, plus health savings account (HSA) and pharmacy benefit management (PBM) services.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP: THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME

When I first received the letter from Youth Leadership Erie County (YLEC) that I had been accepted to be a part of the class of 2007, I was, among other things, thrilled and excited. To be chosen to participate was an honor.

Upon being accepted I was worried though; I am a reserved person after all. I had yet to master the art of starting and holding a conversation with someone I didn't know (unless it revolved around sports). But as I looked at the roster for the class, I saw the names of two people I knew, so my plan was to just stick with them.

However, as we made our way to the bus for the retreat I found out that we had pre-assigned seating. I would have to sit with two people I did not know for the ride to our campsite. This turned out to be a good thing for me. It pushed me beyond the limits of my comfort zone. Throughout the retreat and the sessions I found that I could indeed be an engaging person.

Not only did YLEC provide a forum that complements my reserved demeanor, but YLEC also opened up doors for us as a group to make new contacts within our community. These contacts are not only for our future careers, but also for the many ways we can help our community as a whole. For instance after meeting with

Addison Henderson and learning more about the film that he helped make, it gave me the inspiration to find other ways to garner interest in other problems that face Erie County.

I believe that my classmates would agree YLEC has been a great experience for us. It has given me a powerful glimpse of the importance of diversity. Although, we did not always agree on everything, for instance issues like the casino that is slated to be built in Buffalo's downtown area. This topic had us thinking and verbalizing our thoughts and ideas, and even though we debated our different views and opinions on the subject, we were still able to get along with one another.

In only a few sessions, YLEC has made me increasingly aware of Erie County beyond the borders of the community I live in. For example, our first session was presented to us by the Buffalo Niagara River Keepers. During their presentation I learned that there were many different things that we as young people can do to help preserve our



YLEC YOUTH SUPPORT IN ACTION.

lakes, rivers and creeks. It also enlightened me in the roles that the youth have in becoming a part of the decision making process in Erie County. I saw that our opinion was valued, when we went to the Allendale Youth Theatre, and we were asked whether they should start incorporating teen theatre productions.

In a friendly atmosphere with informative and supportive workshop facilitators, we learned how to set goals, follow those goals, and also how to build upon those goals. Now we have no choice but to strive for continued success.

– *Naeem J. Jenkins-Nixon*

WNED-AM 970 and Leadership Buffalo present



THIS NEW COLLABORATION BETWEEN WNED AND LB, MODELED AFTER THE CLEVELAND CITY CLUB, BRINGS SPEAKERS TO THE AREA TO DISCUSS THEIR EXPERIENCES AND INSIGHTS WITH A LIVE AUDIENCE. THERE WILL BE THREE MORE FORUMS THIS YEAR IN THE SPRING, SUMMER AND FALL. WATCH YOUR E-MAILS AND LB'S WEB SITE FOR MORE DETAILS.

CLASS NOTES – NEWS, UPDATES & INFO

CLASS OF '88

Archie Amos is serving on Veterans LifeOps board of directors.

Stephanie Barber was one of the honorees at the 34th annual Black Achievers in Industry awards dinner.

David Hart has been elected to the Buffalo Niagara Partnership's board of directors.

Marsha Henderson and **Muriel Howard** are considered to be two of the "10 Most Powerful WNY Women" by *Buffalo Spree*. **Muriel** was also elected to serve a three-year term on Kaleida Health's board of directors.

Joseph Makowski is assistant treasurer of Medaille College's board of trustees.

Lewis Markle was elected to the board of the Presbyterian Senior Care of Western New York Inc.

Wendy Pierce has been named a director of The Western New York Grantmakers Association.

CLASS OF '89

David Edmunds, Jr. was one of the honorees at the 34th annual Black Achievers in Industry awards dinner. David is a committee member of the newly created special committee of the NYS Bar Association on the civil rights agenda to set new goals that can be achieved in the next five years.

Eva Hasset is considered one of the "10 Most Powerful WNY Women" by *Buffalo Spree*.

Robert Perelli is a member of the healthcare advisory council of Gilda's Club Western New York.

CLASS OF '90

Mark Celmer was named to the Buffalo Niagara Partnership's board of directors.

Olga Karman was one of the recipients of the Nuestro Orgulla Latino Award by Hispanics United of Buffalo and the Hispanic Alliance of Western New York.

Arlene Kaukus received the Global Citizen Award from the International Institute of Buffalo for support during its merger with Buffalo/Niagara WorldConnect.

CLASS OF '91

Clinton Brown has been appointed to the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission.

Mark Foley has been elected board of directors chairperson for the Rehabilitation Research and Training Institute.

Kenneth Friedman has been elected president of the Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society board of directors.

CLASS OF '92

Anthony Colucci III was appointed to serve on St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute's board of trustees.

John Davanzo serves in the capacity of immediate past chair of the WNY Healthcare Association board of directors.

Clotilde Dedecker was one of the recipients of Canisius College's 2006 Distinguished Alumni Awards.

James Dentinger has been elected to the board of directors of The Monday Quarterback Club.

Tanya Perrin-Johnson was one of the honorees at the 34th annual Black Achievers in Industry awards dinner.

Sharon Townsend received the 2006 Howard A. Levine Award for Excellence in Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare at the State Bar Center.

CLASS OF '93

Donald Ogilvie is the newly elected chairman of the National Federation for Just Communities (formerly the National Conference for Community and Justice).

Dennis Walczyk received the Community Leader Award in Social Services by The National Federation for Just Communities of Western New York.

CLASS OF '94

Robert Bennett was recognized at EPIC's, Every Person Influences Children, gala for his accomplishments.

Christopher Knospe is vice chairman of the board of trustees of St. Mary's High School in Lancaster.

Lynn Marinelli is considered one of the "10 Most Powerful WNY Women" by *Buffalo Spree*. Lynn was named a Distinguished Alumni at Daemen College's annual dinner.

Anthony McKenna was named to the Buffalo Niagara Partnership's board of directors.

Margaret Paroski received the Humanitarian Award from the Hope for Tomorrow Foundation. She is chair of the board of directors of Upstate New York Transplant Services.

Diane Rowe received the Herman S. Prescott Award for her dedication to the professional development of workers and other activities by the Boys & Girls Clubs Movement.

Christine Ziemba received the Community Leadership Award in Law Enforcement by The National Federation for Just Communities of Western New York.

CLASS OF '95

Peter Cammarata was elected secretary of the Buffalo Urban Development Corporation board of directors. Peter also is board of directors treasurer for the Broadway Market.

Carol Cassell serves on the upstate New York Transplant Services board of directors.

Donna DeCarolis was recognized as one of the 2006 Women Who Mean Business by *Business First*.

Mary Gresham was recognized for her stellar professional and community service achievement at the Girl Scout Council of Buffalo & Erie County's Women of Distinction Awards.

Samuel Savarino has been elected to a three-year term on the D'Youville College board of trustees.

Wendy Stahika is serving on the Child and Family Services board of directors.

CLASS OF '96

Jack Connors received Niagara University Family Business Center's Leadership Award on behalf of *Business First* of Buffalo.

Robert Drago and his wife were recognized as supporters by Immaculata Academy during its Mater Christi Award Gala.

Gayle Eagan has been elected president of the Estate Analysts of Western New York.

Kent Frey was named to the Buffalo Niagara Partnership's board of directors.

Lourdes Iglesias was one of the recipients of the Nuestro Orgulla Latino Award by Hispanics United of Buffalo and the Hispanic Alliance of Western New York.

Mark Mistretta is a returning trustee of the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy.

Paul Neureuter was named president of The Krog Corporation, a design-build contractor and developer.

CLASS OF '97

Deborah DiMatteo has been named to a three-year term on the board of trustees of Hilbert College. Deborah was on the selection committee of *Business First's* 40 Under Forty Awards.

Sharon Hanson was elected trustee of Trocaire College.

Richard Herdlein was the recipient of the President's Award for Excellence in Equity and Campus Diversity.

Jeffrey Hirschberg was elected treasurer to Just Buffalo Literary Center's board of directors.

Steven Weiss has been appointed to Governor Spitzer's housing policy advisory committee as well as the interview panel for housing and real estate.

CLASS OF '98

James Manguso's company, Lauer-Manguso & Associates Architects, won two finalist awards in *Business First's* Brick by Brick Award Program for 2006.

CLASS OF '99

Schuyler Banks was one of the honorees at the 34th annual Black Achievers in Industry awards dinner.

Doug Bean received the Community Leadership Award in Public Relations by The National Federation for Just Communities of Western New York.

Joe Cozzo was appointed to the board of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus.

Mitch Flynn won the Platinum Best of Show Excalibur

Award from the Buffalo/Niagara chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.

Danis Gehl has been elected chairman of the board for Child and Family Services.

Francesca B. Mesiah received "The Claudette Colvin Award for Women of Courage," during Americorp's Martin Luther King Day of Service and Seat for Social Justice program. The program was held at Durham Memorial Church and chaired by **Mark Lazara**, LB '98, Executive Director, West Seneca AmeriCorp.

Michael Mistriner and his wife Michelle were named chairpersons of the 2006 Niagara County Community College Foundation Inc. Scholarship Gala.

CLASS OF '00

Cindy Abbott-Letro is considered one of the "10 Most Powerful WNY Women" by *Buffalo Spree*. Cindy received the Burt P. Flickinger Jr. Leadership Award from the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo.

Glenda Cadwallader and **Max Donatelli** have been named fellows of the WNY Community Health Foundation.

Frank Ciccio was appointed chief learning officer for The Center for Hospice & Palliative Care.

Rita Markle has named chief learning officer of Performance Management Partners.

David Nasca has been named president and CEO-designate of Evans Bancorp Inc.

Catherine Schweitzer was elected secretary of the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy board of trustees.

CLASS OF '01

R. Maura Cohen was re-elected to a four-year term on the Meals on Wheels Foundation of WNY's board of directors.

Sally Crowley is part-time director of development/marketing for Shakespeare in Delaware Park.

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

Amy Gomlak Brace was recognized as one of the 2006 Women Who Mean Business by *Business First*.

Phil Hahn has been named school partnerships coordinator for the Buffalo Alliance for Education.

E. Paul Hettich is treasurer of the board of directors of Upstate New York Transplant Services.

Mary Anne Kresse received a Community Leadership Award in Community Service/Volunteerism by The National Federation for Just Communities of WNY.

Gerald Mead was appointed by the American Association of Museums to serve as a surveyor for their Museum Assessment Program, conducting a site visit and review of The Dowd Fine Arts Gallery at SUNY Cortland.

Jerry received a Community Leadership Award in the Arts by The National Federation for Just Communities of WNY.

Tracy Sawicki is a fellow of the Western New York Community Health Foundation.

Antoine Thompson received a Community Leadership Award from MOCHA.

CLASS OF '02

Joseph Abdallah and **John Schmidt** were committee members of the 19th annual Scouter Citizen of the Year Golf Tournament of the Boy Scouts of America, Greater Niagara Frontier Council.

Stuart Angert was appointed to the board of the Adirondack Park Institute.

Felicia Beard is serving on Veterans LifeOps board of directors.

Elaine Cryer was inducted into the Jeremiah Milbank Society recognizing individuals who give \$10,000 or more to a local club by the Boys & Girls Clubs Movement.

Janet Loew Day has been named a director of The Western New York Grantmakers Association.

Allen "Pete" Grum is chair of the health management group board of Horizon Health Services Inc.

Jay Hennig was added to the board of directors of Meals on Wheels Foundation of Western New York

Michael Hughes was elected to serve on the board of trustees at Bishop Timon-St. Jude High School.

Frank Polino has been promoted to executive vice president at First Niagara Bank.

Thomas Sy is serving on the Aspire Foundation board of directors.

CLASS NOTES – CONTINUED

CLASS OF '03

Marc Adler received one of the Milton PleSUR Excellence in Teaching Awards from the University at Buffalo undergraduate Student Association for his commitment to students and quality teaching.

Fatima Johnson was a recipient of one of Business First's 40 Under Forty Awards.

Jon Zucarelli is serving on the Veterans LifeOps board of directors.

CLASS OF '04

Cynthia Heximer has been named managing director of StraussGroup Inc.

Cindy Odom joined SLR Contracting & Service Co. Inc. as vice president of corporate and external affairs.

Francisco Vasquez serves on the Upstate New York Transplant Services board of directors.

Peter Vukelic was a recipient of one of Business First's 40 Under Forty Awards.

CLASS OF '05

Sarah Buxton-Smith was elected to serve a two year term on the Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York. Sarah has been selected for the Clergy Leadership Project of the Episcopal Church.

Julie Coppola Cox was a co-chair of the 2007 Awards Luncheon by The National Federation for Just Communities of Western New York.

Jill Gregory was hired as an account manager with SourceOne Professionals, a part of StraussGroup Inc.

Denise Gueli was installed as secretary of the Buffalo chapter for the NYS Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Richanne Mankey was appointed to the board of directors of the YMCA Buffalo Niagara.

Clayton Michael Osborne has been appointed vice president, advocacy and governmental reporting at the Catholic Health System.

C. Michael Zabel was a recipient of one of Business First's 40 Under Forty Awards.

CLASS OF '06

Nora Eberl is the proud mother of Rita Elizabeth Plizga born on December 13, 2006.

Jody Harvey has been re-certified as a Certified Fund Raising Executive which signifies knowledge, skills and commitment to the fundraising industry.

Kathleen Lawley Best was recognized as one of the 2006 Women Who Mean Business by Business First. Kathy has been named a director of the Western New York Grantmakers Association.

Mary Lou Borowiak serves on the board of directors of the Food Bank of WNY as immediate past chair.

Dan Forucci was promoted to director of sales and marketing for Electrochem Commercial Power, a division of Greatbatch Inc.

Therese Hickok has been elected to the Canisius College Alumni Association board.

John Horn was selected to chair the Buffalo Philharmonic Development Committee.

Mark Meyerhofer has been elected to the Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas board of directors.

Richard Suchan has been honored with Roswell Park Cancer Institute's Katherine Anne Gioia Inspiration Award presented at the Roswell Park All Star Night Gala.

CLASS OF '07

Patricia Farrell received the Catherine McAuley Distinguished Alumna Award presented by Mount Mercy Academy Alumnae Association.

Kevin Horrigan and **Kelly Hayes McAlonie** were recipients of one of Business First's 40 Under Forty Awards. Kelly also received the 2006 Young Architect of the Year Award by the AIA.

Thomas Nuttle has been appointed to the position of vice president, cardiac services of The Catholic Health System.

Amy Habib Rittling was a co-chair of the 2007 Awards Luncheon by The National Federation for Just Communities of Western New York.

Lauren Rozanski has been installed as president of the Advertising Council of Buffalo.

RISING LEADERS '04

Susan Christensen is the proud parent of Natalie Marie born on August 16, 2006.

Kevin Szczepanski was appointed to the school board of St. Francis High School.

RISING LEADERS '05 & '05B

Nancy Kelchin was elected secretary to the Buffalo Events Network board of directors.

Nestor Hernandez was one of the recipients of the Nuestro Orgulla Latino Award by Hispanics United of Buffalo and the Hispanic Alliance of Western New York.

RISING LEADERS '07

Joseph Hanna was named an associate at Goldberg Segalla LLP.

Kathleen Kinder was promoted to account executive and director of its wealth management team.

Jill Simme was promoted to account executive by the SKM Group Inc.

EXPERIENCE BUFFALO

Cynthia Ambres was recognized as one of the 2006 Women Who Mean Business by Business First.

Thomas Kucharski has been elected to the Buffalo Niagara Partnership's board of directors. Thomas received the Meritorious Service Award from the WNY chapter of the New York State Commercial Association of Realtors.

Alphonso O'Neil-White was elected to the board of directors of The Buffalo Fine Arts Academy. Alphonso has been reappointed to the Buffalo State College Council by former Gov. George Pataki and was re-elected as chairman of the board of directors of the Federal Reserve System of the Buffalo Branch.

YLEC '06

Jacob Kavanaugh was the recipient of the Dr. Manch Scholarship Award by the National Federation of Just Communities of Western New York.

Who's Who in Law by Business First/ Buffalo Law Journal:

Jill Bond, LB '96

B. Kevin Burke, LB '06

Paula Ciprich, LB '99

James Domagalski, LB '01

Kevin Gluc, RL '05

James Gresens, LB '94

Linda Joseph, LB '99

Sarah Mugel, LB '06

Sharon Porcellio, LB '94

John Schmidt, Jr., LB '02

Daniel Scully, CPA, LB '96

David Smith, LB '90

Robert Trusiak, LB '05

InfoTech Niagara Board of Directors:

Larry Cobado, LB '02

Timothy Doolittle, LB '01

Kathleen Miller, LB '03, treasurer

Christina Orsi, LB '01

Frank Polino, LB '02

LEADER SNAPS



ABOVE PHOTO: BUFFALO CITY FORUM – “LANNY DAVIS TALKS POLITICS.” AT LEFT: 2007 CLASS EXPERIENCE – “HOLDING EACH OTHER IN TRUST.”