

dUX SOUP

SUMMER 2006



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

WHO IS LEADERSHIP BUFFALO?

Great minds think alike and in 1987 several great organizational minds came together to create Leadership Buffalo. The Junior League of Buffalo and the Buffalo Chamber of Commerce (now the Buffalo Niagara Partnership) were independently investigating community leadership training programs. They joined forces in a true collaborative effort and set to work developing the business plan for this venture.

The first class started the adventure in January 1988. In 2007 we will graduate our 20th class! The local community is richer by the more than 1,000 graduates of the Class Experience and the Rising Leaders programs; Youth Leadership Erie County has also contributed more than 600 young leaders.

THE CLASS EXPERIENCE

Class Experience 2007 has just reached its midway point. They have learned

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

Official recruitment for the Class Experience 2007 and Rising Leaders 2007 begins Aug. 1, 2006. Applications are available at www.leadershipbuffalo.org or by calling 849-2626, ext.17.

Class Experience applications are due Sept. 21, 2006 by 5:00 pm and Rising Leaders applications are due Oct. 26, 2006 by 5:00 pm.

about the history of Buffalo and WNY; studied "Local Governance 101," taken "classes," and enjoyed the fine culinary talents of many local providers, such as Meals on Wheels and Emerson Culinary Institute. Their immersion in issues of local importance has created as many questions as it has answered. Each day session has brought new insights into how our community functions and where people, both individually and collectively, can make a difference.

LOOKING BACK ON THEIR YEAR

John Horn, LB '06, notes, "I had long suspected, but now am certain, that Buffalo is blessed with dynamic, diverse and dedicated leaders who have been working in their own ways and places to better our region. Through Leadership Buffalo, we have been brought together, challenged and inspired. As a result, brighter days lie ahead for Buffalo and Western New York."

The Class Experience begins with an overnight and continues with a series of monthly day sessions designed to enhance participants' understanding of issues facing our community.



2006 RISING LEADERS SHARING THEIR EXPERIENCES AND IDEAS.

Celeste Curley, LB '06, shares, "I look forward to the LB day every month and refuse to let anything get in the way of attending. But the real value is in my new and sometimes raw awareness of this rich and diverse community of which I am a part and to which I am accountable."

Tom Campiere, LB '06, describes his LB experience as "a life-changing process" where he has the "opportunity to spend quality time with a highly motivated group of leaders from the community to discuss common issues and build lasting relationships."

According to Therese Hickok, LB '06, class participants learn "so much from each and every one" and the experience "has really inspired [her] to lead by example."

- 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**
Larry Cobado, LB '02
Verizon
Katie Johnson Hoffman, LB '01
The Hoffman Group
- Recruitment**
Robert Romeo, LB '03
First Niagara
Lavera Johnson, LB '02
NanoDynamics 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/ Experience Buffalo**
Anne Duggan, LB '01
Ciminelli Real Estate Company
- Co-chairs – First Impressions/ Experience Buffalo**
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 County**
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**
Stephen O'Neill, LB '05
Damon & Morey, LLP
Edward Watts Jr., RL '05
Watts Engineering and Architecture, PC
- LB 2006 Class Chairs**
Anthony Billoni, LB '06
The Park School
Mara Huber, LB '06
University at Buffalo
- Rising Leaders 2006 Class Chairs**
Brooke Mentkowski, RL '06
M&T Bank
Melinda Mulawka, RL '06
Buffalo Fiscal Stability Authority

THE LATEST ON LEADERSHIP BUFFALO

VALUES AWARDS, TASK FORCE UPDATES, AND RECRUITMENT EFFORTS

Dear LBers,



Kudos to our Third Annual Leadership Buffalo Values Luncheon co-chairs – Terry Kazmierczak, LB '92, and Larry Cobado, LB '02. We had well over 400 people in attendance, every class was represented, and we raised more than \$45,000! Please join me in congratulating the entire committee listed on this page!

And again a special thank you to M&T Bank, our presenting sponsor. M&T truly lives the values of our organization in their civic engagement. Read more about the bank on the back cover.

The five honorees overwhelmed us with their personal stories. Thelma Roberts, Father Perelli, Sister Denise, Max Donatelli, and Bonnie Foit-Albert are an inspiration to us all. And their belief in and hope for WNY is infectious!

We have been undergoing an extensive review of the current structure and curriculum of the Class Experience. Please be sure to read the page 5 article outlining some of the Task Force's work.

Last year the strategic plan process identified governance as an area we needed to review. To that end, a Task Force on Governance has been convened by Francisco Vasquez, LB '04, Vice President for Strategic Planning. Please watch your email for updates on the progress of the group.

Leadership Buffalo is about to enter the most important time of the year for our organization – recruitment for our two

adult programs: the Class Experience and Rising Leaders. The cover story provides an overview of the programs. Please be sure to email Shelly (shiller@leadershipbuffalo.org) names and contact information for any potential candidates for either program. We know that WNY is filled with people who have the potential to become leaders and who want to improve the quality of our community. We look forward to becoming acquainted with them!

The information sheet and application for the Class Experience are available at www.leadershipbuffalo.org. Applications are due Sept. 21 by 5:00 pm. Rising Leaders applications will be posted in late July.

We hope you all take time to enjoy this beautiful summer!

Deborah DiMatteo
President

Mary Jo Hunt
Exec. Director

Many thanks to our 2006 Values Awards Committee!

Co-chairs:

Theresa Kazmierczak, LB '92
Larry Cobado, LB '02

Committee:

Sally Crowley, LB '01
Deborah DiMatteo, LB '97
Collin Gehl, RL '04
Cailin Gibbons, YLEC '05
Caroline Hassett, RL '05
Shelly Hiller
Cynthia Horrigan, LB '99
Joanne Hudecki, LB '05
Christina Hunt, YLEC '05
Arlene Kaukus, LB '90
Brenda McDuffie, LB '94
Monika McFoy, RL '04
Jennifer Parker, LB '03
John Schmidt, LB '02
Susan Swarts, LB '90
Kimberly C. Trent
Francisco Vasquez, LB '04
C. Michael Zabel, LB '05
2006 LB Board of Directors
2006 Class Chairs Council

EXPERIENCE BUFFALO: LB WELCOMES NEW EXECS

Leadership Buffalo welcomed nine new executives to Buffalo and Western New York with the opening session of Experience Buffalo (formerly known as First Impressions) on June 15th. The group convened at the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society for dinner on the veranda overlooking Delaware Park.

Don Paul, WIVB-TV meteorologist, enlightened the group on the local weather. It was very hard to think about snow as we gazed out over the park on such a glorious summer evening.

William Siener, LB '91, Executive Director of the Historical Society, presented an overview of the history of Buffalo and a tour of the "Made in Buffalo" exhibit. The group went away with a better understanding of what makes Buffalo Buffalo.

Members of the 2006 group include Nathan Cook (Tonja), Executive Director of the Family Justice Center; Marie Fahey (Stephen Smith), Director Channel Marketing, Food Service at



PICTURESQUE VIEW FROM THE BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Rich Products; Dr. David Hicks (Patricia), Vice Chair of Pathology, Roswell Park Cancer Institute; Rochelle Krowinski (William), COO Clinical Services and Regional Affiliates, Roswell Park Cancer Institute; Jeff Long (Amy Carter), Group Vice President, M&T Bank; Shae Peters (Garret), VP of Strategic Services and CEO of Service Lines, Catholic Health System; Randall Raup, President, HSBC Mortgage Corporation, USA; Susan Reeder, Director of Development, Albright Knox Art Gallery; and William Smith, EVP of Operations, Rich Products.

UPDATES TO LB MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

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Thomas Pleban, LB '95
Email: thomas.pleban@calspan.com

Lisa D. Primerano, RL '05
Email: lprimerano@goldbergsegalla.com

In Memorium:
Daniel O' Carey, '02
James Graber, '92

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 & Mugal 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**, PURE Allergy Friendly Rooms
Philip Okala, Roswell Park Cancer Institute
Class of 2003 **Jon Zucarelli**, Brody, Weiss, Zucarelli, & Urbanke, CPAs
Graham Smith, Buffalo Niagara Enterprise
Stephanie Zakowicz
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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THIRD ANNUAL VALUES AWARDS LUNCHEON – A HUGE SUCCESS!

The Third Annual Leadership Buffalo Values Awards Luncheon once again presented the opportunity for attendees to hear the insights of some of our community's most thoughtful leaders. More than 425 individuals learned how our honorees live these values in both their personal and professional lives.

THELMA ROBERTS – SERVICE

Thelma Roberts, LB '98, introduced by Sister M. Johnice Rzadkiewicz, felt she was "destined to serve at birth, [as she] was given the name Thelma which means nursing." Thelma works tirelessly at Homespace to provide leadership to a staff that "restores dignity to the lives of young single parent families who are homeless and witness [those] lives being transformed from hopeless to hopeful; fear to [confidence]; angry to peaceful." Her commitment to the value of service also extends into her volunteer work at Rites of Passage Youth Group, which prepares youth for the passage from adolescence to adulthood.

REV. DR. ROBERT PERELLI, CJM – DIVERSITY

Rev. Dr. Robert Perelli, LB '89, described the table and a meal as the "quintessential symbols of diversity

because they invite us to ask the all important question: 'who sits at my table?'" Introduced by Rev. Darius Pridgen, Father Bob asked us to reflect on who sits at the many tables we inhabit – the board room, our own kitchens, when we go out to dinner. For him diversity is "about making the table big enough for everyone – because isn't that [one's] hearts desire – to have a place at the table." His life's work at Aids Family Service and now the Center for Family Systems Theory has been committed to making the table large enough for all.

SISTER DENISE ROCHE AND MAX DONATELLI – INCLUSION

Dr. Francisco Vasquez, LB '04, introduced our honorees for inclusion – Max Donatelli, LB '00, and Sister Denise Roche. Both described how their families were their role models for inclusion. Sister Denise has carried that value into her work at D'Youville College where men and women from more than 30 countries learn together. She dreams of the day "when, as in the home of [her] childhood, inclusion is so natural a part of life that it enriches [everyone] but is never noticed."



FROM THE DAIS ON MAY 10, 2006

Max shared how his belief in inclusion for all led him on a quest to find the most appropriate educational setting for his son Craig, who celebrated his 18th birthday with us at the luncheon. Max seeks to institutionalize this value in his work at Baker Victory Services and Parent Network of WNY and as he works to create a culture where "people will see the person first, the disability and/or race second." In his words, "this can lead to real inclusion."

BEVERLY FOIT-ALBERT – OPENNESS TO CHANGE

Arlene Kaukus, LB '90, and the 2005 honoree for Openness to Change joined us to introduce Beverly Foit-Albert. A long time advocate for Buffalo, Bonnie has devoted her life to helping others see opportunities in the places where they live and work. She shared how her motto has changed from evolution to "revolution" for which she believes Buffalo is ready! Bonnie salutes the "wonderment, the curiosity, the desire to understand ourselves, the world around us and the world far away." She believes one may never achieve all of their goals but the "efforts alone [can be] fulfilling and transforming."

The event was a resounding success with every LB class represented. Co-chairs Theresa Kazmierczak, LB '92, and Larry Cobado, LB '02, announced that more than \$45,000 was raised to support Leadership Buffalo programs.



L. TO R.: THERESA KAZMIERCZAK; MAX DONATELLI; SISTER DENISE ROCHE; REV. DR. ROBERT PERELLI, CJM; THELMA ROBERTS; BEVERLY FOIT-ALBERT; AND LARRY COBADO.

CLASS EXPERIENCE TASK FORCE: WORKING TO REWORK LB

The Strategic Plan adopted by the LB Board in 2005 called for the organization to assess and redesign its programs around the principle of translating learning from the LB experience into meaningful action.

The Program Task Force of Kathy Egan, LB '05, John Frederick, LB '92/ LBG I, Gretchen Fierle, LB '02, Donna DeCarolus, LB '95, Clotilde Dedecker, LB '93, J. Patrick Henry, LB '92, Richanne Mankey, LB '05, Mary Jo O'Sullivan, LB '90, and Cyndi Horrigan, LB '99 have been meeting since January to evaluate our current program, investigate best practices from other programs, and identify the outcomes for the Class Experience.

From that research and collaboration, the group has proposed the following for the Class Experience:

- Participants will become familiar with their own leadership styles and characteristics and how these affect their ability to function in a community leadership role;

- Participants will demonstrate an understanding of community as a system and undertake a study of the myriad of issues affecting the community;
- Participants will develop an in-depth understanding of at least one issue affecting the community;
- Participants will create a definition of community leadership;
- Participants will internalize the LB organizational values and operationalize them in their leadership roles.

According to Mary Jo O'Sullivan, LB '90, "the changes that the Task Force is proposing build on the strengths of the current program. Specifically, they strengthen the framework for the Class Experience and add depth and focus by connecting activities to specific outcomes. I am especially excited about the fact that it actively engages participants in an in-depth exploration of a current community issue. Ultimately, the intent is that our graduating LBers will internalize our

core values and manifest them in their community leadership roles."

The class will develop an understanding of civic engagement, learn about their own leadership styles, enhance their own social capital, develop an understanding of community issues, and develop skills in leading change.

"Our community has changed over the last 20 years along with the thinking about best practices in community leadership," said Mary Jo Hunt, LB '90. "It is appropriate that Leadership Buffalo reexamine its practices and curriculum to ensure we are offering the highest quality experience to our participants."

The Task Force will present these outcomes along with the proposed changes for the Class Experience curriculum to the Board of Directors at the July meeting. It is the intent of the Task Force to pilot one of the proposed changes with the current class. It is expected the changes will be fully implemented with the 2007 class.

WHO IS LEADERSHIP BUFFALO? – CONTINUED FROM COVER

RISING LEADERS

The "Rising Leaders" experience is a journey full of education, laughter, and the formation of what are sure to become long-lasting relationships and friendships. Along the way, moments of revelation in regard to the past, present and future of the Buffalo-Niagara region are ever apparent. Even more so, the many important moments of self-reflection force each Rising Leader to assess his or her own contributions to the progression and development of our region. Each session rejuvenates all participants, revives a sense of pride in our great region and empowers the entire group with tools and resources to become effective agents of change.

"Rising Leaders has been an inspirational experience for me," said Jeffrey Goldberg, RL '06. "It has given me a new perspective and renewed enthusiasm about the issues and the assets of our great region. Mostly, it has given me the opportunity to develop relationships with passionate and successful leaders of a similar age who have inspired me to raise my own expectations of myself."

Melinda Mulawka, RL '06 states, "Rising Leaders has provided me with inside access to many of our region's greatest jewels. Being part of a group in which all members are working toward the development of the region has been a refreshing experience."

Rising Leaders also brings the group face to face with some of the Buffalo/Niagara regions greatest challenges. Through this program, and the resulting partnerships, participants generate and implement solutions to many of these challenges. As Rising Leaders, they have begun to work to create the Buffalo that they want for future generations.

Says Jamie Swygert, RL '06, "Rising Leaders has by far exceeded all of my expectations. I recommend that anyone who has ever asked 'What can I do to help?' take part in this experience."

CLASS NOTES – NEWS, UPDATES & INFO

CLASS OF '88

Thomas Ayer completed the 2006 class of the University at Buffalo School of Management's Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership.

Marsha Henderson and **Muriel Howard** were 2006 nominees of the YWCA of WNY's Leader Luncheon.

Muriel Howard has been recognized in the Business First's 2006 list of Who's Who in Education. She was the recipient of the 2006 Athena Award given by the WNY Women's Fund.

Susan Warren was appointed to a three-year term on the City of Naples, Florida, Community Services Advisory Board. She was re-appointed secretary of the Martin House Restoration Corporation and secretary/treasurer of the Laces of Love Charitable Foundation. She recently received the Junior League of Buffalo's Susan Reid Greene Russell Award.

Kimberly Williamson Butler ran for Mayor of New Orleans.

CLASS OF '89

Eva Hassett was appointed to the board of directors of Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute.

CLASS OF '90

Mark Celmer has been appointed to the position of chief executive officer of Multisorb Technologies.

CLASS OF '91

Dorcas Colvin was a 2006 nominee of the YWCA of WNY's Leader Luncheon.

Mark Foley has been elected to serve as vice president of the Developmental Disabilities Alliance of Western New York's board of directors.

CLASS OF '92

Domenic Cortese has completed the 2006 class of the University at Buffalo School of Management's Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership.

John Davanzo has been named to Business First's 2006 Health Care 50 Roll Call.

Theresa Kazmierczak was the recipient of the 2006 Partner in Caring award by The Salvation Army. Terry has been appointed to a three-year term on the board of directors of Gilda's Club Western New York.

CLASS OF '93

Susan Grelick was recognized by the Women's Interclub Council at its annual Women's History Month Luncheon.

CLASS OF '94

Margaret Paroski has been named chairperson of the 2006 board of directors and officers of Upstate New York Transplant Services. She has been appointed to the Community Health Foundation of Western and Central New York's board of trustees.

Diane Rowe was awarded the Herman S. Prescott Award at the 2005 Northeast Leadership Conference, presented annually to a member of the Academy for the Boys and Girls Clubs Professionals for excellence in assisting minorities and women in the advancement of careers. She is a finalist for the national award, which will be presented at the national conference.

CLASS OF '95

Carl Falleta's company DDM Direct was one of two Buffalo companies named among the fastest growing inner city companies in America.

Sister Edmunette Paczesny was honored at St. Bonaventure University's Gaudate Awards Dinner. Sister Edmunette has been recognized in Business First's 2006 of Who's Who in Education.

Judith Katz was re-elected to a three year term on the Erie 1 BOCES Board of Education.

CLASS OF '96

Bruce Boissonnault was a finalist of the Beta Awards in the categories of Healthcare Achievement and Best Online.

Gayle Eagan, trusts and estates, has been named to the Woodward White List of Best Lawyers in America 2007.

Jim Pokoj is a 2006 board member of InfoTech Niagara.

CLASS OF '97

Steven McGlone has been elected to the board of directors of Kevin Guest House.

Michael Piette, real estate, has been named to the Woodward White List of Best Lawyers in America 2007.

CLASS OF '98

Cynthia Firey has been elected president of the board of directors of Kevin Guest House.

CLASS OF '99

Mitch Flynn received a "Best of Show" Award from the Public Relations Society of America for his work on the 10th Anniversary Ride for Roswell. His company Flynn & Friends was also ranked as one of the 2006 Best Places to Work in WNY by Business First.

Marie Hare was recognized as a community partner at the Community Action Organization of Erie County Inc.'s annual celebration.

Michelle Mazzone has formed a new real estate consulting firm, American Capital Real Estate Corp. located in Cheektowaga.

Ann Ryan was promoted to vice president of community impact of the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County.

CLASS OF '00

Joseph Giansante was appointed director of organizational development of Kaleida Health.

Gregory Gill has been promoted to general manager of Mercy Flight Inc.

Cian Robinson is on the steering committee of Brush Up Buffalo. Cian received the Champion Award from the Amherst Chamber of Commerce at its Small Business Awards Luncheon.

CLASS OF '01

Timothy Doolittle is a 2006 board member of infoTech Niagara.

Aimee Gornak Brace and **Thomas McNulty** have been named to Business First's 2006 Health Care 50 Roll Call.

James Domagalski is the new Erie County Republican Committee Chairman.

Patti Duffy is relocating to Fort Myers, Florida where she has accepted the position of principal in Cape Coral.

CLASS OF '02

Stuart Angert has elected to retire from Fiserv Automotive Solutions.

Sean Beiter, labor and employment, was named to the Woodward White List of Best Lawyers in America 2007.

Larry Cobado is a 2006 board member of infoTech Niagara.

Tim McMorro has been promoted to administrative vice president at M&T Bank.

Mary Kate O'Connell received the Pat O. Rehak Distinguished Alumnae Award at Holy Angels Academy's Alumnae Association dinner.

Frank Polino was the winner of the Beta Award in the category of Financial Banking Achievement.

Thomas Sy has been elected to serve as president of the Developmental Disabilities Alliance of Western New York's board of directors.

Jill Syracuse will serve a three-year term as director of the Amherst Youth Foundation.

CLASS OF '03

John Ciminelli has been named chair of the corporate gifts division of Catholic Charities.

Jennifer Parker was honored by the Small Business Administration as the Minority Business Champion of the Year.

Robert Romeo has been named vice president and Western New York senior relationship manager of First Niagara's wealth management group.

CLASS OF '04

Jennifer Demert was named a partner of Cantor Lukasiak Dolce & Panepinto.

Melissa Grainger is a steering committee member of Brush Up Buffalo.

Laura Zaepfel was appointed to the Catholic Charities Board of Trustees.

LEADER SNAPS

CLASS OF '05

Janet Barnes was a winner of a Beta Award in the category of Best Online. Janet's company Stand Advertising LLC was rated one of the 2006 Best Places to Work in WNY employing 21 – 50 by Business First.

Gia Alessandra Coone has been elected to the 2006 Association of Fundraising Professionals' Board of Directors.

Jill Gregory was named associate account executive by the StraussGroup.

Denise Gueli is the proud parent of Julia Margaret born March 13th.

William Kelly has been appointed to a three-year term on the board of directors of Gilda's Club Western New York.

Randy Strauss' company StraussGroup was rated one of the 2006 Best Places to Work in WNY of companies employing 10 – 20 by Business First.

C. Michael Zabel was promoted to administrative vice president at M&T Bank.

CLASS OF '06

Tonnalee Batchelor received the Community Service/Educational Award from the True Bethel Baptist Church Task Force.

Dan Forcucci has been promoted to the position of Director of Sales and Marketing for Electrochem Commercial Power, a division of Greatbatch, Inc.

Michelle Giles has been promoted to senior vice president of First Niagara Bank.

Jody Harvey has been elected to the 2006 Association of Fundraising Professionals' Board of Directors.

Sarah Mugel has been named assistant vice president of National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation.

RISING LEADERS '04

Susan Swiatkowski has been named communications manager of the Buffalo Museum of Science.

RISING LEADERS '06

Amity Lippes was promoted to senior account manager at the SKM Group Inc.

EXPERIENCE BUFFALO

Cynthia Ambres has been appointed to the board of directors of Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute.

Athena Award by the WNY Women's Fund

These LB women were honored at the 17th annual Athena Award: Cynthia Ambres (FI); Janet Barnes LB '05; Aimee Gomlak Brace LB '01; Deborah DiMatteo LB '97; Donna Fernandes (FI); Muriel Howard LB '88; Lisa Kirisits LB '02; Cindy Odom LB '04; Jennifer Parker LB '03; Kathleen Rizzo Young LB '91.



LB WOMEN HONORED AT THE WOMEN'S FUND ATHENA AWARD LUNCHEON.



2006 CLASS EXPERIENCE PRIVILEGE WALK FACILITATED BY NCCJ.



VALUES PRE-SHOW REHEARSAL.



2006 CLASS EXPERIENCE CAMARADERIE ON POVERTY DAY – TOM CAMPIERE AND B. KEVIN BURKE.



KOFI FYNU-AIKINS, LB '06, SHARES CULTURAL HERITAGE ON RACE RELATIONS AND DIVERSITY DAY.



SUPT. DR. JAMES WILLIAMS TALKS WITH 2006 RISING LEADERS AND CLASS EXPERIENCE ON EDUCATION DAY.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS CORPORATE SUPPORTERS!



Founded in 1911, Hunt Real Estate Corporation has grown into the largest family owned real estate company in the area. With 24 residential and two commercial real estate offices strategically located throughout Buffalo Niagara, Rochester and Syracuse, it has become a leader in the industry with more than 95 years experience in developing consumer-oriented real estate products and services.

Through the real estate firm and its affiliates, the organization provides all of the services that make buying, selling and owning all kinds of real estate easier and more satisfying. All real estate and homeownership services are available to consumers on the Internet at www.r-house.com.

THE BUFFALO NEWS *Where life unfolds daily*

The Buffalo News is an organization of more than 900 Western New Yorkers who are committed to bringing their friends and neighbors news every day that is timely, accurate, honest, and fair.

We believe that being a good paper also means being a good citizen. For that reason, we either initiate or are asked to help support many causes throughout the region each year.

Community service is an important part of our commitment to Western New York. We often lend our support to events and organizations that may impact one or all of the following areas: education, civic involvement, community life, and arts and cultural life.

By assisting those who address specific community needs we feel we can help to enhance the quality of life in WNY.



Independent Health's mission is to improve the health and well-being of those who live in the communities we serve. We accomplish this through our efforts with our physicians and providers to improve access to quality care.

Through our Foundation, we offer education and outreach programs, including Healthy Options, which was developed with area restaurants to provide heart-smart menu offerings. Our "Good for the Neighborhood" program shares messages about the importance of seeing a doctor regularly, the benefits of exercise, and the ill effects caused by smoking.

Independent Health is consistently rated among the nation's top health plans for customer service and member satisfaction. In consecutive years, J.D. Power and Associates recognized us as a Distinguished Health Plan for providing "An Outstanding Member Experience." Our products and services have been ranked among the best in the U.S. by *Newsweek*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *First for Women* and *Managed Healthcare*.



Phillips Lytle LLP is a full-service law firm with the farthest geographic reach of any law firm in NYS. Because NY is so diverse, companies that do business here need a law firm that recognizes the nuances of each area. The firm's practice is built around our clients' foremost legal needs: corporate, commercial, family wealth planning, trial, and labor, employment, and immigration. Each practice group is comprised of highly experienced, client-focused attorneys. This model enables the firm to address the varied needs of our clients – from Fortune 500 companies to small, family-run firms.

Phillips Lytle puts a strong emphasis on being a good corporate citizen.

Therefore, we support more than 350 community/national organizations each year, and our attorneys serve on more than 200 boards.

The firm recognizes the importance of Leadership Buffalo's efforts in WNY. Among our attorneys are many LB graduates, current and former board members, legal counsel, and donors. That's why Phillips Lytle is honored to serve as a Diamond Sponsor of the Annual LB Values Awards. We look forward to the continued success of this signature event.



Manufacturers and Traders Bank opened its doors at 2 East Swan Street in Buffalo, N.Y. for the first time on August 29, 1856 with \$200,000 in capital. More than a century later, M&T Bank Corporation is one of the country's 20 largest banks, with more than \$55 billion in assets, 14,000 employees and 650 branch offices in six states plus the District of Columbia. M&T was recently cited by *Forbes* magazine as one of the best-managed companies in America, and by *Fortune* magazine as one of the nation's most admired super-regional banks.

M&T supports organizations that strengthen Buffalo and Western New York, and the bank is recognized locally and nationally as a philanthropic leader. M&T contributes millions of dollars – and thousands of volunteer hours – to hundreds of local non-profit organizations. More than 2,600 M&T employees volunteer their time in support of more than 3,700 community groups, and serve on the boards of more than 900 organizations. For the second straight year, M&T Bank was ranked by *BusinessWeek* magazine as one of the 10 most generous companies in the U.S.