This year we will be honoring four individuals for the manner in which they lead, and in particular, how one of our values informs their work. We will also be recognizing a group of individuals who made a significant and positive impact on the community with our newly created Leadership Impact Award.

**Service**

Nancy Blaschak began her career at the American Red Cross, Greater Buffalo Chapter in 1983. A member of the LB inaugural class of 1988, she was appointed executive director of the Red Cross in 1992. Her staff describes her as a team builder who values other people’s input regarding the types of services needed in our community. She also possesses the capability to put those ideas into action. Under her leadership, the Red Cross has developed innovative services for seniors and their families, including Lifeline to Independence for the Elderly (LIFE) and Life Journeys – Solutions for Caregivers. Recently, the chapter has spearheaded the “Prepare WNY” campaign to encourage people to go to the chapter’s website to garner information regarding emergency preparedness. Nancy is also involved with a number of community programs, including Gilda’s Club and the United Way Agency Executives Association.

**Diversity**

Ellen Goldstein, LB ’05, marketing and communications director for the Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo, exemplifies the value of diversity in all areas of her life – work, family, and volunteer activities. She attended one of the first fully integrated elementary schools in Buffalo and that experience has had an impact on her attitude towards people of different faiths, races and cultures, her choices of careers, friends and colleagues, and her personal value system. She willingly shares her Jewish heritage with others and works to bring together people from different religious backgrounds. In addition, as co-staffer of the Jewish Federation’s Dosberg Notable Speaker Series, Ellen brings prominent Jewish speakers to Buffalo to discuss issues of importance such as anti-Semitism, the Holocaust, and the Middle East. She has also provided opportunities for Jewish-Muslim discussions and education.

**Inclusion**

Dr. Yvonne Minor-Ragan, principal of Westminster Charter School, has a reputation for inspiring educators, engaging the community in the life of the school and affecting positive and systemic change. Leveraging a one-of-a-kind partnership with M&T Bank, she took one of Buffalo’s lowest performing schools and has worked with students, parents, teachers and staff to make it a NYS Department of Education “Most Improved School.” Student enrollment has increased from 314 to 550 during her tenure. Dr. Minor-Ragan is frequently invited to share the secrets of her success, including her results-oriented and inclusive style of leadership.

**Openness to Change**

Thomas E. Baker, immediate past president of the John R. Oishei Foundation, has been a voice for change in the community for most of his professional life. Following a successful 33-year career with Price Waterhouse, Mr. Baker joined the Foundation and redefined its role in WNY from an anonymous organization that provided charitable gifts to an organization that catalyzed a new way of operating for many of the area’s largest foundations. He encouraged a collaborative and entrepreneurial approach to solving the myriad of issues facing the community. He also shared his leadership style of clear thinking, active listening, earnest words, and deep caring with the Buffalo Fiscal Stability Authority during his tenure as its first chair.

2007 Values Award Winners Selected

“Dux” is the Latin word for leader. Dux Soup is the semi-regularly published newsletter of Leadership Buffalo, Inc.
Dear LB Members,

Our 20th year, 2007, is well underway here at LB. Our Class Experience and Rising Leaders Opening Retreats were very successful even under the threat of a major WNY weather event. We again dodged the “weather bullet” having never had to cancel an Opening Retreat. Even our second session on February 14th saw 100% attendance regardless of another major weather event.

**LB Values Awards**

We would like to thank the 2007 Values Awards Selection Committee for their outstanding choices. And thank you to everyone who submitted a nominee. It is never an easy task to select only four people from such a distinguished group of nominees.

The Board also voted to institute an additional award, the Leadership Impact Award. Selected by the Executive Committee, this award is given to an individual or group of individuals who have made a significant and positive impact on our community. This award will be given annually at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Please be sure to take a moment and read why we are honoring Nancy Blaschak, Ellen Goldstein, Dr. Yvonne Minor-Ragan, Thomas Baker, David Swarts, Carl Paladino and Michael Powers. We hope you will join us May 3rd at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo to learn more about why they lead the way they do. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. and the luncheon starts at 12 p.m.

**Another Successful Members Campaign**

The 2006 Members Campaign once again surpassed our goal. We raised more than $13,000 from a record 147 members. The average gift was over $92 and 19% of our active members participated with 61 new donors. Please take a moment to review the list of participants (on page 6 of this newsletter) and thank them if you see them. We also thank parents of the 2006-2007 Youth Leadership Erie County who graciously gave in support of this program.

**Task Group Update**

We have several task groups working to enhance the effectiveness of Leadership Buffalo. The Governance Task Force, led by Francisco Vasquez, LB ’04, has been meeting regularly and expects to make recommendations regarding our governance model by the end of 2007. Under the leadership of Debbie DiMatteo, LB ’97, the Recruitment Task Force has met with members and is collecting information from other similar programs about their recruitment and selection processes. We expect to review this information and implement changes to our own processes in 2007.

YLEC is also reviewing current best practices in youth leadership programming as well as changes in the community. They are committed to ensuring that YLEC continues to meet the needs of our community.

If you wish to contribute to any of these efforts, please contact Mary Jo at mjhunt@leadershipbuffalo.org.

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, May 3rd.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Fierle
President

Mary Jo Hunt
Exec. Director
LB strives to provide a variety of activities to educate members on leadership and engage them in conversations regarding community issues. Membership dues help to underwrite the costs of these events.

The following brief summaries of events LB has hosted in early 2007 give you a glimpse of the benefits to active members (i.e. graduates who have paid their yearly membership dues). If you have not and would like to become an active member, please contact Shelly Hiller at shiller@leadershipbuffalo.org.

**Buffalo City Forum.** WNED-AM 970 and LB are collaborating to host a new lunchtime speaker series – Buffalo City Forum. Modeled after the National Press Club Speaker Series, Buffalo’s new quarterly speaker forum will bring dynamic individuals to the region to share their experiences with a live audience, which is then broadcast on WNED.

Over 100 LB and WNED members gathered to hear Lanny J. Davis, former Special Counsel for President Bill Clinton from 1996–1998 and the author of the new book, SCANDAL: How Gotcha Politics Is Destroying America, on Thursday, January 25. Mr. Davis’ presentation entitled “Gotcha Politics: Is It Over...Or Will We Have Another Cycle?” provided an interesting look into his insights about America’s current political environment.

Please watch the LB listserv for details on the spring speaker. Buffalo City Forum is made possible by the support of Independent Health, the lead sponsor, and the support of Hunt Real Estate, M&T Bank, and Phillips Lytle LLP.

**Effectively Influencing UP.** Over 20 LB members had the opportunity to hear Dr. Marshall Goldsmith, of Alliant International University, discuss his concept of “The Leader of the Future: Effectively Influencing UP” on February 23rd. Presented by ASAE and the Center for Association Leadership as well as the Leader to Leader Institute, LB and Daemen College co-hosted the site for this seminar.

According to Dr. Goldsmith, effectively “influencing up” is a philosophy that involves taking responsibility for your career; sees influencing as a key tool for making a positive difference in one’s company; and recognizes that one can get the recognition they deserve without sacrificing one’s personal integrity.

Thank you to Dr. John Frederick, LB ’92, for his assistance with this event.

**Internet Safety.** FBI Supervisor Special Agent Holly Hubert educated LB members about Internet safety at the Buffalo FBI Building on February 27th. Our local Buffalo Cyber Task Force is one of the most successful in identifying and prosecuting those using the Internet for illegal purposes. Internet crime is a global issue and one of the most prevalent illegal uses is for trafficking pornographic images of children. Agent Hubert shared research showing that 80% of those who traffic child pornography are also physically victimizing children. According to Agent Hubert, the most effective way to keep children safe is to closely monitor their Internet usage.

Thank you to John Neal, RL ’05B, for his assistance in arranging this presentation.

Future activities are in the planning stages. Details will be posted on the listserv and website as they become available.

Leadership Buffalo 2007 Class Chairs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Company/Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Robert Murphy</td>
<td>D’Youville College</td>
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<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Kate Bukowski</td>
<td>M&amp;T Bank</td>
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<td>1990</td>
<td>Susan Bring Tobe</td>
<td>The Spear Group, Inc.</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>Gayle Barton</td>
<td>The United Way of Buffalo &amp; Erie County</td>
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<td>1992</td>
<td>Kristin Kight</td>
<td>KALEIDA Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Anthony Latona</td>
<td>Mercy Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Amy Stromberg</td>
<td>Attorney at Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Barbara Miller-Williams</td>
<td>Buffalo Police Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Becky Landy</td>
<td>MJ &amp; Associates</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>Courtney Walsh</td>
<td>University at Buffalo</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>Jeff McArthur</td>
<td>HSBC Bank USA</td>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>David Granville</td>
<td>City of Buffalo – Dept. of Economic Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Max E. Donatelli</td>
<td>Baker Victory Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Katie Hoffman</td>
<td>The Hoffman Group</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Maura Cohen</td>
<td>RMC Marketing Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Claude Imagina</td>
<td>EDS</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Paul Muck, Jones Lang</td>
<td>LaSalle, NYS Energy Research &amp; Development Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Kathleen Christy</td>
<td>The BISON Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Stephen O’Neill</td>
<td>Damon &amp; Morey LLP</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tina Stenhouse</td>
<td>Moog Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Anthony Billoni</td>
<td>The Park School of Buffalo</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Todd Bushway</td>
<td>Colucci &amp; Gallagher, PC</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Holly Bowsor</td>
<td>Catholic Health System</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Steven Harvey</td>
<td>Every Person Influences, Inc.</td>
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Rising Leaders 2004

- Collin Gehl, Buffalo Museum of Science
- Caroline Roeder, People Inc.
- Amy Lippes, Time Warner Cable Media Sales
- Carl Millender II, Legend Group
- Daniel Weinrib, SourceOne Professionals

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Newsletter creative services provided by Flynn & Friends, Inc.
My experience as a member of Youth Leadership Erie County has influenced many of the decisions I have made in my career. Over the last six years, I have trained thousands of students in citizenship skills and community action and taken on a number of leadership roles within my organization. This work has required me to carry out the core values I gained as a YLEC member: diversity, inclusion, openness to change, and service. Additionally, I have been able to apply many of the skills I gained as a member of YLEC.

One of the most memorable components of YLEC was the opening retreat. For the first time, I was expected to spend the weekend with a very diverse group of “student leaders,” none of whom I knew. As a relatively soft-spoken young woman, this experience was somewhat intimidating at first. However, I embraced the challenge and found not only that networking came easily to me, but I gained a great appreciation for the diversity of the group. Our different experiences, but common bond as youth, made it easy for us to quickly build trust in each other.

Since this experience, I have found the opportunity to walk into a room of strangers exciting rather than intimidating. I see it as an opportunity to hear new perspectives and make new connections.

As I continued through my year as a YLEC member, the friendships that began at the opening retreat evolved as did my leadership skills. Through each session I saw my communication and consensus building skills improve. In my current position, each week I meet with a new group of students from across the country. The diversity of the group can be very valuable and can also create a challenge as we try to build group consensus. My value of inclusion of all ideas became a strength, especially as a facilitator. I am able to ensure that each student feels their opinion is included while harnessing the diversity of the group.

In addition to strong communication skills, I gained an increased awareness of the issues facing my community. With this awareness came a desire to serve my community. Throughout high school I served as a representative to school decision making bodies. As I moved on to college I chose to major in political science and education, with a goal of teaching young people how to be an active part of their own communities. I often use my experiences to serve as an example for my students.

I believe some of the passion I bring to my work originated as a participant in YLEC. Additionally, YLEC fostered a number of skills and values that I am able to apply to my work.

As I look back on my experience, I am so grateful for the foundation YLEC offered me. Leadership takes on many forms in the world and this program allowed me to practice my own style of leadership at a young age and foster values that have allowed me to serve my community.

– Sara Emhof, YLEC ’96, Program Instructor, Close Up Foundation, Washington, DC
We are looking for established leaders, people who are becoming leaders, and people who show interest in leadership but need to have the opportunity to build their skills first.”

- Don Erb, LB ’04, Chair, Youth Leadership Erie County

Spring is recruitment time for Youth Leadership. Selection is a complicated and arduous process resulting in a dynamic mix of high school sophomores and juniors from every corner of Erie County who are willing to contribute to the community as our region plans for change and growth.

Youth Leadership Erie County is recruiting for its seventeenth year. Students are selected by a committee made up of LB graduates, Youth Leadership graduates, and community members who are committed to the creation of a class atmosphere that is open to change, values inclusion and diversity, and is committed to community service; LB’s core values.

This year’s YLEC Task Force on Programming and Selection took a look at the questions asked on the application and decided to revise several of them in order to obtain a clearer snapshot of each applicant.

Each student’s application is considered based on their responses to the questions. Efforts are made to ensure the class represents the diversity of the region in terms of ethnicity, gender, and school location. A large part of the experience is creating the opportunity for students to connect with those outside their usual circles.

Students could not be selected, the program could not run, and the direction of YLEC could not be set without the contributions from LB and its graduates. Under the leadership of Don Erb, in 2006-2007 more than 100 volunteers aided in the planning and execution of the day sessions. As chair of YLEC, Don serves on the steering committee and the task force on programming and selection while also holding an at-large position on the LB board.

Applications are available on the LB website at www.leadershipbuffalo.org. Scroll down to the bottom of the home page to get a copy of the application. The deadline is April 26, 2007. Applications will be accepted via mail or hand delivery to 237 Main Street, Suite 1500, Buffalo, NY 14203. (Applications received after April 26th must have the April 26 post-mark.) Applications received via fax or email will not be accepted.

2007 Values Award Winners – Continued from Cover

Leadership Impact Award

This year’s award recognizes David Swarts, Commissioner of New York State Department of Motor Vehicles; Carl P. Paladino, CEO of Ellicott Development Company; and Michael B. Powers, Esq., of Phillips Lytle LLP, for their leadership in eliminating the collection tolls on Interstate 190. Mr. Swarts brought the issue to the attention of the community when he discovered a statute stating the tolls should have been removed in 1996 after certain federal funds were received. When even 20,000 signatures from local residents couldn’t convince Albany, Mr. Paladino approached Mr. Powers to see if there might be another way to challenge the tolls. Mr. Powers and his firm, Phillips Lytle, filed suit on behalf of Erie County Executive Joel Giambra, LB ’89, and Mr. Paladino against the Thruway Authority, then Governor Pataki and others. The collection of tolls was eliminated eight months later when the NYS Supreme Court denied the Thruway Authority’s suit to dismiss. Their collaborative efforts, vision and hard work resulted in $11 million annually remaining in WNY.

According to co-chair of the event Peter Hunt, LB ’88, “The Values Luncheon offers us the unique opportunity to honor values-based leadership demonstrated by a select few in our community.”

The luncheon will take place on May 3rd at the Hyatt Regency. Registration is at 11:30 am. Tickets are $50 per person. Contact LB for more information at 849-2626, x. 17 or lb@leadershipbuffalo.org.
Contributors to Leadership Buffalo’s 2006 Members Campaign

Class of 1988
Kathleen Bates
Nancy M. Blaschak
David P. Hart
Marsha Henderson
Peter F. Hunt
Judi Nolan-Powell
Wendy Pierce
Judith Shanley
Robert Murphy

Class of 1989
Philip A. Perna
James D. Reynolds

Class of 1990
Carole F. Bellanca
Mark E. Celmer
Mary Jo F. Hunt
Diane J. McMahon
Leon Smith
Judith C. Spear
Susan Tobe
Mary Jo O’Sullivan

Class of 1991
Gayle Barton
Karen Christie
Bruce A. Goldstein
Patricia Maloney

Class of 1992
Anthony Colucci
J. Patrick Henry
Annabelle Irey
Sharon S. Townsend
Thomas Van Nortwick
Richard M. Silvestri

Class of 1993
Clotilde Dedecker
Michael B. Henry
Virginia Oehler
Margaret S. Turner
Dennis Walczyk

Class of 1994
James W. Gresens
Amy Stromberg
Christine M. Ziembka

Class of 1995
Patricia Barry
Peter M. Cammarata
Carol Cassell
Donna DeCarolis
Ross Hewitt
Judith H. Katz
Charles Maclay
Patricia M. O’Brien
Thomas Pleban
Bonnie Redder
Lewis D. Rich
Robert Miller

Class of 1996
John Huber
Jill Bond
James Caison
Diane Collier
Gayle Eagan
Michael J. Grimaldi
John Hoffman
Rebecca Landy
Beth Simons

Class of 1997
David Buck
Deborah A. DiMatteo
Thomas F. Keenan
Paul J. Kolkmeyer
Susan D. Scamurra
Christopher Wasp
Peter Loehr

Class of 1998
Hugh Russ
Brian Shine
Richard W. Spears
Susan M. Piver

Class of 1999
Richard C. Baer
Linda Croglia
Jean M. Fletcher
Mitch Flynn
Richard Hamister
Michael Mulaney
Ronald Silverio

Class of 2000
Max Donatelli, Jr.

Class of 2001
Jeffrey Ball
Aimee Brace Gomlak
R. Maura Cohen
Phillip Hahn
Paul V. Hartigan
James J. Hettich
Katie Hoffman
Michael Mahaney
Thomas McNulty
Sylvia H. Nadler
James Rykowski

Class of 2002
Edward Brodka
Larry M. Cobado
Daniel D. Connors
Gretchen Fierle
Claude P. Imagna
Lavera Johnson
Lisa M. Kristis
Frank J. Polino
John G. Schmidt
Thomas A. Sy

Class of 2003
Marc Adler
Carol A. Kostyniak

Class of 2004
Don Erb
JoAnne A. Hudecki
Annette Kajtoch
Nancy Pankow
Francisco Vasqueze

Class of 2005
Janet Barnes
Jerry Bestedo
Sarah Buxton-Smith
Gretchen Geitter
Ellen Goldstein
Denise Guelz
Rema Hanash
Will Kelly
Richanne Mankey
Robert Mayer
Stephen O’Neill
Kinzer Pointer
Thomasina Stenhouse

Class of 2006
Tonnalee Batchelor
Tish Brady
Todd Bushway
Kofi Flynn-Atkins
Cynnie Gaasch
John Horn
Mary Beth Karr
Douglas Marky
Marcia O’Neil-White
John Scannell
Gloria Simpson
Joanne Steinmetz
Richard Suchan

Rising Leaders
Collin Gehl, ’04
Michael Filing, ’05
Melinda Mulawka, ’06
Jill Sessa, ’06
Marla Waiss, ’06
Brooke Mentkowski, ’06

First Impressions
Dennis Wilk
Eric H. Kagen
Winthrop Lawrence Buck

*Members who have donated in 2005
Class of ’88

John Oehler has been promoted to Managing partner at Lumsden & McCormick. Wendy Pierce is a returning director of the Western New York Grantmakers Association.

Class of ’91

George Alexander has been elected to the United Way of New York State board of directors.

Class of ’95

Patricia O’Brien has been named co-chair for The Park School auction on March 17th. Wendy Stahlka was elected secretary of The Children’s Guild Foundation Inc.

Class of ’96

Gayle Eagan has been elected secretary of the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo. Paul Koessler is a returning director of the Western New York Grantmakers Association.

Class of ’97

Sharon Hanson was elected vice-chair of the Erie County Center Corporation board of directors.

Class of ’00

Joseph Giansante received one of the “Outstanding Corporate Friend Award” given at the sixth annual Erie County Community College Chairman’s Ball.

Class of ’02

Janet Loew Day is a returning director of the Western New York Grantmakers Association.

Class of ’05

Valerie DeBerry received one of the “Outstanding Corporate Friend Award” given at the sixth annual Erie County Community College Chairman’s Ball.

Rising Leaders ’06

Jaime Swygert has been promoted to relationship manager at the Williamsville branch of First Niagara Bank.

LB’ers in the CEPA Gallery “Visions of Greater Buffalo Show”

Cindy Abbott-Leto, LB ’00
Mayor Byron Brown, LB ’88
Allison Duwe, RL ’05B
Mitch Flynn, LB ’99
Lorna Hill, LB ’90
Mary Ann Kresse, LB ’01
Sue McCartney, LB ’90
Jan Peters, LB ’89
Wendy Pierce, LB ’88
Maureen Rasp-Glose, LB ’01
Sam Savarino, LB ’95
Catherine Schweitzer, LB ’00
Peter Vukelic, LB ’04

Correction

In our last issue of Dux Soup, it incorrectly recognized Francisco Vasquez, LB ’04, as a member of Upstate NY Transplant Services board of directors.

2007 Leadership Buffalo Committee Chairs

Class Experience
Richanne Mankey, LB ’05
Daemen College

Rising Leaders
Monika McFoy, RL ’04
Buffalo Museum of Science

Gina Dlugosz, RL ’05B
Enidine Incorporated

Youth Leadership Erie County
Don Erb, LB ’04
University at Buffalo

Experience Buffalo
Joanne Hudecki, LB ’04
ADDSF Kids Escaping Drugs Campaign

Community Facilitation Team
Christopher Brown, LB ’03
Independent Health

Values Awards Luncheon
Patricia O’Brien, LB ’95
The Carlisle Collection

Peter Hunt, LB ’88
Hunt Real Estate Corporation

20th Anniversary
Deborah DiMatteo, LB ’97
M&T Bank

Anthony Colucci, LB ’92 / LBG I
Colucci & Gallaher, P.C.
Leader Snaps

RL’s conversing at the 2006 Values Awards Luncheon.

Memories of 2006 Values Awards Luncheon: Joanne Hudecka assists Beverly Foit-Albert with her corsage.

LB’ers enjoying last year’s Values Awards Luncheon.

YLEC plays the game of life.

Class Experience Opening Retreat: “Who are the right people for our bus?”

YLEC: “Where should we put our community care dollars?”