

Class of 2009 Rules the Ropes

The Class of 2009 completed the Orientation Road Rally in grand style, scurrying around the county collecting signatures, speaking on the radio, visiting metro parks, museums and other points of interest. This was just the warm up for this amazing group of people who assembled at the Oberlin Inn for the Opening Retreat on September 10th-12th. The two night retreat included a dinner with Alumni Links sponsored by Bob Bove '04, Pension Builders and Consultants, presentations by Dennis Willis of Action Coach, Dr. Harry Pepper '08 of Common Ground, Dr. Jennifer Shults, and Cathie Leimbach '04 of STRIVE!

Sessions focused on elements of healthy and successful leadership. The group also participated in a walking tour of Oberlin, arranged by Pat Murphy '01 of the Oberlin Heritage Center and Salsa dancing by instructor Gladys Mitcheff. Session Day Planning began with a study of personality types and information and advice from community leaders. The crowning glory came when the group decided to brave the weather and headed for a two



Class of '09 at the conclusion of the ropes course

and a half hour ropes course that occurred in the pounding rain. Jennifer Marple of Children's Services noted that she now has 40 new friends and none of them are fair-weather friends! Jim Leone laughingly has renamed the retreat – the Class of 2009 sleepover – and Denise Roe of Easter Seals is describing the group as the awesome, gutsy, caring, sharing and wettest Class of Leadership Lorain County!

In addition, networking has also already begun with Jim Leone getting some needed support for the Medical Missions International (MMI) fundraiser that he was chairing, Sarah Bookner gathered a group to cheer her on at the Apple Festival, Zoe Metcalf signed a

few class members up for the Fire Walk at Common Ground, and this is just the beginning!

Best of Luck to the Class of 2009 – The largest Class in the History of Leadership Lorain County! By the end of the year, there will be many other unique adjectives to distinguish this fine group of leaders. Stay tuned!

THE
Leadership
SOCIETY

**Members of The Leadership Society
for 2008-2009 hold first meeting.**

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CGI Group Benefits LLC

David "Rocky" Campana Jr. '03 has been involved with Leadership Lorain County since 2003. It was his second year in the insurance industry and his uncle, Bob Campana '04, highly recommended the program as a way to meet decision makers in Lorain County. Rocky had such a great experience through the Signature Leadership Program, that upon graduation, he joined the alumni committee and a few years later served on the LLC board of directors. Rocky states, "Through Leadership Lorain County, I found a new appreciation of the community that I grew up in. Through this program, I learned more about the industries that are based in Lorain County and the challenges that they face. I have also had the chance to talk to some prominent business leaders to hear their success stories and principles that they relied on to be successful. It also doesn't hurt when I get a meeting with a company and the HR person is an LLC alumnus. It serves as a great ice breaker."



David "Rocky" Campana '03 and Nick Giancola

Rocky Campana is currently president of David Campana Insurance which is now becoming CGI Group Benefits LLC with his business partner Nick Giancola. CGI Group Benefits LLC is an independent insurance agency which specializes in Health, Life, Disability, Dental, and Vision for companies and individuals

(self employed, unemployed, benefits not offered at employer, children graduating college).

Being an independent agency means that they are contracted with all of the major insurance carriers in both health and voluntary programs. They will interview the individual or company and uncover their needs. Based on their interview, they will recommend the plans and insurance company that they feel would be best suited for that clients needs.

Rocky will serve as the Health Insurance Specialist while Nick will serve as the Voluntary Benefit Specialist. No matter what the product, CGI Group Benefits LLC will focus on service. Because of the great service they have provided their current clients, they estimate that 85% of their new business has been a direct result of a referral.

"There are many insurance agencies in the world. Most clients came to us because they were not getting the answers they were looking for from

their agent or they received a large increase in rates and were not shown other options." Rocky explained, "I promise them that I will be different and that promise sets the bar and I am expected to perform."

If you would like CGI Group Benefits LLC to review your current program, please call (440) 246-6015 or email david@cgigroupbenefits.com or nick@cgigroupbenefits.com

FIT Technologies

FIT Technologies was founded in 1999 by Leadership Lorain County alumni Micki Tubbs '95 and Michelle Tomallo '97. The company, originally called SchoolOne, developed Web-based software for K-12 schools. As a technology start-up, the company operated out of offices in Westlake before settling in Elyria on West River Road for several years. The company worked diligently to raise money for its venture following the tech bubble bust and the economic downturn after 9-11. Through some good luck, a couple of well-negotiated deals, and the support of Lorain National Bank, SchoolOne began to grow, providing services to public, private and charter schools. In response to client needs, the company broadened its scope of services to become a successful provider of not only application development services, but also customized IT solutions. This year, the organization became FIT Technologies to better serve a broader range of sectors. SchoolOne continues to be a division of FIT, serving the K-12 market.



Michelle Tomallo '97 and Micki Tubbs '95

support, help desk, disaster recovery and integrated VoIP services. They work with small to mid-size companies. "As business owners, we understand the challenges of growing a small business and the need to have trusted partners to support you to the next step. We can be that trusted IT advisor," shares Micki Tubbs. "We serve clients all over Northeast Ohio and can offer support in Lorain County as well," remarked Tomallo. "Although our offices are in Cleveland, our roots are in Lorain County," offered Tubbs. The company started with three employees in Elyria. They currently have 175 employees serving clients in 9 states through their three divisions: FIT Technologies, SchoolOne and Campus Outfitters.

Micki Tubbs '95 and Michelle Tomallo '97 have been supporters of Leadership Lorain County for many years and most recently as Champions of Leadership through FIT Technologies, but also as Alumni members since graduation. In addition, Michelle served on the Alumni Board for two years, the LLC Board for seven years and was chair of Student Recruitment for our Youth Inclusion for four years.

FIT Technologies offers managed infrastructure and hosting, application development, technology needs assessment, field

The Leadership Society

Members of The Leadership Society met for the first time this year on September 18th to present community service ideas to their colleagues for project selection. At the conclusion of the meeting, the members determined that there was enough commitment and enthusiasm to select four different projects to work on this coming year.

Youth Volunteerism project, led by Amy DeLuca '08, will focus on connecting high school students with volunteer opportunities in the community. Mary Lambert '06 will be leading her group with work on needed services for the elderly in Lorain County.

Assessment and coordination of Special Olympics in Lorain County, spearheaded by Mark Rau '08, will be looking at the coordination and development of opportunities for Special Olympics in Lorain County. Robert Callaway '05 will be leading his group on non-profit organization collaboration in Lorain County.

The mission of The Leadership Society, to support the community by sustained involvement of committed leaders, certainly will be achieved with the focus on these projects selected by the members of the Society.



The Leadership Society members at September 18th meeting.

Each project is open to new members. Please contact the project leader or LLC if you are interested in joining your fellow alumni in The Leadership Society.

Members of The Leadership Society for 2008-2009

- | | | | |
|---|--|----------------------------|---|
| Paul Balcom
<i>(Honorary Alumnus)</i> | Lakeland Health Care Corporation | Mary Lambert '06 | Alzheimer's Association |
| Kathy Boylan '86 | Elyria City Health District | Jeff Neal '99 | Lorain County Board of MR/DD |
| Robert Callaway '05 | Lorain County Community College | Bernie Nirode '05 | Nirode Enterprises Partnership |
| Amy DeLuca '08 | Wickens, Herzer, Panza, Cook & Batista Co. | Mark Rau '08 | Community Health Partners |
| Alexa Hansen '03 | Lake Ridge Academy | Bob Rees '00 | Goodwill Industries of Lorain County |
| Sharon Herzer '90 | Wickens, Herzer, Panza, Cook & Batista Co. | Ed Stewart '99 | Stewart Advertising |
| Deb Jancsura '04 | Lorain County Community College | Brenda Troxtell '08 | Leadership Lorain County |
| Michael Jaworski '01 | Jaworski Physical Therapy, Inc. | Maria Zolli '98 | Center for Vascular & Thoracic Medicine & Surgery, Inc. |

Resource Council Begins its Third Year



Karen Wells '03, Lynn Koster '05, Betty Blair '89, Cathie Leimbach '04, and Mike Rogan (CEO, Wesleyan Senior Living)

The fall meeting of Leadership Lorain County's Resource Council was held on Tuesday, September 30th. We are grateful to Ed Oley and Community Health Partners for generously hosting the location for this fall's meeting.

Leadership Lorain County's Resource Council, chaired by Benjamin G. Norton, is a body of top business and community leaders who work together to address vital issues of economic and leadership sustainability within our county. The Council meets twice a year to discuss issues of importance and to act as an important resource for Leadership Lorain County. Top leaders representing healthcare, banking, construction and development, independent business, and higher education regularly attend this gathering which provides an opportunity for them to network and share their thoughts and concerns.

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Alumni making their Mark! Class of '08

Youth Alum Making a Difference

Evann Heidersbach '08, had a desire to learn more about how to be a more effective leader in her school and community, so she followed in the steps of her mother **Annie Heidersbach '01** and applied for the Leadership Lorain County Signature Program. Evann hit the ground running last year and was a vital part of the group, bringing the all-important youth perspective to issues and concerns.

Evann is a member of the National Honor Society, a champion swimmer with Elyria Catholic High School, a member of the Community Foundation Youth Fund Advisory Committee, a member of the Class Senate, and this just touches the surface of her involvement. She has received the President's Award for Community Involvement and has spearheaded a Service Expo for her school that will be replicated by the 2009 Leadership Society.

Photo: Annie Heidersbach '01 and daughter, Evann '08

Evann states, "Leadership Lorain County provided me an opportunity to meet amazing people and visit interesting places in our community. The experience inspired me to do more than what I would have traditionally done as a high school student. It inspired me to give back and create something that would benefit my fellow students, my school and my community. The experience has proven to me that the time worn adage 'it is better to give than receive' is not just an expression, but a philosophy that is alive and well throughout Lorain County."

Fear not Lorain County - our community is in good hands now and in the future with young leaders like Evann!



Jim Valderrama Named to Cleveland's "Forty Under 40"

"It's all about neighborhoods for **Jim Valderrama '08**, and this Lorain County native doesn't pass up many chances to make each of the worlds he touches stay healthy and thrive, or at least he'll give it his very best. Whether it's The Thundercats, son Evan's local soccer team, or Neighborhood House Association, or his devotion to the now defunct Lorain YMCA that he fought to save from changing demographics and crumbling reality with a team of other dedicated volunteers, you want Valderrama on your side. Jim believes on some level everyone has attributes that would benefit others and by doing a better job of matching skill sets, everyone prospers. This one-time psychology major, now fast-track and successful CPA and newly named Tax Director at RSM McGladrey, has tenacity and focus. It's hard to say "no" to Jim Valderrama."

Congratulations, Jim, on this prestigious honor! Watch *Crain's Cleveland Business* for the upcoming announcement and article on this year's "Forty Under 40".

Making a Difference in Lorain County

Amy DeLuca is a graduate of the Class of 2008; she was not even through the class year when she began immersing herself in the community. She is always on the lookout for where her talents can help to get things accomplished. She quickly accepted a position with the Neighborhood House Association Board. Having worked on a project for the homeless and also helping her classmates to erect a shelter at Haven House, she had a desire to do more for that organization. She also joined the Leadership Society and will head up a project aimed at connecting high school students with meaningful volunteer opportunities. Most important to our organization, Amy is serving on the **Leadership Lorain County Board of Trustees** and co-chair of the Program Committee.

In her professional life, Amy is an attorney with Wickens, Herzer, Panza, Cook and Batista. Recently featured in *Inside Business Magazine* as one to watch, Amy has also appeared on Chanel 3's *Good Company* as a legal advisor.

Thank you, Amy, for making a difference in Lorain County and with Leadership Lorain County.

Get Involved!

Making the Web Work for You! NORT²H

Leadership Lorain County, in collaboration with the Northern Ohio Research & Training Technology Hub (NORT²H), presents this three-part productivity workshop. **Join us for a fun and interactive series of workshops to increase your workplace productivity by utilizing many free web resources!**

Session I: Making Google Work for Me!
Thursday, October 16, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

At a time where budgets are stretched to the max and resources are limited, we are all being asked to do more with less. Join Leadership Lorain County and the Educational Service Center of Lorain County as we discover **free Internet resources that you can immediately use to increase your productivity, improve communication** and help your team work collaboratively on projects. Each two and a half hour session will begin with an exploratory look at several resources available to participants. The latter half of the workshop will be interactive in a lab environment in which laptops will be provided.

Session II: Making the Most of Online Resources for Meeting Planning and Productivity!
Thursday, November 6, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

As if planning a meeting isn't hard enough, getting your coworkers and clients on the same page can take away valuable time that you could be spending on your projects. During this interactive session we will take a closer look at **free online tools that can improve scheduling, monitoring and collaborating** with your team and clients. We will explore several software packages, many of which are free. A few of these will include Survey Monkey, When to Meet and Wiki Spaces.

Session III: Bridging the Gap of Communication between your Office and your Clients!
Thursday, December 4, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 am

Communicating with coworkers and clients is the cornerstone of effective collaboration. Learn how you can use free or inexpensive software to improve communication without having to leave your office. **We will use some of the most effective tools to communicate, demonstrate progress and create a link between you and your clients.** Some of the software we'll explore includes Skype, Polycom PVX and LinkedIn.

Registration Fee: \$120 • Discounted Rate: \$99 for Leaders League Members (Leadership Lorain County membership-dues paying alumni), members of the Leadership Lorain County's Class of 2009, and 3 or more participants from the same organization.

Register online at leadershiploraincounty.com by phone at (440) 366-4700 or by fax at 440-366-4701.
As capacity is limited to 30 participants, send in your registration early.

Location: Educational Service Center of Lorain County • 1885 Lake Avenue • Elyria, Ohio

**Registration still being accepted for Sessions II and III.
\$35 per session**

Upcoming Educational Events

A Day of Renewal

Come to **Common Ground** with LLC on **Saturday, January 31, 2009**, 10 to 4 pm for a **day of rejuvenation, renewal, inspiration, learning, and growth.** The focus of the day will be on you, as an individual, and how you can find ways to help find relaxation and balance in today's busy world. Details to follow closer to the date, but mark your calendar now as you won't want to miss this opportunity to experience and learn about ways to take care of yourself.

2009 Annual Breakfast Series Board Training

8 to 9:30 am • Spitzer Conference Center
February 4 • March 4 • April 1 • May 6

Whether you currently serve on a Board or are thinking about doing so, this series of four workshops is for you. Seasoned and new Board members will all benefit from these presentations on matters important to efficient and professional Board work. Registration information will be available in mid December.

Get Involved!

Host a Party... a Party with a purpose!

Leadership Lorain County Alumni will be helping our organization to raise money this year, doing what they do best, being creative, having fun and making a difference.

We are asking all alumni to consider hosting a party on our behalf. It would be a great opportunity to reconnect with Leadership friends or to introduce new people to the mission of LLC. Party ideas that are emerging are endless. Poker nights, tailgate parties, spa nights, dinner parties, holiday get together just touch the surface of what we will see.

The first two fundraisers were held in September. Kathy Kordeleski '07 hosted a clam bake at her home and Joni Marra '08, Nouie Nodal '08, Amy DeLuca '08 and Sue Kaczay '08 hosted a fall festival. Both parties brought two important things to our organization, funds to continue to foster lifelong leadership and awareness!

Sue Kaczay provided this description of their event as a way of giving an example of what can be done. Sue wrote: "The Best Class of 2008 was one of the first to step up to the challenge of hosting a party on behalf of LLC. The event was held at the home of Joni Marra. The celebration had a fall festival theme and featured wonderful appetizers, the class signature drink 'Mike Mayse Hard Lemonade,' a signature dessert which had the LLC logo on top of a wonderful chocolate cake prepared by Connie Mayse, and a dinner of clams, steak and chicken which was catered by Tom's Country Place. A Cleveland Browns corn hole game was auctioned off to increase the profit of the evening. Nette Poblete brought her karaoke machine and the evening ended with entertainment provided by those musically inclined and those who were just willing to have fun! The event was successful in raising funds to support the wonderful mission of Leadership Lorain County."

For information and assistance in hosting a party, call Kristen at (440) 366-4704 and she will arrange for the party committee to work with you to make sure your event is a success. Have a Party, Make a Difference!

SAVE THE DATE

FEBRUARY 20, 2009

2009
Difference Makers Gala

HONORING

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ERIC NORD AWARD

JOEL ARREDONDO

DAVID L. HERZER

BISHOP A. JAMES QUINN

EASTER SEALS NORTHERN OHIO



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2009

Resource Council

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This group was welcomed by **Ben Norton and Dr. Karen Wells '03, LCCC**. Board members **Bob Fisher, Premier Toyota** and **Randy Fortin, PolyOne**, were instrumental in leading an engaged discussion. The comments and dialogue from this meeting will be very helpful to Leadership Lorain County as we continue to look at the ways in which we tell our story, and will help us to continue to express the message of our impact on the Community.

We look forward to our spring meeting of the Resource Council, which will be held on **Thursday, March 19, 2009**. If you would like more information on how you might be a part of this council please contact Kristen Jones at (440) 366-4700.



Steve Morey, Team Lorain County, with Kenton Thompson, First Place Bank



Resource Council Chair, Ben Norton; Jane Norton '93, and LLC Board Chair Karen Wells '03

Attention All Alumni!!

We really need your support in reaching our alumni membership goal for this year – our goal for the year is **275 members and we know we can reach it with your help!** Your membership in the Leaders League provides you with many opportunities including networking events, social activities and continued leadership educational opportunities.

By staying connected with a community of more than 790 graduates, you'll have the opportunity to tap into a powerful network of professional and personal contacts. Alumni memberships are also vital in supporting the scholarships that enable all class members to participate in our signature program!

Some of the alumni member-only benefits that help you stay connected include **discounts on networking, social and NEW educational events**, access to the **online alumni directory**, the **printed alumni directory**, **continuing leadership educational** and **networking opportunities**, as well as **additional event tickets** that are included in the **upper level** memberships. Check with your employer to see if this is covered as professional dues.

With your memberships, we have been able to develop new programming and expand our influence and positive impact on the community. Thanks to all of you, we have one of the most active and supportive alumni groups in the Northeast Ohio Region. **We hope we can count on your support again this year! It is vital in helping Leadership Lorain County to continue its programming!**

Now you can easily renew your dues and submit payment online at our website at www.leadershiploraincounty.com! Full membership benefits are also reviewed there in detail.

Golf Outing Boasts Record Attendance!

It was an afternoon of beautiful weather, excellent golf conditions and great food and drink as 85 golfers enjoyed Leadership Lorain County's Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser, held on August 1st at the renowned Grey Hawk Golf Club. Co-chairs **Steve Hosler '99** and **Gary Thome '98** were very happy with the outstanding turnout of golfers for this event, which grows by leaps and bounds each year.

We are very appreciative of all the corporate and hole sponsors, as well as the individual golfers who participated in this successful event. The annual golf outing is a significant fundraiser that

provides scholarship support for some of our small business and non-profit class participants in Leadership Lorain County's Signature Program, and also helps us maintain and develop cutting-edge leadership programming.

Plans are already underway for next year's outing, so mark your calendars for Friday, August 14, 2009 at Grey Hawk Golf Club and plan to participate in this fun and worthwhile event!



Co-Chairs Gary Thome '98 and Steve Hosler '99



CHP corporate sponsor team – Ed Oley '99, Jim Stephens '06, Ed Ruth '04, and Maria Zolli '98

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For more information on how YOUR company might sponsor the next newsletter, please contact Kristen Jones at (440) 366-4700. Quarterly opportunities are available.



**Leadership
Lorain County**

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Kristen Jones
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Kathy Ader
Alumni Relations
Coordinator

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*The mission of
Leadership Lorain
County is to foster
lifelong leaders who
serve as catalysts for
positive change.*

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**Leadership
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