



Make RI Stronger

Multi-year initiative to tackle cynicism, focus on strengths

Leadership Rhode Island has launched a statewide movement that has the potential to dramatically improve both the Rhode Island workplace and the Rhode Island psyche.

"This effort is our response to last year's report that Rhode Island has the most 'actively disengaged' workforce in the country and also to the long-standing concern expressed by LRI participants – that one of Rhode Island's primary problems involves low self-esteem and negative attitudes," explains **Mike Ritz** '07, Executive Director of LRI.

Rhode Islanders' negative mindset was re-affirmed recently in a Gallup poll that found that only 18 percent of the state's adults think Rhode Island is the best – or one of the best – places to live in the United States. That put Rhode Island at the bottom in terms of state pride and satisfaction.

Reference to the state's "actively disengaged" workers is found in Gallup's 2013 State of the American Workplace Report, which indicates that one out of every five Rhode Islanders doesn't like his or her job. These unhappy workers are sicker, miss more days of work, quit more often and deliberately act in ways harmful to their employer.

"People may first view this as an employee problem, but those who understand effective management know this is a leadership problem," says Ritz. "And this leadership problem, according to Gallup, is costing companies and organizations approximately \$3,400 per \$10,000 in wages. That's \$17,000 for each \$50,000-a-year employee who is actively disengaged."



Our strengths revealed

John Bowen



*Arranger • Futuristic
Individualization
Relator • Responsibility*

Ann-Marie
Harrington



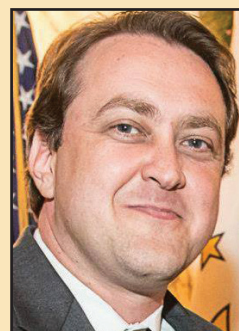
*Individualization
Futuristic • Ideation
Strategic • Arranger*

Connie Howes



*Relator • Learner
Input • Competition
Significance*

Mike Ritz



*Communication
Activator • Futuristic
Strategic • Maximizer*

Katie Varney



*Futuristic • Ideation
Individualization
Learner • Developer*

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Leadership Rhode Island

1570 Westminster St., 1st Floor
Providence, RI 02909
401-273-1574
www.leadershipri.org

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Let's make a difference for RI

It is a privilege to officially introduce myself as the new Chairperson of the Leadership Rhode Island Board of Governors. I am honored to have been selected for this position and I will give it everything I've got.

As they say, "timing is everything" and, given the collective talent of the board and staff, I'm thinking my timing is pretty darn good and my job will be an easy one. This board and staff are an incredibly dedicated and hard-working team, producing great work each and every day; I'm simply here to support their efforts.



Alarie

On that note, my first formal order of business is to offer a very big and heartfelt "thank you" to **Scott DiChristofero**, outgoing chairman. What an act to follow! (This is where you wish me luck ...)

Thanks must also go out to all of you, our alumni. What would we do or who would we be without you? Many of you eagerly volunteer your time, sponsor and attend events, renew your memberships, nominate future leaders to the program and make personal financial investments in the organization.

We know who you are and my hat goes off to you! I urge you to please stay involved so we can keep our momentum going.

For those of you who have been sitting on the sidelines – you know who you are – I encourage you to re-engage. Cool things are happening and you just might want to be a part of it. You are a leader, after all, and LRI needs you to join our movement to Make RI Stronger.

In fact, you can hit the ball out of the park with one easy step: take the StrengthsFinder assessment. It'll be a home run for you because you'll discover your unique set of strengths and it'll be a home run for LRI if you use your strengths to enrich your life and the lives of others.

Intrigued? Fantastic! Contact LRI to find out how to do it.

With a combined enthusiasm for our state and working together, we will make a difference for all of Rhode Island. Let's do this! It will be fun, I promise. WOO (HOO)!

Take care,

Pamela Alarie

New Board of Governors members

Three new members have been named to Leadership Rhode Island's Board of Governors.

Sulina Mohanty, Dean of Students at Blackstone Valley Prep, is the first College Leadership Rhode Island graduate to be elected to the

board. A graduate of the University of Rhode Island, she went through CLRI in 2005.

The other new members are **Mario Hilario** '05, the anchor for NBC Weekend Sunrise, and **Nicole Benjamin**, '13, a lawyer with Adler, Pollock & Sheehan PC.



Benjamin



Hilario



Mohanty

CLRI: A solution to the state's 'brain drain'

By *Jillian Stone CLRI '10*

College Leadership Rhode Island broke a record this year with 56 students from 11 colleges and universities competing for the 35 seats in the 2014 class that convenes in the fall.

Established in 2004, CLRI has always had the same desired outcome – turning emerging leaders into stewards of change on their campuses, in their communities and for Rhode Island. They learn from and engage with local leaders who are committed to making the state a better place to work and live.

It's not difficult to find evidence of CLRI's impact. **Suzy Alba**, a graduate of the first class in 2004, is now a member of the Smithfield Town Council. **Bobby Gondola**, director of development at Year Up and a 2005 participant, serves on the appointed Providence School Board. **Zack Mezera** CLRI '11, executive director of the Providence Student Union, has joined the board for SER Jobs for Progress Rhode Island.

The CLRI ranks even include a television actress, **Ericka Atwell** CLRI '07. A graduate of Rhode Island College, she had a recurring role in this year's CBS comedy show "The Crazy Ones."

Modeled after Leadership Rhode Island's Core Program, CLRI's semester-long experiential program exposes class members to the inner-workings of non-profits, for-profits, and government. Participants also explore strengths-based leadership, community advocacy, and civic engagement, and learn about the legislative process, entrepreneurship and corporate philanthropy.

Josh Klemp, executive director for Skill-USA RI, was so inspired by his CLRI experience in 2004 that he applied – and was accepted – for the 2013 Core Program, a first in LRI's history.



The 2013 College Leadership Rhode Island class joined together for a group photo during their commencement at the State House.

Workplace preparedness is another cornerstone of the program. As participants prepare to cross the bridge from college to career, CLRI also arms them with practical tools for success.

Students discover their own strengths, practice public speaking, pick up tips on professional etiquette, learn ways to incorporate volunteer service into a resume, and develop elevator-pitches to market themselves. Professional branding across social media platforms is also tackled.

"I have begun to realize the impact that just interacting with other people actually has on the state. I have learned to communicate my passions and ideas more clearly to others," says **Shayla Minteer**, a student at the University of Rhode Island, who gradu-

ated CLRI in December.

In its first 10 years, CLRI has engaged more than 250 students from educational institutions in Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts. The size of the class has gradually grown, now serving up to 35 students in their sophomore, junior and senior years. Graduate students and those within a year of their graduations also are eligible.

Participation in CLRI is free, thanks to the three-year, co-sponsorship of **Bob DiMuccio** LRI '01, president of Amica Mutual Insurance, and **Tim Horan** LRI '01, president of National Grid RI, and LRI alumni donations.

Please contact LRI if you, too, would like to support this solution to Rhode Island's "brain drain."

Bulletin!

Publick Occurrences, a series of public policy discussions presented by the Providence Journal, Leadership Rhode Island and Rhode Island College, has won the Rhode Island Press Association's first-ever Community Outreach Award. Subjects explored in 2013 were privacy in the digital age, the new health care act, and gun violence. Topics for the 2014 forums, which will begin in the fall, have not yet been determined.

Economy Day takes on a regional approach

By Katie Varney

A public official from Connecticut and an academic from Massachusetts view Rhode Island's approach to economic development from decidedly different perspectives.

Both public policy specialists, along with **Marcel A. Valois**, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation, spoke during the Kappa IIs' Economy Day. Each panelist was invited afterwards to comment specifically on what they think Rhode Island is doing right to create jobs and attract business.

David Panagore, a self-described urbanist who is Executive Director of the New Haven Parking Authority, says that New England, for decades, has placed too much emphasis on real estate development and not enough on job creation and attracting new businesses.

In Rhode Island, this reliance is evident, he says, by the state's current focus on the I-95 Project in downtown Providence.

Massachusetts has taken the early lead in trying new approaches "to handle job creation investment challenges," he writes. And, Connecticut recently created a statewide entrepreneurial support system, called "CT Next."

"The best that can be said of what currently is taking place" in Rhode Island, he writes, is its "across-the-board, community-wide effort to assess" economic development efforts.

Instead of relying on the tired, old model of real estate development "as savior," he advises that Rhode Island should put its economic development program into the hands of entrepreneurs willing to try successful models used in more adventurous regions of the country.

Michael Goodman, associate professor and chair of the Department of Public Policy at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, says the successes and challenges facing Rhode Island are similar to those confronting Massachusetts.

"For centuries, the destinies of Mas-



Susan Budlong, marketing communications manager for Dave's Marketplace and a member of the Kappa II class, poses a question during the Economy Day session.

sachusetts and Rhode Island have been intertwined in a number of important ways. This is no less true today than it was during the industrial revolution. Our two states share not only a border, but also important critically important cultural and economic connections," he writes.

Rhode Island and Massachusetts both wrestle with a high cost of living and of doing business, thanks to the value of real estate and the need to import nearly all energy resources, he writes. Yet, intellectual capital and "Yankee Ingenuity" allows Southern New England to tower over its competitors.

Because Rhode Island can't compete for business investment and human capital on price, the best strategy for remaining competitive in the contemporary environment is to invest whatever resources it has in "its people," he says.

Rhode Island is located in a region which has the educated, skilled and innovative workforce that business needs,

agrees Valois.

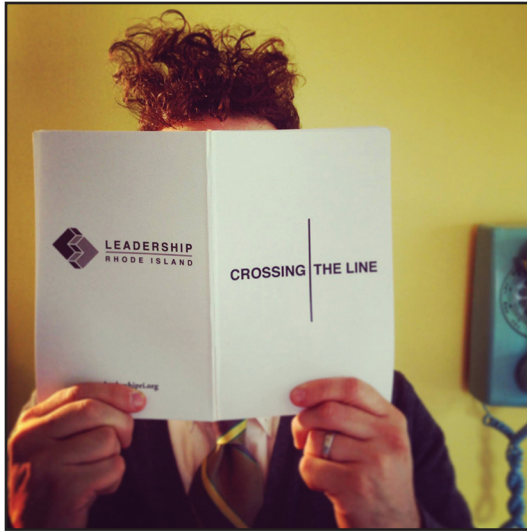
"Within this dynamic region, Rhode Island's compact size and strategic location are key commercial advantages," he writes.

Learning that Rhode Island is not alone in its battle to improve its economy was comforting to some Kappa IIs.

"We have a lot of the same problems. To me, that would indicate we should look to other states and cities for best practices that could be applied in RI, instead of spending energy recreating the wheel," **Peter Durfee**, Director of Financial Planning at The Beacon Mutual Insurance Company, wrote in his Economy Day evaluation.

"The opportunity to hear from leaders from Massachusetts and Connecticut is a unique one and it provides valuable information to anyone looking to effect positive change in RI," noted **Jennifer Morrison**, Assistant Vice President and Assistant General Counsel at Amica Mutual Insurance Company, in her evaluation.

Extra! Extra! Read all about it!



Get a glimpse into the thinking of 61 Rhode Islanders, some of whom you know or have heard about for years; others probably not.

“Crossing the Line” is a paperback book of mini-profiles drawn from interviews by the Kappa II class of Leadership Rhode Island’s Core Program.

The Kappa IIs were free to interview anyone who met their personal definition of “Line Crosser.” In addition to answering questions, interviewees took Gallup’s StrengthsFinder assessment to learn their top five talents. Those strengths are listed, too.

The book emerging from the class exercise is downright interesting and even a bit provocative.

To ORDER YOUR COPY, email office@leadershipri.org.

Kappa IIs vote for a Constitutional Convention

The Kappa IIs, participating in April’s Government Day, heard the pros and cons of a state Constitutional Convention from **Robert Flanders**, former state Supreme Court justice, and **Steven Brown**, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union.

After the presentations, the class voted on the question expected to be on the ballot this November: “Shall there be a convention to amend or revise the Constitution?”

Twenty-six voted yes; 12 voted no and 15 abstained.

Then class members became convention “delegates” and debated potential constitutional changes. They decided that Rhode Islanders in November 2016 should have the opportunity to vote on a line-item veto for the governor, a party-ticket approach to electing a governor and lieutenant governor, and restoring Ethics Commission jurisdiction over state lawmakers.

After the simulated convention experience, the Kappa IIs voted again on whether a convention should be called. The second vote was even stronger in favor of a convention: 39 said yes; 14 said no.



The Kappa II class fills the House floor of the Rhode Island State House for a mock debate on whether there should be a convention to amend or revise the state constitution.



Award winners share words

Hundreds of Rhode Islanders – alumni and non-alumni alike – packed the room at the Providence Convention Center for the annual LRI Awards Luncheon. Director **Mike Ritz** '07 announced the launch of the “Make RI Stronger” initiative, and Governor **Dan Raimondo** announced the launch of the “RI Stronger” initiative for Rhode Island (see story, page 1). Four award recipients were recognized for their strengths and contributions to the state, “for their strengths and contributions to the state, residing and working beyond our state’s borders,” Ritz said. For more luncheon photos, see [page 2](#).

2014 Emerging Leader Award Matthew Lannon

“Choose love.” This simple – yet powerful – message went viral when young **Matthew Lannon** added his voice in support of marriage equality during hearings at the State House back in January 2013. A video of Matthew’s Senate Judiciary testimony by the Providence Journal made national news in outlets like The Huffington Post.

Now a seventh-grader at St. Andrew’s School in Barrington, Matthew thanked his parents for teaching him to speak out against injustice. He said he was “devastated” when he learned his two mothers could not get married. “How could they be treated differently than other families?”

It was Matthew’s own idea to speak before state lawmakers. “People have a lot to say about kids who are being raised by gay parents but I thought it was important to hear from us – not about us,” he said.

Matthew shared some of the lessons he learned through his experience. Among them: “I learned that my voice matters. One voice can make a difference, especially when it’s added to other voices, and hundreds of others demanding equality.”



2014 LRI Volunteer Award Susan Connery '99

“Out of all the people who need me, how many can I help?”

This is a question that **Susan Connery** has asked herself. The director of the Feinstein Community Service Center at Johnson & Wales University, Connery especially loves helping college students. Last year alone, JWU students contributed more than 155,000 hours of community service to the local area.

Ten years ago, Connery was instrumental in the creation of College Leadership Rhode Island. The program, she said, helps students recognize their strengths and assets and engages them to become community leaders.

Christopher T. Feisthamel '01, a member of the LRI Board of Governors, presented the award and credited Connery with getting CLRI off the ground. “She represents the selflessness, commitment, compassion and leadership we needed,” he said.

Said Connery, “This kind of work is also the way to happiness.”



eds of inspiration

Providence Marriott March 6 for the annual Inspiring Leaders Award Luncheon. During the event, Executive Gallup Strengths Evangelist **Paul Allen** explained how his organization will be working with Leadership and dedicated service to society. “Their positive influence and impact affects the lives of countless others” on page 9.



2014 RI Community Service Award Dennis Littky

Dennis Littky had a request for everyone in attendance at the luncheon: Take out a business card, turn it over, and write the name of someone you know who didn't finish college. He promised to collect the cards and follow up.

According to Littky, there are 110,000 adults in Rhode Island who started college and didn't graduate. Through his program, College Unbound, which helps adults earn degrees while working full time, he is committed to helping as many of them as possible.

“It's sad to me,” he said. “That number is too big, and somebody's got to do something.”

Littky may be best known as co-founder and co-director of The Met School, which was replicated internationally with \$25 million from The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Currently, there is a network of 40 schools in the United States, 25 in Australia and 13 in the Netherlands.

“My life has been dedicated to trying to improve education, especially for the underserved,” Littky said.



2014 David E. Sweet Award Robert DiMuccio '01

Service and community engagement are part of the fiber of Amica Mutual Insurance Company. And setting the tone is its chairman, president and chief executive officer, **Robert DiMuccio**.

Among the boards that benefit from DiMuccio's service are the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, the Washington Trust Company and Crossroads Rhode Island. Still, he accepted the award not for himself but on behalf of Amica and its 3,300 employees, many of whom are connected with organizations throughout the state.

Pamela Alarie '05, chair of the LRI Board of Governors, presented DiMuccio with the award, citing him as a champion of community involvement. “Amica, in my mind, gets the gold star,” she said. “They do it right, and I firmly believe it starts at the top.”

DiMuccio said he has grown as a leader because he's been inspired by people who “tirelessly fight the fight.” He has met many others in the private sector who care about people in the state. “We must be good caretakers, good citizens and, most importantly, compassionate leaders,” he said.

Effort to engage RI workforce

Continued from Page 1

The goal of LRI's multi-year initiative, called "Make RI Stronger," is to help thousands of Rhode Islanders discover their natural talents, which Gallup defines as "naturally recurring patterns of thought, feeling, or behavior," and then show them how to focus on and incorporate these talents into their lives so they become strengths.

"For decades, for centuries, the focus has been on what's wrong with us," **Paul Allen**, Strengths Evangelist at Gallup, said at LRI's recent awards luncheon. "What if we studied healthy, successful people and found out what's right with them?" Allen asked, attributing the question to Donald O. Clifton, a psychologist who founded a company that, in the 1980s, acquired Gallup.

Katie Varney, one of only 90 Gallup-certified Strength Coaches in the United States, will have a pivotal role in the "Make RI Stronger" initiative. With Allen's support, Varney, LRI's Program Manager, will oversee the administering of the StrengthsFinder Assessment to thousands of Rhode Islanders. The assessment, developed by Gallup, is done electronically; a list of the individual test-taker's top five strengths emerges immediately. Katie will spearhead development of a curriculum that will help businesses and organizations develop their own approaches to strengths management.

The expected outcome over a period of years is that Rhode Island's workforce will become more engaged (a condition measured annually by Gallup), and Rhode Island's attitude will become more positive as Rhode Islanders' confidence grows.

"Engaged workers spread enthusiasm, which fuels economic power," says **Sangeeta Agrawal**, Gallup workplace research manager. "They themselves are more energized and enthusiastic about the business environment, and they broadcast that enthusiasm to the entrepreneurs they know. And those entrepreneurs are more likely to start companies that, in turn, will create good jobs."

Relying on Gallup studies showing that companies that embrace a strengths-based

How to learn more

Individuals and companies interested in learning more about StrengthsFinder, becoming a Strengths Coach, and/or becoming founding partners of the "Make RI Stronger" initiative are encouraged to contact Mike Ritz, Executive Director, at 401-273-1574 x103 or mritz@leadershipri.org.

culture see improvements in their bottom lines, Ritz is reaching out to the business community to get involved. Gilbane Building Co. and Cox Business Services have agreed to participate in LRI's pilot program.

Following a classic social entrepreneurship model, LRI is offering to partner with Rhode Island companies to assess employee engagement strategies, implement the strengths assessment to employees and set a course of action to build a strengths-based culture within the workplace. Proceeds from participating companies would, in turn, be used to support the expansion of LRI's strengths services to the greater community.

When Ritz first talked with **John Bowen '89**, chancellor of Johnson & Wales University, about the effort, he was surprised to learn of Bowen's familiarity with the late Donald O. Clifton, referred to as the "Grandfather of Positive Psychology."

"I was one of Don Clifton's students in a leadership class at Gallup in the early '90s," recalls Bowen. "Don was a great inspiration and believer in finding your strengths and further developing them."

Chancellor Bowen hosted a University Club lunch to allow Ritz to present "Make RI Stronger" to senior leaders from 13 companies. The group discussed the issues related to an "actively disengaged workforce," the possible link to low self-esteem, and the Gallup research. Ritz asked for their help in creating the first "Strengths-based State" in the nation. All but one attendee expressed support and willingness to participate.

Connie Howes, Executive Vice President

for Women's Health for the Care New England Health System, and chair of the Governor's Workforce Board, is a huge fan of the movement. "I love to help people discover and use their strengths. I have personally seen how fulfilling it is to use strengths in the workplace, creating energy and passion that flows and accomplishes amazing results... [It also] enables you to form teams that are extremely productive."

Research shows that an awareness of strengths improves individual self-confidence and sense of worth.

Ritz imagines a state where thousands of residents – employed and unemployed, college graduates looking for their first real jobs, adults considering mid-career changes, community volunteers, elected officials – go about their lives more confidently because they know what they are really good at and how to leverage those strengths.

LRI already has helped 400 Rhode Islanders discover their strengths. The group includes board and staff, the Kappa II class, students in the 2013 College Leadership RI program and some alumni. The Kappa IIs, as part of a journalism project, interviewed 60-plus individuals – from gubernatorial candidates and business executives to physicians, artists, educators and nonprofit leaders – and invited each to take the strengths test.

"I had a big 'aha' moment when I saw the test and received the results. Here's a tool that can be used by whole teams or, better yet, the whole state," says **Ann-Marie Harrington**, president of Embolden. "What a refreshing and hopeful thing for RI."

She adds, "The test validated some things I knew about myself but there were others that were enlightening. It gave me insight and perspective on other strengths I can immediately tap into at Embolden and in my life."

Developing a critical mass of citizens who recognize and play to their strengths could go a long way toward reversing Rhode Island's inferiority complex. As Ritz puts it, transforming the state "from the inside-of-the-individual-out" would be a real game changer.



Gallup Strengths Evangelist Paul Allen explains his organization's focus on "what's right" with people, rather than what's wrong.

Inspiring Leaders Awards Luncheon



From left, Chris Marsella '13, Steve Duvel '12 and Mike Busam '13.



From left, Maura Goodwin '07 and Nondas Voll '85.



From left, Victoria Ivanov, Brian Sullivan, Julian Rodriguez-Drix, Byron Monge Kappa II, Ruth Ferland and David Giardino '09.



From left, Barbara Lee '10, Michelle Saunders '09 and Lisa Ranglin '13.



From left, Judy Croyle '09, Joel Pizarro CLRI '13 and Stephanie Marie Jimenez CLRI '13.

2013 Alumni Renewals

Note: In the Fall 2013 newsletter, we published a listing of alumni who had renewed their memberships to date. The following are alumni who renewed after that issue went to press.

Champion Member: \$250

Rev. Lynn Baker-Dooley '11
Carolyn Belisle '10
Maryellen Butke '08
Melanie Coon '06
Diane Hurley '99

Member: \$100

Jim Alves '08
Anthony Ambrosino '11
Armeny Apkarian '90
Lee Arnold '93
Scott Avedisian '97
Barbara Baldwin '92
Emilie Benoit '83
Anne Berman '09
Brydie Bernardo Thomasian '12
Chuck Borkoski '01
Peter Bramante '02
Colleen Brard '10
Deb Brayton '92
Hank Casillas '09
Mary Chatel '97
Susan Connery '99
Barry Couto '97
Keith Couto '09
Judy Croyle '09
Jeanne D'Agostino '02
Joanne Daly '12
Melissa Darigan '00
Loriana De Crescenzo '10
Richard DeMerchant '92
Carmen Diaz-Jusino '10
Randy Dittmar '86
Susan Fabrizio '90
Kristin Fraser '05
Jo Gaines '92
Marie Ghazal '95
David Giardino '09
Anne Grant '90
Lenny Green '02
Carol Hamilton '11
Art Handy '11

Tom Heslin '87
Martha Conn Hultzman '91
Sheri Ispir '10
Dave Layman '86
Robert Leaver '85
Mike Lee '94
Anthony Leone '10
Laura Livingstone-Calenda '11
Janis Loiselle '99
Luis Lourenco '11
Kyle Macdonald '00
Rajani Mahadevan '10
Sharon Marable '01
John Marion '11
Donna Martin '09
Ed Mastriano '07
Olga Noguera '89
Ana Novais '04
Dawn Occhi '03
Dean Patterson '12
Ray Pouliot '96
Tom Restivo '02
Ralph Rodriguez '01
Ford Sayre '82
Lydia Schroter '11
Bob Shawver '11
Betsy Shimberg '11
Cheryl Snead '00
Neil Steinberg '91
John Techentin '10
Maria Tocco '07
Camille Vella-Wilkinson '00
Christine Walsh Phillips '08
Scott Warsheski '10
Bill Waters '86
Phil West '91
Christine West '10
Myrth York '92
Councilman Samuel Zurier '01

Gifts

Abbott Dressler '89

You'll be hearing from Class Captains

The Alumni Committee for Engagement (ACE) is laying the groundwork for a revitalized LRI Alumni Association.

Plans include networking events, assisting in the annual membership drive and serving as a resource for fellow graduates.

ACE is also recruiting individuals from each LRI class to serve as Class Captains. The captains will facilitate communication between LRI and its alumni, increase participation in LRI-sponsored events and strengthen LRI's ever-powerful network. The goal is to keep membership informed and keep our relationships vibrant.

At a recent meeting Class Captains were asked to reach out to you over the next few weeks to update your contact information and inform you of some upcoming programming.

This, in turn, will also be a great opportunity for you to convey what you would like to see happen. And, for those classes who do not have a captain assigned as of yet, please know that our plan is to be in touch with you soon so you can hear of the many great things we have in store.

Below is a list of newly named Class Captains.

2013 Iota II – **Anna Haas** and **Michael Lester**

2012 Theta II – **Dean Patterson** and **Dana Borelli-Murray**

2011 Eta II – **Claudia Cardozo** and **Frank Spinella**

2010 Zeta II – **Loriana DeCrescenzo**

2009 Epsilon II – **Kerri Friel** and **Hank Casillas**

2008 Delta II – **Julie Casimiro** and **Ed D'Arezzo**

2005 Alpha II – **Mario Hilario**

2002 Chi – **Jeanne D'Agostino**

1995 Omicron – **Pam Heffernan**

1992 Mu – **Carol Young**

1991 Lambda – **Martha Hultzman**

1990 Kappa – **Chris Hurd**

1988 Theta – **Ernie Almonte**, **Kathy Bello** and **Deb Imondi**

1987 Eta – **Ron Caniglia**

1986 Zeta – **Anne Powers**

1985 Epsilon – **Nondas Voll**

1982 Beta – **Ford Sayre**

1981 Alpha – **Steve Palmer**

*To renew your 2014 membership, visit
www.leadershipri.org/Donate.*

Class Notes

Here's what some of our members have been up to

Joseph Pratt '06 joined the Boys and Girls Clubs of Newport County as executive director and CEO in January. He had most recently served as deputy treasurer and chief of administration for state General Treasurer Gina Raimondo.

Dean Patterson '12 has been appointed to the Board of the Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island.

Peter Stein '11 has been elected Senior Rabbi at Temple B'rith Kodesh in New York. He will be the sixth senior rabbi in the 165-year history of the congregation.

The Rhode Island Quality Institute has named **James Berson** '05 and **Dr. Kathleen C. Hittner** '01 to its board of directors.

Bev Wiley '83 received the annual Amby Smith Award for being a trailblazer for gender equity and providing opportunities for girls and women in sports.

Jillian Stone CLRI '10, LRI's Operations Manager, was appointed by Governor Lincoln Chafee to serve on the Board of Commissioners of Serve Rhode Island.

Lt. Luis San Lucas '12 has been named Director of Training for the Providence Police Department.

Katie Varney, LRI's Program & Special Projects Manager, and **Bobby Rodriguez** '13 of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Rhode Island were recognized and profiled in Providence Monthly's "10 to Watch for 2014."

Jim Vincent '00, President of the NAACP's Providence branch, has been selected by the Rhode Island Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission as the 2014 "Living the Dream" Award recipient.

Sixcia Devine '07 and **Victor Capellan** '98 have been selected as the keynote speakers for the 2014 New England Latino Student Leadership Conference at The University of Rhode Island.



Capellan



Connors



Patterson



Vincent



Wiley

Sandi Connors '10 has joined United Way of Rhode Island as Executive Vice President, Director of Marketing & Communications, and **Amanda Clarke** CLRI '09 has been named Project Manager, Public Policy.

Citizens Bank and NBC 10 named the Center for Dynamic Learning the first 2014 Champion in Action in the category of youth programming. **Beth Cunha** '12 is Executive Director of the center.

Matt Coupe CLRI '12 has been hired for LRI's newly created position of Program Coordinator, starting June 2.

Mike Ritz '07 was awarded a full scholarship to attend Harvard Business School's 2014 summer course, "Strategic Perspective in Non-Profit Management."

Al Klyberg '85 was inducted into the RI Heritage Hall of Fame.

Lisa DeCubellis '12 has been promoted to Vice President, Claims Executive Department, Amica Mutual Insurance.

Seven LRI alumni and a member of the 2014 Kappa II class strutted down the runway at a vintage fashion show held last month to celebrate Inspiring Minds' 50th anniversary. Models included **Henrietta White-Holder** '11, **Sixcia Devine** '07, **Pat Moran** '99, **Barbara Lee** '10, **Harvey Lee** '13, **Mike Ritz** '07, **Terri Adelman** '94, the nonprofit's executive director, and **Amy Diaz**, Kappa II. **Carol Young** '92 was co-chair of the event. **Bob Baute** '12, is chairman of the Inspiring Minds board.

Miriam Ross '09 and **Heather Tow-Yick** '11 have announced they will be competing for the Democratic nomination in House District 4.

Martha Conn Hultzman '91 received the Business Leadership Award at the 12th Annual Women of Excellence Awards Luncheon presented by the Providence Business News.

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Upcoming Events

June 18

Spring into Summer Social, 5:30 to 8 p.m., Roger Williams Park Casino

September 4

Publick Occurrences Forum, 6 to 8 p.m., Sapinsley Hall, Rhode Island College

October 2

Publick Occurrences Forum, 6 to 8 p.m., Sapinsley Hall, Rhode Island College

October 22

2014 Kappa II Commencement Party

November 6

Publick Occurrences Forum, 6 to 8 p.m., Sapinsley Hall, Rhode Island College

For event details or to register, please visit lrievents.eventbrite.com.

Do you want to know what's going on? Send your email address to office@leadershipri.org to get on our email list, check LRI's very active Facebook page or join our Twitter feed.

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