

# Leadership News

*A publication of the Upper Arlington Leadership Program*

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## **Priscilla Mead Selected for 2004 Margine Moul Leadership Award**

“Collaborative, inclusive and enthusiastic” is how Priscilla Mead describes her leadership style. Mead, mother of four and grandmother to seven has stayed active in public service since the 1970’s when she first served on the Upper Arlington Planning Commission. She went on to the Upper Arlington City Council, serving as Mayor from 1986-1990. She then was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives in 1992. Since retiring from the Ohio Senate last January, she has taken on many volunteer activities as well as the renovation of her home.

Priscilla was appointed to the Ohio Bicentennial Commission in November of 2002. Her decision to retire from the Senate came soon after when she looked at the things she wanted to do and all that she was responsible for doing as a Senator and saw that she was not going to be able to “do it all”.

When asked for her definition of leadership she replied, “Effective leaders have a knack for identifying issues in a timely way and bringing broad resources to develop ideas or solve problems.” “Effective leadership should not be confused with power, not all leaders have to be powerful; they have to be effective.” There are as “many kinds of leadership as there are roles to be played”.

Mrs. Mead credits two mentors, Nancy Jeffrey and Monnie Postle, with providing guidance and inspiration. Jef-



frey has been a prominent leader in the social services arena for the past 40 years. She describes Jeffrey as a warm and vital person who cares about voluntarism which should not to be confused with volunteerism. Voluntarism is defined as “the use of or reliance on voluntary action to maintain an institution, carry out a policy, or achieve an end”. As a child Priscilla looked up to Monnie Postle, who was a member of the Upper Arlington School Board, a committed volunteer and a dear friend to young people.

Priscilla is very honored to be considered for the Margine Moul Leadership Award. She stated, “Since its inception, this award has been a very special one. The ones who have received it are friends and I am honored to join their ranks”. She ended with “If I had a credo it would be: ‘You can do a heck of a lot of good in the world if you don’t care who gets the credit’.”

**Save the Date:**  
**Thursday, February 26**  
**5:30 – 7:30 pm**  
**Margine Moul**  
**Leadership Award Presentation**  
*Invitations to be mailed in January*

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Peggy Concilla

**EMAIL: the easy way to stay in touch.** Please email us your current email address to Peggy Concilla so we may update our files.  
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Leadership News is a publication of the Upper Arlington Leadership Program. We welcome your suggestions and comments.

Call 470-2764  
write P.O. Box 21190  
Upper Arlington, Ohio 43221 or  
email [execdir@leadershipua.org](mailto:execdir@leadershipua.org)

**YOUTH News**

This year's YOUTH Program is filled to capacity with forty five ninth grade students participating.

The program began with a parent information night well attended by both parents and participants. At the Fall Retreat at Camp Mary Orton the students were split into two groups. One group experienced the ever-challenging ropes course while the other focused on ground initiatives. They had a beautiful day for the retreat and everyone had a wonderful time. This group has five sessions remaining that include city government, leadership, and motivation. They will complete the year with hands on civic leadership by participating in Civic Pride Day.

**Thanks** to Trustee Stacy Mollmann, John Monaghan, Joe Valentino, Director of Parks & Recreation; and Andy Zweizig, Assistant Principal of Hastings Middle School, for their continued leadership and help with the Youth Program.

**Leadership Book Club Schedule**

January 20: "**Leadership and Self Deception:** Getting out of the Box" by Arbinger Institute (Editor)

February 17: "**Who Really Matters:** The Core Group Theory of Power, Privilege, and Success" by Art Kleiner.

For additional information please contact Rose Konrath at 221-4869 or [rkonrath@ilcinc.com](mailto:rkonrath@ilcinc.com)

**Introducing Your Business to Leadership UA**

Did you know that for a donation of (at least) \$150.00 you could promote your business to Leadership UA? This sponsorship entitles you to enjoy dinner with the class; a 10 -15 minute presentation about your business and of course the satisfaction that you are helping Leadership UA.

Donations can be sent to: Leadership UA, PO Box 21190, Upper Arlington, OH 43221. Call Peggy for more information at 470-2764.

## Calling All Alumni Step Up and Be A Leader

As you know Leadership UA relies on volunteers. Many opportunities for involvement exist on several committees. This is an excellent opportunity to give back to UA and help foster the Leadership Program. Take the first step to "get involved" and contact the Executive Director at 457-5415 or President Cathe Armstrong at 583-5282 to discuss your interests.

Trustee positions also open up from time to time. No previous board experience is necessary. Leadership UA is an excellent way for you to ease you way into the world of board management. If you think you might be interested contact Peggy.



## Alumni Reception Well Attended

The Sanders  
Center at First  
Community Village

was the site of the November Alumni Reception. We lost count after the first 60 people arrived!

Folks from the early days of the Program as well as grads from last year enjoyed the delicious food from Mary's Catering. It was fun eavesdropping on conversations as some of the 'older' alums tried to remember the names of their class members.

Congrats to the class of 2003 as they "won" the distinction of having the most members attend the party!

## Annual Dues Collection Now In Progress

The annual dues request postcard was included in the invitation for the Alumni Reception and it appears that not everyone noticed it.

You may not know this, but we rely on your support to help keep the program at its best. A number of our participants each year are personally responsible for their tuition and do not receive reimbursement from their employers. Your contributions fund scholarships for those who need financial assistance as well as subsidize quality speakers.

We know that this time of year folks are bombarded with donation requests and many of you will make end of the year charitable contributions. If now is not a good time for you, perhaps you can remember Leadership UA early in the new year. Why not make the Leadership Program your first contribution for 2004?

Donations are tax deductible and a receipt (by request) is available for your records. Please send your contribution to PO Box 21190, UA, OH, 43221.

**Thanks for your continued support!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Please send me a receipt \_\_\_\_\_

## Meet the Class of 2004

**Pam Archer** obtained a B.S. from The Ohio State University in Chemical Engineering and an M.B.A. from Ashland University. She has been employed by Ohio Consumers' Counsel as an Energy Specialist since 1992. Pam is originally from Sandusky, Ohio and volunteers one night a week at University Hospital.

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**Mary Allen Austin** holds the title of Outreach Librarian for the UA Public Library. She is responsible for delivering library services to the homebound and those in health care institutions.

Mary received her Bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University in History and her Masters in Library Science from case Western Reserve University. She is an avid reader and expert quilter and is very interested in getting more involved in the community.

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**Chuck Baxley** is the Branch Manager for the Muirfield office of McDonald Investment Group. A graduate of UAHS Chuck has lived in UA for most of his life.

Chuck is married and has one son, a first grader at Greensview Elementary. Chuck graduated from the Ohio State University in 1981 with a degree in Finance and has spent his career in the securities business.

\* \* \*

**Debora Binkley** is in her second year as Assistant Superintendent UA Schools. Her list of degrees spans three colleges and universities. She obtained a Bachelor's from Otterbein College, a Masters from Ashland University and her PhD from the Ohio State University. Debora's career in education rivals her degrees. She has spent time as a

teacher, elementary and middle school principal, coordinator of Gifted programs, Director of Pupil Services, and Director of Curriculum.

Debora enjoys doing volunteer work for her church and was a committee co-chair for Relay for Life. She also likes to read, "do" crafts, and spend time with her grandchildren.

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**Chip Bruss** has been an Upper Arlington resident since 2001, moving here from San Diego, California, where he owned and operated an award winning video and film production company. Chip and his wife Susan (a UA native) have found a rich community life and closer ties to friends and family here in Upper Arlington. With four children, the oldest attending UCLA, one at Hastings Middle School, and two at Greensview Elementary, there's never a dull moment in the Bruss household.

Following in his father-in-law's tradition, Chip has recently joined HER Real Living, where Paul Bean worked for over 30 years, managing the Upper Arlington and Worthington offices. Often asked why he chose Upper Arlington over San Diego, Chip is quick to respond; "You simply won't find a community like this on the west coast."

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**Jim Buffer** serves as an Assistant Principal at UAHS where he tries to forget that not so long ago he roamed the same halls as a student. He is married with three children in UA schools. When he isn't attending a school function he enjoys reading and golf and spending time with his children.

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**Blaire Catalano** grew up in Connecticut, graduated from the University of Arizona and moved to Columbus to obtain a job. She worked as the Assistant to the Vice President of Women and Girl's design for Abercrombie & Fitch for nearly 3 years.

She met her husband (a life long resident of UA) after she moved here. Blaire recently made a career change and is now working as a real estate agent for HER Real Living Inc. She has enjoyed her career move very much, and is looking forward to becoming more involved in this community.

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**Darrell Hughes** practices labor and employment law at Downes, Hurst & Fishel. He received his Juris Doctor Degree from Capital University Law School and did his undergraduate work in Psychology at Indiana University where he was an NCAA All-American for two years at competing in track and field.

He is a member of the Ohio State and Columbus Bar Associations and serves as Treasurer/Secretary for the Industrial Relations Research Association. Darrell also has volunteered for Ballet Met Columbus. He is married with one child.

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**Evie Kennedy** is the mother of three girls, stepmother of two girls and has 2 grandchildren. She lives in Lewis Center with her husband with their two boxers.

She received Bachelors in Social Work from Michigan State University and a Masters in Library Science from Kent State University. She has been employed by the UA Public Library since 1990 and has worked in nearly every department. She is currently the branch and outreach manager responsible for the operations and services at Miller Park and Lane Road and the adult and youth outreach programs.

Formerly an avid bridge player, Evie now spends her free time in the garden or in-

olved in genealogy research.

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**David LeVeck** is a Financial Specialist with Fifth Third Bank at the Five Points Branch. He lived in Upper Arlington for a number of years but currently resides in Dublin. Dave obtained is Finance Degree from Ohio University and has been in banking for many years.

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**Tom Lindsey** is the Assistant City Attorney for the City of Upper Arlington. He assists City Attorney Jeannine Amid in representing and advising the City in all legal matters and prosecuting misdemeanor offenses.

Tom previously worked for the Ohio Attorney General, the Franklin County Clerk of Courts and County Prosecutor, and the Columbus City Attorney. He is a graduate of Miami University and Southern Methodist University School of Law.

Tom is a Lector at St. Brendan's Catholic Church and a member of the Knights of Columbus. He and his wife Kathy have one daughter

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**Bill Mead** is a lifelong resident of UA and obtained his Business degree from Ohio State. He is married to Jane Lanier-Mead (also UA 82). They have three children, Emily, a freshman, and Elizabeth and George 6<sup>th</sup> graders at Hastings. Bill is the General Manager of the Golf Car Company which specializes if golf cart rentals for special events. Bill is an active member of First Community Church.

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**Marianne Mitchell** is originally from Utah where she graduated from the University of Utah with a degree in English Education. In 1984 she moved to Ohio with

her husband when he became a professor at the Ohio State University. Marianne graduated from the Ohio State University College of Law in 1989. After law school, she served as a federal clerk with Judge John D. Holschuh and Judge Sandra S. Beckwith. She then practiced law with the Columbus law firm of Bricker & Eckler LLP for five years. Currently, she is a stay at home mother with two teenage daughters who attend UA High School and Wittenberg University.

Marianne joined Leadership UA so that she could become more actively involved in Upper Arlington community affairs.

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**Syndee Robinson** is originally from Shadyside, Ohio, and has lived in UA for ten years. She has a Bachelors of Science degree in Nursing, and has spent most of her professional career working with children in some capacity, specializing in Child and Adolescent Mental Health. While in graduate school in Michigan she had many unique opportunities including providing individual and family therapy to children, doing home visits to families in crisis, and developing a support group for hospitalized teens at Motts Children's Hospital.

After moving to Columbus and staying home with her young children she joined the Columbus Medical Association Alliance. While a part of this group she developed and implemented a mentoring program at an inner city middle school. This program is now a non-profit organization (501 © 3) and is in its sixth year. Syndee currently works as a substitute school nurse in Upper Arlington. She continues to work with kids in other ways through volunteering at school and church.

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**J. Christopher Scott** (Chris) is the Executive Director for Forum for Faith in the Workplace. The Forum is "a Christian asso-

ciation whose mission is to enrich the lives of individuals and institutions by helping people everywhere discover the presence and will of God in their places of work".

Chris was formerly Executive Vice President and Chief Credit Officer at Huntington Bancshares. He also participated in the founding of a new financial services company, Continental Auto Receivables, in which he was Executive Vice President. Married for 33 years, with two grown children, Chris is active in the ministry of Trinity United Methodist Church, Marble Cliff.

Chris received his B.A. degree from Kenyon College in political science, an M.A. in international relations from the University of Pennsylvania and an M.B.A. in business from the Wharton School, also at the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to Huntington, he was a Senior Vice President at Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh and was active in the Pittsburgh Experiment, a workplace ministry founded by the Rev. Samuel Shoemaker, Rector of Calvary Episcopal Church.

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**Tonya Sexton** lives in Hilliard, but is originally from Jackson, Ohio. Tonya attended The Ohio State University for two years before moving to Cincinnati to attend Mortuary College. She graduated from the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science in 2000 and began her professional career as a funeral director and embalmer. She is employed by Schoedinger Funeral Service in Upper Arlington. She enjoys outdoor activities, playing sports and watching college football, especially the Buckeyes! Tonya also enjoys shopping and spending time with my family and friends.

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**Gerald C. Smith** is the new Assistant City Manager in Upper Arlington. He began his professional career in 1991 after completing his undergraduate studies at Elmhurst

College where he double majored in Urban History and Political Science. Immediately after graduating, Gerald was accepted into one of the top ranked public administration graduate programs in the nation at Northern Illinois University where he was a Rhoton A. Smith Fellow. After receiving his Masters degree he served in city managerial positions with several Illinois municipalities. He later started G.C. Smith Municipal Consulting Services in 2001 to assist municipal and non-profit organizations.

Gerald has served on the Board of Advisors for the Northern Illinois Graduate School of Public Administration, the Board of Trustees for his local church and School Board. He has also been appointed to serve on various county board and commissions in Illinois, and maintained active membership in various associations such as the International City/County Managers Association, The National Forum of Black Public Administrators, the Illinois City/County Managers Association, and the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors.

Gerald resides in Upper Arlington with his wife Florence, and three children; Shani who is 16, Gerald Christian, II who is 12, and Laiya Shari'a who is 8.

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**Jeff Warner** received his Bachelors degree from The Ohio State University in Family Resource Management with emphasis in Consumer Affairs and Communications.

He is currently a financial representative with McCloy Financial Services, specializing in financial planning. Jeff is a member of St. Agatha Church and the Sigma Chi alumni chapter. Jeff joined Leadership UA in order to learn more about Upper Arlington and hopes to meet a variety of people in the community.

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**Erik F. Yassenoff** is a life long resident

of Upper Arlington. Before graduating from the UAHS in 1999, he achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in Boy Scouts at the age of fourteen, served as a Congressional Page appointed by Congresswoman Deborah Pryce his Junior year of high school, and was the youngest member of the Northwest Kiwanis Club. He attended The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. where he graduated in 2003 with a B.A. in Political Science and History.

During his four years of college he served on the GW College Republican Executive Board three years, was initiated into the Alpha-Eta Chapter of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity and worked on Capitol Hill. Erik has returned to his hometown to reestablish his roots and is working for the Governor Taft in the area of Business and Industry Relations. He is planning on attending Law School in the future and looks forward to getting involved in the community that has already given him so much.

## Program News...check it out

The class of 2004 is very diverse which has resulted in many meaningful discussions. At the retreat at Camp Akita they formed friendships, discovered their personality differences and learned to trust one another through group initiatives. Faculty from The Ohio State Extension Service led both sessions.

Early in December former State Senator Priscilla Mead led a forum on "Affecting Change", which demonstrated that it only takes one small act of concern to get entrenched in Upper Arlington. Mrs. Mead used a series of 'myths and realities' that often are associated with Upper Arlington to enlighten the class and initiate discussion.

Several upcoming classes might be of

interest to alums. January 8th we're at the firehouse on Arlington Avenue and the January 22nd session is devoted to Economic & Community Development. On February 5th we will be exploring the "The Art of Possibility", a presentation based on the well respected book by Rosamund Stone & Benjamin Zander with professional facilitator Susan Alexander. The Leadership Panel Discussion will feature local author Frank Pacetta on March 11th or the April 15th class .

If you are interested in joining the class for any of these topics please contact Peggy for information on time and location.

*Happy holidays from the Board of Trustees*

Leadership UA  
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