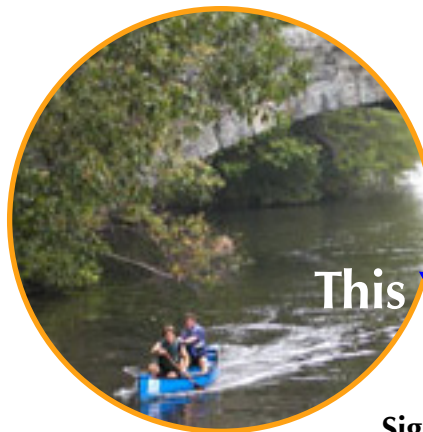


# Alumni Connection

*Linking the leaders of the Valley  
with knowledge and education*



## This Year It's Your Turn –

**Sign up for Leadership  
Blackstone Valley  
Today!**



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The next class of Leadership Blackstone Valley will run from October 2005 to May 2006.

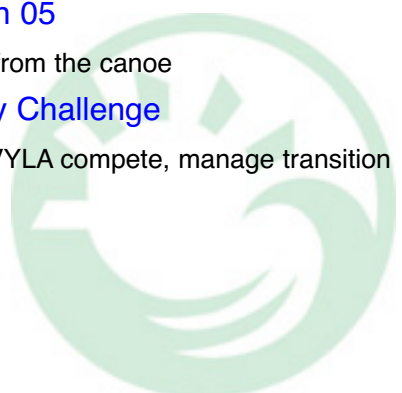
As a participant, you will attend eight full-day sessions, held once a month in locations across the region. You will meet 50 local and state leaders who will become your new resources. You will learn how your leadership style works for you, and against you.

At the end of the course, you will know how the quality of the water in the Blackstone River is tested, how to preserve open space in your town, how to manage conflict, what makes for a successful economic development project, who are the newcomers to the Valley, why is tourism the life blood of the region, and what transportation routes will drive growth in the future.

You will be recognized for your leadership in the Blackstone Valley and be a part of a network of future decision makers of the region.

To join the next class, go to [www.blackstonevalley.org](http://www.blackstonevalley.org) and click on leadership, or call Beckley Alley at (508) 234-9090 x107.

**Get \$50.00 off the tuition by submitting your application before Friday, August 19, 2005**



## Congratulations! LBV class of 2004/2005

### Jane E. Archibald

UniBank  
Resident of Whitinsville, MA

### Carmen Boucher

RI Parent Information Network  
Resident of Woonsocket, RI

### Arthur O. DuBois

Uxbridge Board of Selectmen  
Resident of Uxbridge, MA

### Stuart R. Fuller

Grafton Job Corps  
Resident of Oakham, MA

### Susan Gray McNamara

Millville Town Clerk  
Resident of Millville, MA

### Keith Hainley

Blackstone River Watershed Council  
Resident of Woonsocket, RI

### Jay Johnson

Hitcatcher, Inc.  
Resident of Whitinsville, MA

### Jennifer K. Kilsey

City of Pawtucket  
Resident of Pawtucket, RI

### Margaux Morisseau

Woonsocket Neighborhood Development  
Resident of Scituate, RI

### Kristine Norrman

Grafton Job Corps  
Resident of Millbury, MA



### Ellen E. Onorato

blackstonedaily.com  
Resident of Grafton, MA

### Julie M. Riendeau

National Park Service VIP Program  
Resident of Uxbridge, MA

### Mike Rupert

Valley Shopper  
Resident of Worcester, MA

### Donna A. Scherer

Whitney Place Assisted Living Facility  
Resident of Uxbridge, MA

### Peter A. Vecchiarelli

Grafton Job Corps  
Resident of Grafton, MA

### Adam A. Waitkevich

Smith Barney  
Resident of Millbury, MA

## LBV Class of 2004/2005: visions for the future

These visions are a result of a group project done by the participants in Leadership Blackstone Valley.

Over the years, several visions developed through this exercise have served as the catalyst for the implementation of a project. Each of the visions below was developed with implementation strategies.

For more information contact [balley@blackstonevalley.org](mailto:balley@blackstonevalley.org) and Beckley Alley will connect you to the right people.

### The Blackstone River Today and Tomorrow

Presented by: Keith Hainley, Julie Riendeau, Donna Scherer

The Blackstone River will be a healthy, living river and will serve as a source of recreational activities to residents and tourists of the Blackstone Valley. Current and future generations will utilize the river for canoeing, kayaking, swimming and fishing.

### Blackstone Valley Economic Development e-Learning Program

Presented by Susan Gray McNamara, Ellen Onorato, Jason Johnson, Adam Waitkevich

Our vision is to establish, implement and monitor continuously a comprehensive e-learning tool kit designed specifically for

empowering and broadening the knowledge base of our elected and non-elected officials with respect to economic development.

Through the use of this tool kit, we hope to create a vehicle that not only incorporates the views of all those involved and affected by the impact of economic development, but also encourages and inspires a greater level of community participation and cooperation among the entire Blackstone Valley Region.

## **To educate the youth of the Blackstone Valley to the many “treasures” that lay in their own community of the Blackstone Valley.**

Presented by: Carmen Boucher, Margaux Morisseau, Jennifer Kilse

The education piece will be presented on a number of levels that will captivate both the youth of the community as well as their families.

This education component will include a formal school-based curriculum as well as a fun guidebook (Treasure Hunt Guidebook) to encourage exploration of the Blackstone Valley during out of school time with their families.

## **Create a Collaboration of Independent Living**

Presented by: Pete Vecchiarelli, Stu Fuller, Kristine Norrman and Jane Archibald

To support youth so they can flourish independently beyond the scope of the agencies where they received their initial training.

Through the implementation of a new cutting-edge group facility, independent living experience, additional training, and community projects, students will be able to bridge the gap between the skills that they have learned and the challenges that occur in the actual workforce as well as promote and perform independent decision making.

## ***Alumni On The Move***

### ***Michele Decoteau***

Michele has been named President of the Worcester Moms Club, a chapter of Moms Club International.

### ***Michael and Janice Ferry***

Michael and Janice Ferry received the John H. Chafee Rivers Day Award presented by the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council for their work on the Blackstone Valley Rivers Project.

The award is given to individuals who dedicate their efforts in preserving and protecting the Blackstone River as the region's prime environmental and recreational resource.

### ***Mark Jewell***

After my mother returned from a medical relief trip to Sri Lanka in February 2005, I was convinced I needed to help! Many

people can donate funds, but I can offer physical labor as my donation. So that is what I'm doing.

With the support of Gaudette Insurance, Heritage Design Group, Koopman Lumber, Marty Green, and the Village Congregational Church, I'm going to the southern coast of Sri Lanka to assist with the reconstruction effort there. I'll be working with organizations like Habitat For Humanity and others to build brick and block style homes.

*Good luck, Mark!*

### ***Kevin Rudden***

Kevin will be moving to a new job August 1st. He will be the Director of Public Relations at Kel & Partners in Hopkinton.

E-mail is: kevin@kelandpartners.com and phone is (508) 497-0022, ext. 117.

He is also no longer on the Mendon Planning Board, but is helping the Board of Selectmen as a consultant on affordable housing issues.

LBV Alumni Connection is a publication of the Leadership Blackstone Valley Alumni Association - keeping alive and vibrant the relationships among community leaders in the Blackstone Valley.



LBV alumni and guests are cordially invited to spend an evening on the Blackstone River aboard the Blackstone Valley Explorer.

Date: August 16, 2005  
Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm  
Cost: Free to paid alumni  
\$10.00 for non-members

Please meet at the docks in Central Falls. The Explorer will leave promptly at 6:00 and take us on a scenic cruise of the Blackstone.

A cash bar and snacks will be available on board.

Spend time with old friends and enjoy a beautiful evening on the river.

RSVP: Beckley Alley 508-234-9090  
balley@blackstonevalley.org



## BLACKSTONE EXPEDITION '05!

### The View—from the canoe

by Christian Desrosiers

The Expedition from Worcester to Central Falls might as well have been an expedition from Maine to Canada.

Growing up along the banks of the Blackstone River in South Grafton, I thought I knew the Blackstone, but I found historic treasures like the Saundersville Dam less than a mile from my house that I never even knew existed.

As a boy, my friends and I used to play ice hockey on small bodies of water behind the school. Last week I paddled through those waters and learned that they used to be part of the canal system that I heard existed in the past.

I am excited that we have re-discovered our unique history right here in the Valley. The best part is, it's not buried or ruined. Our River is hard at work today cleaning itself and giving life to new vegetation and wildlife. If we help it out a little bit by celebrating its beauty with the bike path and further recreational uses like canoeing and bird watching we can improve our own quality of life.

The focused energy that the National Park Service has provided is exactly the kind of catalyst this region needs to complete the task. Our Blackstone River has survived well

over one hundred years of pollution while supporting this country, the least this country could do is support the reauthorization of the John H. Chafee Blackstone Valley National Heritage Corridor and give it a few more years to give the River back to the Valley.



### Run, Bike, Paddle... and work For A Cause

This year the LBV Alumni Association will partner with the graduates of the Blackstone Valley Youth Leadership Academy (BVYLA) to have a team in the Greenway Challenge, and manage the transition site at the Blackstone Gorge.

**WE NEED YOU!**

If you paddle, bike, or run sign up for the participating team.

If you want to cheer on the participants and take good care of them at the transition site, we need you there.

To join the Challenge Team contact Jim Bates at [jimbates@isp.com](mailto:jimbates@isp.com).

To work with us at the transition site contact Beckley Alley at [balley@blackstonevalley.org](mailto:balley@blackstonevalley.org) or (508) 234-9090.