

KANSAS CITY'S BUSINESS MAGAZINE

# INGRAM'S

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## THE ART OF LEADERSHIP

*Ingram's Names 2006 Class*

APRIL 2006



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OUTLOOK

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COUNTY  
2006-2007 EDITION

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THE PARADE OR  
DOWNTOWN  
BY JACK CASHILL

AWARDS BALLOT  
FUTURE OF BUSINESS  
CORPORATE REPORT 100  
BEST OF BUSINESS KC



### ROSS FRANKEN

When he was appointed Partner and then Managing Director at McGladrey & Pullen LLP, Franken fulfilled a goal that had existed since he graduated from college. Last year, he also became leader of the firm's Manufacturing and Wholesale Distribution team—which has experienced significant growth since then. He also makes use of his accounting and tax expertise by serving as treasurer for the Meadowbrook Golf and Country Club and the Hawthorne Valley Homes Association.

When Franken came to McGladrey, he initiated the United Way Campaign and has served as campaign coordinator for the last eight years. Despite his work and volunteer responsibilities, he says that *first* he is a father and husband. He coaches the sports teams of his sons, Cole and Alex, volunteers with the Boy Scouts, his church and various service projects like Christmas in October. He puts it simply: "I believe we can all improve our corner of the world by helping each other succeed."



### TYRONE FLOWERS

His parents unwed teens, his father murdered when he was 10. Flowers, diagnosed with all kinds of behavioral disorders, alternated between state, county and family care. But he somehow resolved to prove himself despite his circumstances. He completed high school at night, had a basketball scholarship when, just before graduating, a teammate shot him. A quadriplegic, he went on to graduate from Penn Valley, earning his law degree from University of Missouri in 1998.

In the succeeding eight years, Flowers has served as a model and an inspiration to not only troubled children, but those adults who have seen him in action. He worked with the Family Court before he founded Higher M-Pact, a nonprofit agency committed to serving high-risk urban youth. He has won all kinds of awards for his efforts but says simply, "My motivation comes from faith in Christ, desire to fulfill my God-given purpose and determination to defy the odds. I believe I can help turn obstacles into opportunities for others." He and wife Renee are obviously committed to doing just that.



### JOE FREEMAN

"I've been blessed with the fortune of having great mentors in my life over the years who have taught me to have balance in my life, not to get involved in an organization if you aren't passionate about it, that anything is possible if you can dream it, and most importantly, don't go through life with regrets of what you wish you had accomplished." And be magnanimous, he adds.

That pretty much sums up what is important to Freeman. He plays a dual role at Pioneer Financial Services of Chief Strategy Officer and Chief Lending Officer, where he now directs the entire consumer loan business. A UMKC accounting graduate, he is active in the Bloch School, the Athena PowerLink Program, Primrose School, Kansas Women's Business Center, the Kansas City Chamber, Angel Flight Central and others. Father of three children under five and husband to Kristin, he says that simple skills like listening, coaching, learning together and sharing rewards are critical to success in both personal and professional life.