Flushed native named 'rising star' in Atlanta business community

By David Harris | Flint Journal
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FLUSHING, Michigan — Flushing native Leigh Ann (Hudkins) Costley was recently named a “rising star” in the Atlanta business community.

The 1990 Flushing High School graduate made the Atlanta Business Chronicle’s list of Up & Comers: 40 Under 40 Rising Stars.

“A rising star in the local business community, Leigh Ann Costley is pioneering new ground for one of the largest public accounting firms in the country” the article said.

Costley, 37, was hired in August as a tax principal at UHY Advisors, a professional services firm. She is in charge of the tax department at the office.

She said she was honored to receive the recognition after being chosen from about 400 nominations.

“It’s a great achievement in my professional career,” she said. “It brings a lot of credibility and is a great marketing point for me while I’m building my practice.”

Her high school economics teacher, Tony Gandolfi, said Costley made an impression on him. “She was just a wonderful young lady,” said Gandolfi, who is now retired. “If all of the students were like her, I’d still be teaching.”

Costley went on to the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor where she received a degree in political science. She later received her master’s in tax from Walsh College in the Detroit area.

Her father, John Hudkins, was a certified public accountant for General Motors. Costley said her interest in tax law came from her father.

“I just had a knack for numbers,” she said. “I’m a pretty orderly, organized person and I enjoy tax law.”

Costley is the chair of board of Kate’s Club in Atlanta, which is a grief support organization for children and teens who have lost a parent or sibling.

“It’s a really rewarding experience,” she said.

Costley said she hopes the recognition from the Atlanta Business Chronicle will help her during her career.

“I’m a really hard worker and dedicated from a career standpoint,” she said. “I’ve been fortunate in the opportunity that I have been given and want to make the best of it.”

Costley is married with two young sons.