When Shannan and I began planning the 2013 year, we asked ourselves what does Leadership Georgia mean to us. The common theme in all of our answers was the connection we now feel to every part of our state because of this great program. This connection comes not just through our familiarity with the geography, but even more so because of the close relationships we have developed with leaders like you who are working in their families, their businesses and their communities to make Georgia even better than she is today.

The power of connecting leaders from across our great State and exposing them to the issues of the day, cannot be overstated. And into her 42nd year, the magic of Leadership Georgia continues because four men (Pat Patillo, Jim Lientz, Sr., Rogers Wade and J. W. Fanning) connected around their vision for Georgia and how a statewide leadership organization could help realize that vision.

In selecting our theme, we were also influenced by the information age that we live in. The fact that we all have an internet connected device like an iphone or an ipad and the instant connections to information and people which that provides. Leadership Georgia is a little like that, but on a much more profound level, and with the power to build a better and more prosperous Georgia for all Georgians. So with this in mind, we arrived at our 2013 theme: 

iGeorgia. Because Georgia is better . . . Connected.

During the 2013 year, Leadership Georgia will connect with Brasstown Valley, Dublin, Jekyll Island, Dahlonega and Marietta.

Chairing those programs is the incredible team that follows:

**Brasstown Valley (immerse)** – Vann and Lauri Parrott '07 – Dixie

**Dublin (incubate)** – Marsay and Aimee Yrlas Simpson '12 – Tucker

**Jekyll Island (inspire)** - Duncan and Kaci Johnson '12 – Augusta

**Dahlonega (imagine)** – Brian and Kristen Daniel '12 – Gainesville

**Marietta (impact)** – Jennings and Brad Walsh '12 – Atlanta

**Hospitality Chairs** – Philip and Addie Wilheit '12 – Atlanta

**Alumni Coordinator Chairs** - John and Kimberly Pannell '12 – Savannah

**4th Annual Awards Gala Chairs** – Jon and Emily Howell '11 – Jefferson

Thank-you to all of you who joined us in Jekyll Island. Please join us in Marietta for Leadership Georgia’s 4th annual Gala and Awards Presentation.

Thank you all for your support of Leadership Georgia and we look forward to seeing each of you at some point during our program year!

“We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow men; and among those fibers, as sympathetic threads, our actions run as causes, and they come back to us as effects.”

– Herman Melville
Class of ’13 Immerses in Program One

By Rhett Partin

The Class of 2013 got off to a tremendous start Thursday, January 31st at Brasstown Valley Resort in Young Harris! Class members were greeted warmly on arrival in true Leadership Georgia fashion by trustees and program chairs in signature matching fleeces. Program Chairs Vann and Lauri Parrott (’07) had clearly thought of every detail to ensure class members were overwhelmed by the spirit and hospitality of Program One.

The official program, and class year, kicked off with an opening reception at the resort’s pavilion where class members heard opening remarks from Leadership Georgia’s 2013 Chairman David Danzie (’08), 2013 President, Alex Wayne (’08), and Program Chairman Vann Parrott. To no one’s surprise, the group quickly realized that they were amidst the Best Class Ever! After everyone had time to enjoy the ice-breaker activity, the Brasstown staff prepared an excellent dinner hosted by the Program Chairs. Leading the Program Chair team, dubbed “The Incredibles,” President Alex Wayne introduced the 2013 theme; iGEORGIA, Because Georgia is Better…connected.

The featured speaker for the dinner was the former Labor Commissioner, Michael Thurmond. Mr. Thurmond’s affable demeanor combined with his rugged determination proved to be an excellent vehicle to deliver the evening’s message.

Hospitality Chairs Philip and Addie Wilheit (’12) took full advantage of the captive dinner audience by explaining the finer points of Funny Money, a ‘program’ developed to incentivize class members to participate in all activities, now in its 5th year of inception. A trustee (who shall remain nameless) danced to hip hop in a chicken suit in order to help Philip make his point. How this was actually accomplished can only be understood by those present – yet may never be fully understood by some.

After dinner, hospitality included acoustical music from LG Alum Benji Thompson (’05) accompanied by ’13 class member and Georgia Senator from the 7th District, Tyler Harper. Music and memories on opening night of Program One around the colossal fireplace at the Brasstown Lodge, are surely to be remembered forever.

Class members arose early Friday morning to temperatures in the teens. A hearty Brasstown breakfast, a few cups of coffee, and the class was well-positioned to sit back and immerse themselves in the hypnotic effect of Dr. Geil Browning’s Emergenetics personality profile. Predictably, “reds, yellows, blues, and greens” were laughing hysterically at each other’s differences,

“Jennifer and I feel so fortunate to be a part of the Class of 2013. From the enlightening instruction of Dr. Browning and Emergenetics to the entertainment of disco night, Brasstown was incredible. We can’t imagine how any other program can compete with it, but we anxiously await all of them. To say that we are excited about the coming year is a gross understatement.”

—Shane Lazenby, ’13 Class, Gainesville
graphically illustrated for all to see. The laughter came to a halt as the details of the “Special Program” were announced. The ensuing musical collaboration delivered, on point, just as in times past.

Bell bottoms, big hair, and boogie music soon took center stage as the Disco Ball got underway. This proved to be just what the doctor ordered after a full day of personal analysis and inner reflection. Official photography only, these closely guarded photos may never see the light of day.

If Dr. Browning’s Friday session is the heart of Program One, the inspiring words from Young Harris College President Cathy Cox (’90), Ben Butler (’09), U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson (’78), and LG Advisor Dr. Dale Threadgill (’81) are the soul. Senator Isakson’s speech entitled the Six Pillars of Leadership captured much of what Leadership Georgia attempts to emulate throughout the year. Weaving together wisdom and humor, Dr. Threadgill’s wit came through during his reflections on the weekend. As reflections ended anticipations began just as soon as Program Two Chairmen Aimee and Marsay Simpson (’12) introduced “Cowboys and Kilts” to the class. The class will move on to Dublin to incubate the importance of agriculture, manufacturing and industry to Georgia.

For the final word on Program One, here is an excerpt from a letter written to LG Trustees and Program Chairs by Carmen Dill, (’13 Class, Carrollton).

As a spouse, I wasn’t sure what to expect or what my role would be. Honestly, I’m not sure anyone could have put into words what we were about to experience. From the moment we arrived, your hospitality and warm smiles, put us at ease and made us feel like royalty. You went above and beyond to ensure we got as much as we possibly could out of this weekend. … On the way home, we talked about what a phenomenal leadership program this is. It is unlike any other we’ve ever attended as professionals. The best part though, was to be able to share the experience together. Thank you again for the countless hours you put in preparing this weekend, as well as the subsequent weekends. We are so excited about our next trip! We look forward to learning more about the state, networking and seeing our ‘new’ friends again!

—Carmen Dill, ’13, Carrollton
The weekend of March 8th in Northeast Georgia, Broad Rivers Woods, Philip and Mary Hart Wilheit hosted an informal meeting with some Leadership Georgia Alumni including eight former Presidents. During the weekend, Dink NeSmith helped the group reflect on Pat Patillo and JW Fanning’s visions as well as some historical facts. Also, ideas were solicited on how to continue to strengthen our Leadership Georgia Classes and on how to keep our Alumni connected. All in all it was a fun but educational weekend!

Those in attendance were:

Helen and Bill Rice - LaGrange
Nancy and Jim Buntin - Columbus
Brenda and Tom Fitzgerald - Carrollton
Valery and Larry Landers - Macon
DeAnn and Hoppy Hopkins - Thomaston
Pam and Dink NeSmith - Athens

Katie and Lynn Dempsey - Rome
Lynda and Allen Gudenrath - Macon
Philip and Mary Hart Wilheit - Gainesville
David Danzie - Macon
Gretchen Corbin - Rome
Alex Wayne - Flowery Branch
Welcome our Newest Leadership Georgia Trustees

Travis L. Chambers  
Founder / CEO  
ERA Elite Ventures Realty, LLC  
Midland, GA  
Class of 2009

Gretchen Kuglar Corbin  
(2013 LG Vice President)  
Deputy Commissioner  
Georgia Department of Economic Development  
Rome, GA  
Class of 2003

Jennifer Underwood Evans  
Human Resources Manager  
Dot Foods  
Vidalia, GA  
Class of 2011

Brigitte D. Moten  
Director of Marketing  
Geotechnical & Environmental Consultants, Inc.  
Macon, GA  
Class of 2010

Phillip Rayle Smith  
National Political Director  
The Concord Coalition  
Atlanta, GA  
Class of 2006

Charlie Sutlive  
VP, State Government Relations  
Coca-Cola Refreshments  
Atlanta, GA  
Class of 2011

Rebecca Ashley Wright  
District Attorney, Augusta Judicial Circuit  
State of Georgia  
Augusta, GA  
Class of 2010
Dublin Rolls Out the Green Carpet for Leadership Georgia

By Brigitte Moten

The 2013 Leadership Georgia Class (LG) arrived in Dublin with welcome signs lined down the streets and on business marquees welcoming all of Leadership Georgia to one of the most hospitable cities in Georgia. The Dublin program was planned and led by Program Chairs Marsay and Aimee Simpson (LG ’12) of Tucker. The generosity and support from the Dublin Alumni Planning Committee (Michael Maffett, Louie Curry, Willie Paulk, Jimmy and Kathy Allgood, Jacqueline Copenny, Laurie Wicker and George Roussel) and governmental officials was overwhelming. The Dublin community open their doors and hearts to the Leadership Georgia Class.

The class was welcomed by the Dublin High School Band with cheerleaders at the Morris Bank Courtyard for a welcome reception. Mayor Phil Best (LG ’77), Commissioner Emory Lake and State Representative Matt Hatchett (LG ’00) welcome the class to Dublin. The class was led by Laurens Youth Leadership and community leaders on an historical walking tour of the Fred Roberts Building, Episcopal Church, and First African Baptist Church, the Old Post Office and the Federal Courthouse and ending at the Ice House for dinner. Willie Paulk (LG ’86, Trustee, Program Chair) and Jimmy Allgood (LG ’93, Trustee, Past President) open the dinner program up with a Dublin down home welcome and Scott Thompson, Dublin’s local historian, shared fascinating history of famous Dublin residents. After dinner, the class was led by lantern light to Theatre Dublin for a night of entertainment from the Knightingales and Knightowls.

RISE and SHINE at 6:00 a.m. The class was encouraged to bring their walking shoes and set off for a day of exploring what Dublin offers our entire state. The program included tours of the Carl Vinson Veterans Medical Center, YKK AP Manufacturing Facility, Mage Solar Facility, Dinex Facility, Gully Branch Tree Farm and Erdrich USA. Dublin is a true example of what Georgia is becoming in attracting international industry. Dublin is a true incubator in innovation of veterans care for our veteran, YKK AP production in manufacturing, Maga Solar integration of solar energy in community living, Dinex and Erdrich providing global vehicle parts supplier, and Gully Branch Tree Farm providing training for students and educators in the areas of forestry, environmental and conservation education and the recipient of Tree Farmer of The Year.

Alex Gregory, Chairman, President and CEO of YKK Corporation of America provided an overview the AP products that are produced by YKK in Dublin, GA and why they chose to call Dublin home. YKK AP is a world leader in the manufacture of aluminum building products. Using only the best materials and technologies, YKK AP makes entrance, storefront, curtain-wall and window wall systems for the commercial building industry.

Have you ever seen South Georgia Irish Cowboys in Kilts? Dublin was full of Irish Cowboys in Kilts and Irish dressed lassies from Leadership Georgia. The class was entertained and dance to their hearts content by The Grapevine Band at Palmetto Farm. A special thank you to Michael Maffett and Louie Curry for providing Palmetto Farm for the event.

Saturday morning started with an inspiring keynote speaker and Dublin native Robert Brown. He shared his views on growing up in Dublin and what has inspired his sense of leadership. We also heard from Ross Mason, an inspirational Georgian and philanthropist.

To conclude the Dublin Program, Program Chairs Duncan and Kaci Johnson introduced another exciting upcoming May 2-4, 2013 program at Jekyll Island Club Hotel, Jekyll Island, GA.
The Quarterly Newsletter for Leadership Georgia

2013 Fanning Fellows

Members who made a significant financial contribution of $1,000 above their annual dues in 2013 to the growth and development of Georgia in the tradition of J.W. Fanning.

Robert Lynell Allgood 2000
Gretchen Corbin 2007
Victoria V. Dubriel 1987
Jane Reynolds Hemmer 1990
Arthur Houston 2009
Jon S. Howell 2011

Jeffrey K. Kingsley 2012
Merry Jo Whidby Kurrie 1988
James Anderson Nixon 2012
John R. Parker 1992
David Elmore Pennington 1990
Joseph Melvin Sapp 2011

Robert Joseph Stone 2011
Emily Joseph Howard Watson 2012
Philip Arthur Willheit 2012
Delos Yancey 2003

2013 Above and Beyond Alumni Dues Paying Members

Alumni members who have contributed over the annual 2013 dues set amount.

Joanna Ammons 2010
Charles H. Battle 1979
Jeana Beeland 2004
Lisa Borders 2004
Camilla H. Bracewell 1985
Brian Brodrick 2010
James E. Buntin 1985
Stephen J. Byrne 2001
Ben F. Cheek 1972
Chris Clark 2008
Ann W. Cramer 1982
Christine Crawford 2008
Gary Dawson 2011
Robert Lee Dickey 1990
Ralph Donaldson 2011
Thomas M. Dozier 1982
Robert Arthur Ellis 2002
Cheryl Blasingame Garing 2012

Allie Lawrence Hardy 2007
John Hearn 2010
Duncan Norris Johnson 2012
William Christopher Jones 1985
Margaret Denson Kaiser 2011
Andrew H. Knox 1987
Christopher Kollme 2009
Daron Dewane Lee 2012
Robert Dale Leebnern 1999
B. Hamilton McDonald 1977
Ray Lanes McKinney 2008
Katherine F. McMaster 2001
Alfred McNair 1993
Angela Michelle Miller 2011
Richard G. Mooney 1984
Dessa Fritz Morris 2007
Edmund E. Olson 1988
Jonathan Bedingfield Pannell 2012

Bob Paul 2004
H. Boyd Pettit 1987
Robert Pruitt 2012
M. Kasim Reed 2000
Francisco Perales Ros 2000
Michael Brent Russell 1999
Burleigh L. Singleton 2005
Jeff Sinyard 1998
Caryl Greenberg Smith 1997
Jeb Milton Stewart 2011
F. Neal Sumter 2000
Benjamin R. Tarbutton 2009
Hugh Tollison 2009
Baoky Vu 2008
Ruth T. West 1981
Philip A. Wilheit 1986
Sara Kay Wheeler 2011

Alumni Announcements | Spring 2013

Steve Green Juni (’78) was elected 2013 Chairman of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce.

David and Karen Smith (’11) are pleased to announce the newest member of the Smith family – Augustus Leland, born December 29, 2012. Auggie joins big brother, Grady and big sister, Sage.

On Tuesday January 29, 2012, the Go Build Georgia Educational Foundation with the direction of Governor Nathan Deal announced Craig Camuso (’06) as one of the members of the Go Build Georgia Educational Foundation Board.

Camuso is Regional Vice President – State Government Affairs for CSX Transportation (CSXT), the largest Class I railroad east of the Mississippi River, overseeing the company’s government relations and public affairs activities in a seven-state southern region.

Perimeter Community Improvement Districts (PCIDs) President and CEO Yvonne Williams (’87) is one of 50 women leaders competitively selected from across the nation to participate in the 2013 class of Leadership America, the longest-running women’s leadership development program in the U.S.

Launched in 1988 as the first nationwide program for women’s leadership development, Leadership America is designed to allow women leaders the ability to expand their grasp and influence on national and international issues.

Jennifer Sheffield Wade (’11) is now officially Dr. Jennifer Sheffield-Wade, EdD.

Jennifer graduated in December of 2012 from Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, TN with an EdD in Executive Leadership. She completed her dissertation IRB in May of 2012. Additionally, her research was published in late 2012.
What is Your News?

If you have news you’d like us to include in an upcoming issue, please let us know.

Name_______________________________________________________________LG Class of ________________
Spouse's Name/Significant Other________________________________________
Company/Title ______________________________________________________
Mailing Address ______________________________________________________
Street_______________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip ______________________________________________________
Phone_________________________Email___________________________
Your News: _______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
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Return to Leadership Georgia, 270 Peachtree Street, Suite 2200, Atlanta, GA 30303. Fax: 404-223-2290