



Advancing Georgia's Leaders
in Agriculture and Forestry

CLASS OF 2019 GRADUATION &
ALUMNI BUSINESS MEETING

March 2, 2019 | The Rock Ranch



**UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA**



Advancing Georgia's Leaders
in Agriculture and Forestry

Advancing Georgia's Leaders in Agriculture and Forestry (AGL) educates, empowers and connects today's professionals in agriculture, forestry, natural resources and allied sectors to be dynamic industry leaders. Individuals within AGL become more effective spokespeople for their industries, establish strong allegiances across the state and nation, and further develop their

leadership skills. AGL is designed as a 20-month program that includes an optional weeklong international experience. The in-state curriculum takes place in 23 days and is designed with over 148 interactive sessions that include over 133 speakers who are experts in their industries, field experiences, personality assessments and soft-skills training.

AGL aims to:

- **Educate** individuals on U.S. and international political, social and economic systems so that they are able to analyze and solve complex issues related to people, technology, agriculture and the environment and to create a basis for lifelong learning.
- **Empower** leaders with the confidence necessary to become more effective advocates to ensure positive actions for Georgia's agriculture and natural resources industries.
- **Connect** diverse groups of leaders across the state and nation to collaborate on issues impacting Georgia's agriculture and natural resources industries directly and indirectly.

Participants build professional capital while enhancing their leadership skills and deepening their understanding of political and agricultural systems along with emerging industry issues and trends. Curriculum and programmatic outlines for the class include a strong network of personal and professional development experiences along with an international component. AGL is a product of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia.

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CLASS OF 2019 GRADUATION & ALUMNI BUSINESS MEETING

PROGRAM AGENDA

10:30 a.m. **Registration at Truett's Barn**

11:00 a.m. **Welcome**

Lauren Griffeth, *AGL program director, UGA*

**Greetings from The Rock Ranch &
introductions of special guests**

Jeff Manley, *general manager, The Rock Ranch*

Description of the AGL program

Carlton Self, *territory manager, John Deere*

Leadership Institutes I, II and III

Cindy Haygood, *district conservationist, USDA Natural
Resources Conservation Service*

Jeff Paul, *director of member services,*

Walton Electric Membership Corporation

Melissa Riley, *area teacher, Georgia FFA*

Leadership Institutes IV, V and VI

Jarrold Creasy, *owner, 920 Cattle & Company*

Dewey Newton, *vice president of corporate lending,
AgSouth Farm Credit*

Lindy Savelle, *chief executive officer & partner,
Georgia Grown Citrus LLC*

Invocation

Adam Pugh, *senior director of operations & marketing,
The Rock Ranch*

Noon

Lunch

International Leadership Institute

Jon Jackson, *executive director, STAG Vets Inc.*

Completing the challenge: Living your leadership legacy through graduation and beyond

Leadership Projects Overview

Grant Harvey, *director of woodlands,
The Langdale Company*

Recognition and Awards

Lauren Griffeth, *AGL program director, UGA*
Stan Deal, *AGL alumni president*

Overall Program Impact

Lauren Dees, *sales & marketing manager,
Generation Farms*
Eliza McCall, *chief marketing officer,
Second Harvest of South Georgia*

Leadership Charge

Gary Black, *commissioner, Georgia Department
of Agriculture*

Announcement of the Silent Auction Winners

Andres Villegas, *president & chief executive officer,
Georgia Forestry Association*
Philip Gentry, *agriculture & youth director,
Georgia National Fairgrounds & Agricenter*

1:30 p.m.

Program closing

Lauren Griffeth, *AGL program director, UGA*

All friends are invited to socialize and listen to bluegrass music provided by the River's Edge Band. Georgia Agri-Leaders and AGL alumni are welcome to attend the alumni meeting immediately following the ceremony.

INSTITUTE ROAD MAP

2017-2019 CLASS

INSTITUTE I: Accepting the Challenge: Personal Leadership Development in the Classic City

Athens Area | August 22-24, 2017

INSTITUTE II: Boots on the Ground, Eyes on the Horizon: Understanding Georgia's Emerging and Existing Markets

Northeast Georgia Area | November 28-30, 2017

INSTITUTE III: Effective Communication: State Government, Economic Development and Innovation

Macon and Atlanta Area | February 6-8, 2018

INSTITUTE IV: From Local Pastures to our Federal Political Process: Legislative Advocacy within our Nation's Capitol

Washington, D.C | April 22-26, 2018

INSTITUTE V: It's All About the Journey: Production, Transportation and Coastal Explorations

Southeast Georgia Area | May 15-17, 2018

INSTITUTE VI: Into the Woods and Into the Fields: Blazing a Trail for Agriculture and Forestry

Southwest Georgia Area | August 21-23, 2018

INSTITUTE VII: Sustainable and Obtainable: Trends in the Marketplace and Higher Education Connections

Northwest Georgia Area | November 6-8, 2018

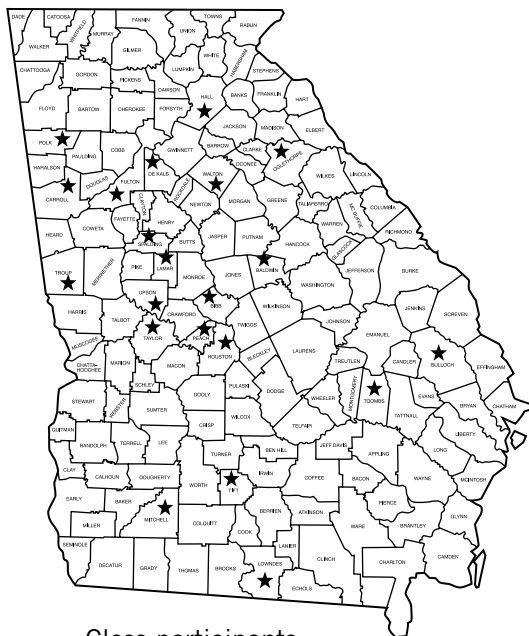
INSTITUTE VIII: International Exploration in the World's Greenest Country

Costa Rica | January 2-9, 2019

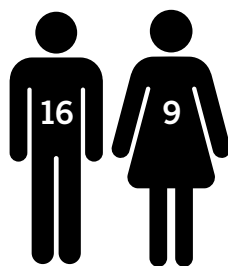
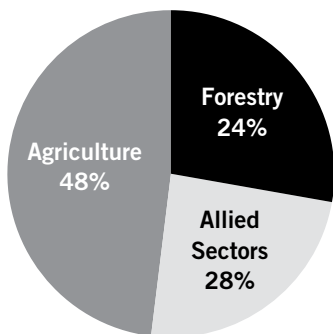
INSTITUTE IX: Completing the Challenge: Living Your Leadership Legacy through Graduation and Beyond

The Rock Ranch | March 2, 2019

25
CLASS
MEMBERS
representing
21
COUNTIES
3
INDUSTRY
AREAS



25-55
years



1. Communication and speaking to large groups (confidence)
2. Time/stress management
3. Team management and delegation (patience)

1. Listening/communication
2. Vision
3. Connecting with people

PARTICIPANTS

2017-2019 CLASS

NAME	EMPLOYER	CITY
Jessie Bland	Georgia Peanut Commission, Southeastern Peanut Farmer	Gillsville, GA
Jarrold Creasy	920 Cattle & Company	Statesboro, GA
Kirk Dawkins	Pilgrim's Pride	Lavonia, GA
Lauren Dees	Generation Farms	Vidalia, GA
Katie Duvall	Georgia Farm Bureau Federation	Macon, GA
Philip Gentry	Georgia National Fairgrounds & Agricenter	Perry, GA
Grant Harvey	The Langdale Company	Valdosta, GA
Cindy Haygood	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	Cedartown, GA
Jon Jackson	STAG Vets Inc.	Milledgeville, GA
Tamara Jones	SAAFON	Decatur, GA
Tim Lowrimore	Interfor	Macon, GA
Garrett Mack	Forest Investment Associates	Reidsville, GA
Eliza McCall	Second Harvest of South Georgia	Valdosta, GA
Dewey Newton	AgSouth Farm Credit	Statesboro, GA
Jeremy Oxford	Hills & Dales Estate	LaGrange, GA
Jeff Paul	Walton EMC	Lexington, GA
Ross Pritchett	Timberland Investment Resources LLC	Roswell, GA
Adam Pugh	The Rock Ranch	Griffin, GA
Zack Purvis	AgGeorgia Farm Credit	Perry, GA
Melissa Riley	Georgia FFA	Reynolds, GA
Ben Salter	Lewis Taylor Farms	Tifton, GA
Lindy Savelle	Georgia Grown Citrus LLC	Camilla, GA
Brittany Saylor	SePRO	Tifton, GA
Carlton Self	John Deere	Brookhaven, GA
Michael Westbrook	Westervelt	Tuscaloosa, AL

Jessie Bland

Project Coordinator

Georgia Peanut Commission



Director of Advertising

Southeastern Peanut Farmer

Gillsville, Georgia

Leadership project name: Propel: The Mentorship Component of AGL

Mentorship is an important element of leadership, and my classmates and I have heard much about its significance from influential leaders. Adding a mentorship component of the AGL program will complement the current curriculum and allow participants to have a more fruitful experience during their time as participants in AGL. The mentorship program will be structured to pair AGL alumni with a current participant during the second year of the participant's AGL experience.

Mentors and mentees will be paired based on particulars such as job function, location and assessment results. Mentorship is a great tool to assist in the challenge of growing professionally and personally. As a component of the current AGL program, this project has the potential to propel AGL participants even further in their agricultural and forestry careers by providing mentorship, guidance and relationship-building opportunities. The mentorship component will allow for the betterment of both AGL alumni and current participants.

Jarrod Creasy

Owner
920 Cattle & Company

Statesboro, Georgia



Leadership project name: Setting the Foundation of our Company Culture

Through scholarly research, conversations, readings and podcasts surrounding the topic of company culture, the leadership team of the 920 organization has developed an understanding of what small business culture should represent. From there, we developed strategies to implement in our operation. This included group and individual meetings, a more cohesive and transparent communication model, and hiring new leaders into our organization. We are striving to be a welcoming, solid and elite operation wherein the culture we embody is displayed every day.

This project solves the challenges faced by a small agribusiness. It observes how company culture directly correlates to our employee retention, efficiency, profitability and operational success. For our organization, fostering a positive and welcoming culture means having an increased customer base, a broader target marketplace, increased revenues and improved profitability. For us, it is a matter of being a short-term business versus a generational operation. The impact of this project has taught me the value of hiring the right employee for the right job based on their strengths, potential and desires. I have learned it is best not to solely focus on filling spots in a company.

By ensuring that the team is made up of the right people, we are also indirectly empowering employees to take initiative and strive for excellence. Although our company is small, this behavior transcends into the rural communities that we live and work in, and it has also made our company a model for other farms, ranches and agribusinesses to look to when considering cultural changes within their own organizations.

Kirk Dawkins

Hatchery Manager
Pilgrims Pride

Lavonia, Georgia



Leadership project name: Enhancing Public Speaking

Project goal: The goal of my leadership project is to encourage comfortable public speaking and to teach younger generations how to address public audiences.

My personal leadership journey through AGL has challenged me to be comfortable in uncomfortable situations. By focusing on this objective, I have learned that I would like to improve my public speaking skills so that I can be more effective at relaying my messages to others. I have practiced these skills by speaking at several poultry seminars, and I know that I have improved a great deal. I would like to continue this journey by helping young people in FFA or agriculture classes improve their public speaking.

This project has helped me to see and understand how people perceive what others are trying to say. In addressing a public audience, I attempt to articulate my words so everyone can understand the situation the same way. In turn, this has helped me to think more about how to respond to a situation.

This project has had a great personal impact, giving me more confidence in all that I do. I work in the poultry industry, and I plan to educate the local FFA chapters on the impact poultry has in our local communities and in the state of Georgia.

Lauren Dees

Sales and Marketing Manager
Generation Farms

Vidalia, Georgia



Leadership project name: Bring Your Coworker to Work Day

Project goal: The goal of my leadership project is to allow individuals at Generation Farms to job shadow an employee from a different department and spend time understanding exactly what they do, how they contribute to the company and the obstacles they face daily.

The objective of this project is to strengthen employee relationships; garner respect for the work of other departments independently and collectively; eliminate misconceptions employees may have about other departments; and cultivate knowledge and understanding of procedures and functions within other departments. The project should also help to identify how individual jobs may be helping or hurting processes, providing insight and possible suggestions of how to streamline inefficiencies.

This project enables participants to answer the following questions: What are your thoughts now regarding the responsibilities of the person you are shadowing? What were you most shocked/impressed to learn? How does your job tie in to the person you are shadowing? Are you a help or hindrance for them?

The impact of this project is centered on the core values of our company and will allow employees to gain respect, integrity, growth, happiness and teamwork.

Katie Duvall

Public Policy Specialist

Georgia Farm Bureau Federation

Macon, Georgia



Leadership project name: Leading the Love Languages

Project goal: The goal of my leadership project is to continue developing the skills I have learned through AGL as well as strengthen my relationship with Christ and my peers by leading a bible study on the five love languages, which are described in a 1995 book by Gary Chapman.

I am leading a seven-week bible study on the five love languages to a group of 30 adults aged 20 to 40. In addition to exercising my strength as a relator, leading this study has forced me out of my comfort zone as an introverted observer to lead a group. I have also had the opportunity to dive deeper into my relationship with Christ and I hope to come out on the other side as a stronger, bolder Christian, friend and wife.

This project may not be solving world hunger or advocating for world peace, but it has helped me to grow in many different aspects of my life. I am often the quiet observer who sits back and lets other people do the talking and the leading. Through this project, I have been put in the spotlight and made the uncomfortable comfortable by doing something I would have never dreamed of doing. The impact of this project spans over a wide variety of topics. There are a number of ways to measure the success of this project, but above all, it has been rewarding to see my peers become more interactive and involved in the study. Oftentimes, we are too focused on checking a box on a to-do list and not fully engrossing ourselves into the study at hand.

As this is a relational study, I believe it has been enlightening and empowering for each of us to dive deeper into our relationships both within and outside of our group. My hope is that they will each take what they have learned through this study and use it to impact their communities, workplaces and homes, rippling into our local community and the industries that we serve.

Philip Gentry

Agriculture and Youth Director

Georgia National Fairgrounds & Agricenter

Perry, Georgia



Leadership project name: Georgia National Antique Agriculture Show

Project goal: The initial goal of my project was to host a regional antique tractor show, but it has expanded to hosting the Georgia Antique Agriculture Show. This extends our reach to meet our mission of highlighting youth agricultural achievements, supporting agribusiness and the state economy, and hosting the statewide fair.

As a facility, we host the Georgia National Fair and The Georgia National Stock Show and Rodeo. The Georgia National Fairgrounds will become a living agricultural museum and educational center for three days in November each year. We will focus on being the premier showplace in the Southeast for all things antique agriculture.

We are partnering with the Georgia Department of Agriculture, the Georgia Agriculture Museum, Georgia FFA, Georgia 4-H, tractor clubs and many other groups to offer fun, safe and educational activities for families in our area and the Southeast U.S. Thanks to the AGL program, I have been equipped with leadership tools to use this event as a culture starter for our staff at the Georgia National Fairgrounds.

Internally, we are using this event as an opportunity to build community, encourage buy-in from our employees, and pursue another level of passion of our facility and its people from all shareholders. The Georgia National Antique Agriculture Show requires all hands on deck, and our team is excited to create a one-of-a-kind experience for the staff, our exhibitors and patrons.

Grant Harvey

Director of Woodlands
The Langdale Company

Valdosta, Georgia



Leadership project name: Building Team Dynamics with Emergenetics

Project goal: The goal of my leadership project is to help employees in my company learn more about themselves and to encourage coworkers to better know each other.

This project is about helping employees understand themselves, what their preferences are, and how they behave. Emergenetics also helps teams communicate more effectively. Most importantly, it can be used for leadership and employee development. This project solves the challenges shown in the results of our Emergenetics session. This session revealed that very few people in our organization have an analytical preference.

Additionally, the session revealed that a large majority of our organization prefers structure. My structural preference is very low, so I need to be mindful that many of those around me need structure. Furthermore, many people do not care for the same level of data I do. The impact of this project for me was very personal. The Emergenetics session was very revealing. I had some guesses about preferences in our organization, and I was wrong on each one of them. I was also very surprised about the number of people in our organization who were not flexible. These are things that I must take into account as our organization adapts and grows.

Cindy Haygood

District Conservationist

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service



Cedartown, Georgia

Leadership project name: Preserving Farmland for Future Generations

Project goal: The goal of my leadership project is to coordinate and host a farm succession event to reach a minimum of 200 agricultural landowners in northwest Georgia for the purpose of keeping farmland in agriculture and retaining farming operations for future generations.

A farm transition workshop was planned and coordinated using a team of local partners. The event was held October 2018 in Carroll County and outreach targeted a multicounty region in northwest Georgia. The workshop featured a keynote speaker, Suzanna Dennison from the American Farmland Trust, along with local experts serving as panelists. Participants were introduced to the importance of farm succession and protecting our nation's lands for future agriculture use. Prime farmland is regularly converted to nonagricultural uses due to lack of planning prior to and during estate transition as well as a lack of interest from the next generation.

Agricultural landowners need adequate information and tools to assist them with making decisions for the future of their farms. The event covered topics regarding farm succession, estate planning, wills, trusts, taxes, professional resources, etc. The impact of this project will have a ripple effect beginning with the attendees of the initial workshop. Attendance included a broad cross section of agriculture as well as a wide range of ages. In fact, many farms had more than one generation attending. It is evident from feedback after the event that these topics are extremely important. The participants emphasized that they would like for the team to continue this type of programming. Future events are in the planning stage to build upon the information that was shared.

Jon Jackson

Executive Director
STAG Vets Inc.



Milledgeville, Georgia

Leadership project name: Sustainable Small Farm Agriculture Technician

Project goal: The goal of my leadership project is to provide comprehensive and immersive learning experiences that offer veterans training in sustainable agriculture systems and technologies to increase opportunities for veterans pursuing careers in food and agriculture. The program is designed to fill existing vacancies within Georgia's farming and agriculture infrastructure to assist with protecting our state and national food security.

The long-term goal is to provide Georgia's veterans with the training required to become agricultural technicians and/or independent farmers in our food and agricultural industries in order to meet the growing demand for food production on the local, state and national levels. The overarching goal of AgVets is to increase the number of military veterans pursuing knowledge and skills development through comprehensive, hands-on and immersive model farm/ranch programs, which are offered regionally to lead to successful placement in new and emerging careers in the food and agriculture sector.

There has been a huge decrease in migrant workers across the country and Georgia has been hit hard with the reduction in the workforce. Agricultural businesses across the state of Georgia are in dire need of a competent workforce. The Sustainable Small Farm Agriculture Technician project will be an added value to businesses across the state. Veterans have the work ethic and leadership that business owners are seeking. There is no other program like this in the state. This program will bring agriculture and culinary training to the region where it does not exist currently. In addition, it will be opened to nonveterans and offer a fast track to accredited learning that does not exist outside of the Atlanta area.

Tamara Jones

Executive Director

Southeastern African American Farmers
Organic Network (SAAFON)



Decatur, Georgia

Leadership project name: Communicating Effectively

Project goal: The goal of my project is to help my team develop and refine their ability to communicate more effectively with each other, with our farmer members and with external strategic partners.

For the first time in its 12-year history, SAAFON has a team that is driving our mission in four states in the Southeast. The team is young, both in terms of the average age of its members and the length of their tenure in SAAFON. As such, team members can benefit from tools and language that allow them to develop and refine their communication. Furthermore, we seek to intentionally leverage the natural strengths and tendencies of individual team members in order to strengthen our overall organizational impact.

SAAFON is proposing to partner with two other sustainable agriculture organizations to map the behavioral strengths of each of our team members using the CliftonStrengths assessment; strengthen communication and solidarity among team members; and strengthen conflict resolution skills. We will seek to engage a consultant facilitator for a one-day workshop based on completed individual CliftonStrengths reports.

Tim Lowrimore

Manager, Public Affairs
Interfor



Macon, Georgia

Leadership project name: Virtual Forestry Learning Educator

Project goal: The goal of my project is to encourage all teachers at the Academy of Classical Education (ACE) to adopt the virtual forestry learning experience with their students to familiarize their students with the forest products industry and available career paths in the sector.

Partnering with the Georgia Forestry Foundation (GFF) and Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB), I am introducing the new and exciting virtual learning journey of Georgia's forests to the ACE in Macon, Georgia. ACE is a newly formed (2014) charter school in Bibb County, Georgia, with the stated mission of building a foundation of knowledge and critical thinking skills necessary for children to become independent learners for life.

The virtual forestry learning program enables students to analyze and synthesize content through standards-aligned writing prompts, activities, vocabulary and STEAM challenges. My hope is to expose teachers and students living in a metropolitan area to available career paths in one of Georgia's oldest and strategic industries, the forest management and products industry.

Garrett Mack

Portfolio Analyst

Forest Investment Associates (FIA)

Reidsville, Georgia



Leadership project name: LEAD FIA

Project goal: The goal of my leadership project is to establish an internal leadership and personal development program for my company.

The objective of the LEAD FIA program is to develop, improve and retain the talent of our firm. The program will implement a comprehensive approach that seeks to provide an environment and platform that ensures each staff member can maximize and achieve their planned goals and development opportunities, ultimately building leadership skills within the firm. The LEAD FIA curriculum comprises a broad spectrum of opportunities with varying intensities and requirements that are intended to address our staff's multitude of personal and professional development needs.

This project solves the challenges presented in response to an internal culture survey, which identified that FIA employees need more developmental options. This program directly addresses the survey's results and creates a formal program and curriculum. In the future, this program can be customized and altered as employees' needs change over time. The impact of this project relates to every employee at FIA. Each employee has the option to maximize his or her developmental opportunities, which will benefit each employee directly and the firm as a whole. I have personally grown during the creation of this program; I have learned a great deal about long-term strategic planning and internal human resources. The knowledge I've gained during this process will benefit me greatly in the future.

Eliza McCall

Chief Marketing Officer

Second Harvest of South Georgia

Valdosta, Georgia



Leadership project name: Feeding Children in Disasters

Project goal: The goal of my leadership project is to make it easier for nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to feed children in times of disaster.

This project was a direct result of Hurricane Michael. My organization's effort to feed kids affected by the storm was hampered by red tape. As part of my project, I will work with the appropriate state and federal agencies to create a plan for implementing child nutrition plans in declared emergencies. I will also work with our delegation to amend federal legislation to include not only the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) but also child nutrition programs. This project solves the challenge of lack of knowledge on nutrition programs.

Federal regulations allow for U.S. Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs to be used in the wake of a declared disaster. However, it seems as if no one understands how to implement such a program. Right now, there is no plan, no road map to implementing such programs, and when responding to a disaster, time is of the essence. This project will help alleviate the delays and hassles that NGOs encounter when trying to execute food aid programs for children by helping create that road map and amending federal law to include these programs in the Stafford Act. The impact of this project is that more children will be fed in times of disasters. This will provide them with the nutrition they need and give them a greater sense of normalcy in a tumultuous and sometimes scary time.

Dewey Newton

Vice President of Corporate Lending
AgSouth Farm Credit

Statesboro, Georgia



Leadership project name: Employee Retention Initiative Project

Project goal: The goal of my leadership project is to use the information received from an employee engagement survey to help guide our company's human resources department for future hiring decisions.

Generational differences in the workplace have a major effect on staffing. While tenured employees may have one set of expectations, new hires might see things from a completely different point of view. Bridging the gap and learning from varying perspectives is the key to good relationships and growth within an organization. It seems that just as an employee gets trained and ready to really contribute to the company, he or she leaves for perceived greener pastures.

My plan is to create an employee survey with questions created from the middle management team to evaluate employees' job satisfaction. We will collect and organize the data to report back to management within our company with suggestions to help with retention efforts throughout the year.

Jeremy Oxford

Horticulturist

Hills & Dales Estate

LaGrange, Georgia



Leadership project name: The Next Mile 5:41 Initiative

Project goal: The goal of my leadership project is to seek out opportunities in specific areas of interest in order to go the “next mile” for others.

Matthew 5:41 states, “And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.” Many are familiar with this verse where Jesus talks about going the extra mile for others, and my leadership project focuses on this concept in both my professional life and personal life. Professionally, I aim to strengthen our military appreciation program at Hills & Dales Estate. In my community, my desire is to help others in the area of personal finance through the curriculum taught in Financial Peace University (FPU). I believe that as leaders we have the privilege and opportunity to serve others in many ways; my project is a minor example of this belief.

This project aims to provide complimentary admission to any military members that visit Hills & Dales Estate. In my community, coordinating FPU classes will provide financial education to help others improve their own financial standing. The impact of this project is seen in how military members that visit Hills & Dales Estate will be recognized and shown appreciation for their service to our country by receiving complimentary admission to the estate. This is an opportunity for them to spend time in a peaceful, beautiful setting and be shown gratitude for their sacrifice. In LaGrange, there are many people that experience fear, stress, and anxiety when it comes to their finances.

The plan that FPU lays out can help those that attend the class reduce debt, increase savings, and give generously, ultimately changing their mentality about their financial situation. By committing more of my time, effort, energy and resources to these two specific areas, I hope to serve others in a meaningful way while at work and in my community.

Jeff Paul

Member Services Director
Walton EMC



Lexington, Georgia

Leadership project name: Walton EMC AG Youth Leadership Day

Project goal: The goal of my leadership project is to promote leadership skills and personal growth in 4-H and FFA officers in Walton EMC's service territory.

The objective of our project is to bring 4-H and FFA officers in to the Walton EMC office on May 13 for a day of training on various topics of leadership. The 4-H and FFA advisors have given us several topics that they think would benefit their officers, and staff members here at Walton EMC have provided input from their experiences as well. Communication, teamwork and conflict resolution are just a few examples of what we intend to cover.

This project solves the challenge of communicating in a way that is effective for all age groups. Having worked with middle- and high-school-aged kids, it is very difficult to find a communication style that fit both audiences. The impact of this project is to continue training youth by making this an annual event at Walton EMC, and hopefully some of the students we reach will return as employees.

Ross Pritchett

Senior Investment Forester

Timberland Investment Resources LLC

Roswell, Georgia



Leadership project name: Timberland Investment Resources (TIR)
CliftonStrengths Assessment for Employee Professional Development

Project goal: The goal of my leadership project is to help TIR employees better understand what they excel at in order to be as productive as possible.

The objective of this project is to expose TIR employees to the CliftonStrengths assessment and discuss the results in a group setting. The hope is that each employee will gain a better understanding of what they are good at and perhaps learn something new about themselves. This project solves the challenges that many people face every day. I believe that this project could help someone in a role that they are not well suited for transition into a more suitable role. It could also help someone take their productivity to the next level by expanding their skills.

The impact of this project will be upon those who find something positive from this assessment, helping them to perform at work and in life.

Adam Pugh

Senior Director of Operations and Marketing
The Rock Ranch

Griffin, Georgia



Leadership project name: Discovery Barn/Georgia Children's Museum of Agriculture

Project goal: The goal of my leadership project is to create a plan for a Discovery Barn experience that connects children and adults with authentic agriculture — offering education through experience.

This project provides a blueprint of what it will take to create an experiential learning experience in an existing barn structure at The Rock Ranch, including a list of curriculum-based educational stations, the necessary equipment, and a cost analysis of construction and remodeling. This project will allow others to grasp the concept, offer influence in the experience, and create a pitch to those who could help finance the project. The objective is to offer a free learning experience, available 365 days a year. This project solves the challenge of helping guests understand our state's greatest resources in the agriculture and forestry industries, and it helps them to become informed voters, preserving these industries as economic drivers and raising awareness of future career opportunities in agriculture and forestry.

Soon, the population inside the perimeter of metro Atlanta will surpass (outvote) the rest of the state. There is a huge disconnect in today's generation of schoolchildren with regards to agriculture. Many have no idea where their food comes from, or the skills and work ethic required to produce it, thus making it easy for them to participate in bandwagon thinking disseminated by partially informed influencers in the media and social media. The impact of this project will be seen in many different areas of Georgia. The initial project at The Rock Ranch is located an hour outside of Atlanta and would be accessible to state voters in high-population metro areas with little connection to agriculture. This experience would help foster understanding of food and forest product production and create even more advocates of agriculture, who would in turn vote in favor to preserve Georgia's leadership in the U.S. and globally. This model could be emulated and duplicated in other areas or as a mobile experience that would visit schools to increase its potential influence.

Zack Purvis

Chief Lending Officer
AgGeorgia Farm Credit

Perry, Georgia



Leadership project name: 468 Reading Club

Project goal: The goal of my leadership project is to expand the knowledge of AgGeorgia Farm Credit team members through reading great books and creating an open atmosphere for sharing ideas to put this knowledge to work.

The 468 Reading Club is a group of AgGeorgia team members that choose great books to read together and meet every several weeks to discuss what was learned. The group is focused on books that will enhance personal or organizational capabilities to further our mission of supporting Georgia agriculture and rural communities. This project solves the challenge of not making enough time to read. There's never enough time to accomplish everything you would like in your work or personal life. Less urgent tasks get pushed to the side, and reading is often one casualty of a busy life.

The 468 Reading Club is a group that believes reading great books is worthy of a spot in a busy schedule. The impact of this project is seen in how the 468 Reading Club has created a community that holds each other accountable for continuous improvement through reading. This will help group members achieve their personal goals and support our cooperative's mission. The regular book discussion meetings have also led to stronger relationships between the group members, which will enhance our work environment and effectiveness as a team.

Melissa Riley

Area Teacher

Georgia FFA



Reynolds, Georgia

Leadership project name: Bringing Georgia Agriculture Education Curriculum into the 21st Century

Project goal: The goal of my leadership project is to update high school agribusiness lessons so that they are better suited to the 21st century agriculture education student, increasing the number of leadership lessons offered in the “Agribusiness Management and Leadership” course.

The current “Agribusiness Management and Leadership” course is offered to nearly 300 high school students per year in Georgia. This course currently has very limited lessons that relate to leadership development, and the lessons that are included are outdated, using lecture methodology to teach leadership. Upon completion of this project, there will be more leadership lessons included in the course and those lessons will include teaching styles that are better suited to the 21st century learner.

This project solves the challenges faced by many agriculture teachers. Teaching leadership to young adults can often be challenging, especially for new or beginning teachers that feel as if they have a lot to learn in the area of leadership themselves. My hope is that this leadership project will create ready-to-use lessons that engage all students and are actually used by the teachers in their agriculture classroom.

This project will directly impact the 224 high school programs located throughout the state of Georgia and all future agriculture education programs. Agriculture students will be better equipped with the soft skills needed in the agriculture workforce. All curricula will be posted online on the Georgia Agriculture Education website and will be publicly available free of charge, potentially reaching those outside of the agriculture education program and the state of Georgia.

Ben Salter

Manager

Lewis Taylor Farms

Tifton, Georgia



Leadership project name: Educating and Creating the Next Generation of People in the Local Agriculture Industry

Project goal: The goal of my leadership project is to partner with local primary schools to bring young kids to the farm and nursery to properly educate and potentially spark an interest for later development and employment within the agriculture industry.

With traditional farming practices under constant attack from some of the general public, I feel that there is a need to mentor, educate and shape the next generation of agricultural leaders. Agriculture is our state's largest industry and employs a wide range of people. Some were first exposed to agricultural fields through family operations and jobs or local clubs and organizations.

This leadership project would facilitate an agricultural destination for local schools, bringing classes of young minds to our farm to see the many areas of agriculture and forestry production that are available here and locally. These classes would tour our facilities, participate in some production practices, and be exposed to multiple future career options, ultimately learning about what we are doing within agriculture to promote conservation and sustainability. By bringing whole classes, and not only particular agriculture-based groups and clubs, we hope to generate an interest and passion for agriculture in young people who have not had any exposure to the field — not just farm kids.

Through this project I hope to be able to mentor, educate and encourage future agricultural leaders. I feel it is important to give back and take that time as so many people did for me earlier in life. A young mind is a curious thing, and in a time when we as farmers and producers need to be more productive than ever, we need the upcoming generation's passion and creativity to help further propel us forward. AGL has given me the opportunity to learn to effectively communicate and hopefully capture the interest of some of these future leaders in an industry I'm so passionate about.

Lindy Savelle

Chief Executive Officer and Partner
Georgia Grown Citrus LLC



Ochlocknee, Georgia

Leadership project name: Helping Others Lead via Giving Them a Leadership Nuggets Book

Project goal: The goal of my leadership project was to provide a place where leaders, current and future, could jot down meaningful nuggets, words of wisdom, saying and phrases of leadership for reference later on.

Being the “senior” of our AGL class, when I began AGL, I wanted to inspire my AGL comrades by sharing some things I have learned along my leadership journey thus far. We all hear great sayings, read inspiring words and think of things we wish we could remember later on. One thing I began years ago was a “leadership nuggets” book in which I write (often scribble) down those very types of things so I can go back and reference them later.

In order to make a difference in the lives of my AGL classmates, I put together a personal nuggets book for each of them so that they, too, would have what I have, as it has been a great place of reference and inspiration for me over the years. There is nothing more meaningful in leadership than to give of yourself and your things to others. I had two challenges in my project: one was figuring out how, after I completed them, to get 26 leadership nuggets books back to the U.S. from Afghanistan (where I am currently working) in my carry-on suitcase. The second challenge was how to talk about leadership husbandry (the animal in all of us) and give out the nuggets books in a meaningful way, all under 10 minutes. Other than those two challenges, doing the project was a snap.

By sharing with those immediately around me, I hope to create a ripple effect beyond them. It all starts with making a difference one person at a time. And it often starts at the top. If I can influence others in a positive way, it helps those that they then influence. It doesn't take something magnificent to make a difference in others' lives. We don't have to create something huge; it's the little things that truly make a difference.

Brittany Saylor

Technical Sales Specialist

SePRO

Tifton, Georgia



Leadership project name: Generation DiscYple

Project goal: The goal of my leadership project is for students to gain experiential knowledge of certain life skills that will help create, shape and develop them into becoming young leaders in their schools.

The course started with a list of 17 topics such as basic vehicle care, balancing a checkbook, creating a budget, professional dress and packing for a trip. The goal started as a way to help middle- and high-school students to become functioning members of society, but as I began to develop the curriculum for the course, the long-term focus changed. This project is not simply something that I could have completed in a year's time, but it's one that will create a foundation to build upon to shape these students into young leaders in the community. This project allows these students to gain knowledge in basic life skills that are no longer taught in a public school setting.

We're seeing in our world a generation of students that no longer understands what it means to think critically or live outside of social media. We have a generation that will graduate from high school and not know how to manage money, open a bank account, or even keep up their vehicles. In making things "easier" for our kids, we have undoubtedly made things more difficult for them, allowing them to follow a crowd instead of standing out on their own. The impact of this project is for students to become more confident in themselves and their abilities, to have courage in unfavorable circumstances, and to know that their actions can be a testimony to others. I expect them to take on leadership roles in their local churches and schools and to continue this trend throughout their lives and careers. Although the impacts of this project are slowly beginning to show, I cannot wait to see how they blossom later on.

Carlton Self

Territory Manager

John Deere



Brookhaven, Georgia

Leadership project name: John Deere Sunbelt Expo Exhibit

Project goal: The goal of my leadership project is to increase the payback for John Deere at the Sunbelt Agricultural Expo with experiences tailored to local customers and students.

I managed the setup and many of the logistics for John Deere's exhibit and field demonstrations at the 2018 Sunbelt Agricultural Expo. Included in the demonstrations was a job shadow experience for local FFA program participants and a series of classes designed to educate students about career opportunities with John Deere and our local dealer network. Students participating in the shadow experience had the opportunity to spend the day with John Deere engineers, product managers and field staff learning about how we define customer requirements, design equipment and support our products.

Class participants learned about advances in precision agriculture and career opportunities with John Deere and our local dealer organizations. This project solves the challenge of educating the public on our company. John Deere is the longest-standing sponsor of the National FFA Organization, however, many teachers and youth leaders are unaware of the educational resources and opportunities our field and factory staff can provide. Furthermore, employee recruitment and retention is the lifeblood of our organization, particularly at the dealer level.

Youth outreach is a tremendous vehicle to build brand awareness and give back to valued customers in our local agricultural communities. The impact of this project allowed us to provide an educational experience for approximately 200 Georgia FFA members, including the state FFA president. Furthermore, we had multiple interested participants who have scheduled time with recruiters at our local ag-tech program in Americus, Georgia.

Michael Westbrook

Cahaba Region Manager
Westervelt

Tuscaloosa, AL



Leadership project name: Woodlands Profiles for Success

Project goal: The goal of my leadership project is to create individual Emergenetics profiles, and then through an Emergenetics workshop, learn unique insight into how to maximize team performance with more accurate communication.

Our woodlands group is a diverse group of individuals who work together to maximize the sustainable value of our forests. Using Emergenetics, we will build profiles of both individuals and groups. We will use the profiles and instruction to better understand who we are, how we act and how we communicate.

This project solves the challenge of individual differences by bridging the gap between one another. With a more simplified understanding of oneself, there are two primary areas of improvement, individual and the team. Knowing how you think and behave provides insight in how you interpret ideas and situations. Knowing how your teammates think and behave allow you to align and overcome differences. The impact of this project will be a better understanding of how individuals are viewed and interpret information, enabling us to direct conversation in a way that is more easily interpreted. Improved communication among individuals and teams will create faster problem solving, better performance and a more positive environment.

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THE HISTORY OF AGRICULTURE-BASED LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN GEORGIA

Due to the unique challenges facing the agricultural community in the late 1980s, over 300 agricultural leaders in Georgia were surveyed to assess their interest in developing a broad-based and formalized approach to leadership development. Representatives from this group held a two-day retreat in Macon, Georgia, in March 1990 to debate, conceptualize and draft a plan for initiating a statewide leadership program.

The founding members of Georgia Agri-Leaders Forum (GALF) Foundation Inc. aspired to create a program that fulfilled the mission of “developing individual leaders skilled in communications, educated in local, national and world affairs, familiar with the changing needs of our society, and prepared to meet the present and future challenges” of our times.

With the first cohort graduating in 1993, 17 classes followed with over 300 participants completing the requirements of graduation for Georgia Agri-Leaders. Due to a need for increased infrastructure and financial support, in 2012, the University of Georgia began operating a rebranded version of the program, Advancing Georgia’s Leaders in Agriculture and Forestry (AGL), with the first cohort graduating in 2014. The program now exists as a partnership between the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources with an 18-member advisory board comprising diverse agricultural leaders in concert with a program director.

Today's graduating cohort is comprised of 25 high-potential, high-performing industry professionals who have completed six in-state institutes, a national institute in Washington, D.C., and an international institute in Costa Rica. Their culminating experience is an individual leadership project, detailed in this program book. The current curriculum is designed based on research-based principles of leadership development in connection with the guidance of the advisory board.

Former directors of Georgia Agri-Leaders and AGL include Ms. Lynne Kernaghan, Mrs. Ester B. England, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy and Gail Hill, and Dr. Rochelle Sapp. Please see the following page for a list of the names of the Agri-Leaders program founders and founding directors.

We are proud to celebrate the 28th year of agriculturally based leadership development in Georgia with 25 exceptional graduates in 2019!



The first Agri-Leaders class of 1991-1993

AGRI-LEADERS AND AGL ALUMNI LIST

AGL Class of 2019

Jessie Bland
Jarrod Creasy
Kirk Dawkins
Lauren Dees
Katie Duvall
Philip Gentry
Grant Harvey
Cindy Haygood
Jon Jackson
Tamara Jones
Tim Lowrimore
Garrett Mack
Eliza McCall
Dewey Newton
Jeremy Oxford
Jeff Paul
Ross Pritchett
Adam Pugh
Zack Purvis
Melissa Riley
Ben Salter
Lindy Savelle
Brittany Saylor
Carlton Self
Michael Westbrook

AGL Class of 2017

Danielle Atkins
Christopher
Baumann
Mallory Black
Shane Boyer
Ashley Buford
Rebecca Creasy
Michael Cronic
Stan Deal
Amelia Dortch
Kyle Hagen
Mike Harrell
David Huddleston
Jeff Jordan
Samantha Kilgore

Jeff Manley
Brent Marable
Regina Morgan
Jay Murdock
Lanie Riner
Jenna Saxon
Jason Sidwell
Brian Stone
Anna Strickland
Nathan Tyson
Brennan Washington

AGL Class of 2014

Brent Allen
Brandon Ashley
Tim Bland
Sarah Cook
Steve Gibson
Jon Harris
Jenni Harris
Jutt Howard
Jesse Johnson
Duane Myers
Tate Izlar O'Rouke
Mark Risse
Amanda Tedrow
Rebecca Thomas
Chris Wheeler
Derick Wooten

GALF Class of 2009

The Honorable
Titus Andrews
Edmund Byne III
Rome Ethredge Jr.
Jed Evans
Johnny Jones
Diana King
Ben Lastly
Matt Murphy
Jason Parker
Sammy Perkins
Brian Rivers

Tas Smith
April Sorrow
Samuel Watson
Troy Windham
Jason Womack
Derick Wooten

GALF Class of 2008

Be-Atrice
Cunningham
Roderick Gilbert
Timothy Grey
Rusty Harris
Jeffrey Harvey
Brent James
Smitty Lamb
Elliott Marsh Jr.
Chris Morgan
Ken Murphree Jr.
Alex Rilko
Tony Smith
Bobby Smith III
Harry Thompson

GALF Class of 2007

John Allen Bailey
Chad Etheridge
Kristi Farner
Linda Gambrell
Chris Groskreutz
Brian Marlowe
Hal McCallum
Keith Mickler
Beth Oleson
Mark Peele
Keith Rucker
Russ Walters

GALF Class of 2006

Bill Boone
Chip Bridges II
Les Charles
Eddie Cook
Gale Cutler

AGRI-LEADERS AND AGL ALUMNI LIST

Earl Denham
Dennis Duncan
Justin Goodroe
Mark King
Jerry Lupo
Todd Massey
Norman McGlohon
Mary Ann Parsons
Patricia Simmons
Bill Tollner
Carla Wood

GALF Class of 2005

Kim Arp
Keith Bertrand
Andi Branstetter
Dominick Crea
Ali Csinos
Kim Arp
Mack Evans
Jeff Glass
Brad Godwin
Curt Lacy
Keith Lassiter
Jeff McPhail
Molly Miller
Jason Peake
Greg Price
Tim Strickland
Christopher Stripling
Todd Teasley
Travis Turnquist
John Uessler
Katie Woodall

GALF Class of 2004

Keith Barber
Tony Burnes
Al Burns
Joanna Griffin-
Craven
Bert Crosson
Guy Daughtrey

Jeremy Davis
Rodney Fowler
Zeke Lambert
Blane Marable
Candy Morris
Sid Mullis Jr.
Brian Nash
Godwin Onohwosa
John Ricketts
Earleen Sizemore
Beth Wood

GALF Class of 2003

Spencer Black
Steve Chambers
Thomas Daniels
Ted Dyer
Frances Edmunds
Tim Flanders
Joe Garner
Marc Hand
John Harrell
Chris Langone
Billy Mills
Megan Morris
Corey Parr
Chris Paulk
Mark Paulk
Jody Redding
Darrell Ross
Billy Skaggs
Dale Stutchman Jr.
David Turner
Randy Waters

GALF Class of 2002

Bruce Applewhite
Bennie Branch Jr.
James Buck
Jim Davis Jr.
Bruce Dillard
Dick Dowdy
Bobby Ferris

Stephanie
Hollifield
Ross Kendrick
Randy Mayfield
Mark McWhorter
Mehdi Mobini
Steve Morgan
Jason Morris
Deborah
Pennington
Calvin Perry
Scotty Raines
Dean Reese
Forrest Stegelin
John Walker
The Honorable
Ellen Warren
Kenny Waters

GALF Class of 2001

John Bernard
Art Cain
Forrest Connelly
Joy Crosby
Dory Franklin
Alan McAllister
Kenneth McEntire
Roosevelt
McWilliams
Kevin Mitcham
Don Phillips Jr.
Jon Pierson
Judy Purdy
Barbara Saxton
Corine Sellers
Tommy Stalvey
Danny Vaughn III
Philipp von
Hanstein
Bonnie Walker
Glen Walters
Collie Williams
Steve Woodham

AGRI-LEADERS AND AGL ALUMNI LIST

GALF Class of 2000

William Bagwell Jr.
Carter Black III
Steve L. Brown
Tim Carroll
Mark Causey
Paul Dutter
Nancy Fussell
Jim Graham
Dan Groscoat
Cynthia Hernandez
Murray Hines II
David King
Holli Kuykendall
Eddie McKie
Wesley Paulk
Lee Petitgout
Mack Rainey
Wes Sparks
Tony Tate
Stephen Taylor Jr.
Marc van Iersel
Terry Whigham
Larry Windham
David Yelton

GALF Class of 1999

Debbie Cannon
Jennifer Cannon
Nancy Coleman
Gregg Hall
Larry Hawkins
Katrina Jones
Lannie Lanier
Orville Lindstrom Jr.
Kim Lowe
Mary Alice McGee
Tim McMillan
Ralph Powell
Bruce Rentz
Cal Roach
Jay Roberts
Kristin Smith

Ed Snoddy
Vince Stanley
Melvin Thompson
Vann Wooten
Anne Young

GALF Class of 1998

William Bowen Jr.
Bob Budd
Roebie Burriss III
Edward Ealy
Esther England
David Evans
Juli Fields
Fredrick Hall
Gil Landry Jr.
Sharon Lucas
Steve McClam
Brad Mitchell
Todd Mullis
Ken Rountree
Jimmy Scott III
Donnie Thomas
Mid Thorne III
Rodney Williams
James Woodard

GALF Class of 1997

Roger Branch
Louie Canova III
Jim Colson
Frank Dean
Chap Enfinger
April Lavender-
Hobbs
Clint Hood
Sam James
Daniel Johnson
Bob Jones
George Larsen II
Steve L. Morgan

Ronnie Noble
Richard Oliver
Shirley Stripling
Lynn Thornhill

GALF Class of 1996

Wil Arnett
Reuben Beverly
Dennis Black
Butch Copelan
Roger Davis
Zippy Duvall
Chuck Ellis III
Francois Elvinger
David Ferrell
Lance Hammonds
Teresa Lasseter
Rusty McLeod
Earl Merritt
Brice Nelson Jr.
Steve Parrish
George Ponder
Tim Savelle
David Swayne
Jeff Taylor
Ed Tolbert
Chuck Tyson Jr.
Jay Watrous
Chris Young

GALF Class of 1995

Garland Anderson
Jr.
Gilbert Barrett
Danny Ross Bennett
John Carey Bittick
The Honorable
Jimmy Bradley
David Buntin
Henry Burton Jr.
Becky Carlson
Jimmy Clements
Maurice Dayton

AGRI-LEADERS AND AGL ALUMNI LIST

Denise Deal
Merrill Folsom
Greg Glover
Henry Hibbs
J. Michael Moore
Jean Steiner
Ed Thornton
Allen Whitehead
Mike Williams

GALF Class of 1994


Grace Adams
Stewart
Parrish Akins
Roger Austin
Wendell Cannon
Caryn Curry
Terry England
James Ford
Donald Giles
Larry Gillespie
Keith Griffin
Will Harris III
Travis Henry
Dot James
Mike Lacy
Gene Maddux
Eddie McGriff
Lee Myers
Scott NeSmith
Wes Shannon
Doris Smith
Jody Strickland
Julie Thames
Billy Turk
James A. Vaughn
Joe West
Dick Whitlock

GALF Class of 1993

Graydon Bobo
Delane Borron
Len Cagle

Larry Copeland
Barry Deas
Ed Faircloth Jr.
Tammy Gilland
Charles Gillespie Jr.
Mike Harris
Lynmore James
Paul Larson
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Lamar Martin
Doris Miller-Liebl
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Hill
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Donnie Smith
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John Walters

THE AGL 2019 CLASS EXPERIENCED:

5 personality & behavioral assessments 

CliftonStrengths, MBTI, Thomas-Kilmann Conflict Indicator, Emergenetics, Change Style Indicator


148
total sessions

23 days of learning 

over 22 months with the optional international experience



133
expert guest speakers

 **6** Georgia-based institutes
1 federal policy institute in Washington, D.C.

Covering policy, commodities, innovations and more



250
hours spent learning educational content



1 international institute in Costa Rica

AGL: AMAZING VALUE IN LEADERSHIP EDUCATION

Each tuition payment is equal to just \$23 per session, \$26 per speaker, \$14 per hour and \$152 per day.

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We owe great gratitude to the following donors for their generous contributions to enhancing Georgia's leaders. It is hard to put into words the lasting impact these donations have on the individuals they touch, both directly and indirectly. The 25 graduates sitting here today bear a personal and professional testament to your benevolence. Your donations work to keep Georgia's leadership strong. Thank you so much for donating to the 2017-2019 cohort experience!

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MEET THE AGL DIRECTOR

LAUREN LEDBETTER GRIFFETH EXTENSION LEADERSHIP SPECIALIST

Raised on the outskirts of Cochran, Georgia, Lauren Griffeth has always had a heart for agriculture. She grew up bottle-feeding goats and taking care of her grandmother Mimi's garden. An active Bleckley County 4-H'er, Griffeth became a two-time Master 4-H'er and vice president of the 2001 Georgia 4-H State Board of Directors. Her involvement led her to the Georgia 4-H Day football game, where she fell in love with all things red and black.



At the University of Georgia, Griffeth majored in agricultural communication and completed the requirements for the Interdisciplinary Certificate of Leadership and Service. While serving as captain of the UGA cheerleading squad, she was selected as a member of the Southeast Conference Spirit Team in 2003. Griffeth represented UGA Athletics at Gov. Sonny Perdue's Forum on Leadership and was the first student member of the Georgia 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees.

In 2005, Griffeth began serving as grant coordinator for Georgia 4-H and UGA Cooperative Extension and then held a variety of fundraising roles at the UGA Foundation and Athens Regional Medical Center. In her nearly 10-year development career, Griffeth collaborated to raise nearly \$7 million for education and healthcare initiatives. Griffeth graduated from UGA with a master's degree in educational administration and policy and a doctorate in adult education, with an Interdisciplinary Certificate in Qualitative Studies and a Certificate in Human Resources and Organizational Development. Griffeth's research includes women's leadership in the context of agriculture and leadership development. She is a columnist for Pink Tractor Magazine and has been published in the Harvard Business Review for her research on women's career advancement. Griffeth serves on the governance board for Mercy Health Clinic as well as the Georgia 4-H Foundation Gala Committee. She is a graduate of Leadership Oconee, a program sponsored by the Oconee Chamber of Commerce.

She is married to Tim Griffeth, an agricultural educator. They have two children, Tanner (6) and Lillian (3). The Griffeths reside in Oconee County and are active in their church and with their local vegetable business. Griffeth feels blessed to have served as AGL director since January 2015.



How can I participate in the next AGL class?

Nominations for the next class are open for potential AGL participants until March 15, 2019. Anyone can nominate individuals who work in agriculture, forestry or supporting industries. Upon nomination, individuals will complete an application and individuals will be invited to attend the selection event at Georgia Farm Bureau on May 3, 2019. To nominate, visit <http://alec.caes.uga.edu/extension/advancing-georgia-leaders.html>.

How can I help?

Let us know if you have personal expertise or access to additional education materials that would benefit AGL class members. In addition, your tax-deductible gift or sponsorship will be an investment in Georgia's future agriculture and natural resource industries. If you have additional questions or interest in the program, please contact us at agl@uga.edu.



Advancing Georgia's Leaders
in Agriculture and Forestry

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