

"The future belongs to those who
prepare for it today"

— Malcolm X

Introduction

Nearly 20 years ago, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce launched Leadership Aurora to educate local leaders from diverse backgrounds about our city and to prepare them for greater community involvement. Since then, nearly 600 people committed to shaping Aurora's future have graduated from the program.

Once a month for nine consecutive months, the Leadership Aurora class attends a daylong session that centers on a community theme such as education, healthcare or our urban infrastructure and economy. First-rate presenters address related topics, encourage thoughtful dialogue and provide remarkable opportunities for on-site participation. Class members learn about the city's strengths and challenges, and the expectation of servant leadership intrinsic to healthy community development. In addition, each class chooses a project (or projects) of its own design to help local organizations that need it.

Leadership Aurora is one of more than 1,000 community leadership programs in the nation. It is a member of the Community Leadership Association, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to leadership development. Sponsored by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Aurora is funded by the Chamber, in-kind donations and class tuition. The Leadership Aurora Board steers the program, develops the curriculum and oversees its success.

We congratulate all Leadership Aurora graduates dedicated to serving Aurora and its destiny as a world-class city.

**The Leadership Aurora
Class of 2003-2004**

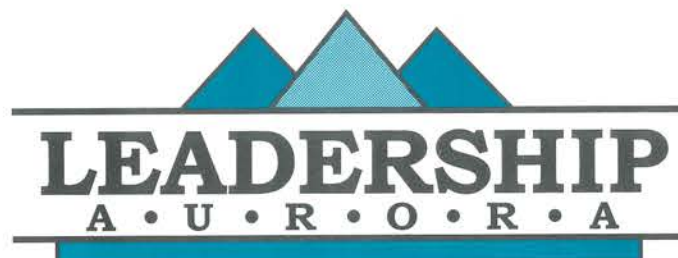
Acknowledgements

Our class salutes the people and organizations that provide immense support to one of the finest leadership programs in the United States.

Kudos to the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, which has developed, implemented and supported Leadership Aurora over the years to prepare leaders committed to Aurora's future. Hats off, as well, to the Leadership Aurora Board members, all program graduates, who have contributed countless hours to plan, set-up and deliver each monthly session. We also give heartfelt thanks to program director Kimberly Curtis, a well-organized, skilled leader whose influence on Leadership Aurora has resulted in an invaluable, once-in-a-lifetime experience for each of us.

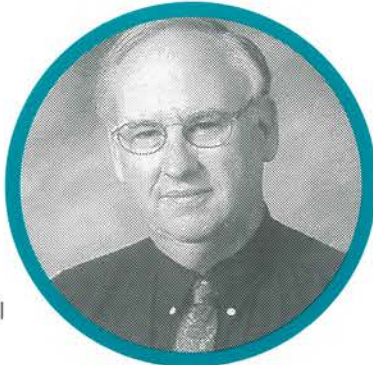
Our sincere appreciation goes to the guest speakers and personnel who presented "behind the scenes" information and insights that will help us in the years ahead as we work toward the betterment of our city. We also thank the many organizations that provided in-kind services and donations. Such assistance included use of facilities and equipment, hands-on instruction, transportation between sites, delicious meals and much more.

And, of course, we thank the people of Aurora. We are grateful to our community, respectful of its historic past, and thrilled to help shape its future.



Board Chair

As the year comes to an end for our Leadership Aurora Class of 2004, I want to extend my sincere congratulations! The year was long and arduous for some, and very short and fun filled for others. But through it all you've gained insight and made lifelong friends.



This September we initiated our class members in our beautiful mountain town of Winter Park. From the very beginning it was apparent this class truly showed more synergy than we would have ever expected. The leaders within this group were already venturing forth. Whether it was tested during our planned activities or simply during a round table discussion, we knew this group wasn't going to let us down. Leadership is a team effort and we couldn't wait to see what this class would bring throughout the program sessions.

With all this enthusiasm I knew the Leadership Board would be faced with challenges to excel in the preparation of our upcoming sessions. From community, media, police, fire, education, economic and infrastructure to the military sessions, our anticipation had just begun. We listened to your input, read the evaluations, and attempted to make every second count.

I would like to personally thank each and every one of the Leadership Board Members. Without the passion from these dedicated people these class sessions would not have been successful. Thanks to Kimberly Curtis, Program Director, who has spent many an hour keeping us all on task.

Remember, although this year has come to an end – access what you have learned, use all your resources for future networking opportunities and continue to build those relationships. Stay involved and continue to volunteer your time in the City of Aurora. This program accomplishment has enriched many people and we thank you for your participation. Best of Luck to the Class of 2004!

Jacob Shirk
Leadership Aurora Board Chair
2003-04

Class President

*Drop a pebble in the water; just a splash, and it is gone;
But there's half-a-hundred ripples circling on and on,
Spreading from the center, flowing on out to the sea.
And there is no way of telling where the end is going to be.
Drop a pebble in the water; in a minute you forget,
But there's little waves a-flowing, and there's ripples circling yet,
And those little waves a-flowing to a great big wave have grown;
You've disturbed a mighty river just by dropping in a stone...*

As I sat down to write this letter, I was initially overwhelmed with the prospect of trying to capture nine months of events in a few brief paragraphs. How could I hope to distill the experiences and various projects we participated in without making it sound trite?



Then the answer came to me: Rather than merely catalog the events of the past year, I thought of using a metaphor. The excerpt above, from the poem *A Pebble*, by James W. Foley, captures my feelings about the experiences we have shared as the Class of 2004.

Just like in the poem, we were pebbles that were first dropped into the water (or should I say squirted by water) during our class retreat in Winter Park. Very quickly there was interaction and impact between the ripples from the numerous pebbles. Some ripples cancelled each other out, while others fed upon the energy and grew larger. We were 35 individuals, with varying degrees of knowledge about our community, who wanted to experience, learn and give more. While we churned the waters with healthy debates and inquiries, we also learned to "share the love". Relationships and contacts were developed that grew throughout the year.

Collectively, seven monthly projects were completed which included distributing Halloween bags for the children in the Colfax Community Network, donations of cereal and gloves for the Comitis Crisis Center, adopting families during the holidays, providing diapers for the children in daycare at William Smith High School, donating money to DAVA for the purchase of art supplies and providing children's books for the Live and Learn program.

In addition to these monthly projects we also participated in two large class projects, a Bowl-a-Thon, where we bowled and raised more than \$650 dollars for Sungate, which provides services needed by child victims during and after an investigation of abuse. Our second class project involved a donation of \$3000 and part of a weekend helping rehabilitate a home in Aurora as part of National Rebuilding Together Day. Like the ripples in the poem, the activities and projects we participated in will continue to reverberate throughout the wonderful community of Aurora.

We owe our gratitude and sincere thanks to the Leadership Aurora Board, volunteers and hosts, and especially Kimberly Curtis. All of the hard work and effort that went into each session was instrumental in helping us become successful in our endeavors.

Each and every one of you has disturbed a mighty river just by dropping in a stone, let this continue beyond your experience with Leadership Aurora and never cease to imagine the impact you can make as a leader!

Mary Mulvey
2003-2004 Class President

2004 Class Profiles

Catherine Bedell

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Favorite Quote:
Love in action is what
gives us grace.
— Mother Teresa



The community resources we've been exposed to have been remarkable: businesses, charities, government agencies, such a wide variety of fields of interest and the leaders who represent them. Perhaps most important, the personal and professional friendships we have developed as a class are to be treasured.

Birthplace: New York, New York

Education: Graduate work in Public Health, University of New Mexico; B.A. Tulane University (cum laude); La Sorbonne & L'institut d'Etudes Politiques, Paris, France.

Family: Mom, 3 brothers, 4 nephews, 1 niece, and my "chosen" family -- good friends

Hobbies: Reading, travel, napping, gourmet food and wine, politics

Mary Beth Brunston

Sales/Marketing
Colorado Insurance Professionals Inc
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Favorite Quote:
When it is time to go on
vacation just say Goodbye!
— Christine Hoppe



I plan to take a more active role in our community. I have joined Rotary and am currently working with a committee to raise funds for the Comititis Crisis Center.

Birthplace: Battle Creek, Michigan

Education: Community College -- Red Rocks

Family: Husband Stephen, Daughters Rebecca and Shannon

Hobbies: Quilting, shopping and remodeling

Roger Cloyd

Police Captain
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Favorite Quote:
Leadership is a constant effort in
which good leaders refuse to allow
negative barriers to impact them.
— Author Unknown



I've gained new friendships and a broader range of people to network with. My effectiveness as a leader is thus much greater.

Birthplace: Laramie, Wyoming

Education: M.A., Management, Webster University

B.S., Criminal Justice, University of Wyoming

Family: Wife, Diane, and 2 sons Matt, 16; Andrew, 14

Hobbies: Camping, fishing, travel

John Cramer

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Favorite Quote:
Being an education leader is not
about climbing ladders-it's about
service. And service entails listening
to others, caring for them and quietly
going about doing your job.
— Daniel A. Heller



I have come away with a deep understanding of our city and how it operates. I plan on expanding my connections within the city to further support public education in Aurora.

Birthplace: Denver, Colorado

Education: B.A. University of Nebraska at Kearney; M.A. Adams State College

Family: Single

Hobbies: Fly fishing, cooking, camping, skiing, and traveling

Christine Deemer

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Not only will I use my experience that I have taken from Leadership Aurora and apply it to everyday experience at Rural/Metro, I hope to continue to give more of my time to the community.

Birthplace: Granada Hills, California
Education: MBA (in progress), Regis University
B.A., University of Colorado
Family: Daughter – Marika (3 years old)
Hobbies: Art, time with family, golf, ping-pong, belly dancing

Favorite Quote:

Life is what happens when you are busy making other plans.

– John Lennon

David Diehl

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I've gained a greater understanding of how the public and private sectors work together to meet and support Aurora's needs. In the future, their experience will help me strengthen my ties to the community.

Birthplace: Indianola, Iowa
Education: Mid-American Nazarene University
Family: Wife Lori, two daughters 5 and 3
Hobbies: Travel, golf and family

Favorite Quote:

For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future.

— Jeremiah 29:11

Holly Gangell

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Through Leadership Aurora, I have gained not only a better understanding of the community I work in, but many great friendships. I look forward to using Aurora's many resources and programs in the future.

Birthplace: Pittsfield, Massachusetts
Education: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY; B.S. in Management; Finance Concentration
Family: Dad, Step-mom, four siblings and two nephews (MA); Mom (FL)
Hobbies: Skiing, drawing, photography, pin collecting, music, traveling

Favorite Quote:

"The most wasted of all days is one without laughter."

– e.e. cummings

Suzanne Ginsburg

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I plan to be actively involved in the community. Through this experience I have learned so much about the community and about the opportunities that exist for me to serve and support. There isn't really much of anything I would change. There was obviously an enormous amount of work that went into each experience.

Birthplace: Born and raised in Northern Illinois
Education: Bachelors Degree in Nursing; Masters in Human Resources Development; Hold a certificate in Certified Healthcare Quality through National Healthcare Quality Association
Family: Two grown children, Nathan and Cari and one granddaughter, Jaxsyn
Hobbies: Hiking, gardening, reading

Favorite Quote:

The cynic says, "One man can't do anything", I say, "Only one man can do anything."

– John Gardner

Patrick Giron

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I hope to continue participating in civic activities in Aurora with a better understanding of the city. I intend to incorporate the knowledge I've gained with contacts I've made in order to effect positive change when and where necessary.

Birthplace: Denver, Colorado

Education: B.A. Political Science
Metropolitan State College of Denver

Family: Wife Guadalupe, Sons Anthony and Elias

Hobbies: Reading, politics, writing and sports

Favorite Quote:

Some men see things as they are and say "why?" I dream of things that never were and say "why not?"

— John F. Kennedy

Greg Goode

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To learn and develop into a community leader is important. Our college plays a key role in economic development.

Birthplace: Iowa City, Iowa

Education: M.S., Bomidji State University;
B.A., The University of Iowa

Family: Son, 13

Hobbies: Golf, reading, exercise, skiing

Favorite Quote:

Talk is cheap, whiskey costs money.

— My Father

(I have no idea what this means)

Donna Greeley

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The experience and knowledge gained during the past year has been tremendous and a great foundation on which to build lasting relationships. The insight about the inter-relationships will help me be a better and more active member of this community and support Spalding's commitment as a community partner.

Birthplace: Lorain, Ohio

Education: B.S. in Management from
Myers College

M.B.A. from Baldwin-Wallace College

Family: Dana, his horse Seattle and my horse Bubba

Hobbies: Horseback riding, gardening and anything outside

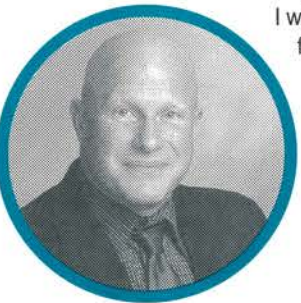
Favorite Quote:

A horse gallops with its lungs, perseveres with its heart and wins with its character.

— Frederico Tesio

Kevin L. Hammons

Fire Marshal
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I will include the knowledge and fellowship into the decisions and opportunities presented throughout my career.

Birthplace: Phoenix, Arizona

Education: M.A., Curriculum and Instruction, Colorado Christian University
B.S., Organizational Management, Colorado Christian University

Family: Wife, Nanci Jo (married 24 years) and 2 daughters

Hobbies: Computer applications

Favorite Quote:

The consummate leader cultivates the moral law and strictly adheres to method and discipline; thus it is in his power to control success.

— Sun Tzu

Jane E. Harding
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Favorite Quote:
*Time spent with a child is never
time wasted.*
— Author Unknown



This has been a terrific experience!
I can readily apply what I've
learned in Leadership Aurora to
my everyday life, especially in
my work at the city of Aurora's
Community Relations Division.
Leadership Aurora provides a
wonderful way to get inside a
community and understand how it
works.

Birthplace: Fort Dodge, Iowa
Education: B.S., College of Home Economics,
Iowa State University
Family: Husband, Carlos, and son, Kevin
Guzman
Hobbies: Son's extracurricular activities and
sports, reading, traveling, water sports,
outdoor activities.

Nancy V. Hounsom
Owner and Designer
LilPanda's Desktop Designs
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Favorite Quote:
*It's never too late to become what
you might have been.*
— George Eliot



I have learned of ways to market
myself and my business, so I
plan to put these into action.
I have also been made aware
of new avenues to take to be
an asset in the community –
this, too, I plan to put into
action. And, last, but not least,
I know more about my Chamber of
Commerce and, as soon as possible,
I plan to be a part of this great organization.

Birthplace: Des Moines, Iowa
Education: AAS Degree – Coastal
Community College; AAS Degree –
Arapahoe Community College; AAS Degree
– Charter College Computer Science
Family: three daughters: Brandi, Toshya
and Veronica
Hobbies: Reading, painting, drawing, crafts,
and doing graphic design projects on my
computer

Marion K. Jenkins
Chief Executive Officer
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Favorite Quote:
*Life moves pretty fast. If you don't
stop and look around once in
awhile, you could miss it.*
— Ferris Bueller



I plan on being more involved in
the community and in activities
in and around Aurora.
Leadership Aurora has
given me a different
perspective on the
community.

Birthplace: Idaho Falls, Idaho
Education: Ph.D and M.S., Mechanical
Engineering, Stanford University
B.S., Mechanical Engineering, Utah State
University
Family: Wife, Laurie Leigh Buckley (married
25 years) Son, Gregory (21), Daughter, Emily
(19), Son, Doug (17)
Hobbies: Computer stuff, skiing, biking,
hiking/camping, boy scouts

Raymond Dean Jones
Presiding Judge
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Favorite Quote:
*Of the manifestations of power,
restraint is the greatest.*

— Thucydides



I hope to better apply the principles
of leadership that we have
learned, in my professional work,
and in my efforts on behalf of
the community and several non-
profits with which I work. I also
intend to continue learning about
the history, the people, and the
institutions of Aurora.

Birthplace: Pueblo, Colorado
Education: B.A., Political Science, Colorado
College, Colorado Springs, CO; J.D., Harvard
Law School, Cambridge, MA
Family: Benjamin, 27; Ruth Marie, 19;
Raymond II, 17
Hobbies: Reading, public speaking, running,
history, writing, singing, hiking

Glenna Kelly

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I would enjoy volunteering on an Aurora non-profit board or task force with a focus on positive youth development. I will also look for opportunities to support the arts in Aurora and invest in a vital arts community.

Birthplace: Denver, Colorado

Education: B.A.-B.F.A., Colorado Women's College, University of Denver

Family: Husband, Ad Lopez, school administrator at Aurora Central and jewelry designer. Two stepchildren and two delightful grandchildren. And my niece, Claire who brightens my life.

Hobbies: Theatre, watercolor painting and mountain retreats

Favorite Quote:
Loyalty to petrified opinion never
yet broke a chain or freed a
human soul.
— Mark Twain

Christine Kos "Chris"

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Through Leadership Aurora, I have gained a new awareness, perspective and respect for community and the multitude of leaders and all people involved with it. Greater involvement in serving the community and leadership by service are two of the ways I will apply what I have gained from this wonderful experience. Leadership Aurora is incredible — thank you!

Birthplace: Erie, Pennsylvania

Education: Colorado Real Estate License since 1986 with designations as Realtor, Accredited Buyer Representative (ABR), and Seniors Real Estate Specialist (SRES)

Family: Very proud mother of 3 grown children, Karin, Michelle, Brian and Grandma to Brady, Trey and Noele

Hobbies: Travel, gardening, architecture, interior design, basketball, baseball, walking and spending time with family, friends and community involvement

Favorite Quote:
Take time to deliberate; but when
the time for action arrives, stop
thinking and do it.
— Andrew Jackson

Sue Ann McCarroll

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Leadership Aurora has broadened my skills, knowledge and networking opportunities with the larger Aurora community. I have become a better leader and a better community contributor.

Birthplace: Norfolk, Nebraska. Moved to Colorado at age 4.

Education: M.A., Education and Counseling, UCCS

Nurse Practitioner, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center

B.S., Nursing, University of Northern Colorado

Family: Husband, Les (married 20 years)

Hobbies: Golf, skiing, reading, theater, aerobics

Favorite Quote:
What wisdom can you find that is
greater than kindness?
— Jean Jacques Rousseau

Kerry McGuire

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I plan to continue volunteering with the Jaycees in the Aurora area. With the experiences I've gained I will be able to provide great volunteer opportunities to the chapter.

Birthplace: Denver, Colorado

Education: Bachelor of Social Work (BSW)

Family: Husband, Matt and 2 Cats, Lotus and Diablo

Hobbies: Karaoke, scrap booking, theatre, Cherry Creek Jaycees

Favorite Quote:
The most satisfying thing in life is to
have been able to give a large part of
one's self to others.
— Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Callee C. Meyer

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Favorite Quote:
*Education is not preparation for
life; education is life itself.*
— Author Unknown



My Leadership Aurora experience has given me a new perception and outlook of city government, different cultural activities and the many resources available in the community helping to make me a more well-rounded individual.

Birthplace: Breckenridge, Minnesota
Education: B.S., Moorhead State University; Masters Degree, Colorado State University
Family: Mother, Sister and Nephews
Hobbies: Theatre, travel, reading, movies, Broncos and Avalanche

Mary Mulvey

Vice President, Career Management Consulting
Right Management Consultants
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Favorite Quote:
*Love like you've never been hurt,
Live like there's no tomorrow and
Dance like no one's looking.*
— Author Unknown



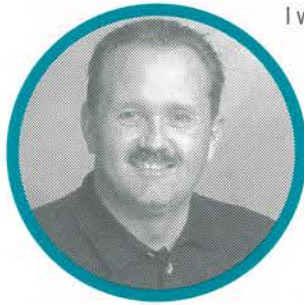
Leadership Aurora has been a wonderful avenue for learning more about the community I live in, and for developing new friendships and networking contacts. I plan to apply what I've gained from this invaluable opportunity and volunteer more of my time to activities that will help the city continue to grow as a full-service community.

Birthplace: Flint, Michigan
Education: B.S., Business Administration, University of Denver
Family: Husband, John; and 2 dogs, Scooter and Scamper
Hobbies: Flying, scuba diving, gardening, and jewelry making

Lt Col. Gregory D. Parker

140th Mission Support Group Deputy Commander
Colorado Air National Guard
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Favorite Quote:
*Real generosity towards the future
lies in giving all to the present.*
— Albert Camus



I would like to take the knowledge, skills, and expertise I have developed as a participant in the Leadership program and apply it by enhancing various agencies within Aurora and the Denver Metro area.

Birthplace: Hendricks, Minnesota
Education: M.B.A. Webster University, B.S. South Dakota State University
Family: Wife, Linda; Daughters, Kelly and Melissa
Hobbies: Cooking, reading, bicycling, motorcycling, guitar and mandolin

Grant Pearson

Director of Operations
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Favorite Quote:
vini vidi vici
— Julius Caesar



Leadership Aurora has opened my eyes to the needs of the community and what it means to be a member of a community. My hope is to continue my involvement and involve others in making our community a success.

Birthplace: Bronx, New York
Education: B.A. Political Science, East Carolina University
Family: Kathy Pearson, wife of 5 years
Hobbies: Collecting beer cans, golf

Bob Roby

Deputy Director
Facilities & Project Management Office
Arapahoe County
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Favorite Quote:
*It's a job that's never started that
takes the longest to finish.*
— J. R. R. Tolkien



Each day leaders are challenged as spouse, parent, employer, citizen or manager. I will keep the contacts I've made because the more views on an issue, the better the solution.

Birthplace: Estes Park, Colorado
Education: B.S., M.P.A. University of Colorado
Family: Wife, Valerie; Nicole, 12; and Christopher, 15
Hobbies: Skiing, golf, reading, photography

Jude T. Sandvall

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I have formed many valuable friendships and a better understanding of Aurora. This will help me to grow both personally and professionally.

Birthplace: Oak Lawn, Illinois
Education: B.A. Economics
Metropolitan State College, Denver
Family: Wife, Diane
Hobbies: Golf, ice hockey, politics, and reading

Favorite Quote:

I love those who can smile in trouble, who can gather strength from distress, and grow brave by reflection. 'Tis the business of little minds to shrink, but they whose heart is firm, and whose conscience approves their conduct, will pursue their principles unto death.

— Thomas Paine

Mary Beth Sharp

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From my Leadership Aurora experience, I plan to make the most of what I've learned by keeping in touch with the wonderful people I've met, and by being a part of, supporting and/or helping make new things happen through community organizations. Volunteering with projects and participating in

organizations, etc. is a critical and necessary step by every individual to help meet the needs of the community, invest in its future, and let our future leaders (our children) know we care-leading by example.

Birthplace: St. Louis, Missouri
Education: B.A. Marketing Arapahoe Community College
Family: Husband, John
Hobbies: Church activities, traveling, and reading

Favorite Quote:

The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it.

— Charles Swindoll

Kent Smith

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ksmith@summiteventcenter.com



I will use my Leadership Aurora experience as a way to increase participation and knowledge in and of the Aurora community.

Birthplace: Denver, Colorado
Education: Masters – University of Denver
Family: Single
Hobbies: Golf, basketball, travel

Favorite Quote:

The only question is who is going to get second.

— Larry Bird

Susan Snowdon

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Leadership Aurora has been a wonderful opportunity to learn about Aurora, to meet interesting classmates and to interact with city leaders. The experiences and insights I've gained will enhance my work with the Cherry Creek School community and provide new avenues for volunteer experiences.

Birthplace: Marshalltown, Iowa
Education: B.A. Lincoln Christian College in Christian Education; B.A. Metropolitan State College in Behavioral Science; M.A. University of Northern Colorado in Educational Leadership
Family: Husband, John; three sons, Christopher, Nathan, and Matthew; two daughters, Chelsea and Erica; son-in-law, George; and grandson, Oliver
Hobbies: Traveling, movies and reading

Favorite Quote:

You may not think you can reach it. Climb anyway. You may not think you'll be heard. Speak anyway. You may not think you can change things. Try anyway.

— Maya Angelou

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Favorite Quote:
Happiness is not a destination. It
is a method of life.

— Author Unknown



Leadership Aurora provided great exposure to many facets of Aurora. The experience resulted in a greater understanding of our community, created valuable new relationships and contacts, and a stronger commitment to playing an active role in Aurora.

Birthplace: Ellsworth, Air Force Base, South Dakota

Education: University of Colorado, B.A. in Political Science

Family: Single

Hobbies: Travel, concerts, entertaining, politics and learning golf

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Favorite Quote:
If you are going through hell,
keep going.

— Walt Disney



I have made new friends through Leadership Aurora as well as new networking connections. The opportunity to visit new places and areas in Aurora has opened my eyes as to how much our city has to offer.

Birthplace: Albuquerque, New Mexico

Education: University of New Mexico, B.A. Political Science

Family: Two Sons Travis and Trevor

Hobbies: Playing baseball with sons, traveling, golf

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Favorite Quote:
Small things done with great love
can change the world.

— Mother Teresa



Through Leadership Aurora, I've discovered many available opportunities to get more involved, to serve and to influence positive change. I plan to continue gaining knowledge which I can apply to myself, my family, my workplace and my community.

Birthplace: Cerro Gordo, Illinois

Education: University of Illinois – B.A. in Speech Communication; University of Colorado School of Law – Juris Doctorate

Family: Husband, Rob; Lexi 5, and Joe 3

Hobbies: Golf, tennis, scrapbooking, piano and family

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Favorite Quote:
Life must be lived moving forward
and learned looking backward.

— Soren Kierkegaard



The learning and knowledge about Aurora is going to assist me greatly in doing Human Resources for The Medical Center of Aurora. From recruiting new employees to retaining existing staff, this knowledge will be valuable.

Birthplace: Salina, Kansas

Education: M.S. in Organizational Development University of Colorado at Denver; M.B.A. University of Colorado at Denver

Family: Married 35 years

Hobbies: Reading, history, music, baseball, and exercise

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Favorite Quote:
You see things; and you say,
"Why?" But I dream things that
never were; and I say, "Why not?"

— George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950),
"Back to Methuselah"



I plan to challenge my employees to learn more about the wonderful things in Aurora, as I have learned during my experience. I will also maintain the established relationships created during this program both in a work and personal setting, and I will continue to explore the opportunities in Aurora, i.e. volunteering.

Birthplace: Freeport, New York

Education: M.B.A., University of Phoenix; B.A., Health and Human Services, University at Buffalo; Paramedic School, WNY EMS Training Institute

Family: Single

Hobbies: Yoga, golf, tennis, and reading

Opening Retreat

"Building tomorrow's leaders through trust and communication."



2003-2004 Leadership Aurora class

"LEADERSHIP FOR A CHANGING WORLD"

Iron Horse Resort, Winter Park, CO

Session Coordinators:

Jacob Shirk (Chair), Christine Hoppe, Cindy Kunkel, Sam McGhee, Greg Moore, Diane Norman, Kim Podobnik

Our introduction to Leadership Aurora was a weekend of connection, communication and skill building among the Class of 2004. The sharing began with a well-organized exercise modeled by Sam McGhee. After learning about the many facets of Aurora's Chamber of Commerce and entertaining but informative leadership stories from Lt. Jacob Shirk of Aurora Police Department, we continued our connecting at the evening's Group Dinner activity. Quick wit and clever imaginations kept participants rotating and intermingling as we learned about each other as people.

As we learned about ourselves as leaders, we were invited to trust ourselves and experience how leadership means maintaining integrity, doing the right thing and staying true to oneself. Two concepts stood out – (1) leadership is an emotional process as well as a management process, and (2) the leadership model of forward focus. Our presenters encouraged us to move outside of our comfort level and honestly reflect on our leadership style and its impact on others. Through experiential, small and large group, and one-on-one learning, we began our leadership journey together.

By the end of the weekend, we had become a group of completely committed Aurora leaders. Members stood to leave, yet lingered in the glow of our new beginnings together. As one class member said, you could "feel the love". We arrived Thursday as 35 individuals . . . we left Saturday as the Leadership Aurora Class of 2004.



*Hear no evil,
see no evil,
speak no evil.*

*Good food, good
friends and great
fun at retreat
dinner.*



Mary Beth Sharp and Kerry McGuire sing "Proud Mary Keeps on Leading", as class president, Mary Mulvey is elected.

“COMMUNITY TIES AND YOU”

Session Coordinators:

Randy Patrick (Chair), Anne Ayers (Co-Chair), Christine Hoppe, Mark Isenburg, Diane Norman, Kim Podobnik

Our community day began at the Community College of Aurora with a “test” that challenged our assumptions about the demographics of Aurora. We further explored the faces of the community with Debbie Lynch and learned about volunteer opportunities from Ron Miller, City Manager and Kim Podobnik, Arapahoe County Services.

We learned about ARC’s investment in the community as well as their Project Illumination, an exhibit sponsored by ARC of Aurora, designed to shed light on the issue of sexual violence experienced by people with disabilities.

Our future is so bright, we have to wear shades.

Our learning about the community continued through presentations by Comitis and their work with at-risk youth; we were moved by the story Alicia shared about overcoming mental illness; and we were inspired by Kate Tauer’s comments on the importance of volunteerism.

Our day concluded with a visit to DAVA (Downtown Aurora Visual Arts) where we saw young artists at work. We obtained a foundation that allowed us to better understand the quality of life issues faced by members of the community and the ways we can address those issues.



“WHERE DOES IT HURT?”

Session Coordinators: Beverly Petry (Chair), Anne Ayers, Bob Barké, Cindy Kunkel, Randy Patrick, David Patterson, Mitzi Schindler

Our November session was all about healthcare. This session educated our class on local health care issues and national health care industry trends that impact our community. We began our day on the amazing Fitzsimons campus, where University of Colorado Hospital CEO, Dennis Brimhall, explained to us the history and status of the Fitzsimons Redevelopment Project. This partnership between public, private and governmental entities collectively bringing resources and working together on the largest medical redevelopment project in the United States, is a great example of leaders working together to promote positive change.

Dr. J.J. Cohen gave us a taste of the Mini Med School he and CU Health Sciences Center’s Office of Public Relations designed and has sponsored in the metro area since 1990. Victor Spitzer, Director of the CU Center for Human Simulation, introduced us to the “Visible Human” – 1,877 cross-sectioned images of an actual human’s body in one-millimeter intervals.

We were transported to the Medical Center of Aurora, by Rural/Metro ambulances, where we were “treated” to an eye-opening lunch. Each class member was assigned a specific disability for the buffet-style lunch and we experienced first-hand how difficult ordinary, every-day tasks can be for people with disabilities. We also engaged in tough but thought-provoking conversations about ethical decisions that medical providers often have to deal with.

By the end of the day we understood how much healthcare impacts our community. It was reinforced by the fact that our Emergency Department tour was cancelled due to the recent flu outbreak.



Chris Kos, Julie Werking, Greg Goode and Grant Pearson experience the challenges of healthcare.

“SCHOOL DAZE”

Session Coordinators: Christine Hoppe, Becky Barcheski, Tim Ehgotz, Greg Moore, Angela Phillips

Our Education Session was very eye opening. The class was divided into several groups and visited school and support sites in both Aurora Public Schools and Cherry Creek Schools. Our goal for the day was to learn about the educational offerings in Aurora and experience the education of our children firsthand. Staff and students welcomed us with open arms. They were willing to have us visit classrooms, instructional areas, visit with staff, ask questions about the educational process and watch teachers in action. At the end of the day we all felt that the education of our children is in good hands.

Lunchtime brought us an exciting session with the mayors of Aurora, Denver, Centennial and Greenwood Village. We attended the Aurora Chamber’s Mile High Regional Partnership Luncheon that featured presentations by each of the mayors. The mood was upbeat as each in turn talked about their city’s role in making the metro area the best place to live!

The afternoon session included speakers from several of Aurora’s unique community educational opportunities. These agencies work with members of our community to improve their job skills, provide training and assist them in becoming gainfully employed. Aurora’s system is designed to take the student from preschool to post-retirement in a lifelong learning process. The future of education is in dedicated and passionate hands.



Nancy Hounsom, Callee Meyer, Grant Pearson, David Diehl, and Sam McGhee discuss the challenges of education with Village East Elementary Principal Mark Foseid.

"LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!"

Session Coordinators: Mark Isenburg (Chair), Sam McGhee, Kim Podobnik, Su Ryden, Mitzi Schindler

From the tours of the TV stations to the case study presentation by Chief Terry Jones, Media Day was a great learning experience. The objectives of the day were fully met. We gained an understanding of how leaders can use the media as a tool for reaching their audience; the importance of implementing a strategic media plan as a leader; and taking the first steps in developing skills needed to successfully handle a crisis situation.

Half of our class went to Channel 4 in the morning. The behind the scenes tour at Channel 4 was fascinating. The group met with Jim Benemann and John Montgomery and they were both courteous and informative. In the afternoon, the rest of the class had the pleasure of going to Channel 9 studios and meet Kim Christensen, Adele Arakawa, and Mark Koebrich. Adele spent the most time with us and dispelled every glamorous rumor we thought were true.

Our actual media training was a great learning experience. While there was a group in front of the cameras, other groups got to operate the cameras, sit in the sound room and learn about editing. While this was very memorable for all, Mayor Ed Tauer should be pleased to know that his job is secure and that "Mayor" Kevin Hammons' recall will be starting soon. Kudos' to those in the control room for making it all come together.

The committee who put Media Day together is to be congratulated. The day reflects the excellent spirit of Leadership Aurora - everyone really goes all out to help educate the participants. All we can say is THANK YOU!



Class members get news and views while visiting CBS News Channel 4.



"Developer", Roger Cloyd, presents the proposed development of the "Love Village" to the mock city council.

"WHEEL OF FORTUNE"

Session Coordinators: Rich Allison (Chair), Becky Barcheski, Grant Barrett, Diane Norman, Brent Stark, Mitzi Schindler

At the Economic & Infrastructure Session, our class was introduced to the differences in perspective and goals between developers, city planners, neighborhood associations, and city council members. The morning session provided the class with a variety of information on the history of Aurora, the vision for development, how to attract businesses, and the role of roads, water, and energy.

The information from the morning session helped the class bring the differences of the many constituencies into perspective via a role-play scenario in the afternoon. The class was broken up into four groups: The Developer Group, Neighborhood Group, City Staff Group, and City Council Group. We received training from expert facilitators for the role-play, and then enacted it during the afternoon session.

Class members had the challenge of role-playing the process of approving/denying a "proposed" commercial development. Most of us were surprised at the complexities of the development process. In the end, our mock City Council voted to delay the decision on the development until further issues could be resolved.

"IN THE LINE OF FIRE"

Session Coordinators: Jacob Shirk (Chair), Sam McGhee

Lt. Jake Shirk welcomed us to District One and gave us the overview of Police Day combining the seriousness of the police role with his humorous stories. To have a better understanding of today's Aurora Police Department, Chief Ricky Bennett described the Aurora model as operating the department as a business focusing on crime, quality of life and traffic.

Bringing us full circle from our opening retreat, Lt. Sam McGhee reviewed how the department's strategic business plan incorporated a "forward focus" approach emphasizing teamwork, problem solving and accountability. And right before our eyes, a drug bust! One of our own was set up and experienced a search and seizure. We also visited the jail for lunch and a tour of the facilities.

Our last stop of the day was the police firing range where members of the SWAT Team did a "show and tell" about their department, their weapons, and even the vehicle that is used to store and bring their equipment on site. We saw an incredible demonstration from the police dog and even saw first hand the sound and sight of a flash-bang. How good was our aim? Each of us had the opportunity to fire a semi-automatic weapon at a target and we left proudly carrying our targets.

This was an incredible day packed with information and experiences!



Sue McCarroll gears up for target practice at the Aurora PD shooting range with Lt. Jake Shirk by her side.

“PRIDE AND PRESENCE”

Session Coordinators:

Lt. Col. Buck Buckingham (Chair), Tim Ehgoetz, John Spann

Another excellent leadership experience was offered on our visit to Buckley Air Force Base. Seeing the base and realizing the multi uses of the Buckley property was impressive; the F-16s are even more impressive. During a time of war in Iraq and with terrorism on our minds, our day at Buckley Air Force Base provided an insight into the military that most citizens will not experience. It was effortless to see the leadership of the military and how protecting America is serious business.

Brig. Gen. Mike Edwards was very impressive as a leader. He was clear on what he wanted to communicate with us, supportive of his team and gave the team credit for success of the 140th Wing. Colonel Allen Kirkman also was an example of a military leader that was inspiring and at the same time, down to earth. Even the Colonel has to iron his own shirts.

The highlight of the day was the experience of flying in the KC-135 and witnessing the fueling of the F-16s at 33,000 feet. The leaders we met are people that are those kind of courageous, dedicated Americans we are all proud of everyday and especially now with our current conflict. It was a great experience to meet these leaders as well as experience the day.



Off we go into the wild blue yonder!

“WHERE THERE’S SMOKE, THERE’S FIRE”

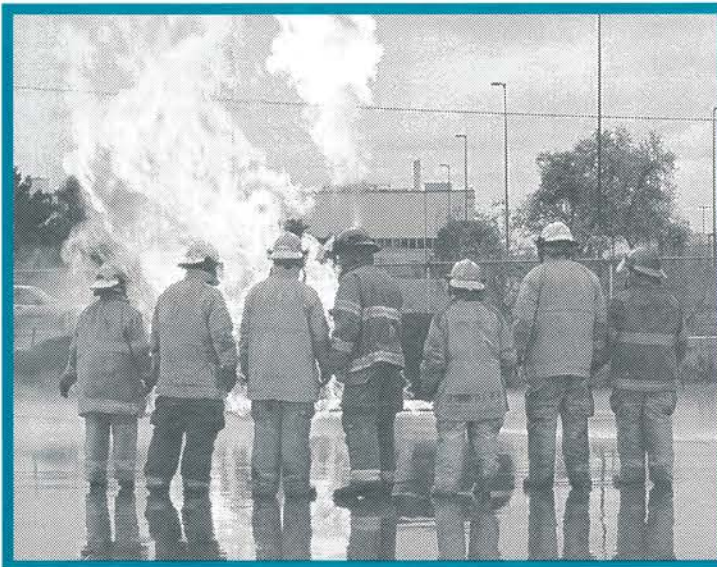
Session Coordinators: Mark Stephenson (Chair), Rich Allison, David Patterson, Brent Stark

Fire Chief Casey Jones welcomed us, and our classmate and Fire Marshal, Kevin Hammons (aka “standup comedian”), provided an overview of the Aurora Fire Department. The incredible statistics combined with the videos that showed how quickly fire spread made us all take notice. Kevin also described several activities of the Department like the Respond and Suppress, Haz-Mat, Technical Rescue and Investigation. In Kevin’s own way, he both entertained us and educated us about our fire department and how each of us makes a difference.

The rest of the morning, Deputy Chief Mark Stephenson taught us about fire behavior through demonstrations using his special concoctions! We learned how fires start and how they are extinguished.

The remainder of the day was spent on the academy drill ground where we put on our bunker gear to experience searching a smoke filled room using thermal imaging equipment, riding up in the “bucket” of a fire truck, sliding down a telfer line attached to a harness from a five story building, touring the Haz-Mat vehicles, using a fire extinguisher and even using the “Jaws of Life” for auto extraction. Then our teams picked up the hoses and actually experienced putting out a fire.

Where There’s Smoke, There’s Fire showed us how important leadership and teamwork skills are in the life of a firefighter. What a great experience.



Red Rover, Red Rover . . .

2004 Class feels the heat and shares the love.



Class Projects



Leadership class members spend time with the children during Community Day while they look through their goodie bags.

"Community Day" - October

What better for Halloween, than to distribute goodie bags to children. As part of our Community Day session we filled bags with items donated by each class member. We were then able to distribute our overflowing goodie bags to the children from the Colfax Community Network.

"Cereal for COMITIS" - November

Class members donated needed boxes of cereal to the COMITIS Crisis Center for their clients.

"Adopt a Family – Holiday Gifts and Food Baskets" - December

The class, in conjunction with Aurora Mental Health, provided gifts and food baskets for the December holiday to families in need. Our generosity along with that of other organizations in the community helped bring the spirit of Christmas to 759 individuals.

"Diapers and Formula" - January

Class members donated diapers and formula for the children in daycare at William Smith High School while their mothers attended classes.

"Gloves for COMITIS" – February

Class members donated gloves to the COMITIS Crisis Center for use by their many clients during the winter months.

"Funds for DAVA" - March

Members pooled money to present a cash donation to DAVA for the purchase of needed supplies. Each dollar donated was matched by The Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado.

"SUNGATE Bowl-a-Thon"

On April 3rd, class members joined in to volunteer and bowl to raise funds for Sungate, a.k.a. Children's Advocacy and Family Resources, Inc. The event raised more than \$650.



John, Mary, Roger, Donna, Holly, Jean, Sue and Les pose for a picture at the Sungate Bowl-a-Thon.




Leadership members and spouses join together to help a great cause.

"Live and Learn" – April

Books were donated to the "Live and Learn" Program which promotes a love of reading for less fortunate children.

"Rebuilding Together"

On April 24th, twenty-two class members and spouses worked together painting, replacing sinks and doors, and cleaning Ms. Sneed's Aurora home. The experience proved to be a great success and team building opportunity. Leadership Aurora was one of 26 business organizations that made the commitment to make a senior's home warm, safe and dry.



2003
2004

Interest Directory

	Aging	Arts / Theater	Chemical Abuse	Child Abuse	Childcare	Community Planning	Econ. Development	Education	Government	Disabled	Health Services	Legal	Mental Health	Recreation	Religion	Small Business	Transportation	Youth Services	Visitor Promotion
Catherine Bedell				•			•	•	•		•						•		•
Mary Beth Brunston		•						•			•		•			•		•	
Roger Cloyd				•		•	•		•			•							
John Cramer			•	•		•	•	•	•					•			•	•	
Christine Deemer		•			•	•								•		•			
David Diehl						•	•		•								•		
Holly Gangell		•				•	•	•									•	•	
Suzanne Ginsburg	•	•									•		•						
Patrick Giron		•		•		•	•	•	•			•		•				•	
Greg Goode			•				•												
Donna Greeley	•							•		•	•			•					
Kevin Hammons						•			•										
Jane Harding		•					•							•					•
Nancy Hounsom	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•		•	•		•		•	•
Marion Jenkins						•	•	•			•				•	•			•
Raymond Dean Jones		•							•			•							
Glenna Kelly		•				•		•			•							•	
Christine Kos	•	•		•		•	•	•				•				•	•		
Sue Ann McCarroll		•		•				•			•			•					
Kerry McGuire	•	•								•	•		•	•					•
Callee Meyer		•				•		•											•
Mary Mulvey		•				•	•		•		•		•			•	•		•
Gregory Parker		•				•	•		•					•			•		
Grant Pearson		•							•					•			•		
Robert Roby		•																	
Jude Sandvall		•				•	•	•	•							•	•	•	•
Mary Beth Sharp		•		•		•	•							•	•			•	•
Kent Smith							•		•					•		•		•	
Susan Snowdon		•		•				•					•		•				
Kim Stuart		•				•	•	•	•								•		•
Ron Timm		•						•	•					•		•		•	•
Julie Werking				•				•			•	•		•					
Kathy Yeager		•		•	•			•			•								
Jean Zambrano		•				•		•			•		•						

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2003 - 2004



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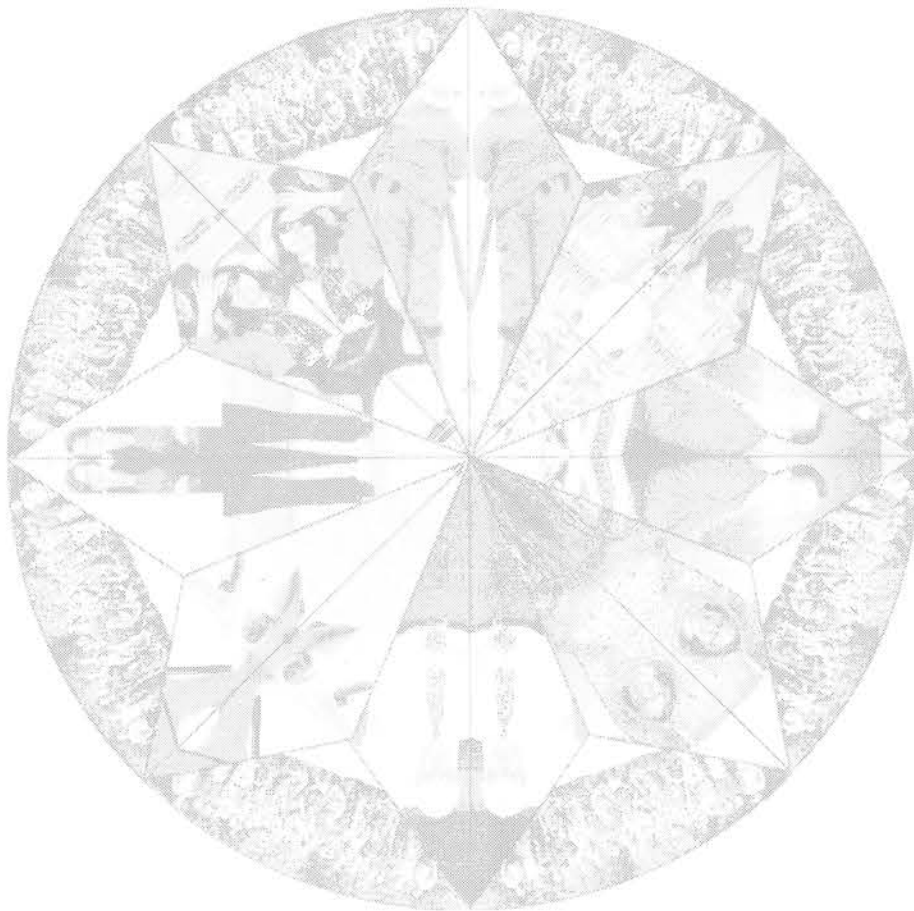
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Serving as "official" class photographers were Holly Gangell, Nancy Hounsom, Marion Jenkins and Christine Deemer. They and other class members took some great candid shots throughout the course of the year. Special thanks to Nancy Hounsom, Marion Jenkins and Kevin Hammons who put the photos on a CD and made them available to each class member.

Thank you, also, to Mario Waller, Six and Six, Inc. for his imaginative design ideas and layout and to Mikel-Gamber Photography for professional services on the individual class photos.



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