



pay
it forward

**"If your actions inspire
others to dream more,
learn more, do more
and become more,
you are a leader."**

— John Quincy Adams

**class of
2009**

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Introduction

Twenty-four years ago, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce introduced "Leadership Aurora" as an effort to inform and educate local community leaders about issues facing our city and to encourage greater community involvement. Each class includes 30-35 Aurora leaders from diverse backgrounds. During the past twenty-four years, over 750 leaders, committed to shaping Aurora's future, have graduated from the program.

Leadership Aurora begins each September with a class retreat that includes leadership seminars, team-building exercises, and social activities. After the retreat, the class meets once a month over the next nine months. Each day-

long session focuses on an issue facing the city of Aurora. Some of the topics include education, healthcare and the local economy. Community leaders from the field of study that month provide the class with valuable information and insight on the subject. As a result, class members learn about the city's strengths and areas that may need improvement.

In addition to participating in the opening retreat and monthly sessions, each Leadership Aurora class completes a project that addresses a specific need of the community while also enhancing a local organization's ability to meet its community support mission.

Today, Leadership Aurora is one of more than 1,000 community programs in the nation. We are 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 guides the program, develops the curriculum and oversees its success.

We congratulate all Leadership Aurora graduates dedicated to serving the Aurora community and influencing its on-going progress toward becoming a world-class city.

Acknowledgements

When you think about Leadership Aurora being in existence for 28 years, it is difficult to appreciate all the hard work the leaders before you put into making your experience today what it is. As in life, the leaders before you pave the way and clear obstacles. They manage situations and create space for new experiences for those lucky enough to follow in their path. They help to create environments that mold the leaders of today.

Thank you to all who carried the responsibility and the task of forming the Leadership Aurora 2009 experience. You could not have done a more complete and genuinely thoughtful job.

The Leadership Aurora Class of 2009 would like to express sincere gratitude to Kimberly Curtis. Without her keen insight, willingness to take chances and untiring persistence, we could never have stayed on top of such an eclectic group and this experience would not have succeeded. What a fearless and tireless leader you are, Kimberly.

The Leadership Aurora Board includes those leaders that have gone before us to help create an experience that the class will take into their future. By providing new and exciting sessions that helped our class learn about the social and economic structures of Aurora, we will be able to lead our fellow business men and women with knowledge,

enthusiasm and compassion. We now know about Aurora's health care system, military presence, civil servant duties, education systems, community programs and non profits and media communications. We thank the board for their search of new and mind expanding experiences. Thanks for offering your connections to the community to expand our knowledge while having fun too. We know how hard that can be so thanks for dedicating your time and effort.

The All-America City, Aurora, has so many leaders that can be found everywhere. Leadership Aurora identifies those leaders that bring Aurora further in its quest to stand out among all other cities. Aurora is a self sufficient and ever expanding community that supplies world class health care, an extensive military and space presence, an excellence in education for students of all ages and a Chamber of Commerce that supports, educates and promotes the businesses in its community to be better and give back to the city that gives so much. The Aurora Chamber of Commerce shows other cities how to manage a rapidly growing and economically diverse population with grace and motivation. These qualities infuse the Leadership Aurora program. We, the Leadership Aurora Class of 2009, are better leaders because of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. Thank you Chamber staff and members for making such a wonderful program available.

The Yearbook Committee has worked long hours and read over so many bios, we consider our classmates as family. We took pleasure in producing a piece of our class to carry our message into the future. Our Yearbook represents who the Leadership Class of 2009 is and reaches out to future leaders. There are many leaders in our community that need a platform to express what they have to offer our great city of Aurora.

Thank you to the entire class of 2009 for your unique insights, your enthusiasm to help so many programs and people in our community and for the delight of everyone's personal style and humor. This was a most memorable year. The friendships and bonds created will remain with us. We are very proud of all that we have accomplished this year and trust we are leaders paying it forward.

WAY TO GO CLASS of 2009!! Good Luck to all the future classes of Leadership Aurora. May you know how fortunate you are!!



Board Chair

Find something you care about. Get involved. Take action.

This was the challenge I shared with you at the retreat in Winter Park in September of 2008 as you were completing the remarkable transformation from a group of strangers to a team ready to move forward and engage the community.

Since then, you have shared many unique experiences, forged lasting friendships, and served your community through a variety of projects. As individuals, and as a group, you found causes in Aurora that touched you, and you responded. You gathered donations to help others through tough times, gave blood to help children enduring incredible physical challenges, and picked up paint brushes to help brighten the surroundings of people



on a difficult journey towards emotional and mental well-being.

Leadership Aurora provides a wonderful opportunity to see and experience facets of this community you may not have had access to otherwise. Hopefully, you will take advantage of the contacts you've made to continue serving in the years to come.

I ask you to reach out to an organization that you've come to care about; ask what you

can do to help. Perhaps you can serve on their board, or organize friends and neighbors to do a small project or two. You now have the knowledge and access to continue your involvement in the community. You can inspire others to join you and lead them into action. You can make a difference.

It has been my privilege, as Chair, to be a mouthpiece for the program and to often

receive credit for the hard work of others. So, I want to recognize the board of 30 talented and dedicated professionals who worked diligently throughout the year to arrange these experiences for you. I want to acknowledge the continuing support of Chamber President Kevin Hougen. And, I also want to thank our Program Director, Kimberly Curtis, for her guidance and support. Kimberly is the heart of Leadership Aurora.

Finally, let me also thank you for all that you have done for this program and for Aurora, and for letting me share this journey with you.

Sincerely,

Mark Isenburg
Chair, Leadership Aurora Board
of Directors, 2008-2009

Leadership Aurora Class
of 2008-09,

It has been an honor to serve as your Class president and it did not take long for me to realize that each and every member of this class would make a unique contribution to the overall success of the program, class undertakings, and endeavors in their service to the Aurora community. It has truly been a pleasure for me to serve in your good company.

I suspect the goodwill and good works of the Class of 2008-09 will continue long past the time we have spent together. All of you have been instrumental in creating leadership within and among the communities you serve. Your contribution to each other in this process is what makes the Leadership Aurora program exceptional.

As individuals each of you brings compassion and understanding for and towards those less fortunate, those who serve their communities and country, either at home or abroad, as well as those who serve as leaders and teachers within and among the Aurora community.



Class President

As a collective the class of 2008-09 became a driving force. Choosing to support projects that required the "human touch" we facilitated the building of a dog run for Gateway Women's Shelter

making it a one of a kind shelter within Colorado. Several class members assumed leadership roles in conducting a blood drive benefiting Children Hospital donating 2.2 gallons of blood and an ongoing class food drive benefiting several Aurora food banks. With the help of family and friends we painted a residential facility at Aurora Mental Health Center's Fitzsimons Treatment Center, distributed hundreds of hygiene bags to Aurora Warms the Night helping to combat the impact of homelessness in Aurora. Our class leadership also served dinner to families residing at Ronald McDonald House, purchased 15 violins for City Strings, a program that provides musical instruction for youth. We also planned and performed a Senior Social at Life Care Center of Aurora. Our class is proposing and is committed to providing ongoing Leadership Aurora alumni support. We hope to engage past and future

Leadership Aurora alumni to participate in continued service to the Aurora community. This may be by contributing to future class endeavors and or Foundation Board projects and community service events. Whatever the need, Leadership Aurora can count on the Class of 2008-09 for support.

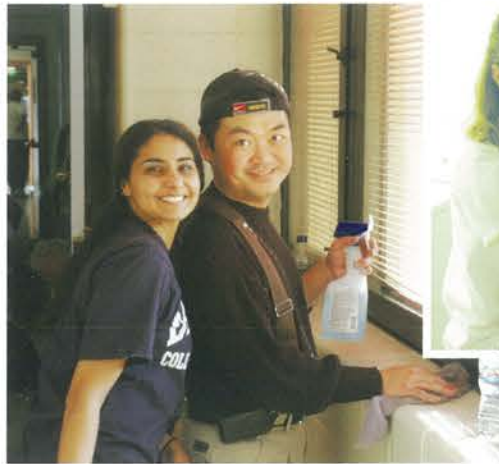
Stepping up to lend a hand or take the lead when necessary is indeed a hallmark legacy. The Class of 2008-09 has worked hard to contribute to this legacy and they have established a meaningful contribution for their efforts. As I look back to meeting with the group for the first time I remember feeling overwhelmed and wondering how would all this get accomplished? All of you have answered that question time and time again by showing up and getting the job done, by reaching out and performing good works on behalf of the Class and Leadership Aurora. Thank you!

With warmest regards your partner in service,

Karen Terry, Class 2008-09
Leadership Aurora Class President

You can tell by the smiles that helping others brings great personal satisfaction and happiness. Whether giving the Aurora Mental Health facility a facelift, providing music (instruments) to students, or supporting the Gateway Women's Shelter . . . we were just happy to help the community.

Class Projects 2009



A facelift for Aurora Mental Health Center



Fifteen violins donated was music to our ears.



Ronald McDonald House

Gateway Women's Shelter Project



Class Profiles 2009

BIRTHPLACE: Denver, CO

EDUCATION: Strasburg High School Graduate (1977); Associate of Arts Degree, Community College of Aurora (1992)

FAMILY: Wife – Barbara; Children – Keith (26), Kevin (23), Kyle (22), and Cameron (13)

HOBBIES: Christian apologetics, playing guitar, golf.

As a leader you are always looking to enhance the qualities and attributes you have, and also, look at the areas that you are deficient as a leader. I hope to take some of the experiences that I've had through the leadership program and integrate them into my leadership skills.



David Adams

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FAVORITE QUOTE: Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

~Jesus Christ

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I plan on taking my new understanding of the different industries we learned about and use that knowledge to assist the Aurora Community to the best of my abilities.

BIRTHPLACE: St. Clairsville, OH

EDUCATION: BS – Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Cincinnati (1999)

FAMILY: My Fiancé, Michele, and our pets Maggie the dog and Mina the cat.

HOBBIES: Sports, Travel, Camping,

FAVORITE QUOTE: "The best way to prepare for life is to begin to live"

~Elbert Hubbard

BIRTHPLACE: Humble, TX

EDUCATION: Paramedic School-Southwest Georgia Technical College, Thomasville GA (2000)

FAMILY: Wife, Jennifer

HOBBIES: Reading, spending time with family

To know that much more about the community that we work in, and therefore are involved in has been an eye opening experience. Knowledge of the community will make me more effective in my role in my job.



Jason Boyd

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FAVORITE QUOTE: "Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it."

~Dwight Eisenhower

Jeremy Bradshaw

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I will continue networking with my community leaders in making our community a better place to live, and encourage others to get involved in their respective communities.

BIRTHPLACE: Beaver, UT

EDUCATION: BS – Business Administration, Southern Utah University (2000); MHA – Master of Healthcare Administration, University of Minnesota (2003)

FAMILY: Wife – Andrea; Children – Jake (5), Will (3), and Tyler (1)

HOBBIES: Sports, Camping, Hiking

FAVORITE QUOTE: "No other success can compensate for failure in the home."

~ David O. McKay

Sylvester Brandon

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As a young professional my experience in Leadership Aurora will be used as a foundation to grasp the big picture! Additionally, as I grow as a professional in Aurora, my experience in Leadership Aurora will give me the core knowledge I need to create partnerships and work effectively within the community.

FAVORITE QUOTE: "Knowledge is Power"
~ William Alexander

BIRTHPLACE: St. Louis, MO
EDUCATION: BS - Communication, Missouri Western State University (2005); MS - Educational Leadership, University of Northern Colorado (2007)
FAMILY: Wife - Kelly, Children - Zoey Remika
HOBBIES: Hanging with the family and friends, watching movies in blu-ray, anything to do with sports

BIRTHPLACE: Lincoln, NE
EDUCATION: BS - Business Administration, Columbia College (summa cum laude), Aurora Campus (1997)
FAMILY: Wife - Marlise; Children - Peyton (6) and Riley (4)
HOBBIES: Spending time with my family, Motorcycling, Reading

First, I plan to use this opportunity for personal growth as a leader within my chosen profession. Second, to educate and inform my fellow Airman of the benefits/opportunities the Aurora community presents. Finally, develop professional relationships/networks with my fellow classmates to hopefully enhance communication within our community.



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FAVORITE QUOTE: "And, this too, shall pass away"
~ Abraham Lincoln

Nancy Corley

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Leadership Aurora has helped me better understand the city and the people who live and work here. This knowledge helps me daily in my job with the City of Aurora, in my interactions with other government entities and analyzing legislation that may affect the citizens of this city. Even more valuable are the relationships I've developed with my thoughtful, inspiring, generous and talented classmates.

FAVORITE QUOTE: "I have always grown from my problems and challenges, from the things that don't work out, that's when I've really learned."

~ Carol Burnett

BIRTHPLACE: Arlington Heights, IL
EDUCATION: BA - Political Science, University of Colorado-Boulder (1999); MA - Public Policy, University of Chicago (2001)
FAMILY: Husband - Ryan and our first child is due in July
HOBBIES: Spending time with family & friends, skiing, camping, watching football & baseball, music, travel

BIRTHPLACE: Denver, CO
EDUCATION: Heritage High School (1975), Littleton; BA-Business, National American University (2000), Denver; Police Command School, Northwestern University (2003); Presently Homeland Security, Denver University
FAMILY: Wife - Patricia; Children - Michael (29), Elizabeth (28), Teresa Leigh (26), Michelle (25); Stepchild - Heather (31); 9 grandchildren
HOBBIES: Gem/Mineral collecting, Coin collecting, Classical/New Age music collection

I plan to stay better connected to the operations and programs of the city and work with those who want to make our community safer and a better place to live.



Randall (Randy) E. Councell

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FAVORITE QUOTE: "I do the very best I know how - The very best I can and I mean to keep so until the end."

~ Abraham Lincoln

Naazlin Dadani

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Leadership Aurora has taught me about the community and the services we offer in our city. If I have questions or concerns, I am more aware of whom to go to for more information and how I may get more involved in certain arenas. Also, utilizing my network of friends for professional and personal growth.

BIRTHPLACE: Mombasa, Kenya
EDUCATION: BA-Communications, University of Colorado (2002); Working on my Masters in Organizational Leadership, University of Denver
FAMILY: Not married, no children
HOBBIES: Traveling, dancing

FAVORITE QUOTE: You must be the change you want to see in the world.
~ Mahatma Gandhi

Dan Davis

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I have learned a deeper appreciation for the vocations of those in fields other than mine through Leadership Aurora. I plan to foster the relationships and experiences for the betterment of the Aurora community.

FAVORITE QUOTE: "Weak minds discuss people; mediocre minds discuss events; great minds discuss ideas."

~ Eleanor Roosevelt

BIRTHPLACE: San Diego, CA

EDUCATION: BA- English and History, UC Davis (1998); MBA- University of Phoenix (2007)

FAMILY: Wife-Briana

HOBBIES: Golf, watching sports, traveling.

I have gained valuable knowledge about the community and the wonderful resources that are contained within. I plan on sharing what I have discovered about Aurora with others to promote the wonderful aspects of the city that so often are ignored.

BIRTHPLACE: Los Angeles, CA

EDUCATION: Masters of Accountancy, University of Denver (1989)

FAMILY: Wife – Lisa; Children – Paul (21), Kevin (20), Jonathan (18), Dominic (15), Michelle (13), Theresa (10), Catherine (7), Anna (5), Gabriel (4), William (3)

HOBBIES: Wife and 10 children (and an occasional round of golf)

Brian DeBoskey

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FAVORITE QUOTE: "A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus."

~ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Tim Huffman

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Leadership Aurora has provided contact with a network of people who, like me, want to make Aurora a better place to live. Together with the other classes, we can make a difference in our city long after this class has been completed. There are so many things to do, let's get busy.

FAVORITE QUOTE: "The key to successful leadership today is influence, not authority"

~ Kenneth Blanchard

BIRTHPLACE: Denver CO

EDUCATION: East High Graduate (1974)

FAMILY: Wife – Dawn; Children – Tegan (23), Caitlin (21)

HOBBIES: Motorcycles, Movies and the History Channel

Although Aurora has always been home for me, it is amazing the number of resources in my backyard. Now I know why I love living in Aurora. The resources and people connected to them are amazing and really making a difference in our community. To me, it is all about the community – they are an extension of our families and reflect who we are. What a nice reflection. The professional and personal relationships that are being developed will be with me for a lifetime.

Najwa Jad

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FAVORITE QUOTE: "Well behaved women rarely make history."

~ Unknown

Hap Legg

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When I applied to Leadership Aurora my hope was to be able to gain exposure to the people, programs and organizations that are vital to the City of Aurora. I also valued the opportunity to meet and work with business and community leaders that could teach and inspire me. I believe, and it has been proven, that Leadership Aurora will help me take a step forward in being able to have a greater impact in my community.

FAVORITE QUOTE: Love is the Strongest Thing

~ Lakai Legg

BIRTHPLACE: Fort Carson- Colorado Springs, CO

EDUCATION: BSBA- Finance, University of Colorado at Denver (1999); Graduate Banking Certification, Pacific Coast Banking School (2007)

FAMILY: Children – Lakai (11), Rece (9) and Ella (5)

HOBBIES: Doing anything and everything with my children, working with youth, attending church, listening to music, dancing, singing, watching movies, reading, board games, camping, running, basketball, football, golf, volleyball, softball, taking part in volunteer projects, being outdoors and anything else that is competitive and helps me break a sweat.

Artie Lehl

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The contacts I have made in both the public and private sectors, coupled with the community resources I've been connected with will provide me with a multitude of opportunities to enhance my ability to succeed in my position as the Manager of Special Projects for the Adams County Housing Authority. From my position it is my responsibility to access resources and pull together collaborations of other affordable housing and economic development agencies to spur on new affordable housing development, retain and enhance existing affordable housing, support economic growth and expand the provision of services to the low and moderate income residents of Adams County which includes north Aurora.

FAVORITE QUOTE: "You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

~ Mahatma Gandhi

BIRTHPLACE: Minneapolis, MN
EDUCATION: BA – Journalism,
Metropolitan State College of
Denver (2002)
FAMILY: Joe (41), Michelle (39),
Christina (36)
HOBBIES: Golf, photography,
snowshoeing

The best is yet to come. It's things you can't see – the underlying current of connections and care that prosper a community. This huge network of people acts quickly to support each others business needs, resources to help those in need, an easy ear to support new ideas bringing innovation to Aurora. I and my class mates are ready to support the Medical Center of Aurora's technology and dedicated staff, Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital's dedication to disabilities experience, Fitzsimons world-class healthcare, Buckley as a pillar of our economic engine, the Children's Hospital healing mission and so many other avenues bringing synergy most needed in this economy.

BIRTHPLACE: Englewood, CO
EDUCATION: BA – International
Relations / Sociology, University
of Denver (1998)
FAMILY: Wife – Brett; Children
– Gary (8) and Patrick (4)
HOBBIES: Camping, Fishing,
Hiking, Hunting, Playing Guitar,
Composing Music, Broncos
Season Tix

Joe Linhoff

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FAVORITE QUOTE: "Beauty is as beauty does."

~The Burning Shore by Wilbur Smith

Al Liu

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I'd like to get more involved in community activities through volunteering, encouraging my staff to participate, and connecting with other community leaders.

BIRTHPLACE: Kaohsiung, Taiwan
EDUCATION: BS – English, Tamkang
University, Taipei, Taiwan (1997), MS –
Hospitality Management, Purdue University,
West Lafayette, IN (2001)
FAMILY: Single
HOBBIES: Movies, Fitness, Hiking, Music

FAVORITE QUOTE: "I have never in my life learned anything from any man who agreed with me"

~Dudley Field Malone

BIRTHPLACE: Santa Fe, NM
EDUCATION: Bachelor of Science, Fresno
Pacific College (1975); Master Divinity,
Fuller Theological Seminary (1985)
FAMILY: Yes
HOBBIES: Foreign Movies, Salsa/
Meringue Dance

As a new resident of Aurora the exposure to the community non-profits, that we were exposed to, will prove to be a great resource as I minister to people in need. The class members have proven to be quite a diverse group of folks with interesting and varied backgrounds and experiences. All in all it has been a rewarding experience.

Joe Mares

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FAVORITE QUOTE: "Pearls do not lie on the sea shore, if you desire one you must dive for it."

~ Oriental proverb

Anthony F. Martin

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Learning about the varied aspects of Aurora has been inspirational. My increased knowledge and exposure of this great community has strengthened my advocacy of Aurora being a great place to live. Having said that, there are also community "needs" that I hope to be part of satisfying. Individually we are but one person...but together we are a community.

BIRTHPLACE: Ilion, NY
EDUCATION: MA– Human Relations,
Oklahoma University (2003); BA
– Sociology, Excelsior College (1996)
FAMILY: Wife – Lee-Ann; Children
– Cassandra (21), Jessica (19)
HOBBIES: Fishing, Hiking, Camping,
Hunting, Walking, Archery

FAVORITE QUOTE: "Git-R-Done" (This can be used in just about every aspect of your life...don't be too serious, just find something important and Git-R-Done)

~ Larry the Cable Guy

Miguel Martinez

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Having been exposed to the incredible range of organizations and activities in the city as well as being part of a such an effective network, Leadership Aurora will allow me to be more effective helping to coordinate efforts in both the newly arrived community as well as the receiving community.

BIRTHPLACE: Peru

EDUCATION: Economics
– University of Lima – Peru

FAMILY: Wife – Chris; Children
– Kevin (22), Alexandra (15)

HOBBIES: Woodworking, reading

FAVORITE QUOTE: "Veni, Vidi, Vinci"
~ Julius Cesar

BIRTHPLACE: Sumner, IA
EDUCATION: High School Graduate (1980); 30 Hours Study at Community College of Aurora; 25 Years Auto Body and Towing Business
FAMILY: 3 "Girls" Weimaraner's
HOBBIES: Golf, Fast Cars, Collecting antiques and militaria

I am honored to experience the unique opportunities the Leadership Aurora program offers. I have shared with my friends and family the diverse community I have explored. My goal is to promote small business as a contributing factor to the success of Aurora with a broader perspective on how economic factors affect operations, employees, and their families.



Pearl Mae Mattox

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FAVORITE QUOTE: "Reach high, for stars lie hidden in your soul. Dream deep, for every dream precedes the goal."

~ Pamela Vaull Starr

Melissa McGahey

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I will be able to help businesses and residents in our community understand what our city has to offer, what services are available to them, why our community operates in the fashion that it does and what we can all accomplish together.

BIRTHPLACE: Denver, CO

EDUCATION: BA – Marketing, Metropolitan State College of Denver; Working sporadically on a Masters in Communication, University of Denver

FAMILY: Single, Children – Dalton (13)

HOBBIES: Traveling, Dancing, Reading, Skiing

FAVORITE QUOTE: "You make the world a better place by making yourself a better person."

~ Scott Sorrell

BIRTHPLACE: Bethesda, MD
EDUCATION: BA- History, Colorado State University (1973); Master of Education- Colorado State University (1978)
FAMILY: Husband – Tom Isaacson; Stepchildren: Meghan (23), Andrew (21); Siblings: Jim, Cathy, Mary, Janet, Ben
HOBBIES: History, International Relations, Current Affairs, Travel, Reading

Leadership Aurora has broadened my understanding of the remarkable agencies that support our community. The wonderful connections I have made through class, classmates, and the community explorations will lead me to my next endeavor. I will continue my involvement with the Art in Public Places Commission, and I look forward to serving the community in new ways.



Jane McGrath

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FAVORITE QUOTE: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

~ Edmund Burke, British House of Commons, 1729-1797

BIRTHPLACE: Denver, CO

EDUCATION: Assoc - Victim Services, CCA (1998); BS- Criminal Justice, Youth Advocacy, Metro State

FAMILY: Husband – Kevin; Children- Brian (36), his wife Julie and his son Trevor (19 months), Patrick (34), Katie (31) and Molly (27)

HOBBIES: Cooking family dinners, walking, gardening, reading and learning.

My plan is to share what I have experienced in an effort to inspire others to learn more about their community. I can also use the knowledge of resources in my work with crime victims. I hope to build on the relationships I have established with other leaders in the community, maintain friendships and continue to network and share information.



Carole A. O'Shea

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FAVORITE QUOTE: "Wisdom, freedom, compassion, diversity and vision; may they be active in our consciousness and lives."

~"Freedom of Spirituality"

Scott Pasternack

Owner, Manager, Salesman, Loan Officer, Janitor and head Schlep. Plus don't forget sleeping security guard!
Pasternacks Pawn Shops Inc.
9745 E. Colfax Ave
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pawnmstr@aol.com
1-888-255-PAWN (7296)
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I plan on being a thorn in the cities side!! No really, I plan on using my new contacts and knowledge to move my industry into the 21st century. I will value my new friendships and this class for the rest of my life!! It was one of the best experiences I have ever had!!!!

BIRTHPLACE: Denver, CO

EDUCATION: The University of Hard Knocks, Gemological institute of America, Diamond Expert

FAMILY: Sometimes when they like me! Divorced, Children – Hunter (13) Logan (10) and Gavin (4)

HOBBIES: I'm very shy and I don't do too much. OK, who am I kidding? I'm up for anything, once. Maybe not skydiving. Who wants to jump out of a perfectly good plane? Really I like Skiing, Football, FOOD, Singing, making a lot of noise.

FAVORITE QUOTE: Ask Not what your country can do for you, Ask what you can do for your country.

~ JFK

BIRTHPLACE: Sedro Woolley, WA

EDUCATION: Associates – Mt. Vernon Community College, WA (1968)

FAMILY: Husband – Ken; Children – Jennifer (37), Scott (36), Brian (35), and Sara (34); Grand children – Brendon (8), Ty (5), Paige (5), and Trevor (3)

HOBBIES: Travel, crafts, reading, playing with the grandchildren

My most favorite is the lasting friendships that I have made with everyone in Class 2009. I love each and every one of you. Learning about my city – all of its flavors is awesome and we still have so much more to learn. I hope to be a great resource for people who need to know more about Aurora, CO and everything it has to offer.



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FAVORITE QUOTE: "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress, Working together is success"

~Unknown (My father taught me this one)

Christian Read

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This experience will allow me to become a stronger advocate for our community. I have made some great friendships through this program and will continue to nurture them. Aurora has been good to me and I will continue to do my part in making this a great place to live and work for my children.

BIRTHPLACE: Pueblo, CO

EDUCATION: Lifelong Process, still at it.

FAMILY: Wife – Tasha; Children – Justin (19), JC (17), Samantha (16)

HOBBIES: Gun collecting, fly fishing, and golf

FAVORITE QUOTE: "Discipline is that which next to integrity sets one man above another."

~ Sgt Dave Bierman, Drill Instructor, USMC

Allen Robnett

Captain, Public Information Officer
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The experience has transformed what I know about leadership from the theoretical to action.

BIRTHPLACE: Aurora, CO

EDUCATION: Colorado Metropolitan Certification Board (1987), Aurora Fire Department Officer Development (1990), ATF Advanced Origin and Cause (1997), FBI Post Blast Investigation (1998), Carl Holmes Fire Department Executive Development Institute (2009)

FAMILY: Wife – Teila; Children – Dominique (22), C'estMoi (20)

HOBBIES: Hunting, Fishing, photography.

FAVORITE QUOTE: "Luck is when opportunity and preparation meet."
~ Unknown

BIRTHPLACE: Knoxville, TN
EDUCATION: BA – Studio Art Major, English/Communications Minor, University of Denver (2007); MBA – Strategic Management, Regis University (2010)
FAMILY: Mother - Frances Scott, Father – Galen Amerson, Brother – Morgan Scott
HOBBIES: Wine, Photography, Running, Chocolate

The knowledge that I have learned about the Aurora community will allow me to be an integral part of a growing community. I will continue to be an active participant and be a positive instrument in its development. I believe most importantly that I will continue to keep the friendships and contacts I have made. The entire experience has been amazing and eye opening. I hope to continue being a part of Leadership Aurora and in time give someone the same opportunity that was awarded to me.



Maggie Q. Scott

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FAVORITE QUOTE: "If ever there is a tomorrow when we are not together there is something that you must always remember, you are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think, but the most important thing is, even if we are apart...I will always be with you"

~ Winnie the Pooh

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My application of learning from Leadership Aurora will influence professional and interpersonal relationships with everyone I come into contact with. Hopefully setting an appropriate example of leadership and compassion.

BIRTHPLACE: Bronx, NY

EDUCATION: BS – Behavioral Science, Denver Metro State; MSW – Smith College School of Social Work

FAMILY: Children: Suquana, Kenya

HOBBIES: Marine fish keeping, camping, fishing, biking

FAVORITE QUOTE: "When I dare to be powerful to use my strength in the service of my vision then it becomes less important whether I am afraid"

~ Audre Lord

BIRTHPLACE: St. Louis, MO
EDUCATION: BS in Forestry, University of Missouri (1977)
FAMILY: Wife – Terry; Children – Madison (15), Morgan (15)
HOBBIES: Travel, working out, the outdoors, swim meets with my daughters, spending time with family and friends.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this Leadership Aurora Class. It is hard to believe that a group of 35 strangers could come together like we have and become such good friends. I truly believe these friendships will last a lifetime and extend into future successes involving the City of Aurora.



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FAVORITE QUOTE: "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

~ Martin Luther King Jr.

Darryl Varnado

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The inter-active experience shared with my classmates is invaluable. I will remain in communication with my classmates beyond the dates of the class. I will seek volunteer opportunities to serve the Aurora community and its citizens.

BIRTHPLACE: New Orleans, LA
EDUCATION: BS - University Of Colorado (1974);
MS - University of Colorado (1976)
FAMILY: Wife - Deborah; Children - Angelique (35)
HOBBIES: Biking, Hiking, Photography and Camping

FAVORITE QUOTE: "The only things we ever keep are what we give away."

~ Louis Ginsberg

BIRTHPLACE: Lakeville, MN
EDUCATION: BA - Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration/Political Science, Saint Mary's College, Minnesota (1986); MAPA - Master of Arts in Public Administration, Northern Illinois University (1989)
FAMILY: Husband - Art; Children - Alek (11), Jasha (9)
HOBBIES: Reading, travel, sports (watching and playing), music (listening and playing), hiking

Leadership Aurora provides a wonderful opportunity to make connections that have helped me so much both personally and professionally; I can envision drawing upon these connections for years in the future. This experience has resulted in vastly increased knowledge about community organizations and many ways I can contribute to the community.



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FAVORITE QUOTE: "Breathe"

~ Melissa Etheridge, Faith Hill, Michelle Branch, and others

Jim Young

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My job requires working and interfacing with community leaders. This class has helped me establish contacts and friends across a broad spectrum of people in Aurora. I will be able to contact these people when I have questions or issues requiring experts outside my office. The class camaraderie we have developed has increased my knowledge of my classmates' expertise.

BIRTHPLACE: Fargo, ND
EDUCATION: BS - University of Washington (1971); MBA - Troy State (1981)
FAMILY: Wife - Charlyn; Children - Jennifer (36), Kris (33), and Brian (28)
HOBBIES: Hunting, fishing, mountain climbing

FAVORITE QUOTE: Don't sweat the small stuff.

~Unknown

BIRTHPLACE: Mason City, IA
EDUCATION: BSOT - St. Ambrose University (1996)
FAMILY: Children - Jessica (5) and Grady (3)
HOBBIES: Running, Sewing, Eating good food and drinking good wine.

The exposure to industries outside of health care has had the most impact on me through this program. I've thoroughly enjoyed meeting others from the community and gaining perspectives that are outside of my comfort zone. I plan to maintain those contacts and continue to find ways to serve.



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FAVORITE QUOTE: "Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any one thing"

~Abraham Lincoln

2009

Opening Retreat

CREATING AN EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

What is a Leadership Retreat? How will this class make me a better leader? For that matter who and what exactly makes a great leader? And furthermore, what distinguishes a good leader from a great one?

On our drive up to the retreat, we couldn't help but think of these things. Would we neatly place "leadership" into a box so in the future we could point to it and say, "Yes, we are leaders. Just look at all the things we have in our leadership box!"

We weren't sure how the weekend was going to play out, and we kept telling ourselves, "Just go with the flow...we were selected for a reason." It did put our minds at ease to have classmates as travel companions. That was the beginning of making those invaluable "connections". We still pondered - Would we know anyone? Would we fit in? Would we be able to bring something to this class? How are we going to get to know everyone in just a few short days? The apprehension was tantamount!

The questions continued to spin until Sam McGhee, opening presenter, stood up and gave the class our opening exercise. "Please stand up, take the talking stick and tell us your name, and what is missing in your life, and what your greatest fear is. I will go first ..."

Wow! We're going to have to tell all of these people we don't know what our greatest fear is and what is missing in our lives! This was the first test for each of us as a leader. This taught us how we attacked problems or how we avoided questions. They weren't joking around!



Leadership Aurora Class of 2009

We hit the ground running! One by one we stood up, and we learned what connected us.

Our introduction to one another set the tone for leadership research and breakthroughs. Managing and leading are different. Normalized deviance can corrode an organization. Changing the organizational culture has a hard and soft side. Goals should be specific, measurable, agreed to, reality based, and time phased. True buy-in comes after implementation when people have experienced the results of the change. Effective leaders reset the scale to zero.

Each activity was just as challenging as the first. From our enthusiastic game of "Claim to Fame Bingo", to the mute leading the blind, from sharing personal reactions with partners, to the election of class president Karen Terry, each interaction taught us a little more about ourselves and one another. And just as we started to fade, the emergence of squirt guns energized us and kept us laughing.

We may have arrived as strangers, but we left as friends. The Class of 2009 was now a little wiser about what leadership is, who we are as leaders, and excited about the great possibilities ahead of us.



“Communication, Communication, Communication”

In October, 2008 the Leadership Aurora Class Media Day provided for an engaging and thought provoking experience. The day began at the Aurora Municipal Center with a mock press conference by Deputy Chief Terry Jones of the Aurora Police Department. Class members role-played media representatives and were able to ask Chief Jones questions about a mock homicide investigation. This was not only a fun experience but a valuable learning experience.

After the mock press conference, class members were shuttled to the CBS 4 KCNC-TV news station where we toured the station and interacted with Tom Mustin, the morning and noon news

anchor and the production staff. The highlight of the morning was viewing part of the noon telecast with anchors Brooke Wagner and Tom Mustin. What a great team!

Upon returning to the Aurora Municipal Center, class members personally experienced different aspects of a studio production. The hands on role play included observing the control room in action, running a studio camera, and being interviewed on camera. Talk about intimidating...but it surely readied us all for future media interactions and interviews.

The day concluded with a PR Media exercise with members of the media



and police department highlighting their experiences during the recent Democratic National Convention. This was simply another example of leadership and teamwork combining to generate spectacular results. A great time was had by everyone.



“In the Line of Fire”

Its one thing to read about the police department and the problems and challenges they face, but quite another to actually spend some time with its officers and commander to understand them better. The broad overview we received from Chief Dan Oates during his presentation highlighted the many improvements and changes that have been implemented since his arrival and the invaluable work they do for the City of Aurora.

We were able to observe a department with a hands-on chain of command that is highly trained, very demanding and dedicated. One of the things that impressed us the most was the professionalism and level of training and expertise among the officers.

As for our class, we learned a lot. I can safely say that all of us were impressed by the work the officers did during the DNC convention and the investigation of the Obama threat. It was very comforting as a citizen of Aurora to hear how well regarded our officers are among other

police departments. The communications center was also remarkable. I think that the general consensus was that it takes a very special person to work in that environment.

Although the weather was very cold, it didn't deter the enthusiasm or participation of the class members. The faces of those few among us brave enough to face the police dogs were priceless. Also, having the opportunity to see the equipment the SWAT team uses on a routine basis was also remarkable. The opportunity to fire the SWAT assault rifles was also exciting. All of us got to fire a number of rounds. The SWAT officers were very kind and patient as well as good instructors since most of us managed to get at least one round to hit the target!

That day was a great experience and allowed us to see one of the most efficient and highly trained police departments in the country in action. This is a great example of our tax dollars at work!

“Tomorrow's Leaders”

We began Education Day at Gateway High School in our traditional breakfast networking fashion. It was great to see our classmate Jim Young with us again. Jim had recently undergone major surgery, but appeared in great shape and back to his old self.

Dr. Linda Bowman, President-Community College of Aurora, opened Education Day with a presentation that included statistics regarding the state of the global economy. Dr. Bowman encouraged us as leaders to become active in education initiatives and be aware of how integrated and dependent the United States economy is impacted by the global market. We were also graciously welcomed and entertained by the Gateway High School Olympian Choir. We felt right at home as we transitioned to the inspirational panel discussion of high-performing Gateway students. We learned that the youth of Aurora are indeed capable and impressive.

We toured the building of Prairie Middle

School with our student hosts and hostesses. We were impressed by the culturally diverse backgrounds of the student body. Dr. Kandy Cassidy, Principal, shared with us how Prairie Middle School is “pushing kids ahead of the curve . . . while striving for equity and excellence.”

In the words of Dr. Mary Chesley, Superintendent for Cherry Creek Public Schools, “Good ideas attach and multiply.” She shared with us the vision, mission, and values of the schools in the district. To get the best return on education investment is to fully engage students. Dr. Chesley closed the session by saying our investment in Leadership Aurora is invaluable.... we aim to prove her right!

We spent the afternoon at Pickens Technical College where we were hosted by Tim Ehgotz, Dean of Students. Their goal is to provide adult and high school students with opportunities to acquire state-of-the-art skills and knowledge that will help them succeed.



During our visit we learned about plants, animals, auto mechanics, cosmetology, health sciences, precision machining, and welding. PTC is truly living their mission: preparing students to be employable for life.

“World Class Healthcare In Aurora”

Upon arriving bright and early, class members assumed numerous disabilities often treated at Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital. Limping, rolling in wheelchairs, blind or deaf, we became dependent on caregivers (or each other) just to eat breakfast. The Five Wishes brought home the need for final directives and the moral equivalent of our dying wishes.

Wonder where first responders get their qualifications? The Community College of Aurora's (CCA) disaster simulator with café, alley, living room, bar or nursing home environments train the men and women of Colorado's fire, police and ambulance services in real-life situations. CCA's road-side café can instantly become a disaster scene with smoke, sound, and cardiac events.

Class members were then split into two groups, one visiting The Medical

Center of Aurora - South Campus, the other going to University of Colorado Hospital. Dressed in surgical-gowns, the group at TMCA met “da Vinci” - The Medical Center of Aurora's robotic-assisted surgery device. Physicians remotely move da Vinci's arms to the surgery site for cardiac, cancer, urology and other operations. Surgical robotics, a medical curiosity until 1998, help improve clinical outcomes and bring patients an earlier return to productive lives.

Half of the group visiting University of Colorado Hospital participated in a ‘table top’ exercise that simulated how a hospital might respond to a disaster; the other half went to the Burn Unit where they were gowned and participated in simulated front-line emergency care delivered to a burn victim, i.e. a computerized mannequin who had been



programmed for the burn scenario.

The day concluded with the entire class reconvening to report on what they had learned. Those participating learned much about the skills, commitment and dedication of those in the medical field, as well as the enormity of medical services in our Aurora community.



Community Day was a day of opening the eyes of our class to the critical workings of “non-profits” in our community. Who would have thought we had so many organizations working to better our residents, our businesses, and our quality of life here in Aurora?

“Community Ties and You”

It is easy to go day-to-day to your job, your family life and such, and forget about the struggles many individuals are having in our community...whether it is finding shelter, food or education.

The non-profits of the Aurora community are working overtime these days to handle the increasing demand for their services. Our class started the day out at the Salvation Army with donations of holiday toys for the kids and to listen to the history of the organization. From there we were lead into different classrooms to help the children create ornaments. After that the class was divided into groups and everyone left to visit two assigned non-profit agencies.

At the end of the day we all put together skits to describe our experiences and to bring awareness to the different organizations around the city. Many classmates are convinced that Aurora stands alone in the field of Non-Profits. Our non-profit organizations seem to be operating so efficiently and compassionately throughout our great city to help our communities and our people. Learning how the organizations operate, and execute their strategies brought understanding and awareness to our Leadership Aurora class. Aurora Rocks! If you haven't been involved with an Aurora non-profit...please get involved! Our eyes are now open to the great need.

“Pride and Presence”

On a “coolness” scale of 1-10, 10 can be described as “refueling an F-16 fighter at 20,000 feet over the Sangre de Cristo Mountains”. As the climax to a high-energy day at Buckley Air Force base, class members spent three hours in a KC-135 refueling jet, taking part in a training mission with a crew from Oklahoma, flying south toward Pueblo and Alamosa and refueling a team of F-16 fighters before returning to base.

The day began with briefings from Major General Mike Edwards, Colonel Gregg Parker from the Colorado Air National Guard, and Colonel Pete Byrne with the 460th Space Wing.

The class piled on a bus for a “Windshield Tour” of the base with a stop at

the newly-constructed, non-denominational base chapel and a drive-by of the famous Buckley “golf balls”, or satellite dishes. Lunch was at Newtch's Den, a dining facility for base personnel.

After lunch, the group took a bus ride to the KC-135, received a safety briefing, and it was off into the Wild Blue Yonder for the air-to-air refueling mission. One by one, class members were allowed to watch the flight from just behind the pilots' seats in the cockpit, or to lie down alongside the Boom Operator in the rear of the plane and watch as the F-16's were refueled.

The ride was loud, uncomfortable, shaky and thrilling in a way none of us will ever forget!





"The Making Of An All-America City"

Somehow, it seemed appropriate that Economic Day should be held on the coldest, gloomiest day of the year. Given the current economic climate, there probably isn't a Chamber President in America who can look you in the eye and say in good conscience: "Things are good". And while things are not exactly booming in Aurora, our Chamber President, Kevin Hougen, kick-started the day by sharing a picture of Aurora's economy that is at least ahead of the national curve. In Mr. Hougen's estimation, the "baby bust" of Generation X (50 million vs. 77 million born during the Baby Boom generation) has created a loss of both consumers and laborers and has helped to create a nationwide economic slowdown.

Paul Suss, owner of Suss Pontiac and host of the morning session, then discussed the Havana Business Improvement District. The new "On Havana" district, stretching from Dartmouth to Sixth Avenue, is comprised of motivated business owners banding together to move Havana businesses

into the future with vitality and character. Next on the agenda was a trip across the street to the new Gardens on Havana (formerly Buckingham Square) where class members learned about CAM's (common area maintenance), triple-nets (CAM's, taxes and insurance) and the inner workings of the American Rose Society from Gayle Jetchick, Executive Director of the Havana Business Improvement District.

From the Gardens, we were off to Aurora's newest shopping mecca at Southlands where we spent three hours at a University of Phoenix satellite office. Krista Sprenger discussed the Horizon Uptown project at I-70 and E-470. The Denver metro area has clearly begun its inevitable, eastward sprawl. And, Karen Gilkey from Southlands Mall gave us some perspective on the truly cutting-edge nature of Aurora's newest shopping community.

After a very competitive game of Aurora Jeopardy, we headed for Wagner Equipment and a presentation from



Bob Barrows, Vice President of their International Division. Even though it was cold and rainy, we couldn't pass up the opportunity to go outside and play in the mud on some heavy equipment.

The day ended as every Leadership Aurora day should, with Happy Hour. Our ever-generous friend Al from Mt. Fuji, offered to split the proceeds from Happy Hour with the Chamber Foundation, to help with Leadership Aurora scholarships, garnering the well-deserved biggest ovation of the day.



"Where there's Smoke, there's Fire"

Where there is smoke there is fire..... and was there fire! The Leadership Aurora Class, all decked out in their bunker gear, had their final class at the Rocky Mountain Fire Academy. What an amazing experience! While we first learned about the mystery of fires, what makes them burn, how long can they burn, what can be a source of ignition, and what are common problems that the department faces in the community; we had a better

understanding of the science behind this adventurous career.

Along with the experience we had, the Leadership class was able to see the training facility that the City of Denver and Aurora share. The intensive training that each firefighter goes through provides them with the needed skills to ensure their success and the safety of the community. This elite class of students goes through a rigorous training curriculum with real-life scenarios to prepare them to become a firefighter. A sense of passion for helping citizens of Aurora was evident in each and every student fire fighter at the academy.

But it was the experience of being a "firefighter for a day" that will register most with the Leadership class. From putting out a dumpster fire, to coming down a four story building on a telfer line, taking a ride in the "engine bucket", to doing a search and rescue in a smoke-filled home and learning how to use the gear and terminology. It was the amazing experiences that each of us had that will not be forgotten. We now have a better appreciation of the hard work that our firefighters do every single day. So the next time we see a fire engine fly by with sirens blaring, we will all know how much energy, work, passion and heart our City of Aurora Heroes - the Firefighters- have!



Playing Together

We began our year with a family picnic so our families could meet who we would be spending so much time with over the next 10 months. Further, we wanted to include the community and those businesses who support the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, so we held events at **Rack Em'**, a pool hall that joined because we held an event at their establishment, the **Shadow Theater**, a wonderful jewel located off of Colfax that we fell in love with, and salsa dancing at **First Presbyterian Church** where we were able to include community members. We had a dinner night with Al Liu at his **Mt. Fuji's Restaurant** in **Southlands**, which was a great success! Al

has opened his heart to our class and has given so much back to Leadership Aurora, we have had several events at his restaurant. In an effort to continue the theme of "Paying it Forward", the Social Committee wanted to give back to our community, so for one of our spring events we partnered with the **Life Care Center of Aurora**. While at the **Life Care Center**, we played card games, styled hair and served strawberry short cake to residents. The residents and staff were so excited to host us and look forward to being a continued part of Aurora. Overall our social committee did a great job and we've made friends for life playing together!



Social Committee

Maggie Scott, Chair
Scott Pasternack, Co-Chair
Alan Antolak
Nancy Corley
Naazlin Dadani
Hap Legg
Artie Lehl
Joe Mares
Sandie Preuss
Christian Read
Mark Turley
Darryl Varnado
Michelle Wolfe

Yearbook Committee

Melissa McGahey, Chair
Tony Martin, Co-Chair
Dan Davis
Joe Linhoff
Al Liu
Najwa Jad
Miguel Martinez
Scott Pasternack
Allen Robnett

Project Committee

Randy Councell, Chair
Tim Huffman, Co-Chair
David Adams
Alan Antolak
Jason Boyd
Michael Bruno
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Najwa Jad
Artie Lehl
Pearl Mattox
Carole O'Shea
Scott Pasternack
Brandon Sylvester
Mark Turley
Jim Young
Sarah Young

Graduation Committee

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Jane McGrath, Co-Chair
Adams David Adams
Jeremy Bradshaw
Randy Councell
Brian DeBoskey
Tim Huffman
Al Liu
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Carole O'Shea
Sandie Preuss
Christian Read
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Jim Young

Photography Committee

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Michael Bruno
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Jason Boyd, Co-Chair
Jeremy Bradshaw
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Michelle Wolfe is
"Keeper of the Book"

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Jason Boyd						➔							➔				➔		
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Michael Bruno				➔					➔		➔	➔				➔	➔	➔	
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IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN DONE WITHOUT YOU!!



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