



# 25 years of ... Plunging into our Community

**Class of 2010**

*"I have been impressed with the urgency of doing. Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Being willing is not enough; we must do."*

— Leonardo da Vinci



UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO HOSPITAL

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**University of Colorado Hospital**

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# Introduction

*What do K-9 units, non-profits, Colfax, F-16's, large and small local businesses, excavators, City Council Chambers, fire gear, smart boards, green screens, CPR and volunteering all have in common?*

They are all components of an impactful leadership class that exposes our community leaders to a diverse and varied view of our city!

Twenty-five years ago, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce introduced the "Leadership Aurora" program in an effort to promote and foster the development of leadership in our community. The program educates local leaders from diverse backgrounds about our city and prepares them for greater community involvement. Since its inception, over 800 people, committed to shaping the future of Aurora, have graduated from the program.

Leadership Aurora begins each September with a class retreat that includes social activities, team building exercises, and leadership seminars. After the retreat, the class meets once a month for the next nine months. Each daylong session is centered on a community theme such as education, healthcare, or a facet of our urban infrastructure. Community leaders conduct each session and provide information through presentations, activities that involve class participation, and open dialogue with class members. Class members learn about the city's strengths and challenges. In addition to the monthly sessions, each Leadership Aurora class chooses a project (or projects) and endeavors to help local organizations in their efforts as they address the needs of the community.

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 steers the program, develops the curriculum and oversees its success.

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

The Leadership Aurora Class of 2010.

## Acknowledgements

The Leadership Aurora Silver Anniversary class of 2010 is very grateful for having had the opportunity to be led, and taught by, such a fine group of individuals.

First, we would like to thank the Aurora Chamber of Commerce – whose support makes this class possible.

A thousand thanks to the Leadership Aurora Board. This isn't just a "board" – this is an active group of individuals who took their time to enrich our professional and personal lives by immersing us into unique opportunities within this community. Their planning and implementation was effective from start to finish. They started with an impactful class retreat, filled with funny and memorable activities to bond the group and encourage us to move forward in our newest adventure. They continued as they maximized our monthly classes and helped us get a taste of our community through dozens of unique activities. Thank you for your dedication to the leaders of Aurora.

One of our classmates joked at the retreat that her job was like "herding cats." Kimberly Curtis, Leadership Aurora Program Director, has done just that. She has kept not only the whole group, but all of the various sub-committees, on task and on focus for the duration of the class with patience and professionalism. Thank you Kimberly!! Love, the 2010 cats.

The sessions that we experienced were varied: Community programs, non-profits, police, fire, EMS, healthcare, education, military presence, media & communications, economic, and infrastructure awareness. The Leadership Aurora program has given us a comprehensive view of our community.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to those organizations and companies that opened their doors, their staff, and their training to our class this year. Without you, the program would be lifeless. Thank you for sharing your time, expertise, and energy with our class.

This program is unique in its scope. It enriches and builds our community by creating ties and connections as it helps network leaders within the community. This network creates leadership strength and cohesion, which, in turn, strengthens Aurora. Thank you again for supporting this extraordinary program.





# Board Chair

This has been another exceptional year for the Leadership Aurora Program! Despite the existence of difficult and uncertain economic times, the Class of 2010 has continued to preserve the Program's long history of delivering service to our community.

Every year - since the Program's inception twenty-five years ago - each Class has been presented with an opportunity to enhance its knowledge about our wonderful city. And as leaders, they are encouraged to become more involved in the development of our community. While the Leadership Aurora Board is responsible for providing community insight to class members, it is the Class that determines by what means the community will be served.

This is what makes each Leadership Aurora Class unique unto itself, the innate ability of



class members to pull together resources and skills to serve a common good. For those that engross themselves in such a venture, it is a process that brings about life changing results - not just for those whose lives are impacted by the efforts of a Class, but also a life changing experience for each class member. It is a process that unites a group of individual leaders to serve its community; and unites a community behind those that are less fortunate. I am so proud of this Program and the way that it promotes leadership!

The Class of 2010 is to be commended for its efforts, which are well documented within these pages. But what will be less apparent within the contents of this book is the tremendous work done behind the scenes to keep the program running. I am grateful and wish to thank our

Program Director - Kimberly Curtis and the members of the 2009-10 Board of Directors for the exceptional work they put into each and every class session!

Serving as the Board Chair this past year has been an honor. I feel fortunate to have been granted the opportunity. I am thankful for being allowed to serve!

When I reflect on my entire involvement with the Leadership Aurora Program, I am reminded of a line spoken in the 2004 movie release of "Troy." In the movie, two of the characters were having a discussion, when one remarked to the other, "Sometimes you need to serve in order to lead." I look forward to Leaders serving our community for many more years to come. Happy 25th Anniversary Leadership Aurora!

Marcus Dudley, Jr.  
2009-10 Leadership Aurora Board Chair

## 2010 Class President

Greetings to all,

This has been a phenomenal year! I have had the pleasure serving as this year's Leadership Aurora Class president and the experiences, expertise, uniqueness, humor and support of each individual class member has made this year very enjoyable.

The contributions the class has made to impact the community started from the very first day when virtually 30 strangers came together to form your 2010 Leadership Aurora Class. The atmosphere was filled with enthusiasm, interest, energy and yet a bit of apprehension. The apprehension quickly dissipated!

The compassion and humanitarian efforts were overwhelming with numerous community service activities. Our efforts impacted a wide range of age groups in the community. "Resetting our Zero" the class members dove right in and volunteered for the "Kids against Hunger program" forming an assembly line and packaged 60,000 meals for families in need. The next step on our journey, as a collective group, was to become demolition and renovation experts where we supported the efforts of renovating the "Boys Hope Girls Hope home". Working side by side with girls and boys, class members completed two days of interior renovation and upon completion

it was refreshing to see a beautiful and safe home for each of these boys and girls. Many class members, family and friends supported the Bennie Goodwin Bowl-A-Thon. This fundraising effort supports an after school program for young African American boys. After bowling our last game, I am happy to report the participants raised \$950 on behalf of the 2010 Leadership Class. Before we knew it, the holidays were upon us and the class became an intricate part supporting the Leadership Aurora Board in the distribution of holiday baskets and gifts cards to families that would otherwise go without meals for the holiday season. We ended 2009 with an exuberant amount of energy and sense of accomplishment, but our journey had only just begun.

The class continued onward and upward dedicating themselves to becoming even more interlaced in the community by taking



on the project of renovating, designing and beautifying a unique transitional Veterans Home for homeless male veterans. This project took great resourcefulness, labor, marketing and support from all class members. The outpouring of donations from the community was outstanding and we are most grateful to our friends in the community! The many hours of planning, designing, and staging was finally completed by a terrific grand opening which exhibited the depth, passion and commitment of the 2010 class.

It has been a privilege to serve as the 2010 Class President. Gaining new friendships, supporting children's educational and residential programs, and impacting the lives of many veterans have humbled me professionally and personally. As we continue to move forward, I encourage the future Leadership Aurora classes to invest their hearts, energy and human touch in each endeavor as did the class members of 2010 in making Aurora a better place to live!

Peace to all,

Antoinette Dow, Class 2009-2010  
Leadership Aurora Class President



# Class Profiles

# 2010

## Chad Argentar



### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"There are two types of people in the world: those who like Neil Diamond and those who don't."*

— Bob Wiley, from the movie *"What About Bob?"*

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City of Aurora - Department of Planning  
and Development Services  
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Leadership Aurora revealed so many wonderful non-private organizations, public and private institutions and businesses which serve our community and do amazing work. As the City of Aurora's Economic Development Specialist, it helped me move beyond statistics, figures, maps and lists, and see in person what's really going on in all sectors of Aurora...and made me even more proud to be part of this great city.

**BIRTHPLACE:** Chicago, IL

**EDUCATION:** M.A. - Urban & Regional Planning, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1998 / M.S. - Southeast Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1998 / B.A. - Geography, UCLA, 1993

**FAMILY:** Wife / One daughter

**HOBBIES:** Camping / Skiing / Yoga / Krav Maga / Buying more books than I read

## Tawney Bass



### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"Try not to become a man of success, but rather, try to become a man of value."*

— Albert Einstein

*Events Coordinator  
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My experiences in Leadership Aurora have enriched my appreciation of my community. I will not look at my job, my home or my recreation in the city in the same way that I did before Leadership Aurora. The connections that I have made will serve me well and will allow me to serve my city more effectively.

**BIRTHPLACE:** Denver, CO

**EDUCATION:** Metropolitan State College, Denver, CO

**FAMILY:** Three grown children and a dog

**HOBBIES:** Painting with watercolors and oils

## Richard Charles, Sr.



### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"Success is measured by one's ability to overcome numerous opportunities to fail."*

— Richard Charles

*Director of the Institute of Science and  
Technology  
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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. This gives us un-tethered access to local leaders and organizations which will, in turn, position us to have more of an impact on changes within our community.

**BIRTHPLACE:** Port of Spain, Trinidad

**EDUCATION:** Ph.D. - Applied Mathematics, University of Colorado at Boulder, In Progress / M.S. - Applied Mathematics, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1995 / B.A. - Mathematics, City University of New York, 1992

**FAMILY:** Wife / 3 Children

**HOBBIES:** Music / Technology / Travel / Flying

## Luc Cisna



### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"Calm like a bomb."*

— Zack de la Rocha

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My eyes have been opened to new resources, professionals, and evolution of ideas that exist in Aurora. I will apply this new knowledge to my personal development and building relationships.

**BIRTHPLACE:** Des Moines, IA

**EDUCATION:** Master of Information Systems, University of Phoenix, 2010 / M.B.A., University of Phoenix, 2008 / Bachelor of Science in General Biology, Fort Lewis College (Cum Laude distinction), 1999

**FAMILY:** One of six children, with LOTS of nieces and nephews!

**HOBBIES:** Skiing / Snowboarding / Soccer / Music



## Patti Cummings



### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"Some of us exist to serve as an example to others of what NOT to do."*

— Unknown

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Network)  
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In my Leadership Aurora interview, I stated that I always want to leave my mark in the community. This experience has provided me with a profound insight into how and where I can achieve that goal.

BIRTHPLACE: Alamogordo, NM

EDUCATION: M.S.W., Colorado State University, 2005 / B.B.A.- Business Administration, Wichita State University (LONG time ago)

FAMILY: Partner; Children - 3 four-legged versions

HOBBIES: Chocolate / Hiking / Snowshoeing / Bicycling / Chocolate / Working out

## Scott Davis



### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"It is better to err on the side of daring than the side of caution."*

— Alvin Toffler

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Leadership Aurora has been a great experience and I plan to bring about change in the world around me by impacting one person at a time each day!

BIRTHPLACE: Orange County, CA

EDUCATION: M.B.A., University of Phoenix, Denver, CO / B.A., Rollins College, Winter Park, FL

FAMILY: Wife / Children - too many

HOBBIES: I don't have any hobbies, I have kids.

## Chelsea DeChaine



### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"Being happy doesn't mean that everything is perfect. It means that you've decided to look beyond the imperfections."*

— Unknown

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The Leadership Aurora Program has provided me with knowledge about Aurora. I have developed many community contacts through the class, Board, my classmates, and the community exploration sessions. I plan to utilize this information to promote Aurora. I will maintain my relationship with my new contacts to better my career and the community I live in.

BIRTHPLACE: San Jose, CA

EDUCATION: Certified Insurance Service Representative

FAMILY: 2 dogs, Milenko and Eva

HOBBIES: Dancing / Remodeling my home / Going to movie sneak previews / Snowboarding

## Antoinette Dow



### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"If we all did the things we are capable of doing, we would literally astound ourselves."*

— Thomas Edison

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This experience has been priceless as I have met and become friends with individuals that I never would have met otherwise - and have become close to in a short period of time. The opportunity given to explore new businesses, agencies and to support my fellow classmates has been phenomenal.

BIRTHPLACE: Denver, CO

EDUCATION: M.P.H. - Public Health, Denver University, CO / B.A. - Health Promotion Management, Hastings College, NE / COTA - Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant, Ft. Morgan, CO

FAMILY: Married with 2 children

HOBBIES: Traveling / Skiing / Watching movies with my family / Cooking

## Rich Duston



### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"Give us a kiss, lovely!" (best said with a very poor British accent whilst jaw is jugged out painfully.)*

— Creepy old guy in England, standing with his pants hitched up to his chest.

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The most important aspect of this experience is the personal and business relationships that are built between class members. Future decisions in our business will be based on these relationships. The good that we do now is only the beginning; I look forward to the good we do in the future!

BIRTHPLACE: Gunnison, CO

EDUCATION: B.S. - Business Administration (Magna Cum Laude distinction), Regis University, Colorado, 2004

FAMILY: Wife, Tracey / Children - Emma (8), Rose (5)

HOBBIES: Golf / Reading / Building computers

## Jennifer Evans

### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"The only ones around you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve."* — Albert Schweitzer



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I plan to utilize the friendships I have gained in this class and continue to connect with people on a social and professional level in the community. I feel fortunate that the unique perspectives and intellect of our fellow classmates have allowed me to develop and tune my leadership and management skills for the future.

BIRTHPLACE: Littleton, CO

EDUCATION: B.S. - Business Management, Metropolitan State College of Denver

FAMILY: Husband, Sonny, 6 years

HOBBIES: Travel / Learning new things / Quality time with the girls and my husband

## Frances Grant

### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."* — Eleanor Roosevelt



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I have made so many amazing connections in our community; these professional as well as personal connections will benefit me greatly in the future.

BIRTHPLACE: Norwich, CT

EDUCATION: Certificate in non profit and governmental accounting

HOBBIES: Pool / Reading / Walking

## Kristin Haley

### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"If you are going to achieve excellence in big things, you develop the habit in little matters. Excellence is not an exception, it is a prevailing attitude."* — Colin Powell



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I've learned so much about Aurora. It's opened my eyes to various parts of our community and propelled me to take steps to give back in a meaningful way. Also, I've made some wonderful friends and feel lucky to have been a part of such a wonderful class, and an amazing group of people.

BIRTHPLACE: Montgomery, AL

EDUCATION: Public Affairs, Defense Information School, Ft. Meade, MD, 2002 / B.S. - Human Factors Engineering, U.S. Air Force Academy, CO, 2000

HOBBIES: Reading / Travel / Hiking / Skiing / Spin classes

## Eric Levesque

### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"Silence is NOT an acceptable leadership principle!"* — Eric Levesque



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I plan to use the Leadership Aurora experience to reflect and better prepare myself for future opportunities. With the experience I've gained I'll be a better resident, a more involved citizen, and a better leader in all facets of my life!

BIRTHPLACE: New Bedford, MA

EDUCATION: M.S. - Human Resources, Troy State University, 2004 / B.S. - Sociology, University of California, Davis, 1998

FAMILY: Wife, Ashley / Children - Henry (14), Savannah (8), Kade (newborn)

HOBBIES: Reading / Travel / Concerts / Outdoor Activities / Painting / Home Repairs



## Larry "Doc" Mathis

### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your path."* — Proverbs 3:5-6



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I have a broader sense of contacts and other resources in the City of Aurora that I plan to support and collaborate with on projects and other areas of mutual interest.

BIRTHPLACE: Berkley, CA

EDUCATION: Ed.D. – Student Personnel & Guidance with Cognates in Ed. Adm. and Counseling, Texas A&M University, Commerce, TX

FAMILY: Wife, Wanda / Children – Persephonie, Eyen, Rahshaad, Pamela, Sharron, Malcolm  
HOBBIES: Reading / Cooking / Entrepreneurial enterprises

## Sue McBroom

### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.* — Harold R. McAlindon



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I plan to try to do as much good as possible, for as many people as possible, for as long as possible!

BIRTHPLACE: Greenwich, CT

EDUCATION: B.S.N. - Nursing, Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences, 1996 / Penrose Hospital Paramedic Training Program, 1985 / B.A. - Education, Western State College, 1975

FAMILY: Single, no children, three adorable Daschunds

HOBBIES: Scuba Diving / Skiing / Gardening / Jewelrymaking

## Rob McGregor

### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"There's no crying in baseball."* — Jimmy Dugan



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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: Denver, CO

EDUCATION: M.S.-Political Science, University of Colorado / B.S.-Criminal Justice, University of North Texas (Home of Mean "Joe" Greene)

FAMILY: Wife, Tracy / Children – James, Benjamin

HOBBIES: Baseball / Hockey / Cooking / Coaching

## Amy McLaughry

### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"I can't always control my body the way I want to, and I can't control when I feel good or when I don't. I CAN control how clear my mind is. And I CAN control how willing I am to step up if somebody needs me."* — Michael J. Fox



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The people that I have met, and the experiences I have had, have provided me with a greater appreciation and understanding of the community and the issues presented to this community. I look forward to finding ways to help Aurora overcome those issues in any way possible.

BIRTHPLACE: Denver, CO

EDUCATION: M.B.A. - University of Phoenix, 2000 / B.S. - Psychology, University of Kansas, 1996

FAMILY: Husband, David / Children - Jena, Devin

HOBBIES: Crafts / Reading / Hiking / Photography



## Barbara Peck

### FAVORITE QUOTE:

"Whether you think you can, or whether you think you can't, You're Right!"

— Henry Ford



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My goal is to be on the Leadership Board and assist other citizens of Aurora in gaining knowledge, experience and fun from the wonderful Leadership Aurora Program. Within my Rotary Club, I like volunteering for community projects and also volunteer my photography abilities to non-profits, but because of the LA program I plan to do more volunteering!

BIRTHPLACE: Buffalo, NY

EDUCATION: B.S. - Health Care Management, Metropolitan State College of Denver, 2000

FAMILY: Wonderful Husband, 2 talented children, 1 amazing grandson

HOBBIES: Rollerblading / Golfing / Dance / Skiing / Family time playing games

## Debbie Petersen

### FAVORITE QUOTE:

"Be anxious for nothing ...let your requests be made known to God. And the peace which surpasses all comprehension shall be yours."

— Phillipians 4:6-7



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We have had a wonderful opportunity to see the needs of others and how those needs can be met. I have also seen how meeting the needs of others is a rewarding experience as well as a tremendous team builder. I have seen 30 strangers become very good friends in a very short time. We have had the opportunity to see and do things that were foreign to most of us. As friends we helped each other get the most out of each and every experience. Leadership Aurora has truly been a highlight in my life.

BIRTHPLACE: Hollywood, CA

EDUCATION: M.S.N.- University of Colorado, 1999 / M.B.A.- University of Colorado, 1999 / B.A.- University of Colorado, 1976

FAMILY: Husband- Steve / 3 daughters / 2 granddaughters / 1 grandson

HOBBIES: Crochet / Exercise / Managing our lodge in Alaska

## Patrick E. Pogue, AAMS

### FAVORITE QUOTE:

"Never make the same mistake twice."

— J.K. Rowling



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My intent is to serve the community better. Awareness creates opportunity and I have access to a lot of people that are willing to help.

BIRTHPLACE: Galesburg, IL

EDUCATION: B.S.-Knox College, 1981 / AAMS-College of Financial Planning

FAMILY: Wife, Juliette / Son, Jeremy

HOBBIES: Family / Camping / Travel

## Amy Prince

### FAVORITE QUOTE:

"Late to bed and late to wake will keep you long on money and short on mistakes."

— Aaron McGruder



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I had the chance to meet many great people throughout the city. I hope to keep in touch with many of these new contacts and improve the goals and strengths of Aurora. I look forward to using the leadership skills I've learned to pursue the success of the city.

BIRTHPLACE: Ripon, WI

EDUCATION: Graduate of Gunnison High School

FAMILY: Husband / 2 children

HOBBIES: Reading / Dining / Family / Volleyball



## Eileen Prosser

### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work: you don't give up."* — Anne Lamott



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I plan to apply what I have gained from Leadership Aurora in my everyday life, whether it is personal or professional. The exposure to different communities within Aurora will be invaluable when expanding programming for the Healthy Aging Initiative.

BIRTHPLACE: Glasgow, Scotland

EDUCATION: M.B.A.- Regis University, Colorado, 2006 / B.S. - Mathematics For Business Analysis, Caledonian University, Scotland, 1986

FAMILY: Children, 2

HOBBIES: Reading / Hiking / Yoga / Travel

## Debra Scarpella

### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"All the works of man have their origin in creative fantasy. What right have we then to depreciate imagination."* — Carl Jung



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During this past year, I have gained a deeper appreciation of the resources and professions offered in Aurora. This definitely gives me the opportunity to share this knowledge with others in order to strengthen community relationships. The personal and professional connections that I have made during this time will be a joy to cultivate well into the future. I will cherish this experience for a lifetime.

HOBBIES: Biking / Racquetball / Arts & Crafts / Travel / Cooking

## Rosemary Singer

### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"Speak your mind, even if your voice shakes."* — Maggie Kuhn



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As a business member in the community, it is an immeasurable value to be exposed to such an opportunity in Leadership Aurora. Applying new knowledge of additional resources and how they can work together to achieve common goals will make Aurora a better community to work, live, and play in for our families and our futures.

BIRTHPLACE: Denver, CO

EDUCATION: M.S. - Organizational Leadership, Regis University 2008 / BS - Computer Science, Regis University 2001

FAMILY: Yellow Lab, Riley / Significant Other, Adam Barrett

HOBBIES: Stained glass / Experimental planes / Writing / Movies / Music

## Mary Fran Tharp

### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"We cannot all do great things, but we can do small things with great love."* — Mother Teresa



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Each session has brought a new awareness of the issues within the Aurora community. I am impressed with the dedication of the people in Aurora to serve, employ and educate its citizens. I've enjoyed this opportunity to learn and meet others immensely.

BIRTHPLACE: Denver, CO

EDUCATION: B.A., Colorado College, 1989

FAMILY: Husband, Tony

HOBBIES: Yoga / Gardening / Cooking / Knitting / Needlepoint / Reading



## Maria Elena Thomas



### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"People need to see that, far from being an obstacle, the world's diversity of languages, religions and traditions is a great treasure, affording us precious opportunities to recognize ourselves in others."* — Youssou N'Dour

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I plan to keep the friendships and contacts that I have made. I plan to make myself available if any of my colleagues need help and I hope to draw on them as a resource if I ever need their help.

BIRTHPLACE: Aruba, Netherlands Antilles  
EDUCATION: M.Ed. - Educational Leadership / B.A. - Romance Languages  
FAMILY: Husband / Three grown children  
HOBBIES: Horse back riding

## Eric Thorn



### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"Do unto others as you would have done unto you."*  
— Matthew 7:12

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Leadership Aurora has opened my eyes to a vast array of Aurora's involvement in individuals and the community as a whole. I hope to continue to learn more about all the programs offered in our city, and determine which ones I can be involved in presently and in the future.

BIRTHPLACE: Denver, CO  
EDUCATION: BS- Accounting, Metro State College of Denver  
HOBBIES: Fishing / Hunting / Outdoors / Softball

## Ana-Christina Wadle



### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"When you have come to the edge of all the light that you know, and are about to drop off into the darkness of the unknown, FAITH is knowing one of two things will happen: There will be something to stand on - OR - You will be taught to fly."* — Patrick Overton

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The community resources we've been exposed to have been remarkable. I have already used these contacts to give back to the community as well as expanding my professional network. Most important, the relationships that I've developed are priceless.

BIRTHPLACE: El Paso, TX  
EDUCATION: B.S. Construction Management (Cum Laude distinction), Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, CO  
FAMILY: Husband, Jerry / Sons – Colin, Nick, Chris  
HOBBIES: Reading / Orchids / Writing / Remodelling / Drums / Piano

## Kevin Waters



### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"A bird in the hand is worth two if by sea."*  
— Unknown

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As a member of the Fire Department, I was familiar with many of the excellent organizations in Aurora. Leadership Aurora has exposed me to a tremendous diversity of interests, challenges, and opportunities that exist in areas I was not previously aware of.

BIRTHPLACE: New Mexico  
EDUCATION: Firefighter II Certification, Rocky Mountain Fire Academy, 1995 / Institute of EMT-Paramedic, St. Anthony Hospital, Colorado, 1994 / EMS Degree course work, Aims Community College, Colorado, 1991-1993  
FAMILY: Wife, Trina / Children – Zachary, Abigail, Matthew  
HOBBIES: Family / Fitness / Fishing



# 2010 Opening Retreat

## CREATING AN EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

*A community cares about each other and looks for ways to work together.*

The introductions by Leadership Aurora board members were informative, the panel of Aurora leaders was eye-opening, and the session with the McGhee brothers absolutely inspiring but what stood out the most was the camaraderie that we felt with this amazing group of people who we had just met. What we experienced during this retreat was an immediate connection with a group of like-minded classmates.

We became more familiar with the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, the Leadership Aurora board, members of previous classes, and some of the leaders in our city – Police Chief, Daniel Oates, Superintendent Mary Chesley from Cherry Creek Schools, and the Director of Government Affairs, Jeff Thompson, from the University of Colorado Hospital.

The prospect of working together with this group for years to come already had its appeals to each of us – what could we do to make it work



Leadership Aurora Class of 2010

for our own organization? What kind of collaborative efforts do we have to look forward to in order to have our group profit? What we found during the Leadership Aurora retreat, though, was that those concerns were secondary at best.

Camaraderie, fellowship, friendship – The bond formed through the retreat, and strengthened throughout the course of the year we spend together, is the basis of what Aurora should be about. A community cares about each other and looks for ways to work together. Regardless of the class projects we work on, or the monthly classes that we work on together, the real strength of this class will manifest itself in how we work together for years to come.



*Camaraderie*



*Fellowship*



*Friendship*





# Communication, Communication, Communication!

Aurora Police Department Deputy Chief Terry Jones started the day with a mock press conference. We discovered how difficult and challenging the relationship between the police and the press can be. Deputy Chief Jones underscored the importance of reporters working collaboratively with APD in order to lessen the risk of jeopardizing investigations.

We then traveled to Channel 4 News, where we were met by meteorologist Stacey Donaldson. Ms. Donaldson graciously talked to us about weather forecasting. We also met Tom Mustin and Brooke Wagner. Tom addressed our group

and explained how job roles and responsibilities are changing and, in fact, merging, due to downsizing. Reporters are required to do the jobs of several people compared to their work in the past. We were also addressed by the News Operations Manager, John Montgomery and Misty Montano, who explained the details of Social Media and its influence on the news. This clearly gave us a glimpse into the future of things to come. After witnessing a live broadcast and learning how fast the media business changes, we headed back to the Aurora Municipal Center for the afternoon.



Chief Meteorologist Mr. Charles delivering the weather.

At Aurora 8 Studio, we learned how to operate a camera (much more difficult than it looks), and about the "behind the scene" details required to put on a show. Needless to say, some of these mock interviews were very entertaining. The teams then spent time debriefing the recording with the moderators. All in all, a very enlightening day!



*He was staring at me so intently that I felt like his eyes were boring right through mine.*

*He made no noise as he lunged for me, and rocketed into me with a force that belied his size.*

*He grabbed me and shook me like a little rag doll - my heart was pounding and all I could think was "What if this was a real attack?"*

Of course, it was Police Day, and those of us who donned the protective suit were protected by the handler who had the dog on his lead and who was issuing attack commands, as well as another officer

## "In the Line of Fire"

who made sure we didn't get knocked over by the force of the attack.

Our day with the police department can be summed up with words like pride, amazing, strength, respect, professional, THE BEST.

The sheer scope of the Aurora Police Department is daunting. From Deputy Chief Terry Jones' presentation, to the traffic cops on the street, to the gang unit (Larry Martinez), to the 911 Dispatch team (Mike Bedwell) and their 64,000+ calls per year, we met some amazing professionals.

We spent the afternoon with the SWAT team. For 2 hours, these professionals showed us their tricks, tactics and toys. We learned about the K-9 unit, learned about the 800 lb bomb robot, held their 35+ lbs armored vests, toured their armored truck, and then went to the shooting range. We learned the appropriate shooter's stance, and shot M-16 rifles. We got to see what it feels like to enter a room where some are friendly and some are not - and to

have to make an immediate life and death decision on who to shoot.

BUT...during all of the fun and joking and laughter came a call for help. The mood/tone of the scene turned instantly. Sgt Cooley called names in sequence, and everyone knew what to do and where they were supposed to go. Cooley calmly called for a dog team, sniper team, and the appropriate SWAT team members to go help apprehend a felon. They suited up and jumped in an SUV and were off. Minutes before, we were joking and laughing and learning. Then the call came and these same professionals went from training and teaching, to facing a situation where the gun might be pointed at them.

These instructors educated and informed us and changed our perspective regarding many aspects of police life. We commend our law enforcement teams. We have a new and much deeper respect for what they do to "Serve and Protect" us and our families.

## "Tomorrow's Leaders"

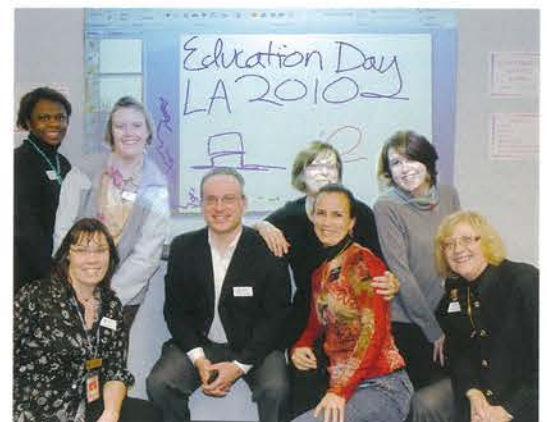
Twenty first century education doesn't represent our personal educational experience. It is much more vibrant, much more diverse - in student population, educational leadership and delivery methodologies. It is alive, interactive, and high-tech blended with the appropriate amount of personal interaction and "high touch."

We were very impressed with the forthright honesty and commitment that we saw from the high school student panel at Gateway High School (Aurora Public School District.) We then traveled to Prairie Middle School (Cherry Creek School District.) There, we were met by the most amazing young people. They all greeted us with a handshake and a smile as they introduced themselves. This was part of their education: you never get a second chance to make a first impression. Awesome job! To round out our day, we were treated to a tour of the Community

College of Aurora. We toured the film school, visited a biotechnology lab, and used interactive media. The smart boards and the clickers were definitely eye-opening and showed us how very much the face of education has changed with technology.

Educational leaders have changed also. And, whether we are talking Prairie Middle School or Gateway High School, the local school districts or the Community College of Aurora, they are the educational visionaries. They are the driving forces who ensure that extreme education happens on their watch. They are the #1 believers in education, their educational philosophies are crystal clear, and there is no question about their influence in implementing their vision.

We left this experience renewed, and more hopeful because of the educational leadership that we saw exhibited in these schools. The



Smart board smart alecks.

students were bright, engaged, and living and loving their educational experience. All of this was complemented by the utilization of technology that will cement their learning and preparation for a high tech global market - with the nourishment of a personal touch.



## "World Class Healthcare In Aurora"

Eating breakfast blind, in a wheelchair, or with limited mobility is difficult.

Healthcare Day was an information-packed day that aimed at preparing us to be better decision-makers and leaders. We began the morning session with a mock disability breakfast and visit from guests with actual disabilities. The purpose of the early morning was to get us to think about valuing differences.

During the mid-morning session we received a briefing about bioethics and had a discussion on the 5 Wishes healthcare document. We also received briefings on Citizen's CPR and the Heimlich maneuver, Rural Metro Ambulance/EMS and Airlife. It gave us insight into healthcare issues, perspectives, resources, and different facets of the healthcare profession.

At The Medical Center of Aurora, we received briefings on the hospital's benchmark Cardiac and Stroke alert programs. The programs are actually partnerships between first responders and medical professionals that aid in giving critical life-saving care while patients are en-route to the treatment center. We then toured through the emergency room and an operating room, where we were introduced to DaVinci, a space-age instrument that allows a surgeon to operate on a patient remotely, with superior dexterity and more precision than with the human hand.

At the University of Colorado Hospital, we were briefed by the Burn unit, gowned up, and participated as a "burn patient" was admitted into the unit. The experience of seeing how quickly the unit has to respond to an extremely difficult situation was incredible: vital signs,



"See no evil, See no evil, See no evil" participation at the disability breakfast.

administering medication through an I.V., and performing CPR while imagining that this could be a real person with dreadful injuries was impactful.

From intimate discussions with individuals with disabilities to the CEO of The Medical Center of Aurora, we were introduced to both personal and industry-wide perspectives on healthcare. Aurora is truly fortunate to have these resources available!



## "Community Ties and You"

day also served the purpose of allowing us to survey some potential opportunities for our class projects.

On our visit to the Shadow Theatre, we learned that it is a relatively new theater in Aurora that is completely owned, operated, and run by African American writers, producers, and actors. West of the Mississippi, it is a one-of-it's-kind organization!

Finally, the events of the day were capped off with the entertaining assignment of each group performing short skits of the work of the two non-profit organizations they visited. Needless to say, we have some very creative and entertaining individuals on our team. One group created a song for their entire skit and won the

most creative prize. The final presentation of the day was given by retired school administrator, Debbie Lynch. She shared with us the many tools required in leadership. It was a memorable, creative and insightful presentation.

This day was valuable, informative and heart-warming to many. Our experience was at times overwhelming when our team heard of the many needs that go unmet for various reasons. In these economic times, the needs of Aurora families are exacerbated. We must continue to support the work of the many non-profit organizations that often go unnoticed so that we can make Aurora's citizens the best they can possibly be.

Community Day was the first day of group activities after the opening retreat. The focus for the day's events was the work of non-profit, charitable organizations in Aurora. Aside from the goal of providing the team with some great information about the many lives that these organizations have significantly impacted, the

## "Pride and Presence"

Military Day was a very informative session held at Buckley Air Force Base. It was a great class – we finally found out what the great big golf ball looking objects really are! (If we told you, we'd have to...well, you know! (Just kidding.)

Buckley is home to both the 460th Space Wing (Air Force Space Command) and the 140th Wing, Colorado Air National Guard. Colonel Trent Pickering explained that the Air Force carries out a critical space mission (the "golf balls") and focuses primarily on intelligence gathering. The planes that we see and hear in the skies around the base are typically National Guard planes; the National

Guard reports first to the state of Colorado (the Governor) and secondarily to our nation's needs. Colorado is one of only eight states that have F-16's (to be replaced, in the future, by the F-35.) Lieutenant Colonel Timothy Conklin, 140th Wing Operations Group Director, told us stories that were alternately informational and riveting.

As repair and upkeep is as important as actually flying the F-16, we took a tour of the F-16 hangar. We had dozens of questions answered about these awesome machines, and saw, firsthand, the limited room that the pilots have in the cockpit.



"Do bags fly free?"

Buckley Air Force Base creates economic stability by employing thousands of people in our community. There are various branches of our military stationed out of this base, and they not only help our community, and our state, but are critical to our national safety. Thank you Buckley!



# “The Making Of An All-America City”

Kevin Hougen, President of the Chamber of Commerce, set the stage for the day. He presented Aurora's past, present and future economic outlook. This served as a baseline, or stage, for the rest of the day.

Bob Fitzgerald and Paul Suss built on Mr. Hougen's perspective by presenting their roles and perspectives as city councilman and business owner, respectively.

After receiving this baseline information, we had the opportunity to role play a mock city council meeting. Some of our classmates characterized city councilmen, while others represented the business, homeowners, city employees

and law enforcement communities. We worked to present a variety of opinions around the controversial topic of medical marijuana and whether the City of Aurora should or should not lift the moratorium placed on businesses that trade medical marijuana.

Finally, the afternoon was spent at Wagner CAT. We learned about the heavy equipment vendor and the scope of their business around the world and in the U.S.A. After an informative introduction, we went on a tour of their repair and parts facilities. We were also able to test-drive bulldozers, excavators, extra large dump trucks and bobcats. It was a bucket-load of fun!



*Our class knows how to have fun!*



## “When You’re Hot, You’re Hot!”

We’ve all grown up knowing what firefighters do: they put out fires and rescue people.

But after spending a day with the Aurora Fire Department at the Rocky Mountain Fire Academy, there’s something more that they do: they prepare. Battalion Chief Mark Stephenson taught us what felt like high school chemistry as he taught fire behavior, how they prepare for and deal with fuel spills and toxic chemical spills, and how they have to try to predict fire behavior so as to reduce backdraft and flashpoint dangers. He also discussed

the hazards that are found everywhere in our daily lives from the materials we use to decorate our homes to gas lines that we use to heat our homes. The incredible EMS teams are using new and “out-of-the-box” protocols to save lives and are being recognized not only statewide, but nationwide.

In the afternoon, we had the opportunity for some hands-on experience: we had the opportunity to search a house with dense theatrical smoke in pitch black conditions, used a fire hose to put out different types of fires, rode in a bucket on a ladder truck, and rode down a rescue line from five stories up.

Our firefighters train to operate in complete darkness, in unbelievable heat, and at incredible risk to rescue someone in a burning building. While the Leadership Aurora class got to experience some of these training experiences, this was nothing compared to the hard training every firefighter must go through.

We heard some history and some background on the department from Fire Chief Garcia, and it is with great pride that we congratulate the Aurora Fire Department for receiving recognition for being one of the best in the nation and for taking care of our community in such a professional, dedicated manner.



*“Oh yeah – we’re hot!”*



# 2010 Class Projects

## VA Home Renovation

Our 2010 class has certainly "plunged into our community." We dedicated ourselves to partnering with Aurora Mental Health Center by taking on a huge project renovating, designing and completely furnishing a transitional Veterans Home for 15 homeless male veterans. We advocated for donations totaling over \$34,000 in both cash and in-kind donations, as well as 6,000 man hours spent completing the project. Grand Opening and ribbon cutting were held May 4, 2010.



*Before*



*Before*

laundry room

*After*



*After*

exterior

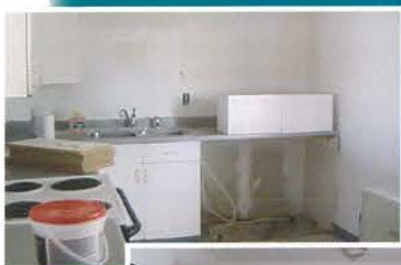


*Before*

living room



*After*



*Before*

kitchen



*After*



*Before*

pantry



*After*



# More Class Projects

## Kids Against Hunger

### Boys Hope Girls Hope



*Pulling up carpet during Girls Hope home renovation.*



*Volunteer assembly line filling up food bags.*

## Holiday Food Baskets



*Holiday food basket delivery in conjunction with Leadership Board.*



# **“Playing Together”**





## Social Committee



Front Row (l-r): Patrick Pogue, Chelsea DeChaine, Mary Fran Tharp;  
Back Row (l-r): Patti Cummings, Maria Elena Thomas, Jennifer Evans,  
Kevin Waters, Luc Cisna, Richard Charles; Not pictured: Kristin Haley,  
Eric Levesque, Rob McGregor, Eileen Prosser

## Yearbook Committee



L-R: Amy Prince, Ana-Christina Wadle, Amy McLaughry,  
Eric Thorn, Tawney Bass; Not Pictured: Fran Grant

## Graduation Committee



Front Row (l-r): Fran Grant, Rich Duston; Back Row (l-r): Tawney  
Bass, Eric Thorn, Antoinette Dow, Chelsea DeChaine, Debbie  
Petersen, Jennifer Evans; Not Pictured: Kristin Haley, Eric  
Levesque, Larry Mathis, Eileen Prosser, Kevin Waters

# Committees

## Project Committee



L-R: Barbara Peck, Richard Charles, Jennifer Evans, Patti Cummings, Fran Grant, Rich  
Duston, Antoinette Dow, Chelsea DeChaine, Sue McBroom, Larry Mathis, Mary Fran  
Tharp, Debra Scarpella, Eileen Prosser, Debbie Petersen, Tawney Bass, Chad Argentar;  
Not Pictured: Kristin Haley, Rosemary Singer, Kevin Waters

## "Digital Divas"



L-R: Sue McBroom, Chelsea DeChaine, Debra Scarpella, Rosemary Singer, Amy Prince,  
Amy McLaughry, Barbara Peck

## Newsletter Committee



L-R: Eric Levesque, Patrick Pogue, Scott Davis, Rob McGregor, Luc Cisna, Chad Argentar;  
Not pictured: Richard Charles, Maria Elena Thomas



# 2009-2010 Leadership Aurora Board



## EXECUTIVE BOARD

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# Interest Directory

# 2010

|                     | Visitor Promotion | Youth Services | Transportation | Small Business | Religion | Recreation | Mental Health | Legal | Health & Wellness | Disabilities | Government | Education | Econ. Development | Community Planning | Childcare | Child Abuse | Substance Abuse | Arts / Theater | Aging Wellness |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|------------|---------------|-------|-------------------|--------------|------------|-----------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Chad Argentar       | •                 |                | •              |                | •        | •          |               |       | •                 |              | •          |           | •                 | •                  |           |             |                 |                |                |
| Tawney Bass         |                   |                |                |                |          |            | •             |       |                   |              |            | •         |                   | •                  |           |             |                 | •              |                |
| Richard Charles     |                   |                |                | •              |          |            |               |       | •                 |              |            |           | •                 | •                  |           |             |                 | •              |                |
| Luc Cisna           |                   |                |                | •              | •        | •          |               |       | •                 |              |            | •         | •                 |                    |           |             |                 | •              | •              |
| Patti Cummings      |                   | •              |                |                |          | •          | •             | •     | •                 |              | •          | •         |                   |                    |           | •           | •               | •              | •              |
| Scott Davis         |                   |                |                | •              |          |            |               |       |                   |              |            |           | •                 | •                  |           |             | •               |                |                |
| Chelsea DeChaine    |                   |                |                |                |          | •          |               |       | •                 |              |            | •         |                   |                    |           |             |                 | •              |                |
| Antoinette Dow      |                   |                |                |                |          |            | •             |       | •                 | •            |            |           |                   |                    |           |             |                 | •              |                |
| Richard Duston      |                   |                |                | •              | •        |            |               |       |                   |              | •          | •         | •                 | •                  |           |             |                 | •              |                |
| Jennifer Evans      |                   | •              |                | •              | •        | •          |               |       | •                 |              | •          | •         | •                 | •                  |           | •           |                 | •              | •              |
| Frances Grant       |                   |                |                |                |          |            |               |       |                   |              | •          |           | •                 |                    |           |             | •               |                |                |
| Kristin Haley       |                   |                |                |                |          |            |               |       |                   |              | •          |           |                   | •                  |           |             |                 |                |                |
| Eric Levesque       | •                 | •              | •              | •              | •        | •          |               | •     |                   |              | •          | •         | •                 | •                  |           | •           | •               | •              |                |
| Larry Mathis        |                   |                |                |                | •        |            |               |       | •                 |              |            | •         | •                 |                    |           |             |                 | •              | •              |
| Sue McBroom         |                   | •              | •              |                |          |            | •             |       | •                 |              |            |           | •                 | •                  |           |             |                 | •              |                |
| Rob McGregor        |                   | •              |                |                | •        | •          |               | •     |                   |              | •          | •         |                   | •                  |           | •           | •               | •              |                |
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| Ana-Christina Wadle |                   |                |                | •              |          |            | •             |       | •                 |              | •          | •         |                   |                    |           |             | •               |                |                |
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## SPECIAL THANKS

A special thank you to those class members who worked tirelessly in putting together this class yearbook. Eric Thorn and Tawney Bass shared the duties of chairing the Yearbook Committee. Tawney undertook the task of gathering the information for class bios. Committee member Ana-Christina Wadle acted as editor and spent a tremendous amount of time editing those bios and writing copy for session descriptions. Tawney Bass undertook the task of gathering the information for class bios. Other committee members, Antoinette Dow, Amy McLaughry and Amy Prince helped choose photos for the publication and everyone assisted in writing the creative captions.

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IT TOOK EACH OF YOU TO MAKE THIS YEARBOOK A REALITY -- THANK YOU!  
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