

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

2011 STAFF and SPEAKERS

RLI STAFF (in alphabetical order)

Kellie Anne Brownlow is the Division Chief of Local Government Services at ARC. The division is responsible for implementation of the LINK (Leadership Involvement Networking Knowledge) and RLI (Regional Leadership Institute) leadership programs, developing training courses for citizen and staff planners through the Community Planning Academy, managing the agency-wide quality growth initiative – Community Choices and providing direct management and operations assistance to local governments.

Prior to ARC, Kellie worked at the Carl Vinson Institute of Government in the Local Government department, assisting cities and counties statewide on issues such as annexation, consolidation and service delivery agreements. Originally from Rhode Island, she received a Bachelor's degree in Communications and Political Science from Rhode Island College and a Masters of Public Administration from the University of Georgia.

Stephen Causby is a Principal Program Specialist in ARC's Local Government Services Division. Stephen manages projects within the agency's Community Choices Program, which provides implementation tools, resources and technical assistance to local governments in the 10-county region. Stephen also co-coordinates the Community Planning Academy.

Prior to working fulltime with ARC, Stephen interned in the Community Choices program, providing technical assistance to the cities of Marietta and Griffin, GA. Previously, he worked with the Atlanta Housing Association of Neighborhood-Based Developers and MACTEC Consulting and Engineering on a range of planning and policy-related projects. Originally from Shelby, NC, Stephen received a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from North Carolina State University and a Masters of City and Regional Planning from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Adam Edge is a Senior Program Specialist in ARC's Local Government Services Division. He is responsible for providing local governments management and operations assistance. Adam also coordinates the division's Local Government Training Institute and provides logistical coordination for the Management Development Program.

Prior to ARC, Adam worked for the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) as a financial services specialist responsible for the management, coordination and administration of ACCG's Equipment Leasing and Facilities Financing programs and recruitment of strategic partners for the Association. Previously, Adam worked for the Clerk of the Georgia House of Representatives. An Atlanta native, he received a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and a Masters of Public Administration from Georgia College and State University.

Crystal Jackson is a Senior Program Specialist in ARC's Local Government Services Division. In addition to working with the RLI program, Crystal is responsible for the logistical coordination of the annual LINK program. She also provides local governments with management and training assistance, manages the Schools and Communities forum and co-coordinates the division's Community Planning Academy.

Prior to ARC, Crystal managed the Georgia Conservancy's Blueprints program, a technical assistance initiative that helps Georgians achieve successful communities by creating sound conservation and growth strategies. Previously, she was the Assistant Public Programs manager for the Chattahoochee Nature Center in Roswell, GA. Crystal earned a Bachelor's degree in Earth Sciences from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and a Masters of City and Regional Planning from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Michelle Matthews is president of Matthews Consulting Group, LLC, an Atlanta-based management consulting firm with an established reputation for helping organizations and individuals implement strategic change to improve performance. With more than 20 years of experience in organizational development and consulting, Michelle is instrumental in developing strategies to improve business processes, maximize human capital and increase revenues. She serves as a trusted advisor to numerous Fortune 500 companies, non-profit organizations and educational institutions, ranging from Delta Air Lines, BellSouth and Georgia-Pacific to United Way, Atlanta Public Schools and Spelman College. Prior to establishing Matthews Consulting in 1999, Michelle worked as a senior manager for IBM, KPMG Consulting and Accenture (formerly Andersen Consulting).

Michelle's community involvement includes serving as mentor for Gateways to Excellence, a training and development program for female professionals. She is also a board member for the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education (GPÉE). Michelle is a graduate of Spelman College, with a degree in Economics.

SPEAKERS

(in order of appearance)

Anita Brown-Graham is director of the Institute for Emerging Issues at North Carolina State University, a position she has held since 2007. The Institute brings people together around complex issues in pursuit of a single goal: to ensure North Carolina's future competitiveness. Previously, she was a faculty member at the School of Government for 13 years. She also served as law clerk to the Honorable William B. Shubb in the eastern district of California and as business litigation counsel in a Sacramento, California law firm. Anita has provided significant training and written books and articles focused on developing the economic base of distressed communities. She also currently serves on the boards of several development organizations and foundations.

Anita earned an undergraduate degree from Louisiana State University and, after attending graduate school at LSU, she earned a law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Mike Alexander (RLI Class of 2007) joined ARC in 2001 and has been Chief of the Research Division since 2006. He manages the annual development of population and employment estimates for the ARC planning area. In addition, he develops long-range growth forecasts for the region and manages ARC's Geographic Information Systems efforts. Mike has worked on numerous planning efforts for ARC including its latest planning process called Plan2040, which was completed this year. Prior to joining the Atlanta Regional Commission staff, Mike worked in Alabama, South Carolina and Georgia in local government planning, specializing in growth and development issues.

Originally from South Carolina, Mike attended Auburn University where he received a dual Masters degree in Public Administration and Community Planning.

Harry Hayes is a Senior Public Service Associate at the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG), where he has served as a faculty member for over 16 years. He retired from full time service in 2010 but continues with the Vinson Institute on a part-time basis. Harry was formerly the Local Government Projects Director and is now a member of the unit, providing technical assistance and applied research to local governments and the Georgia General Assembly. His work includes organizational reviews for counties and cities, charter revisions, service delivery and tax equity studies with nationally recognized expertise in the areas of City/County "functional" and "full governmental" consolidation. Additionally, Harry provides guidance to the CVIOG's National Center for the Study of Counties in partnership with the National Association of Counties. Internationally he provided training for the Vinson Institute to local government officials in the Ukraine and in China. He is a past President of the National Association of County Administrators, a member of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and serves on the Editorial Advisory Board of ICMA. He is the recipient of the Walter B. Hill Award for Public Service at the University of Georgia. In his prior life, for 20 years he was a city and county planning director and then a county manager in Georgia and served as a Captain in the U.S. Army, including a tour in Vietnam.

Harry has an undergraduate degree in Urban Geography from UGA and a Masters in City and Regional Planning from Georgia Tech.

Shelley Lauten is President of myregion.org, a Regional Development Program formed in 1999 to serve as a catalyst for Central Florida's individuals, organizations, businesses, and governments to act together in making our region globally competitive. Since it was established, myregion.org has gained state and national recognition for its ground-breaking work that includes the first-ever Central Florida Regional SourceBook, a framework for regional collaboration throughout the seven-county region along with a library of original research completed with key community partners: the Central Florida Regional Indicators Report, Penn Design Central Florida, Central Florida Values Study, Naturally Central Florida – Fitting the Pieces Together, and The Central Florida Social Capital Survey. Shelley is especially proud of myregion's leadership in "How Shall We Grow?" an eighteen-month initiative to address projected regional growth in Central Florida. As part of her role with myregion.org she served as the Florida Director for the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Florida Initiative on Regional Collaboration, established to identify new opportunities for the State of Florida to support and encourage communities around the state to collaborate regionally.

Prior to her work with myregion.org and the Central Florida Partnership, Shelley held key executive positions at Walt Disney World and the Arnold Palmer Golf Management Company. She was raised in Melbourne Beach, Florida and has called Orlando her home for over 30 years.

Burrell Ellis was elected Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, Georgia in November 2008, and assumed office in January 2009. He is responsible for administering the County's \$1.2 billion annual budget, managing its 7,500 employees and delivering services to its 730,000 residents. Prior to becoming CEO, Burrell served in the legislative branch of county government for eight years as a DeKalb County Commissioner. During his tenure on the Commission, he served five terms as its Presiding Officer where he led the Board through its most extensive reorganization ever, ensuring openness and transparency in the legislative process. Burrell was previously a partner at the national law firm of EpsteinBeckerGreen, where he practiced in the firm's Real Estate Group. He has taught courses in negotiation and collaborative problem solving at Georgia State University College of Law and has been a frequent panelist and lecturer on smart growth and urban development issues. Burrell is actively involved with the National Association of Counties (NACo), and currently serves on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee as the South Regional Representative.

Burrell is an Ivy League graduate, holding a degree in Economics and Finance from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, and a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

Wayne Hill (RLI Class of 1993) is a Marketing Executive with Moreland Altobelli Associates, a leading engineering and management firm in the Southeast region. Prior to joining Moreland Altobelli, he was Interim Executive Director for the Evermore Community Improvement District, an association of property owners that seek to establish a vibrant, upscale destination area; improve business development opportunities; and enhance property values by developing and promoting coordinated transportation and community character improvements to benefit property owners, business owners, and residents along the Highway 78 corridor in Gwinnett County. From 1993 to 2004, Wayne was Chairman of the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners. During that time he was a board member of the Atlanta Regional Commission and chaired the Commission from 1998 to 2004. He also served in leadership roles with the National Association of Regional Councils, National Association of Counties and the Association County Commissioners of Georgia. Wayne joined his father's business, a small cabinet shop, in 1960 and took over the business when his father retired, expanding it over the next two decades. From 2005 to 2010, he was Partner with NashHill Inc., a governmental and public affairs firm. His civic involvement includes serving on the board of directors for the Gwinnett Unit of the American Cancer Society and board member of the Northeast Georgia Community Foundation.

Brian Leary (RLI Class of 2010) Brian Leary is President & CEO of Atlanta BeltLine, Inc., the organization planning and executing the implementation of the Atlanta BeltLine, one of the largest, most wide-ranging urban redevelopment projects currently underway in the United States. Prior to joining the Atlanta Beltline team, Brian oversaw the design and development of Atlantic Station – the largest urban brownfield redevelopment in the nation and its 13.5M square foot master plan. He successfully negotiated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for Atlantic Station and the new 17th Street bridge, to become the first ProjectXL and transportation control measure of its kind in the United States, and led a coalition to create a \$2 billion alternative energy and energy efficiency program with the U.S. Treasury and EPA. Prior to Atlantic Station, Brian worked for Atlanta's downtown development organization, Central Atlanta Progress (CAP), where he helped implement the first tax increment financing district in Georgia. Among many non-work commitments, Brian serves on the Department of Homeland Security's Advisory Council's Academe Policy & Research Committee, on the Board of Trustees and Executive Committees of Leadership Atlanta and the Livable Communities Coalition, and on the Board of Directors for Georgians for Passenger Rail. He graduated in the inaugural class of the Institute for Georgia Environmental Leadership and previously served as the Chairman of the City of Atlanta's Public Art Advisory Committee.

Brian is a graduate of Georgia Tech's College of Architecture with an undergraduate degree in Architecture with minor concentrations in land development and real estate, and holds a Masters of City Planning from Georgia Tech as well.

Maria Saporta (RLI Class of 1999) is a longtime Atlanta business, civic and urban affairs journalist with a deep knowledge of the metro Atlanta region and State of Georgia. Currently, she is a freelance journalist who writes a weekly column and news stories for the Atlanta Business Chronicle. In addition to the Atlanta Business Chronicle, Maria is writing a monthly column for the Association for Corporate Growth newsletter and is working with InsiderAdvantage/PollPosition. Until the end of August 2008, Maria spent 27 years with The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and became its business columnist in January 1991. In 1998, she also began writing a Horizon column that focused on urban growth and development issues in metro Atlanta. Both columns provided readers with an inside look at how Atlanta works by highlighting the leaders who are making decisions affecting the city's future. Maria is a past president of the Atlanta Press Club and continues to serve on its executive committee and chairs its debate committee. She also serves as Vice President of the Alliance Francaise d'Atlanta, a French cultural organization and school that was founded by her mother in 1963.

Maria received her Master's degree in Urban Studies from Georgia State University and her Bachelor's degree in Journalism from Boston University.

Adam Bruns has served as Managing Editor of Site Selection magazine since 2002. The magazine reports extensively on domestic and global business climate issues, and is the recognized leader in reporting on corporate real estate strategy and area economic development. Before joining the Site Selection staff, Adam lived for a decade in Lexington, Kentucky, where he wrote and edited for international racing and breeding publication, Thoroughbred Times; seminar company, Lessons in Leadership; and Kentucky business magazine, The Lane Report. During that time he saw his freelance work published in Louisville Magazine and national publications Golf Journal, Links, Golf Retailer and American Libraries. His business reporting for Louisville Magazine earned him a first place award in magazine business reporting from the Society of Professional Journalists' Louisville chapter.

Adam is an alumnus of Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, where he studied writing, theatre and languages.

Nick Masino (RLI Class of 2009) is Vice President of Economic Development for the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce where he oversees the business recruitment and retention efforts for Gwinnett County as well as the implementation of the Partnership Gwinnett Strategy. Prior to his role in economic development, Nick spent 12 years in the recruiting, headhunting and staffing industry both in Metro Atlanta and throughout the U.S. He worked with various business models from entrepreneurial ventures to Fortune 100 companies, managing multi-million dollar efforts focused on recruitment in the areas of IT, Finance and General Business. Nick also served the citizens of Suwanee, GA, as Mayor from 2000-2007 leading the city to receive over 30 national, regional and local awards, including its most recent and highest honor as the 2007 Money Magazine 10th Best Small Town in America. Nick was a member the Georgia Municipal Association, where he served on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee, the Legislative Policy Committee and the Community Development Policy Committee. In 2005 and 2006, Nick led the Metro Atlanta Mayors Association as its president. He is a founding board member of the North Gwinnett Schools Foundation and is a member of the Gwinnett County Schools Superintendent's Community Advisory Board and Board Member of Gwinnett County Schools Foundation.

Nick holds a Bachelor's in Interpersonal and Organizational Communication from Ohio State University.

Mike Worley (RLI Class of 2004) is manager of Community Development for Georgia Power and is responsible for the company's efforts in preparing Georgia's communities for growth and bringing new jobs and investment to the state. He began his career with Georgia Power in 1981 and has worked in power generation, environmental affairs, legislative affairs and region operations. He joined the Community & Economic Development organization in 2009, bringing with him a broad range of community experience. Mike served an external assignment as Executive for External Affairs for the Georgia Military Affairs Coordinating Committee at the request of former Governor Sonny Perdue. He has chaired the Douglas County Chamber of Commerce and has served on the board of directors for three metro Atlanta chambers of commerce and the Regional Business Coalition. Education is a passion for Mike and he has served as a board member and past board chair of Chattahoochee Technical College and currently serves on the selection committee for the Youth Challenge Academy for high school dropouts run by the Georgia Department of Defense. He is a graduate of Leadership Paulding, Leadership Douglas and Leadership Cobb.

Mike holds a Bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of West Georgia and is a graduate of the Goizuetta Executive Program at Emory University.

Craig Lesser (RLI Class of 1994) is a Managing Partner of Pendleton Consulting Group. Prior to this, he served as the Managing Director and Head of International Public Affairs for McKenna Long & Aldridge, a law firm based in Atlanta. From 2004 to 2007, he served as Commissioner of Economic Development for the State of Georgia where he was the Chief Marketing Officer responsible for investment, trade and tourism. His responsibilities included oversight of the state's small business and entrepreneur programs, efforts to grow existing business as well as marketing Georgia as an ideal destination for filmmakers, the music industry, and tourists. Craig has served as VP of Government and Regulatory Affairs for Georgia Power Company; President and CEO of Mirant New York; and Senior VP of External Affairs for Mirant Americas. He is Chairman of the Board of the World Trade Center of Atlanta, Chairman of the Board of the World Chamber of Commerce, and trustee of CIFAL, a UN based initiative to train elected officials in the western hemisphere. In 2011 he was named by Georgia Governor Nathan Deal to serve as one of 23 members of a steering committee for the Governor's Competitiveness Initiative. This year he also served on the Downtown Cities Task Force organized by the Georgia Municipal Association. He has been recognized by Georgia Trend, James Magazine and the Atlanta Business Chronicle as one of Georgia's most influential people.

Craig received his Bachelor's degree from the State University of New York College at Oneonta, is a graduate of the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University's Graduate School of Business and Leadership Georgia.

Pat Stevens (RLI Class of 2000) is Chief of the Atlanta Regional Commission's Environmental Planning Division. In this capacity she is responsible for directing the agency's planning efforts in the areas of water supply, wastewater management, watershed protection, energy and solid waste. She oversees the implementation of the ARC Green Communities Program, the implementation of the Metropolitan River Protection Act and provides planning staff for the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District. Pat is a member of the American Water Works Association and the Georgia Association of Water Professionals. She is a graduate of the Institute for Georgia Environmental Leadership Class of 2005.

Pat received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and a Master of Regional Planning degree from the University of North Carolina in Environmental Planning.

Jim Hartzfeld is Managing Director of InterfaceRAISE, where he helps organizations weave sustainability into the fabric of everything they do, accelerating their learning, while enhancing their value and fulfilling their mission. Through InterfaceRAISE's consulting services, Jim shares experience gained through guiding Interface on its own technical and cultural transformation as well as his work with organizations such as the US Green Building Council, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, and the President's Council on Sustainable Development. At InterfaceRAISE, Jim advises Fortune 1000 companies on their own sustainability initiatives in sectors as diverse as aviation, food and beverage, architecture, and manufacturing. He has also served as a strategic advisor to Walmart. Jim's enthusiasm and conviction make him a sought-after mentor and speaker throughout the world. His expertise extends to such topics as the sustainability business case, corporate culture change, Appreciative Inquiry, environmental impact of buildings, LEED® certification, selling sustainability to stakeholders and more. He has been quoted in numerous publications, including the Wall Street Journal and Fortune Magazine, and co-authored Interface's globally recognized Sustainability Report with Paul Hawken and others. Formerly with Conoco Oil Company and DuPont, he currently serves on the Board of Trustees for the Georgia Conservancy, the Sustainability Committee of The Westminster Schools of Atlanta, and the Board of Advisors of Greenspaces, a Special Economic Zone in New Delhi, India.

Jim holds a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Missouri and an MBA from the Goizueta Business School of Emory University.

Todd Long was appointed Director of Planning for the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) by Governor Perdue in 2009, a position created by the passing of Senate Bill 200. He was reappointed by Governor Deal and confirmed by the General Assembly in January of 2011. Todd is responsible for a variety of reporting and planning activities directed from SB 200. He also directs the full planning team at GDOT and coordinates with external transportation organizations across Georgia to help form the best transportation system for the State's citizens. Todd is also responsible for coordinating the efforts for implementing House Bill 277 – the Transportation Investment Act, passed during the 2010 General Assembly. He began his career with GDOT in its extensive training program in 1990, and has since served in a variety of positions including, District One Traffic Engineer, District Preconstruction Engineer, Assistant District Engineer and then District Engineer in Gainesville; and Director of Administration and Director of Preconstruction at headquarters, where he oversaw the delivery of the Department's multi-billion dollar construction work program. In August of 2008, Todd became the Director of Business Operations for the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority.

Todd studied at the Georgia Institute of Technology and earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in Civil Engineering. He earned the certification of Professional Engineer in 1994, and certification as a Professional Traffic Operations Engineer in 2002.

L.B. "Buzz" Ahrens, Jr. began his first term on the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners in January 2007, and began a second term in January 2011. Prior to his election, he was an executive with extensive background in the global marketplace providing P & L leadership, brand-building, and strategic direction within the consumer products industry. He was Senior Vice President International and corporate officer reporting to the Chairman and CEO of Rubbermaid, Inc. and President of Europe Jeanswear/President of Asia-Pacific with VF Corporation, the maker of well-known apparel brands, such as LEE jeans, Wrangler, JanSport, Vanity Fair, The North Face and Nautica. Buzz also served as an officer in the United States Navy and was awarded the Joint Service Commendation Medal. He sits on several community boards and organizations in Cherokee County, as well as in Metro Atlanta, including: Board Member and Vice Chair of the Atlanta Regional Commission's Executive Committee and member of ARC's Transportation & Air Quality Committee and Regional Transit Committee; Board Member of the Metro Atlanta Arts and Culture Coalition; and Chairman of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia's Pension Board of Trustees.

Buzz earned an undergraduate degree from Yale University. He is a graduate of the Thunderbird Graduate School of International Management and The George Washington University in Washington, DC, earning his MBA in International Business.

Renay Blumenthal is the Senior Vice President of Public Policy for the Metro Atlanta Chamber, which represents 4,000 member companies who employ nearly 1 million workers. In this capacity, she oversees the development and advocacy of public policy issues in the areas of transportation, education, water resources and land use. The Chamber has been described by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution as an organization that has “filled a vacuum in state policymaking, proposing action on crises ranging from transportation funding to water to Grady Memorial Hospital.” Renay has over 15 years of experience in key leadership roles in state and city government. She served as policy director to former Governor Roy Barnes and also served as a budget and policy advisor to former Governor Zell Miller. Immediately prior to joining the Chamber, Renay served as Mayor Shirley Franklin’s budget chief, overseeing the newly created Office of Budget and Fiscal Policy. In these various capacities, she has researched, developed and implemented a variety of policy initiatives ranging from water and sewer infrastructure to economic development to education to health care. Renay currently serves on various boards, including chair of the Clean Air Campaign, the Grady Hospital Board of Advisors, Women’s Forum of Georgia, Leadership Atlanta and the Livable Communities Coalition. She was named a *Georgia Trend* “40 under 40” in 2001, and was a member of the Leadership Georgia class in 2000 and Leadership Atlanta class in 2006.

A native Atlantan, she is a graduate of Georgia Tech and has an MBA from Georgia State University.

Mike Bodker was elected the first Mayor of Johns Creek, Georgia in November 2006 and is currently serving a second term. He is also a partner in Johns Creek-based nexDimension Technology Solutions. Mike has served as Treasurer, Co-Zoning Chair and Government Liaison for the Johns Creek Community Association (JCCA). In 2005, he was nominated by Fulton County Commissioner Lynne Riley to serve on the County’s Blue Ribbon Commission on Better Governance. Through his work with the JCCA, he was appointed Chair of the Northeast Fulton Study Committee, working closely with State Representative and Speaker Pro Tempore Mark Burkhalter for the passage of HB 1321, which called for a voter referendum on the formation of the City of Johns Creek. Mike was also instrumental in founding the North Fulton Municipal Association in 2007, serving as its first Chairman. He is an active member of the Republican Party, serves on the board of the Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce and is a founding board member of the Johns Creek Foundation. Mike also serves as on the Board of Directors of the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) and as GMA’s Chairman of the Revenue and Finance Policy Committee. Recently he was elected treasurer of the Atlanta Regional Commission Board of Directors and serves on its Executive, Transportation and Air Quality, and Regional Transit Committees. In the spring of 2008, the Atlanta Journal Constitution named him one of its annual “Heroes of Open Government,” one of eight recipients overall and one of only two elected officials to be honored.

Mike earned a Bachelor’s degree in Accounting from the University of Georgia.

Helen Butler is Executive Director for the Coalition for the Peoples’ Agenda, convened by Rev. Joseph Lowery. The mission of the Coalition is to improve the quality of governance in Georgia, help create a more informed and active electorate and to have responsive and accountable elected officials. Helen’s diverse experience as a Human Resource Generalist in retail and wholesale grocery industries with major Fortune 500 companies and financial management experience with an automobile manufacturing company and county governmental unit helped her to make a successful transition to a non-profit structure. As an Issue Campaign Organizer and Executive Director of an advocacy organization, she excels at building strong coalitions of diverse representatives from human rights, civil rights, environmental, labor, women, youth, peace and justice organizations. Helen serves on the Board of Directors for Women’s Actions for New Directions (WAND), the Morgan County Board of Elections and The State of Georgia Help America Vote Act Advisory Committee (HAVA). She has served on the Board of Directors for Colonial Stores’ Employees’ Credit Union, Board of Directors for YES! Atlanta (Youth Program), Advisory Board of Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Center Manager for Junior Achievement and is a Life Member of the NAACP.

Helen was one of the first 50 African Americans to enroll at the University of Georgia after Hamilton Holmes and Charlene Hunter Gault integrated the school. She graduated from UGA with a major in Accounting and went on to earn a Masters of Public Administration. She was certified as an Issue Campaign Organizer by the Midwest Training Academy in 2000.

Bucky Johnson (RLI Class of 2009) was elected Mayor of Norcross in 2008 and re-elected in 2010. He serves as Chairman of the Atlanta Regional Round Table on Transportation. This group of twenty-one elected officials will develop a project list for the Transportation Investment Act referendum that will be held in 2012. Bucky also serves as the Chair of the Gwinnett Tech Foundation and the Vice President of the Metro Atlanta Mayor's Association. He serves on the Executive Board of the Georgia Municipal Association and the Gwinnett Municipal Association. Bucky is a member of the Atlanta Regional Commission, the Georgia Municipal Association's Legislative Committee, the Gwinnett Artworks Board, the Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful Board and the Istanbul Center Board. A native of Atlanta, he served as Director of Bands and Head of the Music Department at Georgia Tech until he retired in 2002. He was also the Founder and Director of the 300-member Atlanta Olympic Band from 1992-1996. Bucky currently works part-time in the music ministry at Oak Grove United Methodist Church. He and his wife own and produce the Southern Star Music Festival every spring. Bucky is a graduate of the 2009 Class of Leadership Gwinnett. In 2010 he received the Carl Vinson Institute's Certificate of Recognition for city elected officials and the Outstanding Public Service and Leadership Award from the Latin American Association.

Doug Hooker (RLI Class of 1998) is Vice President and Southern States Director for Atkins North America, a global technical consulting firm of 18,000 employees. He leads strategic market pursuits and client development for the company's water, environmental and transportation businesses, in territories ranging from Mississippi to North Carolina. He has also held leadership positions with other engineering firms. Doug has served in the public sector on the state and local level of government. He was the Executive Director of the Georgia State Road & Tollway Authority (SRTA), and he was the Commissioner of Public Works for the City of Atlanta. While he was Commissioner for Public Works, he distinguished himself by leading the department through the 1996 Olympic Games. Doug is deeply involved in the community – principally in environmental and civic causes. In past years he has chaired the board of the Civic League for Regional Atlanta and the Emory Board of Visitors. He currently serves on the boards of the Metro Atlanta Chamber, the Georgia Tech Civil and Environmental Engineering Advisory Board, and the Regional Business Coalition. Previously, he has served on the board of directors of Georgians for Passenger Rail, the Georgia Conservancy, Park Pride and the Institute for Georgia Environmental Leadership (IGEL), among others. He was appointed by Governor Roy Barnes to serve on the inaugural board of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District and on the ACT and ACF River Basin Compact Commissions. He is an alumnus of Leadership Atlanta, Leadership Georgia and the Middle East Travel Seminar (METS) program.

Doug earned a Bachelor's of Mechanical Engineering and a Master's degree in Technology & Science Policy from Georgia Tech. He received an MBA from the Goizueta School of Business at Emory University.

John O'Callaghan serves as President and CEO of Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership (ANDP) where he leads the organization's policy, lending, and housing development programs aimed at ensuring mixed income housing opportunity near job centers across metro Atlanta. Currently, the organization is focused on addressing the region's foreclosure crisis and its impact on neighborhoods. Prior to joining ANDP, John spent 11 years as the Regional Public Affairs Director at Fannie Mae where he helped create and lead Fannie Mae's housing and community development outreach network for an 11-state region. Before joining Fannie Mae, John was the City of Atlanta's first Director of Intergovernmental Affairs where he directed the City's state and federal lobbying efforts. He also served as a special assistant to Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson. His early career was spent in fundraising positions with the American Red Cross and United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta. John currently serves on the Atlanta Regional Commission's 50 Forward Steering Committee, The Livable Communities Coalition Board of Trustees, Emory University Board of Visitors, the National Housing Conference Board of Trustees, and the Atlanta Terwilliger Center for Workforce Housing Steering Committee. He is playing active roles in local and national networks focused on stabilizing communities devastated by foreclosure including the Housing Partnership Network Neighborhood Stabilization Working Group and Enterprise Community Partner's Atlanta House to Home Initiative. John's public service includes elected office as a Fulton County Commissioner. He also served a two year term on the Atlanta City Council.

John is a native of Atlanta and a graduate of Georgia Tech.

Matt Hauer is a Public Service Assistant in the Governmental Services and Research division at the Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG). He joined the Vinson Institute's Applied Demography Program in July 2009 and is involved with the production of population projections and forecasts, and provides technical training to state and local officials. Matt has worked with Florida State University, the Atlanta Regional Commission and, most recently, the US Census Bureau as a statistician and in field operations. His work focuses primarily on changing mortality patterns, aging, formal demography, and population estimates and forecasts.

Matt has a Master's degree in Demography from Florida State University.

Rich Golick is serving his 6th term in the Georgia House of Representatives, representing the 34th State House District in Cobb County, based in Smyrna. In the private sector, Rich works as Southeast Regional Counsel for Allstate Insurance Company. He serves as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee (Non-Civil), the Insurance Committee, the Retirement Committee, the Appropriations Committee and Vice Chairman of the Rules Committee. Prior to assuming the Chairmanship of the Judiciary Committee, Rich served as Governor Sonny Perdue's Senior Administration Floor Leader in the State House for five years. During his tenure in the State House, he has been recognized by various groups for his legislative achievements, including the Georgia District Attorneys Association, the Georgia Association of Educators, the Georgia Hospital Association, Georgia Conservation Voters and Cure Autism Now. Georgia Watch, Georgia's premier consumer watchdog group, recognized Rich with its 2008 Legislator of the Year Award for his legislative work on behalf of Georgia's consumers. Prior to his election, he served as legislative aide to the Senate Special Judiciary Committee as well as Special Counsel to the State Senate Republican Caucus. During his law school summers, Rich served as a law clerk in the criminal division of the Justice Department in Washington, DC, during the Administration of President George H.W. Bush, and he subsequently clerked in the criminal division of the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Rich graduated from Emory University with a degree in Political Science and earned his law degree at Georgia State University.

Curt Thompson represents the 5th State Senate District in parts of DeKalb and Gwinnett Counties. In the private sector, he practices law in Norcross serving a variety of business and private clients with a focus on administrative and corporate law. He is a member of numerous committees in the Georgia Senate including the Committees for Appropriations, Chairman of Special Judiciary, Economic Development and Higher Education. In addition to his committee assignments, he was one of 4 senators appointed to the Georgia Code Revision Commission. Curt is constantly working to stay connected to the members of his community and help serve their needs. In his district, he currently serves as the President of the Gwinnett Village Community Improvement Association. He hosts an open-invitation monthly gathering called the "Citizen Advisory Forum," allowing members of his community and others to communicate with him directly, regarding issues which most matter to them. His civic affiliations include Gwinnett County Habitat for Humanity, the Sierra Club, Norcross Cooperative Ministries, AID Gwinnett, and the Gwinnett Philharmonic.

Curt attended American University in Washington, DC, majoring in International Studies and Broadcast Journalism. After graduating, he went to law school at Georgia State University.

Maureen Kelly (Class of 2004) is the Business & Community Liaison for the Aging Division of the Atlanta Regional Commission, which is the Area Agency on Aging in the 10-county Atlanta region. She is responsible for programs in the areas of advocacy, marketing, development, transportation, senior employment and public-private partnerships including the Metropolitan Partnership in Aging. She is founder and Board Member of the Thanks Mom & Dad Fund®, a foundation created to support aging programs and services. Maureen is past President of the Georgia Gerontology Society and the Georgia Older Worker Network, and serves on multiple boards including the Metro Atlanta Workforce Board and Fulton County Workforce Investment Board. She is a member of the 2010 Gwinnett Senior Leadership Class.

Maureen holds an undergraduate degree in Social Work from Georgia State University and Masters of Social Work from the University of Georgia.

Steve Dolinger is President of the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education, an Atlanta based non-profit organization dedicated to improving public schools throughout Georgia through research, advocacy and communication. The Partnership works to impact education policies and practices in order to improve student achievement throughout the state. By using research and non-partisan advocacy, the organization informs and influences business and government leaders, educators, citizens and other non-profit organizations. When Steve joined the Partnership in 2002, he brought 33 years of education experience, including: seven years as Superintendent of Schools in Fulton County, Georgia; and 26 years in various teaching and administrative positions in Fairfax County, Virginia. During his tenure with Fulton County, *Money Magazine* rated the school system as one of the top 100 school systems in the nation. Steve introduced many changes in the Fulton County school system based on the principles and practices of business management and he has received national recognition for many of these applications. In 2001 he was named Georgia School Superintendent of the Year.

Steve received his undergraduate degree from Wake Forest University. He has served as an adjunct professor at George Mason University, where he received his Master's degree in Education, and on the Alumni Board of Directors for Vanderbilt University, where he received his doctorate in Education.

Roger Tutterow is a Professor of Economics at Mercer University in Atlanta. Prior to joining Mercer University, Roger held faculty and administrative appointments at West Virginia University, Georgia State University and Kennesaw State University. He has also served as a visiting professor at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad and at the Institute for Industrial Policy Studies in Seoul, South Korea. In addition to his work in academia, Roger has served as a consultant on economic, financial and statistical issues for corporate clients ranging from Fortune 500 companies to closely-held businesses. He has provided expert testimony on economic, financial and statistical matters in state and federal court and before the Georgia Public Service Commission. Roger has given several hundred speeches to professional and civic groups on various topics in the economic, business and political arenas.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in Decision Science from Berry College and a Master's and Ph.D. in Economics from Georgia State University.

Stacey Abrams (RLI Class of 2005) is the House Minority Leader for the Georgia General Assembly and State Representative for the 84th House District. She is the first woman to lead either party in the Georgia General Assembly and is the first African-American to lead the House of Representatives. She is the CEO of SageWorks, LLC, a legal advisory firm that serves as General Counsel for the Atlanta Dream WNBA professional basketball team. She co-founded and acts as Chief Operating Officer of the Insomnia Group, a firm specializing in development, investment and consulting for complex infrastructure projects. Stacey also co-founded and serves as COO of Nourish, Inc., a beverage company with a focus on infants and toddlers. Formerly, Stacey was Deputy City Attorney for the City of Atlanta and Special Counsel at Sutherland Asbill & Brennan law firm. Stacey currently serves on the Board of Trustees for St. Joseph's Health System, the Board of Visitors for Agnes Scott College, the Boards of Directors for Literacy Action and the Gateway Center for the Homeless, and the Advisory Board of the Kenan Institute for Ethics at Duke University and other local advisory boards. She is an alumna of Leadership Georgia and Leadership Atlanta.

Stacey received her J.D. from the Yale Law School. She graduated from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin with a Masters of Public Affairs in public policy. She earned an undergraduate degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from Spelman College.

Bill Bolling is the founder of the Atlanta Community Food Bank and has served as its executive director since 1979. In this capacity he oversees the distribution of more than 20 million pounds of good but unmarketable food and grocery products each year through more than 800 local and regional nonprofit organizations that feed the hungry. He is a frequent speaker on topics related to hunger, poverty, regionalism, affordable housing and public policy reform. Bill's skills in bridging various public sectors have made him a leader in strengthening the community to serve those most in need. Prior to his association with the Food Bank, he served as director of community ministries for St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Atlanta. Bill is a charter member of the Board of Directors of Feeding America, the national network of food banks (formerly America's Second Harvest). He currently serves on the Regional Commission on Homelessness, the Nonprofit Advisory Committee of the Andrew Young School at Georgia State University, and the Faith Alliance of Metro Atlanta. He is founder of the Atlanta Housing Forum, begun in 1988, and is past chair of the Board of the Regional Leadership Forum and the State of Georgia Housing Trust Fund Commission.

Bill holds degrees from Central Piedmont College and Appalachian State University in Business and Education. He received a Master's degree in Psychology and Counseling from West Georgia College. In July of 2003, he attended Harvard Business School, completing a course on Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management.

Lisa Borders (RLI Class of 2000) is President of the Grady Health Foundation, a philanthropic institution whose mission it is to maximize donations for the benefit of the health system while upholding public accountability and institutional integrity. As President, Lisa helps lead the Greater Grady capital campaign and guide the system's fund-raising efforts during the most important period of Grady's history. Formerly, she served as President of the Atlanta City Council from August 2004 – January 2010. Lisa has previously been CEO of LMB LLC, a consulting company advising clients on community reinvestment, external affairs, marketing and communications and she also served as a Senior Vice President of Marketing and External Affairs with Cousins Properties Incorporated, an Atlanta-based Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT). Prior to joining Cousins, Lisa worked in the health care arena for over 15 years. She has worked in her community primarily focusing on family issues in the areas of education, healthcare and housing. She serves as a trustee at The Westminster Schools, a board member at Clark Atlanta University, a member of the Board of Visitors at Emory University, a founding leader of No Labels, and a board member of the Atlanta Downtown Community Improvement District (ADID). She is a member of Leadership Georgia and has received numerous honors and consistent recognition for her corporate and civic work.

Lisa holds a Bachelor's degree from Duke University and a Master's degree in Health Administration from the University of Colorado.

Tim Lowe (RLI Class of 2002) is Lowe Engineers' Chief Executive Officer. The firm provides civil engineering, transportation engineering, surveying and geospatial services to a client base that includes both government and private entities with projects located throughout the United States, Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia, and the Far East. He spent thirty years of Active and Reserve duty in the U.S. Navy serving aboard ship and ashore, including four Commands. Tim serves as Chairman of the Board of Governors for the Georgia World Congress Center Authority, Co-Chairman of the Coverdell Leadership Institute, Chair of the Energy and Environment Committee of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Vice President of the Buckhead Coalition, Council for Quality Growth Board Member as well as serving on the Board of Advisors of the Trust for Public Land - Georgia. Recently, Tim was appointed to the Board of Livable Communities – Buckhead. He is a graduate of Leadership Georgia, Leadership Atlanta and the Georgia Institute of Environmental Leadership (IGEL). Tim was selected by GeorgiaTrend as one of "100 Most Influential Georgians" for 2010 and 2011.

An Atlanta native, Tim attended the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island and the London Business School. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Auburn University and a MBA from Emory University.

Elizabeth "BJ" Mathis (RLI Class of 2009) is now in her third year as Chairman of the Henry County Board of Commissioners. She began her service as Henry County District Two Commissioner in 2005. After serving in various ministry positions for 14 years and working with numerous faith-based agencies, she felt politics was simply another way to serve the people in the community. Under her leadership, an Economic Development Plan has been completed that will help guide economic development decisions in the County for years to come. Acknowledging the link between education and economic development, BJ is now working to assist the school system in raising the graduation rate, encourage higher education, and make Henry County a Work-Ready Certified Community. She is one of the five elected officials selected to serve on the Atlanta Regional Transportation Round Table Executive Committee for the proposed regional SPLOST program. The Executive Committee will be responsible for creating a draft investment list of projects that is both fiscally constrained by the projected revenue of the ten-year sales tax and deliverable within that ten year time frame. BJ was one of 45 women from Clayton and Henry counties to receive Senator Gail Buckner's Legacy of Leadership Award for their contributions to their communities.

Sam Olens (RLI Class of 1999) was sworn in as Georgia Attorney General in January 2011. He was Chairman of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners from 2002 through 2010 and served as Cobb County District 3 Commissioner from 1999 through 2002. From 2004 through 2009, Sam was Chairman of the Atlanta Regional Commission. He was also Vice-Chair of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District from 2005 to 2010. Sam was appointed by Governor Sonny Perdue to represent the 6th Congressional District on Georgia's Department of Community Affairs Board in 2003 and served through 2010. He also serves on the boards of various non-profit organizations, including the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta. Sam is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the 2008 Tom Bradley Leadership Award by the National Association of Regional Councils and the 2007 Excellence in Public Service Award by the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute. For the past six years, Georgia Trend magazine has listed Olens as one of the "100 Most Influential Georgians." Other honors include the 2010 Trumpet Award from the Cobb County Women's Republican Club, the 2009 James L. Rhoden, Jr. Award for Visionary Philanthropy, the 2009 United Way in Cobb County Volunteer of the Year, and Cobb's "Citizen of the Year" by the Marietta Daily Journal in 2006.

Sam graduated from the Emory University School of Law and was a member of Ezor & Olens, P.C. from 1983 through 2010. He is a registered mediator/arbitrator with the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution. He has been admitted to the Georgia and U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit; the United States Supreme Court; and the District of Columbia.

Jeff Dickerson is president of Dickerson Communications, a public affairs firm that provides public relations, issues-management and media consulting services to private- and public-sector clients. The firm has helped some of Atlanta's most prominent organizations manage public crises, including Coca Cola, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, MARTA, Delta Air Lines, AT&T, the Morehouse School of Medicine, the Atlanta Public Schools, the Atlanta Botanical Garden, Grady Memorial Hospital and many others. Jeff served more than 25 years as a journalist, including 17 years on the editorial board of the Atlanta Journal Constitution. The bulk of Jeff's journalism career has been in political advocacy, both as a columnist and editorial writer for several print organizations, including the Atlanta Business Chronicle, The Detroit News, the Atlanta Tribune and others. He also served as a regular panelist on WAGA Fox 5's Sunday public affairs show, "Georgia Gang," for 22 years. As an editorial writer for The Atlanta Journal, Dickerson specialized in some of the editorial page's most complicated and controversial topics, including federal budgets, taxation, Social Security reform, state and local issues and analyses of appellate and U.S. Supreme Court rulings. Dickerson was founding editor of news sections at the AJC. He has served as a reporter and editor and in many other newsroom capacities, and is the recipient of numerous journalistic awards.

Tad Leithead (RLI Class of 1991) was elected Chairman of the Atlanta Regional Commission in December 2009, and leads a 39-member board that steers the planning and development for the 10-county Atlanta region. He has served on the ARC board since 2000, and was Chair of its Transportation & Air Quality Committee from 2007-2009. Prior to forming his own governmental relations and consulting firm, Tad Leithead Advisors, he was responsible for leading Cousins Properties development efforts as they relate to entitlement issues throughout the region, and served as liaison with the various governmental entities and community-based organizations. As a founding partner with Childress Klein Properties, Tad was instrumental in the operation of the Atlanta Galleria, one of Atlanta's premier mixed-use developments, and a key participant in the development of Cobb Galleria Centre. In 1998, he formed Urban One Associates, a development and transportation consulting firm, working with Midtown Alliance, Perimeter Center, Gwinnett County and others in the formation of several new Community Improvement Districts. Tad was a principal in the development of Ridenour, a 90-acre "Smart Growth" community in northwest Cobb County – which received the Atlanta Regional Commission's "Development of Excellence" award in 1999. He also serves as Chairman of the Cumberland Community Improvement District, on the Boards of Directors of the Bank of North Georgia, the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Fulton County Perimeter Community Improvement District and the North Fulton Community Improvement District.

Tad is a resident of Cobb County and graduated with a B.A. from Washington and Lee University.