

Georgia Association of Educational Leaders
35th Annual Summer Conference
July 12 – 15, 2009
Jekyll Island, Georgia

Rising Above the Challenge:
Celebrating the 35th GAEL Summer Conference

Saturday, July 11th

- 8:00 a.m.** **GSSA Board of Directors**
Jekyll Island Club
- 1:00 p.m.** **Two-Player Golf Scramble**
Indian Mounds Course
Ricky Rentz, Coordinator
- 2:00** **Tennis Tournament - Doubles**
Jekyll Island Tennis Center
Larry Harmon, Coordinator
- 7:00** **GAEL Past Presidents Dinner**
Jekyll Island Club Hotel
Sponsored by: VALIC

Sunday, July 12th

- 8:00 a.m.** **Tennis Tournament - Singles**
Jekyll Tennis Center
Larry Harmon, Coordinator
- 9:00** **Ben Christie Memorial Golf Tournament**
Oleander Course
Ricky Rentz, Coordinator

10:00 - 6:00 Conference Registration

Convention Center Lobby

Sponsored by: AAA Specialty Wholesale

Altman + Barrett, Architects

Manley Spangler Smith Architects

Southern A & E

Thinking Maps

Exhibitor Set up

Convention Center, Caldwell Hall

Ralph McCrary, Coordinator

Cyber Café

Convention Center, Hallway

Sponsored by: Dell Computers

Technical Systems Integrators

Gordon County Schools

10:00 - 4:00 Watermelon Cutting

North Patio

Sponsored by: Professional Association of Georgia Educators

11:00 – 5:30 “Oceans of Fun 2009” Sign up (Activity fees charged)

Convention Center Lobby

Sponsored by: Georgia Association of Extension 4-H Agents

Activities planned for the week (subject to change) include: Hawaiian luau party, beach crafts, ice cream social, seining, fish prints t-shirt making, Summer Waves Water Park, biking, canoeing, kayaking, Kids in the Kitchen cooking class, putt-putt, team building, herpetology, dolphin boat tour. All Day Ticket (8:45 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.) includes: pick up at Convention Center, morning class, sandwich lunch, afternoon at Summer Waves.

11:00 G-CASE Executive & Advisory Board

Beachside Hall, Room 9

11:00 Affiliated Georgia School Leaders Board of Directors

Beachside Hall, Room 11

- 12:00 p.m. GAESP Executive Committee**
Convention Center, Room 5
- 12:00 GASSP Executive Committee**
Beachside Hall, Room 11
- 12:00 GACIS Executive Committee**
Convention Center, Room 4
- 1:30 GACIS Board of Directors**
Convention Center, Room 4
- 1:30 GAESP Board of Directors**
Convention Center, Room 5
- 1:30 GAMSP Board of Directors**
Convention Center, Room 6
- 2:00 GASSP Board of Directors**
Beachside Hall, Room 11
- 3:00 GAEL Executive Committee**
Convention Center, Room 3
- 4:00 GAEL Board of Directors**
Convention Center, Room 3
Refreshments for Board Meetings
Provided by: Balfour/ Herff Jones/ Jostens
- 4:00 New Leaders Support Program**
Convention Center, Room 6
- 7:00 Low Country Boil (Ticket required)**
Atlantic Hall
Sponsored by: VALIC

Monday, July 13th

7:30 Continental Breakfast
Jekyll Convention Center Lobby
Sponsored by: Georgia Association of Extension 4-H Agents

7:30 Conference Registration
Jekyll Convention Center Lobby

7:30 Visit Exhibits
Caldwell Hall

Note: Exhibit hall open Monday only to registered conference attendees. Name badge required for admission.

7:30 Cyber Café
Convention Center, Hallway
Sponsored by: Dell Computers
Technical Systems Integrators
Gordon County Schools

8:15 General Session
Hartley Auditorium

Presiding: *Suzi Bonifay*, GAEL President

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: *Larry Johnson*, GAEL Immediate Past President

Introduction of Speaker: *Jim Arnold*, GAEL Board of Directors

Speaker: *Mark Wilson*

Dr. Wilson, Principal at Morgan County High School in Madison, Georgia and the 2009 MetLife/NASSP National High School Principal of the Year, will kick off the 2009 GAEL Summer Conference with the inspirational message of “The Power of One” and a special appearance by Darius of *Darius Goes West*.

Darius Goes West has elicited bellowing laughs and jubilant tears in audiences of all ages worldwide. It has inspired a nationwide grassroots movement to raise money for, and awareness of, Duchenne muscular dystrophy, has motivated a new generation of children and young adults to promote diversity and equality and "pay it forward" to help others.

Sponsored by: Riverside Publishing

Awards Ceremony: *Suzi Bonifay*

Fulbright Distinguished Service Award

Presented to a GAEL member who personifies the leadership qualities modeled by GAEL's first Executive Director, H. M. Fulbright.

John Yates Scholarship

Awarded in honor of John Yates, former Executive Director, in recognition of his many contributions to GAEL.

Sponsored by: The Horace Mann Companies
Additional awards by: eInstruction and
Multi Media Services – SMART Classroom

10:00 **Refreshments**
Convention Center Lobby
Sponsored by: KidsArt Fairs

10:30 **General Session**
Hartley Auditorium

Introduction of Speaker: *Keith Porter*, GAEL Board of Directors

Speaker: *Willard R. Daggett*, Ed.D., President of the International Center for Leadership in Education

“Improving Student Performance During Times of Declining Resources”

As schools and school districts struggle with the conflicting realities of declining resources and the need to improve all students’ performance, innovative solutions must be implemented. Dr. Daggett will describe what the nation’s most successful schools have done to provide all students with a more academically rigorous and relevant curriculum during these times of economic constraints.

Sponsored by: Coca-Cola

Door Prize Drawing*

12:00pm **GAEL Boxed Luncheon** (Ticket required)

Atlantic Hall

Sponsored by: Classworks

Visit Exhibits

Caldwell Hall

Note: Exhibit hall open Monday only to registered conference attendees. Name badge required for Admission.

1:30-4:00 **Concurrent Sessions**

2:30-3:00 Refreshments- Convention Center Lobby

Sponsored by: R . K. Redding Construction Co.

Georgia Association of Educators

1. “Leadership for the Components of School Excellence”

Hartley Auditorium

Facilitator: *Brenda Schulz*, GAEL Board of Directors

For schools to be successful, their leaders must be successful. Building on the eight Components of School Excellence, *Dr. Willard Daggett’s* presentation will lay out the role of school leadership teams in providing the structure, support, and guidance for each component. He will also share the nation’s most successful practices in school leadership.

2. “Using RTI to Make AYP in Every School”

Beachside Hall

Facilitator: *Bonnie Seery*, GAEL Board of Directors

Cara Shores’ and *Kim Chester’s* presentation is especially designed for principals, curriculum directors, and instructional supervisors in general education. *Cara Shores* and *Kim Chester*, authors of the 2009 book *Using RTI for School Improvement, Raising Every Student’s Achievement Scores*, will enable education leaders to grasp how school-wide implementation of RTI with fidelity can raise achievement levels for all students and increase the likelihood of schools making AYP.

3. “Georgia Professional Standards Commission Present a Multi Faceted Informational Session” Convention Center, Rooms 3-4

Kelly Henson, Executive Secretary, Georgia PSC, along with his executive team and key leadership from the GaDOE will present a multi faceted informational session to address: HB 455 - Guidance from the DOE and PSC - *Kelly Henson, Martha Reichrath, and Clara Keith*; HB 280 - Math/Science differentiated pay and endorsements - *Kelly Henson, David Hill*; Georgia TAPP - New opportunities for non-traditional routes to certification - *David Hill*; the New Code of Ethics and information on reporting and investigating-Gary Walker and closing with New PSC Website and the PSC conversion to paperless certificates - *Mark Pevey and Rick Eiserman*.

4. “Legal Issues in Education- Hot Topics”

Atlantic Hall

Facilitator: *Paul Shaw*, GAEL Board of Directors

Phil Hartley, Harbin, Hartley and Hawkins, LLP is a well-known authority on school law and state and national educational issues. He will discuss “Hot Topics” of importance to all educational leaders. Recent court decisions, NCLB, ARRA, student discipline, choice and many more topics will be discussed.

5. “An Update from the Georgia Department of Education”
Convention Center, Rooms 5-6

Facilitator: *Bob Heaberlin*, GAEL Board of Directors

Diane Bradford, Deputy Superintendent of Educational Support and Improvement, Georgia Department of Education will present Georgia’s CLASS Keys a new year-long teacher performance appraisal process that focuses on improvement and accountability. During the second portion of this session, *Martha Reichrath*, Deputy Superintendent of Standards, Instruction and Assessment, Georgia Department of Education will discuss how the work of the core standards connects to current education initiatives in Georgia and other “hot topics” such as the continued implementation of GPS mathematics, testing integrity, IDEA /AARA guidance, AYP, and continuing efforts to improve communication from the GaDOE to the districts.

4:30 **Exhibit Hall Closes**

5:00 **John Yates Beach Run/Walk** (Registration begins 4:30)
Jekyll Convention Center, North Entrance
Frank King and Alan Kimbro Coordinators

Participants will run/walk 5k (3.1 miles) on the beach. All finishers will receive an official “John Yates Beach Run” T-shirt.

Sponsored by: Georgia Beverage Association
Herff Jones
Morgan Keegan & Company, Inc.
SRJ Architects Inc.
AAA Specialty Wholesale

Tuesday, July 14th

7:30 **Continental Breakfast**
Jekyll Convention Center Lobby

Sponsored by: Walden University

7:30 **Conference Registration**
Jekyll Convention Center Lobby

Visit Exhibits
Caldwell Hall

Note: Name badge required for admission.

7:30

Cyber Café

Convention Center, Room 2

Sponsored by: Dell Computers

Technical Systems Integrators

Gordon County Schools

8:15

General Session

Hartley Auditorium

Presiding: *Suzi Bonifay*, GAEL President

Introduction of Speaker: *Bettye Ray*, GAEL Board of Directors

Speaker: *Beverly Hall*, Superintendent, Atlanta Public Schools and
2009 AASA Superintendent of the Year

Dr. Hall is one of the foremost educators in the United States today. She is the superintendent of the Atlanta Public Schools (APS)-an urban school system of 96 schools with approximately 52,000 students and over 4,100 teachers. Under her leadership since 1999, this once low performing school system has embarked on a comprehensive school reform program. The increases in student achievement and community involvement have been remarkable.

Sponsored by: The Georgia Power Foundation

Introduction of Speaker: *Suzi Bonifay*, GAEL President

Speaker: *Kathy Cox*, Georgia State Superintendent of Schools

Under the leadership of State Superintendent Kathy Cox, the Georgia Department of Education functions as a service-oriented and policy-driven agency that meets the needs of local school systems as they prepare all students for college or a career in a safe and drug-free environment where we ensure that no child is left behind.

Awards Ceremony: *Suzi Bonifay*

Special Recognition: *Gwen Desselle*, 2010 Georgia Teacher of the Year

GAEL Service Award

Jim Puckett Outstanding Educator Awards

Presented from each of the GAEL Affiliates to outstanding educational leaders for exemplary leadership, contributions to the profession, and promoting public education.

Presentations: GAEL Affiliate Presidents

Rhonda Rowland, GAESP

Keith Porter, GACIS

Bonnie Seery, G-CASE

Bettye Ray, GSSA

Jim Arnold, GASSP

Maria Bradley, GAMSP

Sponsored by: The Horace Mann Companies

Additional awards by: eInstruction and

Multi Media Services – SMART Classroom

Door Prize Drawing*

10:15 Refreshments

Convention Center Lobby

Sponsored by: Howard Technology Solutions

Georgia Student Finance Commission

11:00 Affiliate Business Meetings

GAESP: Atlantic Hall

GAMSP: Beachside Hall, Room 10

GASSP: Beachside Hall, Rooms 11 & 12

GACIS: Convention Center, Rooms 4-6

G-CASE: Convention Center, Room 3

GSSA: Hartley Auditorium

11:00 **Exhibit Hall Closes**

12:15 p.m. **Lunch** (on your own)

Lunch items will be available for purchase outside the Hartley Auditorium.

1:30 **Special Interest Sessions**

1. "Effective Programs for Students with Autism"

Beachside Hall, Room 10

Presenters: *Cathy Skinner-Robertson*, Consultant for Self-Contained Programs and *Amy Zaring*, Autism Consultant, Fayette County Schools; *Mikki Garcia*, Senior Director, Department for Exceptional Children and *Michele Newsome*, Program Manager, Chatham County Schools; and *Barbee Cowan*, Director of Special Education and *Shenequa Lake*, Behavior Intervention Specialist, Sumter County Schools

Facilitators: *Mikki Garcia*, GAEL Board of Directors

This will be a panel presentation of three school systems of different sizes ranging from small to large systems discussing effective practices in serving students with autism. The session is designed for building principals who have programs for students with autism in their schools and for special education leaders.

2. "Managing Talent to Make Your School and District a Local 'Employer of Choice'"

Beachside Hall, Room 12

Presenters: *Scott Cowart*, Senior Performance Consultant, GLISI Performance Consulting and *Deb Page*, Senior Practice Leader, GLISI Performance Consulting.

Facilitators: *Paul Shaw*, GAEL Board of Directors

Learn how you can manage the talent pipeline and create a performance culture to make your district or school an "Employer of Choice". Get

a sneak peak at Leader Tracker™, a tool for managing leader development and progression.”

3. “Options for Flexibility: IE2 Contracts or Charter Petitions”

Convention Center, Room 3

Presenters: *Clara Keith*, Deputy Superintendent Policy and External Affairs; *L.C. (Buster) Evans*, Superintendent and *Lissa Pijanowski*, Associate Superintendent, Forsyth County Schools.

Faciliators: *Jack Parish*, GAEL Board of Directors

Legislation passed during the last two sessions of the General Assembly has changed the landscape related to charter schools in Georgia, new authorizers and new funding sources. In addition, issues of governance, local control, and utilization of local revenues have arisen. The presenters will address these and other issues as Georgia considers options other than the traditional public schools delivery model. Forsyth County Schools, the second Georgia school district to enter into an IE2 contract, will share the processes used to design the contract as part of the system strategic plan. Processes include, garnering community support, determining areas of flexibility needed, developing schools plans with annual targets, establishing an effective communication plan, and negotiating with the Georgia Department of Education will be discussed.

4. “Gwinnett County’s Quality-Plus Leader Academy”

Beachside Hall, Room 11

Presenter: *Glenn Pethel*, Gwinnett County Public Schools.

Facilitator: *Jerry Davis*, GAEL Board of Directors

Beginning in January 2007, aspiring principals in Gwinnett County Public Schools became students again in a customized leadership development program that had been in the works for more than two years. It was designed to ensure GCPS had the caliber of principals needed for the challenging years ahead. The focus of the academy is comprehensive covering curriculum and instruction, school budgets, human resources, operations management, community relations, and more. The

instructors are senior executives in the school system, and the curriculum includes lessons from renowned experts in each area of study.

5. “How RTI Can Raise the Achievement of All Students”

Hartley Auditorium

Presenters: *Cara Shores* and *Kim Chester*, authors of the 2009 book *Using RTI for School Improvement, Raising Every Student’s Achievement Scores*

Facilitator: *Bonnie Seery*, GAEL Board of Directors

This breakout session is especially intended for principals, curriculum directors, and instructional supervisors in general education. It is designed to help them see how a school-wide coordinated program of early, progressively intensive interventions for all struggling students through Georgia's Pyramid of Interventions can raise the achievement levels of all students.

6. “Defying the Norm: Innovative Ideas, Tangible Results”

Convention Center, Room 4

Presenters: *Samuel King*, Superintendent and *Richard Autry*, Chief Academic Officer, Rockdale County School System.

Facilitator: *Steve Smith*, GAEL Board of Directors

Improving student achievement requires a collaborative and coherent effort among all stakeholders. This session will provide proven best practices to increase student achievement and boost a school system’s culture for improvement and learning. The speakers will give their perspective on how Rockdale County Public Schools (RCPS), a district of 16,000 students with over 70% minority and 58% economically disadvantaged, has defied the norm in the midst of significant community demographic changes over the past eight years. Dr. Samuel King, Superintendent of RCPS and Richard Autry, Chief Academic Officer will share how the system implemented a strategic plan that has resulted in the district achieving AYP for an unprecedented three consecutive years

7. “Teacher Accountability: A CRCT Growth Model”

Atlantic Hall

Presenters: *Will Scofield*, Superintendent, Hall County Schools; *Michael Catledge*, Data Analyst and; *Jeremy Williams*, Data Analysts, Pioneer RESA.

Faciliator: *Keith Porter*, GAEL Board of Directors

This presentation will demonstrate a reliable teacher level accountability measure which allows administrators to assess, classroom-by-classroom progress measured by the CRCT. Participants will learn how a group of 13 Georgia school systems are using growth reports to evaluate grade levels, teacher’s effectiveness, and programs and how this growth model can be replicated at the system or RESA level.

8. “School Councils: Making Their Work Count”

(First session only) Convention Center, Room 1

Presenters: *Jamin Bercaw*, Metropolitan Nashville, (TN) Public Schools; *Gary D. Hughes*, Metropolitan Nashville, (TN) Public Schools; *Nancy Sharpe Strawbridge*, Walton County Public Schools (GA)

Facilitator: *Cindy Flesher*, GAEL Board of Directors

Based on a study conducted by Vanderbilt University in the Jefferson County Public Schools in Louisville, KY, this session will explore ways to bring meaning to the work of School Councils in Georgia. Suggestions for streamlining the work of Councils with other school committees and leveraging the work of councils to provide opportunities for teacher leaders and to increase parental involvement will be presented.

9. “International Center’s Learning Criteria to Support 21st Century Learners” Beachside Hall, Room 13

Presenter: *Betty Garner*, Assistant Principal, Kennesaw Mountain High School

Faciliator: *Alan Long*, GAEL Board of Directors

Presenters will provide a brief overview of the *International Center's Learning Criteria to Support 21st Century Learners* and demonstrate how Kennesaw Mountain High School has adapted the four dimensions and developed data indicators that reflect both the culture of the school and its goals for the future. This presentation is designed for participants who want to see how a large suburban high school embraces the Learning Criteria as a tool for continuous school improvement.

10. "School Systems Meeting All Achievement and Performance Goals" Beachside Hall Lobby

Presenters: Kristie Brooks, Director of Special Services, Oconee County Schools and Ashley Templeton, Assistant Principal, Oconee County Elementary School, Oconee County Schools; Jo Alice Ray, Director of Student Services, Rabun County Schools and Mark Earnest, Principal of Rabun County High School, Rabun County Schools.

Facilitator: *Emily Collins*, G-CASE Executive Director

This will be a panel of school systems where all schools have made AYP for the last 5 years and the school system made AYP and met all special education performance indicators (7 of 7). School system representatives will provide information on how they accomplished their goals and provide suggestions for other school systems.

11. "Lee Middle School's Behavior Education Program" (First session only) Convention Center Room 8

Presenters: *Cindy Bennett*, Assistant Principal Lee Middle School and *Jeff Kelly*, Assistant Principal, East Coweta Middle School

Facilitator: *Bob Heaberlin*, GAEL Board of Directors

This presentation will address the procedures used in both schools to ensure the success of at-risk students academically and behaviorally. A PowerPoint presentation will be used during this session along with a comprehensive notebook of policies and procedures. Other handouts may include: Wolf PACK staff packet, Wolf PACK brochure, student-centered goal sheets, graphs to monitor student success, and a copy of the Wolf PACK store.

12. “Leading for Success”

Convention Center, Room 2

Presenter: *Samuel Dasher, Jr.*, Principal, Louisville Middle School, Jefferson County Schools

Faciliator: *Melinda Dennis*, GAEL Board of Directors

This interactive session will engage school and district leaders in the processes necessary to institute change in struggling schools. Participants will assess the factors, staff conditions, culture, and other variables that make the difference in struggling schools becoming schools of success.

13. “Georgia’s Pyramid of Intervention: Promising Practices in RTI” Convention Center, Room 5

Presenters: *Debbie Rondem*, Director of Student Support Services, Forsyth County Schools, *Scarlet Correll*, Director of Professional Learning, Research and Intervention; Coordinator for RTI and 504, Valdosta City Schools

Facilitator: *Christi Teal*, GAEL Board of Directors

RTI practices that are both practical and promising are becoming more evident across Georgia. This fast paced presentation will showcase some of the best examples of what is working in Georgia schools and systems on the high impact components: data teams/problem solving; instructional/behavioral supports; universal screening/progress monitoring; professional learning; and parent engagement. Participants will discover Georgia DOE resources, professional learning tools/supports, and RTI’s connection to other ongoing initiatives.

14. “Coaching for Executive Educators: Improving Leadership Performance and Student Achievement” Caldwell Hall

Presenters: *Mary Chandler*, Assistant Professor, Kennesaw State University; *Jackie Hubbert*, Coach/Consultant, Elite Scholar Academy, Clayton County Schools; *Diane Ray*, Assistant Director, Professional

Learning, PAGE, Inc.; *Bill Swan*, CEO, ELA, Inc. & Professor-Emeritus, University of Georgia

Facilitator: *Maria Bradley*, GAEL Board of Directors

The ACT© Model, with training adapted for educational leaders, is a collaborative project with Kennesaw State University's Bagwell College of Education and Coles College of Business and is aligned with the GaPSC Standards for the Coaching Endorsement. The session will address: (1) Definition of executive coaching and the differences among coaching, mentoring, and counseling; (2) assumptions/parameters about coaching, coachees, and coaches; (3) description of the GROW coaching process; (4) brief demonstration of coaching; (5) feedback on the effectiveness of executive coaching from both current coachees and the Beta coaches responsible for adaptation of the training model; (6) suggestions for implementation of executive educator coaching, including PLU's; (7) Questions/answers.

15. "Failure is Not an Option . . . A Story of How One School District is Responding to the Increasing Accountability of No Child Left Behind" Convention Center, Room 6

Presenters: *Claire Miller*, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; *Jan Masingill*, Elementary Curriculum Coordinator; *Ken Greene*, Director of Student Services; *Cindy Propst*, Principal of Bramlett Elementary School; *Michael Mehrhof*, Assistant Principal of Bramlett Elementary School, Barrow County Schools

Facilitator: *Richard Bazemore*, GAEL Board of Directors

How did your school and school district respond to your CRCT scores and AYP results last year? The presenters in this session will share how and why the school district has increased the accountability and monitoring of the school improvement process while fostering a culture of support. Presenters will share their story from both district and school level perspectives.

16. “Systemic Approach to Incorporating Needs Based Instruction and Response to Intervention” Beachside Hall, Room 9

Presenters: *Macy M. Defnall*, Executive Director for Curriculum and Instruction and *Gloria Navarro*, Director of RTI, Paulding County Schools

Facilitator: *Kim Herron*, GAESP Board of Directors

The presentation outlines key components that Paulding County Schools have implemented this school year to address achievement, K-12, while meeting requirements for RTI, progress monitoring, and targeted goals within school and district level improvement plans. The session will offer participants ways to utilize differentiation through their adopted model of Needs Based Instruction to include all sub-groups, K-12.

2:30 Refreshments

Jekyll Convention Center Lobby

Sponsored by: Kaplan K12 Learning Services
Mayfield Dairy

3:00 – 4:00 Special Interest Sessions Repeated

1. “Discussing the Mathematics I, II, and Mathematics Support Classes” (Second session only.) Convention Center, Room 1

Presenter: *Janet Davis*, Georgia Department of Education

Facilitator: *Jeanie Miller*, GAESP Board of Directors

A discussion of what mathematics in high school and the mathematics support class should be doing, how to help and support teachers in implementation, and what will insure success on assessments.

2. “A Story of School Transformation through the Arts”
(Second session only.) Convention Center, Room 8

Presenters: *Diana Mills*, Principal of Hickory Hills Integrated Arts Academy, (Distinguished Title I School for the past six years in Marietta City Schools) and *Pamela Millice*, Associate Director of Arts Now

Faciliator: *Ray Jordan*, GAEL Board of Directors

Hickory Hills Elementary became an Integrated Arts Elementary School in the fall of 2008. In a very short period of time and through the support of the Marietta City Board of Education and a strong partnership with ArtsNow, teachers and students have received national recognition, by being named ArtsNow Learning Laboratory School.

7:00 – 9:15 Lifetouch Family Night
Cook Out & Ice Cream
Atlantic Hall

Sponsored by: Lifetouch National School Studios

9:15 Fireworks
Atlantic Hall Patio

Sponsored by: Lifetouch National Schoo Studios
Jekyll Island Convention and Visitors Bureau

Wednesday, July 15th

7:30 Continental Breakfast
Jekyll Convention Center Lobby
Sponsored by: Shaw Hankins
Solution Tree

8:30 General Session
Hartley Auditorium

Presiding: *Philip Mellor*, GAEL President Elect
Presentation: Herff Jones

Remarks: *Suzi Bonifay*, GAEL President

Recognition of GAEL Officers and Board Members

Recognition of GAEL Past Presidents

Installation of 2009-2010 GAEL Officers: *Larry Johnson*, GAEL President 2007-2008

Remarks: *Philip Mellor*, GAEL President 2009-2010

Introduction of Speaker: *Martha Reichrath*, GAEL Board of Directors

Speaker: *Mark Donovan*, Vice- Chairman, the Marriott Foundation Board.

The Marriott Foundation's Bridges Program is an innovative program that develops paid internships with local employers for students with disabilities as they prepare to leave school, enhancing their opportunity to establish a rewarding career. Equally rewarding to the employers involved, they gain access to a source of employees that have been educated, trained and pre-screened to job criteria and needs. The role of Bridges does not end with finding a suitable match. Project directors and employer representative staff coordinates all aspects of the internships, work closely with employers to identify potential positions, develop student matches, and act as a primary resource to employers and students throughout the internship. They provide on-site, follow up support to both the employer and the student during the internship period.

Panel Discussion: Rising to the Challenge: Surviving the Great Recession

This session is designed to answer questions concerning issues resulting from the decline in revenue and political decisions being made at the local, state and federal levels. Panelists will explore ways that local system personnel can most effectively utilize ARRA funds in order to achieve long-term gains from these "short" term funds. Panel members will utilize their professional expertise to address the many concerns raised by these difficult economic times and an ever-changing political environment.

Panel Moderator: *Suzi Bonifay*, GAEL President

Panel Members: *Clara Keith*, Deputy Superintendent Policy and External Affairs, Georgia Department of Education. Clara Keith recently named Deputy State School Superintendent over the Office of Policy and External Affairs has served the GADOE for nearly 20 years in various leadership roles. She is well versed in both state and federal education policy working briefly on special assignment at the US Department of Education in Washington DC. Prior to coming to the Ga. Department of Education she worked in the Merewether County School System.

Dennis W. Bega, Senior Education Advisor, U.S. Department of Education, Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Bega who serves as the Southeast representative for the education provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) will share the latest information from Washington.

Will Schofield, currently in his fourth year as Superintendent of Hall County School System, has also served as Superintendent for four years in Social Circle and two years in Bozeman, Montana. Other leadership roles include principal and assistant principal for seven years in Hall County and Social Circle. Will has powerful vision, indefatigable energy, and incomparable commitment to excellence and his leadership drives the school system to develop rigorous programming options that meet the needs and demands of every student. Last year he was recognized as the National Administrator of the Year by the National Association of Gifted Children and as the Leader of the Year by the Georgia Association of Gifted Children.

Herb Garrett, Executive Director, Georgia School Superintendents Association. Mr. Garrett has served Georgia's students for over 32 years as a teacher, principal and superintendent before being appointed as the Executive Director of GSSA in 2000. Herb is a Past-President of both GAEL and GSSA and currently serves as the President of the Association of State Executives (ASE).

Introduction of Speaker: *Stuart Bennett*, GAEL Executive Director

Speaker: *Phil Hartley*, Harben, Hartley, Hawkins LLP

“Checklist for Preparing for the New School Year”

As new laws, new State Board of Education and Professional Standards Commission rules are implemented and as legal interpretations change,

educational leaders face numerous challenges in preparing for the new school year. They must ensure they have met all the new requirements, disseminated appropriate information to appropriate publics, and are prepared to collect and report data on a variety of required topics. Again this year, Phil Hartley presents his popular “pre school checklist” as a reminder of some of the issues that must be addressed as education leaders prepare for a new school year.

Closing Remarks: *Stuart Bennett*, GAEL Executive Director

Drawing for Grand Prizes*