



The Newsletter

September 2007

The Georgia Association of Educational Leaders

President's Comments

By Larry Johnson, GAEL President

(Editor's note: Larry Johnson, principal of County Line Elementary in Barrow County, is GAEL's 33rd president. This column is adapted from his remarks at the 2007 GAEL Summer Conference.)



On July 2nd, I started my 32nd year as an educator in the state of Georgia. I fondly remember my first day as a teacher at Hillsman Middle School in Clarke County because it was August 19, 1976, my 22nd birthday. The field of education has been very rewarding to me and I have to thank the many mentors and role models who have had such a profound impact on my career and life. 15 years as middle and high school mathematics teacher, 9 years in middle and high school administration, and the last 7 years as an elementary school principal at CLES, the keys to success have been (1) a willingness to change, listen, and adapt, (2) a commitment to excellence, (3) professional growth and involvement.

It is my philosophy that in life you either progress or retrogress. There is no standing still. If we stand still, the world will pass by us in a flash. As knowledge grows exponentially, the schools have had to respond proactively to this wide expanse of knowledge. Technological advancements and globalization have ushered in new mindsets and new concerns since I started out 32 years ago. Not only are the schools a microcosm of society; but we have grown to the point of being the society, the mom, the dad, the primary caregiver, or so they think. Do I need to tell you the numerous tasks that school have to be responsive to...some legislated to us, other because we are members of a caring and nurturing organization? Our economic vitality is tied to education. Now the schools have to be concerned about early or preschool learning, community planning, teacher quality—especially with the specificity required by NCLB, high school completion rate, workforce readiness, and the list goes on and on.

A partnership has to exist between home, school, and community/business. We can excel only if there is a joint venture of educational resources and organizations, high expectations, and a clear and explicated vision. For example, GAEL is not a good ole boy network. It promotes and values a strong and effective educational system through improving educational leadership. Just think, this little ole country boy from Madison County, Danielsville, Georgia, who consistently maintained professional involvement, is now president of the premier educational organization in the state. This is one reason that GAEL is a vital link, especially if we are to lead the nation in student achievement. There is power in numbers and organizational structure, and I thank God for letting me walk in His favor and prophecy.

Thank You to those visionaries who 33 years ago had the vision and foresight to initiate the organization of GAEL. The 6 affiliates of GAEL—GAESP,

Continued on page 4

General Assembly Report

This summer has seen a great deal of discussion of HR 900, strongly supported by Speaker of the House Glenn Richardson. The resolution calls for a Constitutional amendment that would, for the most part, shift the tax base from property taxes to a 4% state use and services tax on all goods and services. Many current sales tax exemptions would be eliminated (e.g. food). Revenue would then be redistributed by the state back to the local school systems, counties, and cities based upon the amount raised locally by the property taxes in 2006 plus the growth in population and inflation as measured by the consumer price index. Except in limited circumstances, local governments would be unable to supplement the state allocations for expenditures like local teacher supplements, additional staff, technology enhancements, etc. Control of spending would be transferred to the state from locally elected officials.

GAEL has major concerns about the proposals. Watch the GAEL homepage (www.gael.org) for updates on this and other legislative issues as we move toward the 2008 session of the General Assembly in January. ♦

Reflections

by Jim Puckett, GAEL Executive Director

Sometimes I'm asked by prospective GAEL members what they would receive in return for their membership dues should they decide to join. I usually respond with the expected litany of benefits: professional development opportunities, networking, up-to-date and accurate information, access to resources, etc. It's a good list and certainly worth the investment which in today's economy equates to a couple of tanks of gasoline, a couple of meals at a better restaurant, or a night at the movies with popcorn, cokes, and candy.

Then I ask them. As an educational leader, who is your advocate? Who represents your interests before decision-makers whose decisions carry professional life or death power over your chosen life's work? How much time do you spend meeting with legislators, state board members, certification officials, health insurance boards and those investing your retirement funds? The answer is always the same: "I don't have time for that, I have to work for a living." Point made.

The major role of a professional association is to be the advocate for its members when important people are making important decisions related to their work. In addition to the items listed above, that's what GAEL does. Because you can't always be there, we monitor and report when the General Assembly, State Board of Education, Professional Standards Commission, Teacher Retirement System, State Merit Health Board, etc. are considering policies that impact your roles as educational leaders. Because you can't always be there, we provide the decision-makers with accurate and honest information as to the impact of proposed decisions on the real world of public education in Georgia. And, because you can't always be there, we acknowledge and support proposed decisions that will be good for kids and actively oppose decisions that will negatively impact Georgia's children.

GAEL is your advocate. That's what you get for your dues!



He Said....

We should use the results of testing to diagnose and guide the instruction of the student. If one uses test scores to "label" a student, "retain" a student, and "label a school" then one has abused the testing process.

Franklin Shumake, educator.

She Said...

Some politicians justify vouchers with the Orwellian claim that taking money from public schools to pay private tuition will improve the public schools by forcing them to compete for students. This claim is absurd given the uneven playing field between public and private schools. Most obviously, private schools can reject any student who would require extra time from teachers. Until private schools receiving vouchers are required to accept all applicants, vouchers simply allow them to cherry-pick public school students, giving them an insurmountable competitive edge.

Susan Goodkin, executive director, The California Strategies Center, quoted in the Washington Post.



The Georgia Association of Educational Leaders (GAEL) is a non profit organization that provides unity of educational leadership groups in Georgia, bringing together the Georgia Association of Middle School Principals, Georgia Association of Elementary Principals, Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals, Georgia Association of Curriculum and Instructional Supervisors, Georgia Council of Administrators of Special Education, and Georgia School Superintendents Association on issues of common interest. The GAEL Newsletter is published during the school year as an informational service to members. Articles do not necessarily reflect the positions or views of GAEL; advertisements or products/services/resources mentioned do not imply endorsement by GAEL. GAEL Board of Directors: President: **Dr. Bob Heaberlin**, principal, Lee Middle; President elect: **Dr. Larry Johnson**, principal, County Line Elementary; Past president: **Dr. Jimmy Stokes**, vocational director, Greene County High; Treasurer: **Dr. Brenda Schulz**, director elementary curriculum, Forsyth Co.; **Dr. Jim Arnold**, principal, Shaw High; **Dr. Richard Bazemore**, principal,

Continued on Page 4 . . .

National Honors Go To Georgia Principals

Molly Howard, principal of Jefferson County High has been named the 2008 MetLife/National Association of Secondary School Principals National High School Principal of the Year. Here's what NASSP said about Molly:

“Bridging a serious achievement gap can be a daunting challenge, but it's one that Molly Howard tackled head on with the help of the entire school community. When she took the helm of Jefferson County High School, her first order of business was to create a school improvement team that developed a mission and vision for the school and set several top priorities: increase graduation rates, create a personalized caring school community, and increase student achievement on state tests. To address those priorities, Howard worked with the school community to build a culture of collaboration and establish a true learning community. An annual summer workshop gives teachers a week of uninterrupted time to develop and refine units of study that reflect best practices, differentiation, essential learnings, and standards. One decision the staff made, knowing that setting high expectations is a key to student achievement, was to eliminate all lower-level courses. All students take college preparatory-level English, as well as math, science, and social studies. With extended learning time and a mastery approach, every student also has the opportunity to master essential Algebra I skills. Students who have not mastered standards are offered extra help through an after-school tutoring program and in-class retests. To keep students on track, each certified adult in the school serves as an advisor to a group of 12-15 students and follows the students throughout their entire high school career. According to Howard, the advisory program has helped create a new culture within the school. Now the school boasts improved student achievement and a 75% graduation rate, which is above the state and national rates.”

Patsy Dean, principal of Upson-Lee Middle, was a national finalist in the MetLife/NASSP National Middle Level Principal of the Year. According to NASSP:

"To fully implement the middle school concept, there must be a balance among academic excellence, social equity, and developmental responsiveness," according to Patsy Dean, who took a struggling middle school with no direction and low morale and, with a vision and support from staff, students, and the community, turned it into a 2005 Georgia Lighthouse School to Watch. Learning-focused teacher teams, steering committees, instructional coaches, and administrators provide the leadership necessary to create a school community focused on meeting student needs and promoting academic achievement. All core content classes are heterogeneously grouped and the special needs program is based on an inclusion model using co-teaching as its foundation. Teachers in each content area have collaborated to develop a set of essential learnings, common assessments, instructional plans and tools, and performance-based activities. An optional week-long summer class, five professional learning days per year, and at least two hours of collaborative planning weekly for each grade level content area promote collaborative planning for effective instruction. The large school is divided into small learning communities where teams focus on getting to know individual students and their families and helping students with their academic, emotional, and behavioral needs. An advisor/advisee program pairs each student with an adult advocate and a three-year character education program emphasizes positive personal development. These school improvement initiatives and the commitment of all stakeholders have promoted higher student achievement and an improved overall learning climate.”



. . . . continued from page 1

GAMSP, GASSP, GSSA, GACIS, and G-CASE —have coalesced into a well-organized, professional organization such that the body and its leaders are well-respected by politicians, state and national educational leaders, national leadership organizations, and businesses. What an organization we have!! We have to be the voice and advocate for a strong public educational system that supports school systems, teachers, principals, support staff, and, above all, students.

GAEL has conjoined a host of organizations and individuals with various jobs and job descriptions. There is strength in numbers. Therefore, we have to encourage membership in this organization, and to be responsive to the needs of the membership. The value of the service we receive from membership in GAEL is well worth our reasonable membership fee.

The theme for the Summer Conference is most appropriate: Leaders and Learners: Promoting Educational Excellence. We will continue to be responsive to our needs for advocacy and professional training. We need to encourage more of our young administrators to become professionally involved. This is critical since a large number of us will be retiring within the next few years. I solicit your help in seeking out and bringing in these new leaders who have a tendency not to join professional organizations.

During my 32 years in education, I have experienced many accomplishments and frustrations, triumph and tragedies, tears and laughter. Today, I start a new phase in my life, and I submit to you, that I am walking in the trails of giants. This became even more evident as I attended the GAEL Past-Presidents Dinner this past Saturday evening. What a dynamic group of leaders!

GAEL is a movement, and I have a commitment to this movement. I will continue to frame issues, and then forge possible solutions. With some of the legislation that is confronting us, some reasonable, some not so reasonable, I realize that we have only seen the tip of the iceberg. The important precept here is, do we solve these issues together, or do we try to solve them by ourselves in small quasi-effective bands. The challenge is ours!

On a more personal note, I want to thank my cohorts in GAESP, and Executive Director, Hal Beaver. Your encouragement and support have been phenomenal. Thank You to Superintendent Ron Saunders and the Leadership of Barrow County Schools for allowing me to be active in GAESP/GAEL and for supporting me during this endeavor. The GAEL Board of Directors has been extremely receptive. I really appreciate your support. To my wife of 28 years, Alzena, thank you because you are always there. I expect to grow professionally from my involvement with Dr. Puckett and his staff as we work to become more accountable and professional.

Since most of you are not that familiar with me, let me enlighten you on a few of the activities of this tall, dark stranger. I hold membership in NAESP, GAESP, and District 9 GAESP; ASCD and GA Affiliate; PAGE; I been on the GAEL Board of Directors for the past 6 years; GAEL Representative for GAESP for 2.5 years; GAEL Executive Board for the past 2 years; State President of GAESP, including the office of President-Elect and Immediate Past-President; In 2006, I served on the Nomination Committee for NAESP, the most powerful committee in the organization; Member of SE Council of ESP in 2004, 2005; currently serve on the Board of Directors for Georgia Accrediting Commission; Board of Directors for Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education; District Chairperson for the Chattahoochee District of Boy Scouts of America Learning for Life Committee; Served in the NAESP State Representative Assembly in 2003, 2005, 2006, and 2007; TOTY in 1985; Item Writer and Item Analyst for ETS in NJ for the 3rd and 4th NAEP, a test mandated by Congress; Administrator of the Year 1994; I have served on numerous ad hoc committees and focus group for the GA Dept of Education; Deacon and Sunday School Teacher at Timothy Baptist Church in Athens; Treasurer for my neighborhood association; I obtained all of my collegiate degrees from the University of GA—BS in Mathematics 1976, MED in Math Education 1979, Specialist in Math Education 1984, and Doctorate in Supervision in 2000. I hope this list will let you know that I believe in active professional involvement and growth. Sometimes Dr. Saunders, my superintendent, has to warn me that I do have a family, but supports me in whatever I undertake.

John Denver, a famous singer and song writer wrote that “We are the dwelling place of incredible opportunities. They are alive within us. With consciousness about who we are and what we are, with the awareness of the problems we’re faced with, with a commitment not only to ourselves, but to each other, we can make it work. We will make it work.” This is my commitment to each of you. We will make it work!



. . . continued from Page 2

Scott Elementary; **Stuart Bennett**, chief deputy state superintendent, GA Department of Education; **Pat Blenke**, principal, Duluth High; **Dr. Emily Bolton**, assistant superintendent, Chattooga Co.; **Dr. Suzi Bonifay**, assistant superintendent, Decatur Co.; **Maria Bradley**, principal, Gladden Middle; **Winnette Bradley**, principal, Richmond Co. Evening School; **Lynn Clark**, principal, Funston Elementary; **Jerry Davis**, assistant superintendent, Coweta Co.; **Dr. Buster Evans**, superintendent, Bleckley Co.; **Debbie Gay**, director, exceptional children, DeKalb Co.; **Rae Ann Gerhardt**, retired, Fulton Co.; **Ken Goseer**, principal, Terrell Co. High/Middle; **Dr. Steve Hankla**, vocational supervisor, Colquitt Co. High; **Dr. Jamie Lawrence**, regional supervisor, GA Department of Education; **Becky Maddox**, principal, Huddleston Elementary; **Dr. Mike Mattingly**, assistant superintendent, Houston Co.; **Dr. Chip Messer**, principal, Hunt Elementary; **Dr. Jack Parish**, superintendent, Henry Co.; **Bettye Ray**, superintendent, Social Circle City; **JoAlice Ray**, director, student services, Rabun Co.; **Trudy Sowar**, superintendent, Paulding Co.; **Peggy West**, director, exceptional students, Muscogee Co.; **Willie Wiley**, assistant principal, Langford Middle.

Ed Leaders In the News

GAEL past president **Bob Heaberlin** (principal, Lee Middle, Coweta) and **Charles Smith** (principal, Willis Road elementary) pictured kissing a pig as part of a fund raiser for the Cancer Society. The headline: "Principals pucker up for porker."

Effingham County superintendent **Randy Shearhouse**, Colquitt County superintendent **Len McCoy**, and Pickens County superintendent **Mike Ballew** in articles in Georgia Tread Magazine.

Turner County superintendent **Ray Jordan** and high school principal **Chad Stone** in a recent Readers Digest article.

Classic City High (Clarke County) principal **Dan Hunter**, Houston County superintendent **David Carpenter**, Eastside Elementary (Coweta County) assistant principal **Jena Martin**, Barrow County assistant superintendent **Claire Michael**, and Madison County superintendent **Mitch McGhee** in the UGA College of Education Magazine.

(Been in the news? Send clippings or announcements to GAEL!)



National, State and Local News

Georgia has been awarded \$17,010,000 by the U. S. Office of Education to help create new charter schools.

CRCT scores are up. Georgia students in the grades and subjects where a statewide curriculum overhaul has been in place the longest are showing significant progress, according to test results released in June by the state Department of Education. In the classes where the new curriculum has been taught for two years, results improved on 16 of 19 CRCTs administered this spring.

The biggest increase came in seventh-grade science, where the pass rate went from 63 percent in 2006 to 70 percent this year. Other jumps of 5 points or better occurred in seventh grade English and reading, fifth grade reading and fourth grade English.

Georgia's ACT score are also up. The composite score is up .1 to 20.3 (the ACT is scored 0 to 36, with any change of .05 or more being considered statistically significant). ACT participation in the state is up 17 percent to over 29,000. Since 2003, the number of high school seniors taking the ACT has increase 56 percent. Subgroups' scores are at or above the national level. African-American and Hispanic students are outscoring their peers nationally, while white students are just .1 behind the national average.

Gail Connelly has been named executive director of NAESP.

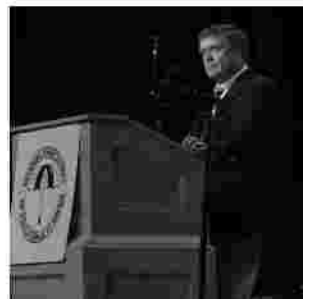


GAEL Summer Conference Overview



The 2007 GAEL Summer Conference was a successful leadership development event by every measure. Over 1400 members attended, along with 250 vendor representatives, and numerous others. When members' spouses, children and guests are included, nearly 3000 people gathered on Jekyll Island for the Conference. Both written and verbal feedback indicated a high degree of satisfaction with program content, opportunities for networking, accessibility to educational products and services, and family events. While facilities and lodging continue to be of concern, there appears to be movement toward improving both. Make your plans now to attend the 2008 conference, July 13-16.





GAEL Summer Conference Tournament Results

GAEL Summer Conference John Yates Beach Run Results

First Place	Jack Parish (Henry Co., 51)	Time 22:19
Second Place	Alan McCannon (Madison Co. 41)	Time 24:25
Third Place	Ken Greene (Barrow Co., 45)	Time 24:37

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Time</u>
12 & Under	F	Kate Rose-Alligood	Laurens Co.	26:36
	M	Matthew Maynor	Macon Co.	26:47
13-18	F	Lindsey Anderson	Bartow Co.	24:04
	M	Logan Porter	Dawson Co.	22:35
19-30	F	Kerri Lord	Commerce City	27:20
	M	Michael Dockery	Coffee Co.	27:00
31-35	F	Lisa Longgear	Tattnall Co.	45:18
	M	Bubba Longgear	Tattnall Co.	25:51
36-40	F	Marcy Maynor	Macon Co.	23:08
	M	Jason Miles	Lee Co.	29:31
41-45	F	Bonnie Hancock	Fayette Co.	32:05
	M	Steve Hancock	Fayette Co.	28:29
46-50	F	Joy Craft	Barrow Co.	30:01
	M	Carlton Gainous	Grady Co.	27:31
51-55	F	Jesse Smith	Bleckley Co.	40:34
	M	Eulin Gibbs	Hart Co.	28:48
56-60	F	Martha Fowler	Grady Co.	38:34
	M	Abdur Hasson	Lamar Co.	30:40
61 & Over	F			
	M	Donnie Drew	Commerce City	30:44

School system with most participants: Bleckley Co. (15)

Continued on page 8

Kudos

GAEL Summer Conference Tennis Tournament Results

Men's Doubles

1st place--Don Rauscher and Mark Crowe;
2nd place--Blake Croft Sr. and Blake Croft Jr.

Mixed Doubles

1st place--Angela Culp and Michael Ward;
2nd place--Florence Moffett and Steven Roberts

Singles

1st place--Greg Fields
2nd place--Michael Ward

GAEL Summer Conference Golf Tournament Results

Saturday Awards

Par 3 Close Ups

Hole #3- Adam Blocker
Hole #6- Al Hunter
Hole #14- Chase Hankla
Hole #17- Joe McCary
Long Drive Hole #16- Adam Blocker

Two Man Scramble Winners

First Place- Chase Hankla & Trey McQuaig
Second Place- Al Hunter & Jay Carnege

Sunday Awards

Par 3 Close Ups

Hole #3- Bob Cook
Hole #8- Johnny Brown
Hole #13- Jay Kornegag
Hole #16- Tom Price
Long Drive Hole- Robby Kassouf

Individual Awards

First Place Low Gross- Jay Kornegag
Second Place Low Gross- Richard Jones
Third Place Low Gross- Adam
First Place Low Net- Al Hunter
Second Place Low Net- Johnny Brown
Third Place Low Net- Ken Martin

Best Ball Team

First Place- Al Hunter & Jay Kornegag
Second Place- Adam & Allen

Buster Evans (superintendent elect, Forsyth), **Kelly Henson** (Floyd), **Jack Parish** (Henry), and **Ron Saunders** (Barrow) and finalists for 2008 Georgia Superintendent of the Year.

Fair Street Elementary (Gainesville) was one of three schools nationally to receive the 2007 Community Schools of Excellence Award. **Merrienne Dyer** is principal.

Walton Career Academy was presented with a 2007 Innovator Award from Southern Growth Policies Board as part of the recent Southern Workforce Summit conference. **Mark Peevy** is CEO of the publicly-funded charter school. The school is a joint venture among local businesses, the Walton County School System and Athens Technical College.

The Georgia School for the Deaf that was recently named Outstanding School of the Year by the Georgia Association of the Deaf. **Lee Shiver** is Director of GSD.

Lowndes superintendent **Steve Smith** has been named by Governor Perdue to the Southern Regional Education Board of Control.

Morgan County High School was named a National Model School by the International Center for Leadership Education this summer. Noted for a high graduation rate and a narrowing of the achievement gap, Morgan County made four presentations at the 15th Annual Model Schools conference this summer, and will continue to participate in the Successful Practices Network throughout the next year. **Mark Wilson** is principal.

Beth Kieffer, principal of Silver City Elementary School (Forsyth) is Georgia's NAESP National Distinguished Principal. Clayton County School Superintendent **Barbara Pulliam** has resigned her position. **Gloria Duncan** was named interim superintendent.

Conyers Middle School (**Eugene Baker**, principal) is one of only three middle schools in the nation being considered for an Intel Corporation grant to schools demonstrating excellence in science education.

NAESP has recognized three Georgia schools for their outstanding student councils: Greer Elementary, Glynn County, principal **Tony Ethridge**; Medlock Bridge Elementary, Fulton County, principal **Margaret Pupillo**; Wilson Creek Elementary, Fulton County, principal **James Zoll**.

Moving

In Hart County, superintendent **Nancy Clark**, assistant superintendent **Glorianne Patterson**, and Title 1 parent coordinator **Charlotte Harper** retired in June. **David Hicks** is the new superintendent.

Billie Smith, assistant superintendent in Catoosa, has retired.

Lynn Rogers is serving as interim superintendent in Dodge County. **Aubrey Corbitt** retired from that position on June 30.

Harlem Middle School (Columbia) principal **Walker Davis** has retired. **Carla Shelton** is now principal of the school.

Crisp County superintendent **Judy Bean** retired in June.

Gail Jarrell is assistant principal at Lewiston Elementary in Richmond County.

In Gwinnett, **Maryanne Grimes** is principal at the Give Center, **Calvin Watts** is principal at Trickum Middle replacing **Lynne Davis** who retired, **Nancy Morrison** is principal at Walnut Grove, **Debra Dees** is principal at Brookwood High replacing **Jane Stagell** who retired, **Kim Holland** is principal at Buice School, **Margaret Ackerman** is principal at Patrick Elementary, **Laurie Allison** is principal at Lovin Elementary, **Monica Batiste** is principal at Alford Elementary, **Banks Bitterman** is dean of academics at the Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology, **Paul Brooksher** is principal of Dacula Elementary, **Georgann Eaton** is principal at Sweetwater Middle, **Paula Everett-Truppi** is principal at McConnell Middle, **Dora Hill** is principal at Norcross Elementary, **Kelli McCain** is principal at Meadowcreek Elementary, **Angie Pacholke** is principal at Rock Springs Elementary, **Betty**

Ann Schoeneck is principal at Shiloh Elementary, **Kim Smith** is principal at Suwanee Elementary, **Vivian Stran-shan** is principal at Mulberry Elementary, and **Deborah Harris** is principal at Bethesda Elementary.

John Jacobs has been named principal of Mt. Zion Middle in Carroll County.

Lewis Holloway has been named superintendent in Bulloch County.

Damon Gibbs is principal of Johnson High in Hall County.

Noris Price is associate superintendent of Instructional Services in Clarke County.

Buster Evans becomes superintendent in Forsyth County on January 1. Until that time, he will serve as deputy superintendent.

Chatham County administrator **Cecil Cobb** has retired.

Giselle Stone has been named assistant superintendent and **Carol McLeod** director of Exceptional Students Educational Programs (ESEP) for the Paulding County.

Peggy Downing, assistant superintendent in Seminole County, has retired.

Gainesville superintendent **Steve Ballowe** has received a contract extension.

Keith Humphrey is superintendent in Lanier County.

In Gordon County, **Bill McCown** is superintendent, replacing the retiring **Mike Stanton**. Associate superintendent **Anne Vaughn** has also retired.

Willie Wiley is assistant principal at Collin Elementary in Richmond County.

New personnel assignments in White County for 2007-08: **Holly Mauney**, director of testing and accountability;

Laurie Burkett, director of personnel and planning; **Nancy Moore**, director of federal and state programs; **Stacie Ward**, assistant principal, Jack P. Nix Primary; **Dana Magill**, principal, Mt. Yonah Elementary; **Shann Cash**, principal, White County Intermediate; **Regina Jarrard**, assistant principal, White County Middle; **Scott Stephens**, assistant principal, White County Middle; **Stephen Gill**, principal, Ninth Grade Academy; **Stephen Bartlett**, assistant principal, Ninth Grade Academy; **Kristi Smith**, **Neal Young** and **Angie Helton**, assistant principals at White County High; **Willda Melton**, director, 21st Century Community Learning; **Connie Hood**, parent liaison, 21st Century Community Learning Center. **Jeanette Dixon**, **Donna Allegood**, **Bonnie Petras** and **Travis Allegood** have retired.

Mike Bochenko is the new superintendent in Berrien County, replacing the retiring **Bobby Griffin**.

Mike Mattingly has been named assistant superintendent for curriculum, instruction and staff development for the Denton Texas Independent School District.

Clayton superintendent **Barbara Pulliam** has resigned that position. **Gloria Duncan** is interim superintendent. Also in Clayton, **Brian Miller** is enrollment projections analyst, **Steve Holmes** is chief information/operations officer, **Derrick Williams** is director of middle and high school human resources, **Dan Ray** is director of elementary human resources, **Val Lee** is chief of staff, **Anthony Smith** is chief academic officer of secondary instruction, **Debbie Bass** is chief academic officer of elementary instruction, and **Luvonia Jackson** is chief of student services, policy, and legislation.

In Memory

DeKalb administrator **Barbara Henderson**.

Let's Correct Georgia's History Education Deficit

By Jamil S. Zainaldin

(Editor's note: Jamil Zainaldin is president of the Georgia Humanities Council. This article first appeared in the Newsletter of the Georgia Humanities Council and is reproduced with permission.)

In a nation that collectively places so much importance on the future, the significance of the past is often overlooked by government leaders, school systems and the general public - leaving both our collective past and future in peril.

Initiatives such as the No Child Left Behind Act place a much greater emphasis on math and reading than other subjects. These are undoubtedly important fields of study. But when education reform minimizes the importance of history, our children are left with facts without context.

According to a survey conducted for the Georgia Council for the Social Studies, 62% of elementary teachers are spending two hours or less on social studies instruction per week. Reports from the Criterion Referenced Competency Tests indicate that social studies is the only subject in which test scores showed no improvement in 2007.

The consequences of little or no focus on history education extend beyond the classroom.


When we disregard the past, we stop passing forward the stories of heroism, leadership and self-sacrifice (as well as the mistakes and misjudgments) that can serve as good character guides for our children today. When we disregard the past, we blot out the accumulated wisdom that reminds us that the world did not begin on the day we were born. We tear down our historic buildings and lose the stories contained within. The essence of history is stories, and stories have great power to inspire and teach.

While there are some clearly negative trends that need reversing, in other ways, Georgia is doing better than many states in preserving and recognizing its history. Governor Perdue has spoken about the importance of heritage tourism to the state's economy. Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox, a former social studies teacher, is rolling out new Georgia Performance Standards for social studies that are history-based. Chancellor Erroll Davis of the University System of Georgia is putting a renewed emphasis on campuses providing service to communities - which means calling upon our state's historians to work with communities on documentation of stories and preservation efforts.

But these efforts alone are not enough. In order to influence those who decide the fate of history education in our state and nation, we must engender a broad public appreciation for history. So what can we do?

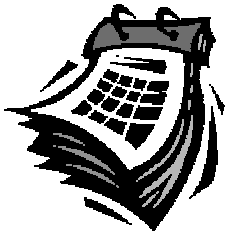
We should support efforts to make storytelling a living, breathing part of our communities by participating in heritage programs at libraries, museums, and local historical societies. We should also encourage the reading and discussion of Georgia's great authors, from Augustus Baldwin Longstreet to Flannery O'Connor, from W.E.B. DuBois to Lewis Grizzard.

We should work towards the development of a State History Museum, and the current vacancy of the former World of Coca-Cola building presents a promising opportunity to make this happen. I encourage all voters to develop and maintain an ongoing dialogue with their legislators and other policy makers about the need to tell the story of our state - not only through classroom education, but in ways that allow the public to experience the stories of our past.

If we are to successfully preserve and promote Georgia's rich history, we must become involved - in our communities, with our government, and in our children's schools. Until we let our elected leaders know that we value Georgia's history, we can expect our state deficit to grow. 

**Georgia Association of
Educational Leaders**
5634 Atlanta Hwy., Suite 300
Flowery Branch, GA 30542

**Non Profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Gainesville, GA 30501
Permit No. 82**



Mark Your Calendar

Leadership Development Ops

For information and to register for these upcoming leadership development opportunities, go to www.gael.org and click on "Upcoming Conferences." Check the site often for additional events to be scheduled.

GAEL New Leaders Program	Dates TBA
GACIS Fall Conference, Athens	September 26-28
GAESP Fall Conference, Sea Palms	November 4-6
GAMSP/GASSP Fall Conference, Jekyll Island	November 11-13
G-CASE Fall Conference, Athens	November 7-9

GAEL Needs You...

Increasing the membership of GAEL is essential if the association is to truly represent educational leaders before state decision-makers.

If you are not a member, please join today. If you are already a member, please recruit a non-member colleague.