



## MEET THE COMMITTEE

### FALL RETREAT

#### **Allison Giddens, LC'15**

*President, Operations, Win-Tech, Inc.*



**Favorite LC Memory:** Sitting on the floor in a hotel room at the Brasstown Lodge, with a classmate I had just met, thinking, "I have NOTHING in common with this person." ...only to later that week find her to be one of the best human beings on the planet and now a dear friend.

**Advice for LC'25:** Never sit next to someone you've already sat next to - especially on the bus! Mix it up!



#### **Daniel Cummings, LC'20**

*Assistant City Manager, City of Marietta*

**Favorite LC Memory:** Fall Retreat Skits!!

**Advice for LC'25:** Focus on building relationships.



#### **Tori O'Bryant, LC'24**

*Manager of Operations, Northside Hospital Cherokee*

**Favorite LC Memory:** Spring retreat

**Advice for LC'25:** Go ALL in! Don't hold anything back. Connect with everyone at least once and the most unexpected things will happen!

## **Brittney Gray, LC'04**

*Executive Director, Visit Marietta*



**Favorite LC Memory:** One of the questions on our cards was, "If I had courage, I would...." Several of my classmates responded with, "skydive." So, I organized a big skydiving outing for us!

**Advice for LC'25:** Get comfortable being uncomfortable. The best leaders don't have all the answers, and that's totally ok. If you are feeling out of your depth, that's totally where you need to be. Lean into it. You'll surprise yourself with what you can handle.

## **Joy Doss, LC'23**

*Partner, The Doss Firm, LLC*



**Favorite LC Memory:** It is absolutely impossible to pick just one! I will say that those moments when I saw the shift from class to family are ones that I will forever cherish. However, those memories that included a costume, dancing, and/or uncontrollable laughing OR the ones that required extensive tissue were my favorite. Yes, I may be tearing up thinking about it all!

**Advice for LC'25:** Be present, be open, be active, and most of all be you! The gift of Leadership Cobb is a combination of the experience and relationships you will make. You will be inspired, educated, supported, encouraged, challenged, and best of all loved. Don't take any moment for granted and be ready for an adventure of a lifetime that results in a family that will forever be there for you!



### **Tripp Boyer, LC'09**

*President, Boyer Ramey Wealth Management*

**Favorite LC Memory:** Every fall retreat I have been blessed to be a part of, which is many :), and witnessing the magic happen.

**Advice for LC'25:** Lean in and listen very carefully to the instructions and advice Greg and Jennifer give you. If you listen, act and get outside of your comfort zone this year will change your life for the better in indescribable ways.



### **Tricia Newton, LC'07**

*Partner, Waterworks Atlanta / AAA Industries*

**Favorite LC Memory:** While I loved my class, it's been the memories & friendships made as we have continued to stay connected post LC year that are really impactful to me. Serving on the Fall Retreat committee throughout the years has provided endless laughs and good times with friends.

**Advice for LC'25:** Spend time with each person in your class, sit with different people each day especially at meals.



### **Bridges Holmes, LC'22**

*Vice President, Diversity, Inclusions & Social Responsibility, Adecco Group North America*

**Favorite LC Memory:** Feeling like a character in "The Hangover" as our crew shuttled to our graduation night.

**Advice for LC'25:** Don't be a wallflower...DANCE!



### **Alan Levine, LC'22**

*Attorney, The Law Office of Alan J. Levine*

**Favorite LC Memory:** Representing several classmates somewhat successfully in court after the infamous golf cart incident. Most are now off probation.

**Advice for LC'25:** Do whatever Kai says (unless it's inconvenient).



### **David Roskind, LC'06**

*Training Director Sandy Springs Police Department*

**Favorite LC Memory:** Too many favorite memories to just mention one.

**Advice for LC'25:** Step out of your comfort zone without judgment and try something new while being supported by your classmates.



### **Sarah Douglas, LC'01**

*Founder & President, Sarah Douglas Communications*

**Favorite LC Memory:** Performing as KISS at fall retreat with full make up and special effects - then blowing the power to the entire conference center.

**Advice for LC'25:** Be open. Be present. Be engaged. Be authentic. Let your guard down; truly get to know and connect with your class. Don't be afraid to mess up and maybe even embarrass yourself. Have fun and make an attempt to spend time talking with each person in your class.





### **Matthew Teague, LC'15**

*Director of New Development, Walton Communities*

**Favorite LC Memory:** Co-Chairing LC'22 with the one and only Wendy Bunch! #notaclassafamily

**Advice for LC'25:** Embrace having no idea what's around the corner, sit next to someone new on the bus, wear a costume or two, and maybe steal (borrow) a golf cart at retreat!



### **Kristen Lord, LC'15**

*CFO, Mauldin & Jenkins*

**Favorite LC Memory:** Public Safety Day - Learning about our communities resources and hearing from first responders was incredible!

**Advice for LC'25:** Lean in! Get out of your comfort zone, disconnect during class days, and make the connections.



### **Steve Byrne, LC'05**

*Retired - Mauldin and Jenkins (retired after 42 years)*

**Favorite LC Memory:** Leaving Fall Retreat and realizing something incredible had occurred.

**Advice for LC'25:** Lose your fences and walls early - and what your parents told you - 'Be yourself - your true self'



**Chris Martin, LC'07**

*Director, Consumer Experience Strategy, Kaiser Permanente*

**Favorite LC Memory:** Fall Retreat of our class year. Incredible experience that bonded our class together in such a wonderful way.

**Advice for LC'25:** Enjoy the ride, and know that this is just the beginning of your Leadership Cobb experience--volunteering after you complete the program enriches the program and each of us as alumni



**Zach Gordon, LC'24**

*Senior Project Manager, Brasfield & Gorrie*

**Favorite LC Memory:** Too many to list from Spring Retreat

**Advice for LC'25:** Lean in and be present



**Linda Beggs, LC'96**

*Managing Partner, The Centergy Project*

**Favorite LC Memory:** Back porch parties with my LC buddies

**Advice for LC'25:** Be present--physically, mentally, and emotionally.

### **Stacey Chapman, LC'23**

*SVP | Partner, CROFT & Associates*



**Favorite LC Memory:** So many! Opening Night and the retreats were probably the best relationship building times and just a lot of fun. However, each class was meaningful and insightful.

**Advice for LC'25:** Even when you're busy at work - make sure to carve out the time to be engaged and focused on your class time. Your work will still be there, but these opportunities to connect and grow will be once in a lifetime.

### **Mike DeWitt, LC'15**

*Wealth Advisor, Corient*



**Favorite LC Memory:** At graduation, looking back on all we accomplished, and all the relationships forged. It seemed like we packed 10 years of activity into one year!

**Advice for LC'25:** You only get one chance at LC. What you take away is 100% correlated to what you put in. The benefits will last a lifetime. Enjoy the ride!!

### **Michael Cunningham, LC'23**

*Chief of Staff, Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services*



**Favorite LC Memory:** It's hard to have just one favorite. Definitely getting to know everyone during the Fall Retreat. The activities are amazing.

**Advice for LC'25:** Completely lean into this experience. It will be well worth getting outside of your comfort zone and having fun being vulnerable. These are fantastic people who you will grow to love if you let the magic of Leadership Cobb happen.



### **David Persson, LC'15**

*Mortgage Consultant, Capital City Home Loans*

**Favorite LC Memory:** My favorite LC memory is the small group assignment we were given to assist the YWCA of NW Georgia with their decision to change their name. Our work led to their name change to Live Safe Resources and I have been a proud board member ever since. The connections we make during LC are priceless and life changing for sure.

**Advice for LC'25:** Make the time for as much as you can. You will not regret the added opportunities to connect with your classmates, volunteer in the community and sit with some of the top business executives in metro Atlanta.

## **MEMORIES**



### **Amber Burckhalter, LC'15**

*Consultant, Pet Industry, Leashwise*

**Favorite LC Memory:** Dewitt with tattoos

**Advice for LC'25:** Be as present as possible and just let LC happen.



### **Matt Giddens, LC'23**

*Director, IT Engineering and Architecture, Atlanta Braves*

**Favorite LC Memory:** Spring Retreat. So many lifelong memories were made during those few days.

**Advice for LC'25:** Embrace everything that this program offers you. Go to every social gathering that you can. Get out of your comfort zone. Get to know everyone on a close, personal level because these will be some of your closest friends for the rest of your life.



