

Women in Leadership 2020 Seminar Series

January 24: “A Celebration of WIL #200: Reuniting with Past WIL Speakers While Envisioning the Future” featuring 20 (or more) of the most admired and inspiring leaders who help make ATL a great place to work and live. The actual list is a secret but it’s going to be “epic.” Imagine having many of your favorite speakers and leadership character role models together at one time! Imagine the Integrity, Respect and Responsibility - not to mention the Energy and Engagement – they collectively represent! Expect an update on women’s progress, more career and leadership insights and plenty of interaction. So kick the year off in style and join the TLG staff in gratitude for 17+ years of WIL “inspiration, invigoration and information.”

February 21: “Educating the Next Generation of Leaders: Women Presidents Share their Vision” featuring Dr. Philomena Mantella, President of Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, MI and Leocadia Zak, President of Agnes Scott College in Decatur, GA. Dr. Mantella (Philly) joined GVSU in 2019, the 5th president and 1st woman president. She has 30+ years in higher education, is nationally recognized in her field, and has held leadership positions in institutions in NY, NJ, MI, & MA. Coming to ASC in 2018, President Zak (Lee) is the college’s 9th president and is a non-traditional leader in her role. She was Phi Beta Kappa at Mt. Holyoke, a women’s college and received her law degree from Northeastern University. Her impressive career includes attorney, professor, global economic advisor, and director of a U.S. government agency. Two powerhouse leaders!

March 20: “Leadership, Partnership & Friendship: A Gift From Canada to Atlanta & the Southeast” featuring Nadia Theodore, Consul General of Canada for the US Southeast. With 20+ years of experience in the Canadian federal public service, CG Theodore (Nadia) has built a reputation for forging strong partnerships with government and business leaders, building strong multidisciplinary teams and supporting global conversations on diversity and inclusion. Her experience and expertise include Global Affairs and international trade policy and negotiations. Serving on the Carter Center Advisory Board, the United Nation’s CIFAL Advisory Board, and as a Global Advisor for G(irls)20, Nadia has also been recognized as a “Most Influential Diplomat” by Global MIPAD. Locally, she’s highly engaged in anti-human trafficking initiatives and youth programs. Nadia holds a Bachelor of Laws from the U. of London and a M.A. in Political Science from Carleton University.

April 24: “Agents of Change for Women’s Advancement & Leadership” featuring Elba Pareja-Gallagher, Director of Finance, UPS and Founder & President, ShowMe50.org and Robbin Jorgensen, Founder & CEO, Women Igniting Change. With over 20 years of experience at UPS, Elba’s now part of a Business Intelligence & Analytics team; Chairs the UPS Hispanic BRG (Creceer); and leads an impactful ‘Lean In’ non-profit organization. She holds an M.S. from FL Institute of Technology. Robbin leads a global purpose-driven strategic consulting company; has a 25+ year corporate background; is a highly respected author, keynote speaker, human rights activist and UN Champion. She’s also Co-Chair, Board of Advisors, Center for Leadership & Service, SUNY Albany.

May 29: “An Innovative Approach to Bringing People Together and Changing the World – Civic Dinners” featuring Jenn Graham, Founder & CEO of Civic Dinners. An activist, designer and civic tech entrepreneur, Jenn started a social experiment and turned it into a global engagement and digital platform. She’s enabled 1,300+ dinners and conversations around the world. Her goal: a million people conversing at the table by 2021. Honored by the ABC in 2019 with the Small Business Person of the Year Rising Star Award, Jenn’s also received national recognition and has engaged with organizations like Facebook, The King Center, Sierra Club, & Teach for America. She’s a 2019 Center for Civic Innovation Fellow and Women’s Entrepreneurship Initiative Entrepreneur. In addition to helping make the world a better place, Jenn’s also a wife and new mom.

June 26: “Women’s Entrepreneurship: Alive and Accelerating in ATL” featuring Monica D. Hooks, MBA and Executive Director of Atlanta’s Women’s Entrepreneurship Initiative (WEI) – A graduate herself of WEI’s inaugural class and winner of the 2017 Microsoft Innovation Bots and Cognitive Services Award, Ms. Hooks (Monica) currently leads the city’s premier women’s business incubator. Responsibilities include innovation policy, workforce programs, financial capacity building, recruiting and developing early entrepreneurs. She has 20+ years of success in content marketing and brand management (Sony) in regions from Africa to Asia. She’s also Founder/CEO of The Marketing Oracle whose mission is to connect business, media, technology and culture. Monica received her M.B.A from The Wharton School and her undergrad degree at Dartmouth.

July 24: “Helping Women Dream BIG: It’s Your Time, Your Turn” featuring *Tricia Dempsey, Career Strategist / Creator of Digital Courses & Thrive-Her*. Tricia Dempsey is the former Founder & CEO of Agile, a highly successful recruiting company that she created and ultimately sold in 2015. Now living in SC and having found her new calling, she’s living her dream role – started a ‘movement’ helping 4000+ women in group coaching programs like Pinpoint Your Purpose. As an entrepreneur and 8-figure CEO, Tricia’s honors are many, e.g., WIT Woman of the Year, Small Business Person of the Year, Power Women Award, etc. She’s also Past President of WIT, serves on the Board of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, and the TAG Healthcare BD of Advisors. Tricia’s also a cancer survivor whose personal and professional story is nothing less than awe-inspiring.

August 21: “Augmented Reality (AR) and Artificial Intelligence (AI): Future Impact on the Workplace and Your Life” featuring *Dr. Blair MacIntyre, Principal Research Scientist at Mozilla & Professor in the School of Interactive Computing, Georgia Tech*. An expert especially in the field of AR, Dr. MacIntyre / Blair designs software for “non-geek” people and creates interactive experiences that appear to live around them in the physical world. He’s widely published, consults with The MacMynatt Group, is involved in W3C’s Immersive Web Community Group, and created and runs GVU Center’s Augmented Environment Lab. Receiving degrees at the U. of Waterloo in Canada and Columbia University, in NY, he’s taught at GT since 1999 where he’s also an adjunct faculty member in the School of Literature, Media and Communications.

September 25: “Leaders Living Their Purpose: Voices Against Hate” featuring *Dr. Allison Padilla-Goodman, SE Regional Director at the Anti-Defamation League and Jill Savitt, President & CEO National Center for Civil and Human Rights*. Allison is a veteran social justice advocate, community organizer and a voice against racism and anti-Semitism Orleans. In New Orleans she received a Distinguished Service Award for her work against extremism and hate crimes and for LGBT and immigration rights. Prior to ADL, she was Sr. Fellow in Hong Kong’s Center for Service and holds a PhD and M.A. in Sociology from City University of NY. Jill Savitt is a human rights advocate with special expertise in genocide prevention. Previous roles include the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.; founder /director Dream for Darfur; and Communications Director, Ms. Foundation where she ran “Take Our Daughters to Work” campaign.

October 23: “What Makes a Fortune 100 Best Company to Work For: Try Culture, Trust, Camaraderie and Pride” featuring *Joanne Smith, EVP and Chief People Officer for Delta Air Lines*. Under Joanne’s leadership, Delta was named one of the F100 Best Companies to Work for in 2017, 2018 and 2019. She’s responsible for preserving this iconic Atlanta-based company’s culture of positive engagement with its more than 80,000 employees and all of its myriad human capital programs and policies. Joining Delta in 2002 as VP – Marketing and Customer Service, Joanne’s also held other key roles including SVP – In-Flight Service leading a team of 20,000+ flight attendants etc. Outside her company, she serves on the Board of Trustees for Agnes Scott College and Advisory BD of the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. Joanne has also received significant recognition from the YWCA Academy of Women Achievers to the WSJ’s Top Women to Watch.

November 20: “Never Stop Learning: Lessons from Life and Leadership” featuring *Hala Modellmog, President & CEO of the Metro Atlanta Chamber (MAC)*. In Jan 2014 Hala became the first female to lead MAC following a highly successful corporate and nonprofit career. She’s a ‘rock star’ and trailblazing leader, e.g., in 1995 as president of Church’s Chicken, the first woman to lead an international restaurant company; also as president of Arby’s Restaurant Group; and President and CEO of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Hala serves/has served on numerous public, private advisory and nonprofit boards and her honors / awards are equally numerous, e.g., Honorary doctorate from GSU and YWCA Academy of Women Achievers. In Oct., 2020, Hala will be honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the Turknett Leadership Group at its 14th Leadership Character Awards event.

December 11: “Leading in a Disruptive World Requires Analytics, Agility, and Authenticity” featuring *Kathleen Edge, EVP, Operations at Southwire*. Honored in 2019 by the Atlanta Business Chronicle as a ‘Woman Who Means Business,’ Kathleen has broad managerial experience in HR, Operations and Finance – as well as 28+ years in industrial manufacturing. She is widely respected as a change agent; a collaborative and inclusive leader; a strategic thinker; and for her focus on a process driven culture. Prior to her current role at Southwire, she was the SVP of HR. Her experience also includes VP of HR Americas Division, Exide Technologies and VP, Talent Management with Oldcastle. She serves on the Board of Communities in Schools of GA and holds a Masters of Accountancy from the U. of Alabama.