

# Where Are They Now? Leadership Rome Alumni



**Eddie Wilson**

**Chief  
Executive  
Officer**

**River City  
Bank**

**LR '99**

**Personal:** Earned undergraduate degree from Georgia Southern University and an MBA from Mercer. Also a graduate of the Mid South School of Banking and the GBA Commercial Lending School.

He and his wife, Penny, reside in Rome and they have three sons, Lawton, Patrick, and Brantley.

**Civic Organizations:** Mr. Wilson has been very active in the community and currently serves as the Chairman of the Floyd County Development Authority, and as a Director of the Georgia Student Finance Commission. He currently serves as an Elder in the First Presbyterian Church, and is a member of the Georgia Bankers Association Credit Committee. In addition, Mr. Wilson is a Past President of the Perry Rotary Club and the Rome-Seven Hills Rotary

Club, a former director of the Berry College Executive Roundtable, the Chieftain's Museum, and the GBA Young Bankers Section. Mr. Wilson was elected to the Perry City Council at the age of 25. He was a member of the Leadership Georgia Class of 1990, and has been a participant of the Leadership programs in Perry, Calhoun, and Rome.

**What did you learn most from your Leadership Rome Experience?**

"I was able to participate right after Penny and I moved our family here in 1998, so Leadership Rome gave me a fantastic opportunity to meet the various community leaders, understand their roles, and to tour the various sites of Rome."

**What was your most memorable moment from your Leadership Rome Program?**

"Rafting down the Nantahala River – with a group that knew very little about rafting! Our leadership skills, and Jerry Jennings' patience, were well tested!"

**Do you still keep in touch with your Leadership Rome Class?**

"I see many of my classmates on a regular basis in and around town. I

am very proud that many of our classmates have become more involved in leadership roles in Floyd County."

**What did you learn about the community in which you work and live?**

"First, I learned that Rome is a very enjoyable place to raise a family. I learned about the strengths of Rome – from education and healthcare to the great quality of life we enjoy today. In addition, I learned that we also had weaknesses to work on – which would require bold and innovative leadership to resolve. Since then we have enhanced many of our community's strengths – the positive industrial development successes, the Rome Braves, and many others. Yet, we still struggle with a number of issues to work on – our school dropout issues, teen pregnancy, literacy, etc."

**Since 1999:** "I've been blessed to work with a number of community leaders through my career in banking, the Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce, and the Floyd County Development Authority. Rome and Floyd County has become home to the Wilson family, and we look forward to playing a part in the success of this community for many, many years."



**Will Byington**

**Associate  
Broker**

**Toles, Temple  
& Wright,  
Inc.**

**LR '04**

**Personal:** Graduated from Rome High School in 1998 before moving on to earn a Bachelor's of Business Administration degree from Georgia Southern University.

He and his wife, Heather, reside in Rome and celebrated the birth of their first child, William Winslow Byington IV, on November 16th.

**Civic Organizations:** Mr. Byington is a member of several civic and professional organizations, including the National Association of Realtors, Georgia Association of Realtors, Rome Board of Realtors, Rome Rotary Club, and Nine O'Clock Cotillion. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Chiaha Harvest Fair.

**What did you learn most from your Leadership Rome Experience?**

"What a wonderful community Rome-Floyd County is to live in and how proud Citizens should be of the available services."

**What was your most memorable moment from your Leadership Rome Program?**

"The time I spent with my classmates throughout the year. The Fall retreat was the most memorable."

**Do you still keep in touch with your Leadership Rome Class?**

"Yes. I work closely with several classmates. We really had a great class. I was able to meet a lot of new friends you might not have run across in everyday work."

**What did you learn about the community in which you work and live?**

"How much hard work it takes to keep Rome-Floyd as a top community in the Southeast. It takes work from everyone, beginning with the Chamber of Commerce and City and County Officials, even to a local Citizens Group getting together to support a SPLOST Project."

**Since 2004:** "I have had the opportunity of bringing new businesses and restaurants into our community, and have served as a Leadership Rome shadow."