

The Influence of Community Leadership Training — A Preliminary Report

By Carol Spalding (LJ '82)

Have you ever wondered if development programs like Leadership Jacksonville really make a difference? Do they really prepare people as trustees in their communities? Do LJ graduates actually participate in more civic activities as a result?

There is little research in this area. In fact, most leadership programs have never assessed their influence on their class members.

Thanks to my own experience as an LJ alumnus and the cooperation of many other graduates, I've been able to study the influence of LJ, explore specific types of adult learning and critical reflection, and discuss community trusteeship in this context.

Findings are incomplete at this time, but the study is beginning to

come together for my dissertation through Columbia University Teachers College. I believe that the research will benefit LJ and other leadership programs around the country, as well as have implications in the field of adult education.

More information will be available when my dissertation is finished. For now, I'd like to leave you with this quote from an LJ alumnus — one of many I've interviewed for the study.

"If you want to find out what's going on in the heart of the city, you'll find out in Leadership Jacksonville. And you will learn things about yourself and the city that are working, that are good. If you want to be a trustee in this city, you really need to go through Leadership Jacksonville."



Please Note

Youth Leadership Jacksonville Selection for Class XIV

Application packets will be distributed in December by our area high schools. If you know a young person who may be interested in participating in YLJ, please suggest they contact the YLJ coordinator at their high school. If they are not certain who serves as school coordinator at their school, please call Meg Folds at 396-6263 extension 26.

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Mission Statement: Leadership Jacksonville develops youth and adult leaders to assume greater responsibility as community trustees who improve the quality of life for self, family and community.

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Keeping In Touch

Over 100 LJ alumni and guests gathered to reconnect with classmates and friends in October.

This year's luncheon marked the 25th Anniversary of the Class of



Espie Patrinely, Dinah Kossoff
and Barbara Drake



Mark and Lynn Roesser, Ray Makowski
and Brenda Davis

1978. Members of the class were recognized during the event.

In addition, Dinah Kossoff was recognized for her 14 years of service to LJ and YLJ. Noah Henderson presented the tribute.

Save These Dates

Get out your calendar right now and save these dates:

Political Forum

*featuring candidates for
Mayor of Jacksonville*

For LJ alumni, Honorary alumni,
Class of 2003 and guests

March 9, 2003 - 5 p.m.

Location to be announced

Celebration 2003

Honoring:

Walt P. Bussells, LJ '89

Barbara A. Darby, LJ '93

Doug J. Milne, LJ '78

April 3, 2003

Times and location to be announced

Youth Learn Through Behind-the-Scenes Experiences

The YLJ Class XIII opened with a retreat at Camp Weed near Lake City and they raved about the experience in their YLJ Journals.

"The Opening Retreat was a wonderful experience. Everyone was given equal opportunity to share his or her opinions."

"The environment was so comfortable. Everyone learned something new."

"At the end of the retreat I felt comfortable with the other class members."

Leading for a Lifetime

In October, the class convened on the 19th floor of the JEA building (thanks to Walt Bussells) for an overall view of the city — both literally and figuratively. The day began with Walt Bussells and an overview of the JEA. Next, the class enjoyed a very creative session on public speaking led by Lucy Cortese.

Students were especially impressed with a panel discussion including mayoral candidates Matt Carlucci, Keith Myers, John Peyton, Ginger Soud and Mike Weinstein. The best part? "When we got to ask the mayoral candidates questions," said a



YLJ member, "because they responded to us just as they would to an adult."

Members of the City Council, School Board and County Courts joined students for lunch. Audrey Moran offered insights into working in the Mayor's Office, Tillie Fowler talked with the students about ethics in government, and Jerry Holland reviewed the City Council's role in leading the city. The day culminated with Alberta Hipps leading students through a mock City Council session (no, it didn't last until 2 a.m.).

All Our Best to Dinah!



Dinah Kossoff, affectionately known as the “mother” of Youth Leadership Jacksonville, has announced her retirement.

In her 14 years of service to YLJ and LJ, the YLJ program graduated nearly 500 youth and now serves in 35 participating schools. Members of the LJ Class of 1989 of which Dinah was a member established YLJ.

Dinah was also key to the development and success of School Leadership Connection, a project of the LJ Class of 2000, which now offers leadership training in 16 North Florida schools.

Fortunately, Dinah will continue to serve LJ as an independent contractor for future program needs.

No doubt all of you will agree that LJ has been extremely fortunate to have Dinah on our team. All of us appreciate her deep concern for youth and stand in awe of her passion for developing ethical, responsible leaders for our future.

Our best wishes go with you, Dinah.

From the Executive Director

We are off to another busy program year as the Leadership Jacksonville offices are buzzing with activity. Thanks to the volunteer efforts of many alumni, program days for LJ and YLJ are well planned by committees and well received by class members. We also have over 30 alumni teaching leadership skills to students throughout Northeast Florida in the School Leadership Connection program.

Our Board members are actively reviewing our Core Values and Finance Policies and Procedures, implementing the Strategic Plan and planning Development activities. They also have some interesting new possibilities for Alumni programming in the works.

But the best news of all is that — are you sitting down? — we are proceeding with the new www.leadershipjax.org and it will be operational no later than January 1, 2003. This new website, designed by weperform.com will be exceptional and was developed with the user in mind.

Members can look forward to the following features:

- An online Directory to which all dues paying alumni will have access with a password. Members will also be able to update their own data on the website.
- Current alumni will also have access to a bulletin board and committee information.
- For those who are interested, we'll have an option to pay an additional fee, so that fellow alumni will have access to a hot-link to your company's website.

As we draw closer to the holiday season, I want to mention how much I appreciate all of you, the dedicated alumni who are the life's blood of the LJ community, and the entire Northeast Florida community. May this season bring you joy.

Sincerely,
Izzy



*Izzy Owen Spence ('87)
Executive Director*



Meg Folds

Meg Folds Joins LJ as Youth Programs Coordinator

Meg Folds, LJ '99, has joined the LJ staff as Youth Programs Coordinator. Meg will oversee both Youth Leadership Jacksonville and School Leadership Connection.

Meg brings to LJ over 20 years of experience in corporate management with AT&T American Transtech, AT&T, Lucent Technologies and Avaya Communications. She also served as president of the Junior League of Jacksonville, Inc. in 2001-2002.

Welcome, Meg.

LJ Class of 2003 Energetic, Creative Group Off to a Great Start

Talent, energy, creativity and lots of laughs were the hallmarks of the Opening Retreat for LJ Class of 2003. Two days at Palm Coast Resort were filled with challenges — both educational and entertaining — including Leadership Challenges with Dr. Suzanne Montgomery and Bill Copley combined with time for song, dance and fun.

Trusteeship/History Day

An historical perspective of our city enhances the challenge of trusteeship. So, current LJ class members were treated to a review of Jacksonville's rich history courtesy of Doug Milne, Gertrude Peele and several former Mayors. In addition, current Mayoral candidates and other presentations featured the concept of community trusteeship. The day was co-chaired by Carol Spalding and Martha Barrett.

Poverty Day

Even before meeting on Poverty Day, many members of the LJ class had an unusual experience. With the assistance of Roberta Zipperer, participants had the opportunity to accompany a caseworker on a home visit. This provided invaluable insight and a first-hand look at the faces of poverty in our community.



Group discussions are a popular part of any LJ program



Class members Deborah Moore, Elizabeth Yant and Maarten Van De Guchte learn shipbuilding — the LJ way!

The Sulzbacher Center was the site of the program day, chaired by Barbara Moulding and led by Jack Logue and Ray Makowski. Among the more interesting aspects of the day was learning about the culinary arts program at Sulzbacher where students were pleased to showcase their skills in providing food and beverage services.

Next on the agency's calendar is Education Day at FCCJ's Advanced Technology Center.

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We gratefully acknowledge the following donors whose generosity enables Leadership Jacksonville, Inc. to continue to fulfill our mission of developing community trustees. The following list includes contributions received July - November 2002. If we inadvertently omitted any donors, please accept our apology.

Class Notes

1992 **Lucy Cortese** has been appointed to the Citizen Oversight Committee of the Better Jacksonville Plan. She is a member of the inaugural class of the duPont Community Coaches Program and was recently elected vice president of the Italian American Club of Jacksonville. Please read her on-line column, Mema's Italian Kitchen, in the First Coast Community section at Jacksonville.com. She is also thrilled to announce a new nickname — Nonna Lucy — which comes with the arrival of her new granddaughter Sara Willow.

1994 **David Robertson** has been reappointed by Governor Jeb Bush to the Clay County Development Authority (CCDA) for a three-year term. Robertson was also elected to serve as Treasurer for the Economic Development Council (EDC) of Clay County. He has served on the EDC Board since 2000. Robertson is Chief Operating Officer of Reynolds, Smith and Hills, Inc.

John Falconetti received this year's Distinguished Young Alumni of the Year Award from The University of the South in Seawee, Tennessee.

1995 **Dreams Come True** and founding executive director **Laine Silverfield** were featured in the Business Journal's Road to Success series. The organization has built a new 4000 square foot facility in Southpoint. The building and the land it's built on were all donated by local businesses.

1996 **Michael Blaylock** was honored recently with a reception attended by friends and business associates. Blaylock is Executive Director of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority.

1997 **Vanessa Boyer** has been named chairwoman of The Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women. Established in 1972, the commission serves in an advisory capacity to the Mayor.

1998 **Ellen Morris** was appointed chairwoman of Pine Castle 50th Anniversary Gala.

Will Ketchum is the director of strategy and brand development for BurdetteB2B which has recently been named as marketing consultant for a national company, Diversified Therapy Corp. The company provides wound care to hospitals.

Larry Tremonti is currently serving in the Peace Corps in Romania following his retirement as a vice president with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida. He has applied for a grant to start a community leadership program in Romania and has asked LJ for technical support. Tremonti recently enlisted the help of friends and former co-workers at BCBS, asking them to send reading materials for underprivileged people in Romania. They responded by collecting over 7000 books which were shipped to Tremonti for distribution.

2000 **John Clark** is a lead generation winner for the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce Uncampaign. He was awarded a \$50 gift certificate from

Harbor Cigars for generating 22 leads in one month. Clark is with the Jacksonville Airport Authority.

Joann Manning has been elected to the Board of Directors of Girls Inc. Manning is also a recent graduate of the National African American Leadership Institute. She is one of 10 women from the U.S. who was selected for the program this year. It is an extensive leadership development program.

2001 **Dorrie Felder** has been named general manager of Workplace Resource of Jacksonville.

2002 **David Clark** has joined the Children's Home Society of Florida as Director of Development. He was previously owner and president of David Clark Public Relations. "I really missed working in the nonprofit area," he said. "There is something about knowing at the end of your day that you're helping someone."

2003 **Michael J. Tretina** is the recipient of the Follmer Bronze Award presented by the Florida Chapter of the Healthcare Financial Management Association. Criteria for the award are based on commitment to service and strengthening the organization. Tretina is vice president of Budget and Reimbursement for St. Vincent's Health System.

Susie Slappey is the volunteer chairman for the Community Nutcracker which will present the 10th anniversary performance of the Nutcracker Ballet in December. Slappey is chief financial officer of the Pitman Companies.

Continued on page 4

Class Notes

Continued from page 3

2003 John D. Furness retired as Commander of the Navy Region Southeast during ceremonies at Naval Station Mayport in October. He served 26 years in the U.S. Navy.

Candidates

As usual, Leadership Jacksonville is well represented in upcoming city elections. Following is a list of candidates who are also LJ alumni. While we can't throw our support to any one candidate, we do encourage you to work hard for the fellow alum of your choice, and remember to vote.

John Rutherford, LJ '95, candidate for Duval County Sheriff

Mike Weinstein, LJ '85, candidate for Jacksonville Mayor

John Peyton, LJ '91, candidate for Jacksonville Mayor

Gwen J. Chandler, LJ '88, candidate for Supervisor of Elections, Duval County

Ju'coby Pittman, LJ '93, Jacksonville City Council At-Large Group V

Suzanne Jenkins, LJ '98, Jacksonville City Council District 4

Deno A. Hicks, YLJ Class II, Jacksonville City Council District 5

Gwen Yates, LJ '90, Jacksonville City Council District 8

Reginald L. Brown, LJ '99, Jacksonville City Council District 10

Mia Jones, LJ '00, Jacksonville City Council District 10

Condolences

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to **Roberta Zipperer** (LJ '98) upon the death of her son Chris. Memorials may be made to the Jacksonville Humane Society.

Our love and condolences to **Carol J. Alexander** (LJ '98) on the passing of her mother. Memorials may be made to the James Memorial United Methodist Church, 47 East Haines St., Philadelphia, PA 19144, Attention: Alyce Alexander.

Condolences to **Ed Hayes** (LJ '87) on the death of his mother.

Memoriam

Our dear friend **Sarah Monroe** died after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Sarah was a member of the LJ Class of 1979 and was a Past President of the LJ Board. She was also a graduate of Leadership Florida.

Various

Rev. Candace Lewis (LJ '00) and **Iris T. Young** (LJ '93) have been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Community Hospice of Northeast Florida.

Undersheriff **John Gordon** (LJ '91) has announced his retirement from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office. **Joe Henry** (LJ '96), formerly director of operations, will fill the position. **Frank Mackesy** (LJ '97), formerly chief of detectives, will be director of operations.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. And this year he'll be bringing all LJ members a very special gift — our completely new and fully functional website www.leadershipjax.org. It has been a long process to develop a site that will be truly useful and provide the functions we need.

The site will have the usual background information on LJ and YLJ, program information, calendars of events, etc.

For dues paying alumni there will be a password protected area where members can access the complete membership directory, current class list, committee information, and other materials. And, there will be a Bulletin Board where you can post information of interest to others and read material posted by fellow LJ alums.

People will be able to go online to apply for programs, learn about special programs and events, see the schedule of program days and read The Lead Story, which will now be available as an Adobe Acrobat .pdf file for downloading.

For even more details about the website, read the letter from the Executive Director on page two, and look for future news and announcements. It'll be a great beginning to our new year.