



February 2019

# THE LEAD STORY

NEWSLETTER FOR LEADERSHIP JACKSONVILLE

Sponsored by

JACKSONVILLE  
**Record & Observer**

NEXT GENERATION \* ALUMNI NIGHT AT CUMMER \*  
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT \* CLASS NOTES

## Save the Date for Celebration 2019

Tuesday, April 16, 6 p.m.  
Jessie Ball duPont Center

Plan to join us as we honor

**Alberta Hipps, David Miller and Darnell Smith**

for their many contributions to Northeast Florida.



Alberta Hipps  
LJ 1993



David Miller  
LJ 2008



Darnell Smith  
LJ 2000

More details will be included in a future invitation and *The Lead Story*.

Proceeds from Celebration 2019 benefit Leadership Jacksonville's youth programs.

Sponsorship opportunities are available; for information contact **Jill Dame**.

## Unveiling new name and logo for our city's next leaders

Collegiate Leadership Experience has changed since it began in 2005. The program now includes undergraduate, graduate and working professionals within two years of graduation. CLE has been renamed to Leadership Jacksonville Next Generation to reflect the collective spirit and identity of the group.



It's an exciting new year as **Meg Folds** continues to receive recommendations.

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## ALUMNI EVENING AT THE CUMMER



Thanks to the 100 alumni and guests in attendance at the Alumni Evening at the Cummer Museum on Tuesday, January 22. There were alumni represented from Leadership Jacksonville, New Leadership Summit, Next Generation and Youth Leadership Jacksonville. Guests were welcomed by The Cummer's Executive Director, Adam Levine and also explored the Augusta Savage exhibit.



Leadership Jacksonville  
Class of 2019

Leading From Within Day was January 17 at the FSCJ Wilson Center for the Arts. Thanks to the Leadership Jacksonville planning committee members and program day speakers for setting the tone for being a servant leader. Much appreciation to FSCJ Wilson Center for providing the space and technology.



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## Youth Leadership Jacksonville Class XXIX



YLJ Class XXIX focused on human needs on January 24 with United Way of Northeast Florida and several everyday heroes from different walks of life.

Thank you to **Brooks Rehabilitation** for being the program day sponsor for "Are We Our Brother's/Sister's Keeper?" Students participated in three different informative sessions and were able to take a walk in another person's moccasins!

**BROOKS**<sup>®</sup>  
Rehabilitation

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**LJ 2019 Program Day**  
Thursday, February 7, 2019  
Understanding Others Day

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
Monday, February 11, 2019  
12 p.m. to 1 p.m., Jessie Ball duPont Center, Room 318

**YLJ XXIX Program Day**

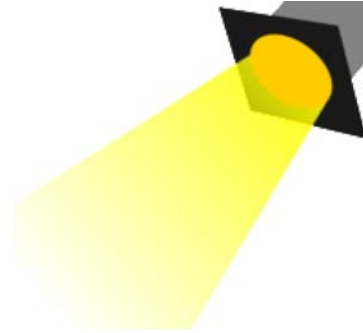
## Alumni Spotlight



### Janet Herrick LJ Class of 2012

Since July 2004, Janet Herrick has been the controlling investor and owner of Onsite Environmental Consulting, LLC (OEC), a leading firm

in the environmental consulting field throughout the Southeastern United States. In addition to being a 2012 LJ alumna, Janet was recognized as a Jacksonville Business Journal 2013 "Women of Influence," was the recipient of the 2012 "Woman of Steel" Award from Entrepreneurs Anchor Magazine, and was the JAX Chamber 2011 Small Business Leader of the Year. Janet reports that she has stayed involved with Leadership Jacksonville because she believes strongly in everything that LJ does and stands for and is honored to be an alumna. She believes that with that privilege comes a responsibility to support the organization to ensure that LJ continues to grow and thrive so that it can educate and create future community stewards. Janet was most impacted by the Poverty and Social Justice Days. She often participates with YLJ and Next Gen playing the role of "Big Dave the Pawn Broker" in the Poverty Simulation. She also lends her environmental expertise to the Economy, Growth & Preservation program day steering committee each year.



Alumni Spotlight is brought to you by the Alumni Relations committee and features short interviews with Leadership Jacksonville alumni.

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## CLASS NOTES

### 1982

**Deborah Thompson** will serve as a speaker at the 2019 Jacksonville Business Journal's African-American Small Business Forum on February 6, 2019.

### 1987

Congratulations to **E. Timothy Lightfield** on the publishing of his book, "A Crooked College: 1974...1975...1976...1977." [It was recently reviewed in the Ponte Vedra Recorder.](#)

### 1991

**Nina Waters** was featured in the January 2019 issue of Florida Trend, making a nonprofit forecast.

**Deborah Mosley Norman** was presented the 2019 Distinguished Alumni Humanitarian Award for Outstanding Service to the Jacksonville community in the areas of religion and education by the Matthew W. Gilbert Grand Alumni, Inc.

### 1992



**Solomon Brotman** has joined Life & Specialty Ventures as vice president of national clinical operations. He leads the company's innovative oral health integration initiative in conjunction with Florida Combined Life Insurance Company, Inc. dental plans. Brotman will remain in part-time clinical practice in Jacksonville.

### 1993

**Karen Bowling** was appointed the Executive Director for the University of North Florida Center for Entrepreneurship.

Congratulations to **Barbara Darby** on her book launch, "My Leadership Journey: Wisdom from the Trenches" and signing on February 9.

### 1995

**Kathy Para** retired from the Jacksonville Area Legal Aid after nine years as the pro bono director.

### 1998

Congratulations to **Celeste Donovan** upon her marriage on January 4 to Jeff Green.

### 2001

**Myron Flagler** retired from the Jewish Community Alliance after 20 years as executive director.

**Dianne Taylor** was named a Shining Star by the Putnam First Cancer Fund.

### 2005

**Howard Taylor** serves as Treasurer for the Downtown Dwellers Association. Recently, Howard was featured in the Resident Community News for the Southbank Riverwalk mural.



Celeste Donovan and husband, Jeff Green

### 2006

**Chuck Hedrick** has retired from the Foley & Lardner LLP.

### 2007

**Jim Robinson** has retired after a 45 year civil engineering career. Jim was most recently the North Florida Engineering Director for Bowman Consulting.

**George Egan** joined the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida board of trustees.



Bunky Johnson (pictured right) with the 2018 Gladys Harris Award

### 2008

**Odette Struys** joined Memorial Hospital Jacksonville as AVP of PR and Communications.

### 2009

**Bunky Johnson** was presented the 2018 Gladys Harris Award from the Meninak Club of Jacksonville. Bunky served as Meninak's 90th President in 2009 and has been a member of the club for 25 years.

### 2010

**Dawn Emerick** has been chosen to serve as Benton County, Oregon's next Health Department Director. Dawn is currently serving as the Public Health Director for Clackamas County, Oregon.

**Snowden McFall** is now hosting Ignite Success!, a BUZZ Media Group television show featuring women leaders

making a difference, innovating ideas and enhancing the community.

## **2011**

**Trey Csar** has started a new chapter as an adjunct faculty member at the Jacksonville University Public Policy Institute, teaching a graduate class on K-12 education policy.

## **2013**

**Crystal Freed** will receive The Florida Bar Pro Bono Award for the 4th Judicial Circuit on February 7 at the state Supreme Court in Tallahassee.

## **2014**

Congratulations to **Dana Kriznar** for being promoted from Chief of Staff to Deputy Superintendent with Duval County Public Schools.

Congratulations to **Alex** and Brittany **Sifakis** upon the birth of Shepherd "Shep" James Sifakis on January 18.

## **2015**

**Joanelle Wood Mulrain** joined the Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Florida Network Realty.

**Christian Harden** NAI Hallmark's Managing Partner, Brokerage has achieved the SIOR office designation awarded by the Society of Industrial and Office REALTORS.

## **2016**

**Michael Huskey** is starting his 25th year with The Haskell Company and has accepted a new position as Director of Workforce Development.

**Robert Massey** has departed from the Jacksonville Symphony as president and CEO.

## **2017**

**Lori Day** serves on the planning committee for Hubbard House's **2019 Stand Up & Stride**, domestic violence awareness walk on March 30, 2019.

Congratulations to **Judge Michael Bateh** for being sworn in to the Duval County Court.

## **2018**

**Keith Marks** has joined the board of the Memorial Park Association.

## **2019**

**Tonya Ray Bailey** was elected to serve as President of the North Florida Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) Society Chapter, Inc.

**Kemal Gasper** was accepted into New Leaders Council (NLC) Tallahassee Cohort 2019 and has a new role as vice president of business development at 121 Financial Credit Union.

**Andrea Williams** was recognized in the **30th Annual Jacksonville Black History Month Calendar** by the Jacksonville Public Library.

## **Leadership Jacksonville Next Generation**

**Nicole Saunders** (LJ NEXT GEN 2013) is an Assistant State Attorney with the Fourth Judicial Court in Clay County. She serves on the Executive Board of AMI Kids., Inc., is Chair of the Disability Rights Committee for the American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division, and is Scholarship Essay Chair for the Continental Societies, Inc., Jacksonville Chapter.

**Ally Capriotti** (LJ NEXT GEN 2014) serves on the board of directors for Leadership Jacksonville. Ally was appointed to the board in July 2018.

Congratulations to **SeQoya Williams** (LJ NEXT GEN 2018) for being selected as the Florida College System Student Government Association (FCSSGA) Region 1 Coordinator.

**Todd Higginbotham** (LJ NEXT GEN 2018) joined the Jacksonville Civil Council as Public Policy Research Assistant.

**Ashleigh Brooks** (LJ NEXT GEN 2018) was promoted to Circuit Court division CR-I at the State Attorney's Office.

### **Youth Leadership Jacksonville**

**Christopher Davlantes** (YLJ XX 2009-10) has been named to the 2019 Forbes Magazine list of '30 under 30' in the category of Energy Sustainability. He is a graduate of Massachusetts Institute with a double major in electrical and mechanical engineering. He is the founder of Reach Labs, located in Oakland California.

**Javon Knight** (YLJ XX 2009-2010) serves as an Executive Committee member for United Way's Atlantic Circle.

**Hunt Reagor** (YLJ XXIII 2012-13) graduated from the University of North Florida with a marketing degree, and he works at Airstream Venture as the Associate Director of Walk Off Charities.

**Natali Zaher** (YLJ XXIV 13-14) attends the University of North Florida and completed an eight month study abroad trip to Spain.

**Benny LaGoy** (YLJ XXIV 2013-14) is a mechanical engineering major at the University of Florida. He serves as a trumpet section leader in the Gator band, a Resident Assistant and is a member of the Society of Automotive Engineers.

**Robert Williams** (YLJ XXV 2014-15) is a junior at Florida Southern University majoring in healthcare administration. He started a campus diversity initiative for LGBT students. Robert is also the Program Director of Aquatics Camp in summer 2019.

**Chase Jones** (YLJ XXV 2014-15) attends the University of Florida as a industrial engineering major. He serves as the Mentor and Mentee Coordinator at the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers, UF Chapter, and works at UF Health Shands in process improvement.

**Ryan Udell** (YLJ XXVI 2015-16) won first place in the business plan competition at the Students Exploration & Development of Space (SEDS) SpaceVision Conference. He also started the SEDS Chapter at Rice University and serves as president.

**Joshua Roberts** (YLJ XXVII 2016-17) attends the University of Florida as a chemistry major.

**Jack LaGoy** (YLJ XXVII 2016-17) is an accounting major at the University of South Florida.

**Darci Overmyer Waller** (YLJ XX 2009-10) is a pediatric recreation program assistant at Brooks Rehabilitation. She is a Certified Child Life Specialist.

**George Pratt** (YLJ XXVIII 2017-18), a senior at Paxon School for Advance Studies was selected to participate in the 2019 U.S. Senate Youth Program. He will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship. George is the senior class president at Paxon and chairs the Rules and Bylaw Committee for Jacksonville Mayor's Young Leaders Advisory Council.

### **Various**

Qualified Candidates running in the 2019 Duval County elections: **Anna Lopez Brosche** (LJ 2009) - Office: Mayor; **Mike Hogan** (LJ 1980), **Mia Jones** (LJ 2000) - Office: Supervisor of Elections; **Carson Tranquille** (LJ 2013) - Office: City Council District 2; **Michael Boylan** (LJ 2005), **Rose Conry** (LJ 2010) - Office: City Council District 6; **Tameka Gaines Holly** (LJ 2014), **Ju'Coby Pittman** (LJ 1993) - Office: City Council District 8; and **Sunny Gettinger** (LJ 2012) - Office: City Council District 14.

**Warren Jones** (Honorary) was elected to serve as the vice chair for the Duval County Public School Board. **Darryl Willie** (LJ 2016) was elected for a four-year term to serve as School District 4 board member.

OneJax, an Institute of the University of North Florida, has announced the recipients of its 2019 Humanitarian Awards. The OneJax Humanitarian Awards honor those who have demonstrated the highest level of personal and professional integrity, have given generously and extensively to our community and have been dedicated to the improvement of human relations among diverse groups locally. 2019 Silver Medallions: **Myron Flagler** (LJ 2001); **Pat Geraghty**; **Janet Owens**; and **Julia Taylor**.

Dancing with the Stars on April 27, benefiting Jacksonville Children's Chorus, will include **Jeanne Miller** (LJ 1999), **Giselle Carson** (LJ 2005), **Crystal Freed** (LJ 2013) and **Donnie Horner** (LJ 2015). May the best dancer win!

At the 2019 Northeast Florida Children's Advocacy Summit on January 10, **Rena Coughlin** (LJ 2004) served as a speaker, **Aleta Turner** (LJ NEXT GEN 2012), **Warren Jones** (Honorary) and **Dee Burton** (YLJ XXIX 2018-19) were panelists, **Jim Clark** (LJ 1994), **Colleen Rodriguez** (LJ 2013) and **Tessa Duvall** (LJ 2019) hosted learning labs. The advocacy summit addressed how participants can advocate for children at the local and state levels.

Congratulations to **Leon Baxton** (LJ 2012) and **Douglas J. Milne** (LJ 1978) for being selected to join the Florida Times-Union Editorial Board.

Congratulations to **Kin Cannon** (LJ 2004) and **Kevin Gay** (LJ 2015) who were presented Bishop's Cross awards at the 176th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida.

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## NOTES OF SYMPATHY

Our condolences to **Carole Poindexter** (LJ 2000) and her family upon the death of her sister Connie Byrd on November 16.

Our condolences to **Linda Cobb Ingham** (LJ 1993) and her family upon the death of her father James Edgar Cobb (Jim) on December 31.

Our condolences to **Anne Alexander** (LJ 1991) and her family upon the passing of her mother Nancy Coffey on December 30.

Our condolences to the family and friends of **George** and Josephine Liner "Jo" **Corrick**. George was an honorary Leadership Jacksonville member who passed in October 2018. His widow Jo passed away on January 2, 2019.

Our condolences to **Philip Mobley** (LJ 2005) and his family upon the passing of his mother Mattie Mobley on January 4.

Our condolences to the family and friends of **Bill Van Nortwick** (LJ 1986) who died on January 12 following a battle with multiple myeloma. Bill was a graduate of Duke University and the University of Florida College of Law. He began his law practice at Martin, Ade, Birchfield and Mickler and in 1994 was appointed to the First District Court of Appeal where he served until retiring in 2015. Bill returned to Jacksonville, joining Akerman LLP where he became the National Director of Pro Bono. Bill's passion was the provision of legal services for the poor and for this work he received many awards, including the American Bar Association's Pro Bono Publico Award. Bill participated in planning and presenting Justice Day for the LJ Classes of 2018 and 2019. Services for Bill are scheduled for Friday, February 15 at 4 p.m. at the Garden Club of Jacksonville.

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## LEADERS WANTED

### The Jacksonville Police and Fire Pension Fund

The Jacksonville Police and Fire Pension Fund seeks a [local advisor](#) to join its Financial Investment and Advisory Committee. The Jacksonville Police and Fire Pension Fund Board of Trustees Financial Investment and Advisory Committee is composed of five persons. Interested candidates should contact



Timothy H. Johnson, Executive Director by calling (904) 255-8963 or emailing emailing [thjohnson@coj.net](mailto:thjohnson@coj.net).

Members of the Financial Investment and Advisory Committee must be residents of Duval, Nassau, St. Johns, Baker or Clay County, Florida. Each member will be nominated by the Board and confirmed by the City Council to serve in a voluntary capacity. The term of office shall be three years.

## MAKE A LJ DONATION

Many companies sponsor matching gift programs that will match the charitable contributions made by their employees. This is a great way to enhance the impact of your giving. Check with your employer for details.

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