



August 2018

# THE LEAD STORY

NEWSLETTER FOR LEADERSHIP JACKSONVILLE

Sponsored by

JACKSONVILLE  
**Record & Observer**

CLE \* SPOTLIGHT \* CLASS NOTES

The Leadership Jacksonville offices will be CLOSED on Monday, September 3, 2018 in observance of Labor Day

## Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2019



LEADERSHIP  
JACKSONVILLE



Christopher Hasse and  
Andrea Williams



Michael Brennan, Betty Carley (LJ 1977)  
and Sheila Pressley



Kasey Wagner and  
John Miller



Jametoria Burton and  
Ann-Marie Knight (LJ 2016)

Class members were  
joined by their  
nominators and guests at  
Opening Dinner on July  
24.



Patrick Johnson and  
Kathy Miller (LJ 2015)



Catherine Graham and  
Travis Schryer



Jason Snodgrass and Tanya  
Johnson-Coomes (LJ 2015)



Stuart Thompson and  
Bryan Chartrand



## Collegiate Leadership Experience 2018

CLE participants enjoyed two program days in July learning about Jacksonville's environment, economy, diversity and arts and entertainment. Thank you to the Meninak Club of Jacksonville for hosting participants for lunch on July 23.



**Thank you to all alumni who have renewed dues, made contributions and submitted volunteer sign-up forms!**

Your financial support helps to ensure that Northeast Florida continues to develop leaders who understand area issues and assets, build connections throughout the community and are inspired to make a difference.

If you have not yet renewed, visit the [payment center](#) to make dues payment and donations using Visa or Mastercard.

The online [Member Volunteer Form](#) makes it easy for you to also become part of the process that keeps LJ programs so successful.

Remember that we also offer the convenience of recurring monthly donations so that you can make a difference all year long. A small monthly credit charge adds up to a generous gift. Call Yvonne at 904-396-6263x4 or email [admin@leadershipjax.org](mailto:admin@leadershipjax.org) for details.

[<Back to Top>](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **CLE 2018 Closing Retreat**

Saturday, August 4, 2018  
Museum of Science and History

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

Monday, August 13, 2018  
5-7 p.m., Jessie Ball duPont Center, Room 318

### **LJ 2019 Opening Retreat**

Friday-Saturday, August 17-18, 2018  
World Golf Village

### **YLJ XXIX Opening Dinner**

Friday, August 24, 2018  
3-9 p.m., Jessie Ball duPont Center

### **YLJ XXIX Opening Retreat**

Saturday, August 25, 2018  
8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Jessie Ball duPont Center

### **LJ Offices Closed**

Monday, September 3, 2018  
In observance of Labor Day

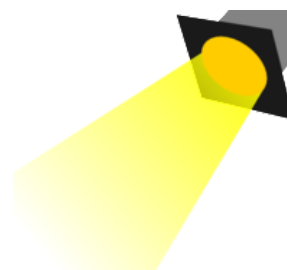
Alumni continue to enjoy meeting with fellow alums every month through **Leadership Connect**. Sign-up to become part of a group of four to meet for breakfast, lunch, drinks or whatever you choose. [Click here](#) to send your **name**, **class year**, **preferred phone** number and **email** and you will be added to future lists.



[<Back to Top>](#)

## Alumni Class Spotlight - LJ Class of 2016

While we generally spotlight individual alums, this month we are spotlighting a class. We received the following email from an alumnus who suggested that we leave his name out but focus on the story of his class, as he said, "to offer my situation as a testament to the power of LJ connections and friendship."



All LJ alum are members of "the Best Class." But our class of 2016 is uniquely remarkable. I got very lucky to be included among a group of truly special folks.

Three weeks ago I found myself with two broken arms and elbows due to a dumb, unfortunate accident at a client event. I landed in the hospital with several surgeries & significant lack of mobility. Even before family, friends and colleagues checked in with my wife and me - my class was there with support, phone calls, emails, texts and prayers - and within a day had appointed a class "emissary" (Tina Wirth) to check in with me and my wife daily. Almost to a person, the entire class jumped in with offers of assistance.

On my third day home from the hospital (which happened to be my birthday), the class brought two enormous bags of prepared meals, generous gift certificates for additional meals, pre-paid Uber rides, cookies, Starbucks, balloons, and a massively generous account at Wen Raiti's restaurant for even more food as needed. Offers of yard work, house work, rides and you-name-it. It was an avalanche of gifts - practical, thoughtful, generous beyond description.

Yes, our class of 16 has a "love fest" reputation, but the outpouring of support and care blew us away. In my five + decades I've never been part of a group that provides such genuine, generous support, mutual respect, affection and solidarity. I know there are examples beyond my own experience, but wanted to let you know what an amazing impact my LJ experience had, and continues to have - not only on a professional basis but a deeply personal one as well. I remain immensely grateful for the chance to be part of this amazing alliance of wonderful people; "THE Class" of 2016.

[<Back to Top>](#)



## CLASS NOTES

### 1980

**John Sefton** has joined the law firm of Rogers Towers, P.A. as a shareholder in the Real Estate Department..

### 1991

**Susan Ponder-Stansel** has joined the board of the United Way of St. John's County.

### 1993

Congratulations to **Ju'Coby Pittman** who has been named interim Jacksonville City Council member for District 8.

Governor Rick Scott reappointed **Karen Bowling** to the Florida State College at Jacksonville District Board of Trustees.

### 1995

**Lauri-Ellen Smith** has taken a position as community relations director for the City of Pascagoula, Mississippi. She is presently living in Ocean Springs, about twenty minutes from Pascagoula.

### 1998

**Fred Franklin** has been named an honorary member of the board of governors of Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida.

**Donny MacKenzie** is retiring from Holland & Knight to become the executive director of The Florida Bar Foundation as of August 20.

## 2008

**Mike Freed** received the "but for" Leadership Florida Award at the 2018 Leadership Florida Annual Meeting. Mike was recognized for creating a six marathons in six days concept that raised almost \$70,000 and has now begun a more than \$2M endowment to enhance civil legal aid services for children with medical issues.

## 2009

Governor Rick Scott announced his appointment of **Lester Bass** to the Fourth Judicial Circuit Court. Congratulations Lester.

## 2010

**Gary Brose** is leaving the world of Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance contract flying for the US Army in the Middle East to fly casualty evacuation missions for our special operation forces in Africa. He will be changing aircraft types from the King Air 300 to the Pilatus PC-12 with night vision goggle capability.

## 2012

**Clark Robertson** has been elected president of the board of directors for Phi Gamma Delta International Fraternity (FIJI). FIJI has 163 chapters and colonies at universities and colleges across the U.S. and Canada.

## 2013

**Charles Jimerson** has been selected by the Business Journal organizations' editors and staff writers to The Business Journals' Influencers: Law, a national list of notable attorneys who are having an impact on business and legal matters in communities across the nation.

## 2016

**Megan Del Pizzo** has been selected for Automotive News' 40 under 40 list for 2018.

**Sam Garrison** has joined the board of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

**Tina Wirth** has taken a job with the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce as senior vice president of regional advancement and talent. Tina will start in South Carolina in mid-August. She is going to continue to serve as JASMYN's board chair, so hopefully we will see her around town as she commutes regularly for her volunteer leadership role there.

## 2017

**Pegine Echevarria** has joined the City of Jacksonville Small Emerging Business Monitoring Committee and has been appointed as chair of the Jacksonville Tourism Development Council Special Grants Committee.

## 2018

Congratulations to **Jonathan Hanson** and his wife Jessica on the birth of their daughter Elena Caridad on born July 6.

## 2019

**Lakesha Burton** has been named assistant, chief community services at the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.

### Youth Leadership Jacksonville

**Chidinmma Egemonu** (YLJ XXVIII, 17-18) was selected by Bank of America as a Student Leader. Student Leaders are chosen for the program because of their community involvement, receive paid summer internships and participate in a Student Leadership Summit in Washington.

### Various

LJ alumni serving on the 2018-19 Jacksonville Bar Association board of governors include: **Michelle Bedoya Barnett** (LJ 2012) treasurer, **Michael Bateh** (LJ 2017), **Brian Coughlin** (LJ 2016) and **Asghar Syed** (LJ 2018). **Megan Moon** (LJ 2019) is serving on the 2018-19 board of governors for the Young Lawyers Section of the Jacksonville Bar.

Congratulations to **Rosa Beckett** (LJ 2007), **Anna Brosche** (LJ 2009), **Cathy Chambers** (LJ 2010) and **Pegine Echevarria** (LJ 2017) who have been selected to participate in Leadership

Florida Cornerstone Class XXXVVI.

**Karen Bowling** (LJ 1993) and **Courtney Grimm** (LJ 2012) have been appointed by Governor Rick Scott to join the 4th Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission.

Congratulations to our alumni who have been named to the Jacksonville Business Journal's 2018 Women of Influence: **Diane Boyle** (NLS 2014), **Kim Holland** (LJ 2014), **Mary Marx** (LJ 2005), **Linda McCallum** (LJ 1997), **Shannon Nazworth** (LJ 2011), **Christina Parrish** (LJ 2015), Tracy Williams (NLS 2016) and **Sherri Worman** (LJ 2004).

**Christian Harden** (LJ 2015) and **Richard Lovelace** (LJ 2016) have joined the board of the Museum of Science and History.

## NOTES OF SYMPATHY

Our condolences to **Chris Rasche's** (LJ 1980) family and friends upon her passing on Saturday, June 30. Chris was a founding faculty member at the University of North Florida and founded the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, twice serving as department chair. Chris directed the Women's Studies Program and previously served as a president of the UNF Faculty Association. She was honored with the Outstanding Teaching and Service Awards and the Susan B. Anthony Award. Outside of UNF, Chris worked with the Duval County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team and with the International Homicide Research Working Group. She was appointed by Florida's governor as a special reviewer for clemency applications for women incarcerated for killing their abusers. Chris served as a class liaison for LJ Class of 1980.

Our condolences to **Suzanne Jenkins** (LJ 1998), **Shyla Jenkins** (CLE 2005) and their family upon the passing of Suzanne's husband and Shyla's father Marshall Jenkins on July 12 following a lengthy illness.

[<Back to Top>](#)

## MAKE A LJ DONATION

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[<Back to Top>](#)



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