



August 2019

THE LEAD STORY

NEWSLETTER FOR LEADERSHIP JACKSONVILLE

Sponsored by

JACKSONVILLE
Record & Observer

NEXT GENERATION * ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT * CLASS NOTES

The Leadership Jacksonville office will be CLOSED on Monday, September 2 in observance of Labor Day.

It's that time of year again!

Watch your mail for the 2019-2020 dues invoice and willingness to serve as a volunteer form. Your financial and volunteer support ensures the long-term viability of our organization and keeps our programs strong. Thanks in advance for your help.

Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2020



met for Opening Dinner on July 23.

Class members were joined by their guests, nominators and leadership development team members.



Adriana Fominaya and Christopher Clark



Karla Ebio and Missy Peters



Katherine Hardwick, TNita Waters and Richard Stein



Brian Bush, Kara Tucker and James St. George

[<Back to Top>](#)

Leadership Jacksonville Next Generation



Alexandria Dreyer and Brandon Waked



Imanni Porter and Shiya Scott



NextGen 2019 participants enjoyed "Building Bridges to the Future" day on July 22. The program day focused on understanding our community's economic foundation and outlook in addition to networking with business and civic leaders. Thank you to the Meninak Club of Jacksonville for hosting participants for lunch.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NextGen 2019 Closing Retreat

Saturday, August 3, 2019
9 a.m.-4 p.m., Osprey Clubhouse at the University of North Florida

Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, August 12, 2019
5-8 p.m., Jessie Ball duPont Center, Room 219

YLJ 2020 Opening Retreat

Friday-Saturday, August 16-17, 2019
Jessie Ball duPont Center

LJ 2020 Opening Retreat

Friday-Saturday, August 23-24, 2019
World Golf Village

LJ Office Closed for Labor Day

Monday, September 2, 2019

Alumni Spotlight



Bruce Fafard New Leadership Summit Class of 2016

Bruce Fafard is the President and Chief Executive Officer of 121 Financial Credit Union. Bruce is an alum of NLS Class of 2016. He will be

servicing as President-Elect for LJ Board of Directors 2019-2020 and has served on the board since 2017. Bruce has stayed involved with LJ because he was impressed by the quality of the NLS program and the great insights shared by community stakeholders. "The camaraderie you develop with others across different industries is incredibly invaluable," shares Bruce. He gained a greater appreciation for the history of Jacksonville and what contributes to our thriving community. Bruce believes that LJ's mission to educate, connect and inspire diverse leaders is front and center throughout our programs. He was inspired to get involved and contribute to ensure that our community is a better place to live, work and worship.

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

CLASS NOTES

1979

Hugh Carithers will receive the Robert J. Beckham Equal Justice Award on September 18 at Jacksonville Area Legal Aid's 20th annual Equal Justice Awards. The award is presented each year to a person or organization who has notably promoted the cause of equal justice for low-income residents of Northeast Florida.

1980

Mike Tolbert has published *Jake!*, the story of **Mayor Jake Godbold** (Honorary) and the transformation of Jacksonville under his leadership efforts. A [book signing](#) takes place on August 7 at the Old St. Andrews Church at the Jacksonville Historical Society from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Leadership Jacksonville alumni are invited to come out and hear Mike and Jake speak.

1989

Congratulations to **Greg Owens** on his retirement from JEA. Greg has started an executive coaching practice called True North Executive Coach and Consultant, LLC.

1992

Judge Gary Flower is the recipient of the Amy Karan award. This is only the second time the award has been given. The award honors Judge Amy Karan's legacy and her special contributions to the judiciary and the legal system. This award recognizes scholarship, the faithful application of the administration of justice, and the education and encouragement of stakeholders in their public service. Above all, the award goes to someone who is a visionary in improving the legal system locally and statewide.

1995

Pete Helow was elected president of the Rotary Club of San Marco for 2019-20.

1996

Rick Morales III, president of Morales Construction Co. Inc., became a Florida certified master builder.

Jeff Michelman received the David Harrill Service Award, presented by Jacksonville Oceanside Rotary. This award was given in recognition of Jeff's tireless efforts on behalf of Rotary.



Marcus Isom Jr., Courtney Hance, Tori Williams and Sarah Boyne (NextGen 2019)

Jan Healy started a non-profit, Renewing Dignity, Inc. in February 2019. [Renewing Dignity's](#) mission is to provide period products to women and girls in our community who can't afford these products.

1998

Charlene Taylor-Hill has retired from the Jacksonville Human Rights Commission after 23 years at the helm. She was featured in [The Florida Times Union op-ed](#) written by Jim Crooks (LJ 1992) who named her an "unsung community hero" because of her contributions to Jacksonville's racial reconciliation efforts in the past generation.

2001

Diane Taylor was named the University of North Florida Outstanding Adjunct Professor.

2005

Giselle Carson was featured in the cover story of the Florida 2019 edition of [Super Lawyers](#) about her personal immigration journey to the United States and work as a business immigration and compliance attorney.

2008

Mike Freed is the new chair of The Florida Bar Business Litigation Certification Committee.

2009

Allan Wulbern of Smith Hulsey & Busey will serve as the secretary for the Jacksonville

Bankruptcy Bar Association's 2019-20 board of directors.

2010

Susan Masucci, principal of ruckus. advertising + public relations celebrated 13 years in business.

Parker McCrary is now Vice President, Supply Chain Solutions at TRANSFLO from Pegasus TransTech.



Lisa Hayes (LJ 2013) and
Peter O'Brien (LJ 2015) at the
LJ Opening Dinner

2012

Melissa Nelson was appointed to the Criminal Punishment Code Task Force by Governor Ron DeSantis.

2014

Nat Ford was named the ENO Center for Transportation's 2019 Thought Leader. The ENO Center for Transportation is a nonprofit, independent think tank in Washington, D.C. with a mission to seek continuous improvement in transportation and its public and private leadership in order to increase the system's mobility, safety and sustainability.

Marcus Haile was appointed Executive Director for Learn to Read, Inc. Marcus previously served as interim Executive Director.

Rory Diamond is serving as Chair of the Association of Service Dog Providers for Military Veterans.

2015

Jessica Evans received the "Rookie of the Year" Award from the Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary Club.

Bo "**Henry**" Li received the [2019 Outstanding Public Transportation Manager](#) Award from the American Public Transportation Association for his contributions to the advancement of public transportation.

Betzy Santiago will be speaking at [Navigate. A Women's Summit](#) at the University of North Florida Adam W. Herbert University Center on September 23. This event is for female entrepreneurs, coaches & bosses. Betzy will share lessons she has learned and the community that has helped her. A goal of the event is to "build a network worth connecting with!"

2016

David Smith received the Junior League of Jacksonville's President's Award - Outstanding Contribution. This award is given to a member of the community who through their efforts has contributed to the Junior League and their goal of building a better community. **Anne Detlefsen** (LJ 2018) presented the award to David as she completed her term as Junior League of Jacksonville president.

Ann-Marie Knight has joined UF Health Jacksonville as Vice President, Community Engagement and Chief Diversity Officer. She previously worked as Operations Administrator for Mayo Clinic Jacksonville.

Josh Cockrell has started The StellaRea Group specializing in governmental, public affairs and executive agency advocacy solutions.

2017

Mary Pat Corrigan has joined Sulzbacher Center as Chief Health Officer. Mary was previously Chief Executive Officer of Volunteers in Medicine.



Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2018 at their Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp Outing

2018

Congratulations to **John Wallace**. He was named a Florida Trend Magazine 2019 Florida Legal Elite Up and Comer. (In July's Lead Story, this was listed in error under 2008.)

Jessica Cummings was selected for Leadership Florida Connect Class 10.

2019

Kemal Gasper was selected for Leadership Florida Connect Class 10. Additionally, Kemal was approved by the Jacksonville City Council to serve on the King / Soutel Community Redevelopment Area Advisory Board.

New Leadership Summit

Thomas Van Berkel (NLS 2003) was named chairman of the 2019 First Coast Heart Walk campaign by the First Coast American Heart Association.

Matt Walsh (NLS 2017) was inducted into the [Florida Press Association's Newspaper Hall of Fame](#) at the associations' annual meeting.

Jen Brown (NLS 2019) was appointed by Governor Ron DeSantis to the Florida State College at Jacksonville District Board of Trustees. Additionally, Jen was selected for Leadership Florida Education Class 5.

Mary Tobin (NLS 2019) has transitioned from her role as Chief Operations Officer at Kids Hope Alliance to Executive Director of the South Region for The Mission Continues. Mission Continues is a national, nonpartisan nonprofit that empowers veterans to continue their service, and empowers communities with veteran talent, skills and preparedness to generate visible impact.

Next Generation

Chris Folds (NextGen 2005) has been promoted to Vice President of Fund Development and Communications with Habijax.

Ale'ta Turner (NextGen 2012) was recognized as a Parent Leader by Duval County Public School's Parent Academy on July 2. Parent Leaders can facilitate courses, engage the community at district events, network with partner institutions and more.

Javon Knight (NextGen 2019) will be serving as Chair-Elect for United Way of Northeast Florida, Atlantic Circle for the 2019-2020 executive committee.



Robin Wahby (LJ 2008) and Hunter Bradshaw (NextGen 2018)

Youth Leadership Jacksonville

Deno Hicks (YLJ 1992) managing partner of Southern Strategy Group was profiled in the Jacksonville Business Journal as the lobbying firm celebrates its 20th anniversary.

Christian Cospers (YLJ 2019) interned with City Councilman Terrance Freeman through the [Mayor's Youth At Work Partnership](#) this summer.

Chase Magnano (YLJ 2019) and **George Pratt** (YLJ 2018) participated as [2019 Bank of America Student Leaders](#) receiving eight-week paid internships to learn about community needs at Communities in Schools Jacksonville's summer camp.

Various

Leadership Florida Cornerstone Class 38 include **Lori Boyer** (Honorary), **Maria Hane** (LJ 2002), **Ken Jacobs** (LJ 2005) and **Karen Mayfield** (LJ 2006).

The Cultural Council's 43rd Annual Arts Awards nominees include **Christina Parrish Stone** (LJ 2015), Helen Lane Founders Award; **Hope McMath** (LJ 2006) and **Melissa Ross** (LJ 2013), Robert Arleigh White Award for Advocacy; **Keith Marks** (LJ 2018), Art Innovator Award; **Hugh** (LJ 1991) and **Susan Greene** (LJ 2010), Lifetime Service to the Arts.

Allishia Bauman (NextGen 2012) and **Taylor McDonald** (LJ 2013) are participating in [First Coast Dancing with the Stars](#) on September 14 to raise funds for Beaches Fine Arts Series.

Graham Allen (LJ 1981), **Chris Hazelip** (LJ 2000), **Fred Franklin Jr.** (LJ 1998), **Eric Holshouser** (LJ 2009), **Ed McCarthy III** (LJ 1995), **Clay Meux Jr.** (LJ 2011), and **Cheryl Worman** (LJ 2004) are Rogers Towers law firm shareholders that were featured in Florida Trend's 2019 "Legal Elite" list.

[<Back to Top>](#)



NOTES OF SYMPATHY

Our condolences to **Ale'ta Turner** (NextGen 2012) and her family upon the passing of her grandfather, George Gaskin on June 24.

Our condolences to **Jill Langford Dame** (LJ 1987) and her family upon the passing of her step-father Gwin David Baringer on June 30.

Our condolences to **John Delaney** (LJ 1986) and his family upon the passing of his mother Mary Anne Langius Delaney in July 2019.

Our condolences to **Holt Graves** (LJ 2008) and his family upon the passing of his father Edwin Graves Sr. on July 1.

Our condolences to **Trina Medarev** (LJ 2013), **Steven Medarev** (YLJ 2014) and their family upon the passing Trina's father and Steven's grandfather Daniel E. Speilman Jr. on July 6.

Our condolences to **Sarah Van Cleve** (LJ 1985), **Katie Bauman** (NextGen 2013), **Sally Van Cleve** (NextGen 2014), **Tucker Van Cleve** (Next Gen 2015) and **Meg Van Cleve** (YLJ 2016) and their family upon the death of Sarah's husband and their grandfather Robert Van Cleve (Bob) on July 8, 2019.

Our condolences to the family and friends of **Jack Diamond** (Honorary) upon his passing on July 14. Jack was a noted architect who was with KBJ for 27 years, president for the last 14 years. He then started Diamond Architects which eventually merged and was known as Rink Design Partnership Inc. In addition to his noted visionary designs throughout Jacksonville, Jack was known for his community involvement. He chaired the JAX Chamber; the Rotary Club of Jacksonville; University of North Florida Foundation; Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida; Hospice of Northeast Florida; the United Way Campaign; Visit Jacksonville; and was a founding member of JaxPride, a civic group advocating for removal of visual blight and cleaning up the city. Jack was passionate about downtown Jacksonville and its revitalization. He gave freely of his time to a variety of charities, including those dealing with children's issues, art and culture, and environmental causes.

[<Back to Top>](#)



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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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[<Back to Top>](#)



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