



December 2018

# THE LEAD STORY

NEWSLETTER FOR LEADERSHIP JACKSONVILLE

Sponsored by

JACKSONVILLE  
**Record & Observer**

RECONNECT \* ALUMNI NIGHT AT CUMMER \* ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT  
CLASS NOTES \* YLJ APPLICATIONS

The Leadership Jacksonville Office will be CLOSED  
December 24-26, 2018 for the Christmas Holiday  
and  
January 1, 2019 for New Years Day



**December 14** is the **DEADLINE**  
to submit an online **nomination** for the  
**Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2020.**

Program details, selection information, calendar and the link to begin your nomination are on the website. The application itself will be open online January 2-24.

Please explain the LJ program to your prospective candidates to ensure they have interest before nominating them. Contact **Nicole Bryan** for questions.



## RECONNECT

Open to Collegiate Leadership Experience  
and Youth Leadership Jacksonville graduates

**Wednesday, January 2, 2018**

**5:30 to 8 p.m.**

Lecture Hall  
Jessie Ball duPont Center  
40 East Adams Street  
Jacksonville, Florida 32202



Join your fellow CLE and YLJ alums  
for a fun-filled night of pizza and games.

Space is limited so please RSVP now to **Meg Folds**.

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**YOU ARE INVITED**

Drop by the Cummer Museum on **Tuesday, January 22** between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. to mingle with fellow Leadership Jacksonville, New Leadership Summit and Collegiate Leadership Experience Alumni. Hors d'oeuvres will be our treat with a cash bar. You'll have an opportunity to see the fantastic **Augusta Savage exhibit** or just see fellow alumni. Mark your calendar now.



[Click here](#) to let us know you're planning to come (no cost but we want to have enough to eat!).



### Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2019



Justice Day was November 15. Thank you to The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and Duval County Jail for providing assistance, breakfast and the use of their facilities, Jacksonville Transportation Authority for providing buses, the State Attorney's Office and State Attorney Melissa Nelson (LJ 2012) for the use of their facility and technology. A special thanks to Michael Duncan (LJ 2013) and Duncan Trial & Family Law for sponsoring the afternoon breaks.



Sheriff Mike Williams with members of the LJ Class of 2019 during Justice Day.

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### Youth Leadership Jacksonville Class XXIX



YLJ Class XXIX spent a powerful day exploring the inner workings of Jacksonville's criminal justice system at "Inside the System" program day on November 8. Thank you to the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office for providing the use of their facility and for the staff who conducted jail tours

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Nomination ARE OPEN for LJ Class of 2020**  
Deadline to submit is Friday, December 14, 2018

**YLJ XXIX Program Day**  
Thursday, December 6, 2018  
"Everyday Creativity"

**LJ Board of Directors Meeting**  
Monday, December 10, 2018  
Noon, Jessie Ball duPont Center, Room 318

**LJ 2019 Program Day**  
Thursday, December 13, 2018  
Health Day

**Nominations CLOSE for LJ Class 2020**  
Friday, December 14, 2018

**LJ Office Closed for the Christmas Holidays**  
December 24-26, 2018

**LJ Office Closed for New Years Day**  
January 1, 2019

**Reconnect**  
Wednesday, January 2, 2019  
5:30-8 p.m., Jessie Ball duPont Center, Room 208

**Applications OPEN online for LJ Class of 2020**  
Wednesday, January 2, 2019

**Alumni Evening at the Cummer**  
Tuesday, January 22, 2019  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens

## Alumni Spotlight



### Jason Spencer LJ Class of 2015

Jason describes Leadership Jacksonville as "a community of like-minded individuals who want to make a difference." He thinks the strongest attribute of LJ is the ability to have open dialogue about important topics without fear of being ostracized. Jason believes the current

inclusion of deliberative dialogue in LJ programs helps to put a face on tough issues, which generates healthy conversation and ultimately impacts the entire community. He credits LJ for inspiring him to look for ways to make his community better and shared "LJ is a very esoteric experience - it affects you in ways you didn't expect, and may not recognize until later." Jason sees value in all of the LJ programs and continues to actively participate wherever his talents are needed, including his current service on the board.

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

### 1987

**Brian Davis** has been elected chair of the Jacksonville Public Education Fund board effective January 1.

### 1989

Baptist Health of Northeast Florida has promoted **Audrey Moran** to executive vice president and president of the Baptist Health Foundation.

### 1991

**Susan Ponder-Stansel** has been invited by the Florida Surgeon General to serve on the Advisory Committee for Florida Age-Friendly Public Health.

#### **1995**

**John Rutherford** won his bid for reelection to the Florida District 4 Seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Cheers for John and thank you for your service.

#### **1998**

**Brenna Durden** was appointed to the Downtown Development Review Board for a partial term to expire on June 30.

#### **2002**

**Diane Raines** will retire as chief nursing officer at Baptist Health at the end of the year. Diane's career there has spanned more than 40 years.



Diane Tuttle (LJ 2018) and Steve Ramsey (LJ 2003)

#### **2004**

**Julia Burns** will be the 2019 co-chair for the Executive Transition and Leadership Continuity group within the Alliance for Nonprofit Management, a national group of nonprofit consultants, academics, funders and professionals that actively strengthens practices and the field of capacity building.

#### **2007**

**Rosa Beckett** has joined the board of directors for Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville.

**Sandy Golding** has been elected to serve on the Jacksonville Beach City Council, Seat 6. Kudos to Sandy.

**Mary O'Brien** has joined the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce board for the 2018-19 fiscal year.

#### **2009**

**Wyman Duggan** is the newly elected State Representative for District 15. Congratulations Wyman.

#### **2010**

**Dan Bean** is serving on the board of Wish for Our Heroes.

#### **2014**

**Gordon Bailey** is serving on the board of directors of Family Support Services of North Florida.

**Kim Holland** has been promoted to a new role with RS&H. As vice president, Kim will have responsibility for development and expansion of client base, service lines and geographic growth across the United States.

**Alex Sifakis** has joined the board of directors of Habitat for Humanity of Jacksonville, Inc. (Habijax).

**Cindy Watson** was chosen as a spotlighted "Woman Leader" in the November issue of *Florida Trend*.

#### **2015**

**Daniel Davis** is a panelist for the 2018 Jacksonville Business Journal's Downtown Development Program on December 4. His panel will address the "Bay Street Beat."

#### **2016**

Congratulations to newly elected Duval County School Board Member for District 4, **Darryl Willie**.

#### **2017**

**Gette Dumont** won election to Jacksonville Beach City Council, Seat 5. Cheers!



Abraham Bentley Cherrin

#### **2019**

**Arthur Adams** has joined the board of directors of Communities in Schools of Jacksonville.

Congratulations to **Colleen Bell** and Craig Cherrin on the birth of their son Abraham Bentley Cherrin on November 27!

Congratulations to **Allison Stocker** who has been promoted to partner, commercial disputes at Akerman.

#### **New Leadership Summit**

**Scott Wooten** (NLS 2014) is continuing as CFO at Baptist Health but has also been promoted to executive vice president.

#### **Collegiate Leadership Experience**

**Rachael Tutwiler Fortune** (CLE 2006) has been appointed president of the Jacksonville Public Education Fund.

**Marta Perez** (YLJ XV 2004-05 and CLE 2007) has returned to Jacksonville and is practicing with North Florida OB/GYN Associates at the Baptist location downtown. She received her B.A. from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. She attended medical school at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN and completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Washington University at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, MO in June 2018.

**Brandon Hawkins** (YLJ XX 2009-10 and CLE 2013) has returned to Jacksonville and is senior manager-retail business strategy at Acosta.

**Aubrey Smith** (YLJ XX 2009-10 and CLE 2013) has joined Burr & Forman as an associate attorney with the firm's Creditor's Rights and Bankruptcy and Commercial/Corporate Litigation practice group. Aubrey received her undergraduate degree at FSU and Juris Doctor from the University of Florida Levin College of Law.

**Kelsey Ryan** (CLE 2017) is the coordinator for sorority and fraternity life at the University of Memphis.

**Emily Tao** (CLE 2017) received a scholarship from IMA and is pursuing her dual MBA/MHA at the University of North Florida.

**Alanna Hurlburt** (CLE 2018) is engaged to Lawrence Luksha. Their wedding is planned for October 2019.

**Sydney Solan** (CLE 2018) is moving to Washington, D.C. to become the volunteer program manager for the National Sexual Assault Hotline for RAINN (Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network).

#### Youth Leadership Jacksonville

**Matthew Wilhelm** (YLJ XX 2009-10) is in his third year of medical school at Nova Southeastern University College of Medicine and performing clerkship/rotations at Largo Medical Center in Largo, FL. He looks forward to finishing medical school and pursuing a residency in hopes of returning home to Jacksonville.

**Reese Kalka** (YLJ XXVIII 2017-18) was recognized as an All-Star Athlete by WJXT. He is a member of the swimming and track teams at Bishop John Snyder High School. To view his interview on WJXT go to <https://www.news4jax.com/sports/reese-kalka-honored-as-all-star-athlete>.

Congratulations to **Dylan Lageman** (YLJ XVIII 2017-18) for early signing to Davidson College for cross country and track.

**Corbin Lowe** (YLJ XXVIII 2017-18) was awarded his Eagle Scout medal on October 13. He renovated a pavilion and built a picnic table at the Westside Soccer Club as his project.

**Charlotte Rosenberg's** (YLJ XXIX 2018-19) gingerbread depiction of the Rockefeller Center with its skating rink and Christmas tree was a prize winner at the Jacksonville Historical Center's Gingerbread Extravaganza.

YLJ XXIX (2018-19) members **Zach Ervanian**, **Chase Magnano** and **Kenny Sogbesan** were readers at the Interfaith Thanksgiving Gratitude Service at Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church on November 15.

**Don't forget that YLJ applications for the 2019-2020 school year are in participating high schools. Current freshmen are eligible to apply (participation is during their sophomore year). Email Meg Folds if you would like the name of a school's point of contact.**

#### Various

**Harrison Snowden** (YLJ XXVII 2016-17) received the Next Generation Award at the Association of Fundraising Professionals First Coast Chapter's National Philanthropy Day event for his work with the Teens Take a Stand Club at Ponte Vedra High School.

**Kit Thomas** (LJ 2002) was named Outstanding Fundraising/Development Professional.

*Florida Trend's* "Florida 500", a list of Florida's Most Influential Business Leaders for 2018 includes: **Pat Geraghty** (NLS 2013) and **Abel Harding** (LJ 2013) in Finance/Insurance; **David Stein** (Honorary) in Hospitality/Tourism; **Hugh Greene** (LJ 1991) Life Sciences; **Preston Haskell** (Honorary), **Delores Weaver** (Honorary) and **Wayne Weaver** (Honorary) as Living Legends; **Nina Waters** (LJ 1991) in Philanthropy/Nonprofits; **John Delaney** in Professional Services (LJ 1986); **Steve Halverson** (Honorary), **Peter Rummell** (Honorary) and **David Sweeney** (LJ 2006) in Real Estate; **John Peyton** (LJ 1991) in Retail/Wholesale; and **Eric Green** (LJ 1993) in Transportation.

The Florida Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission will interview 59 applicants for the three justice vacancies that will be created by upcoming retirements. The commission will nominate up to six candidates for each vacancy. Three LJ alumni have been selected to be interviewed by the commission: **Bryan Gowdy** (LJ 2012), **Tatiana Salvador** (LJ 2004) and **Del Wallace** (LJ 1991).

Several LJ attorneys were included in the top 25 pro bono lawyers in northeast Florida list from the Jacksonville Business Journal. The list was compiled based on pro bono hours reported by attorneys to the Florida Bar. The list included: **Cleveland Ferguson** (LJ 2010); **Crystal Freed** (LJ 2013); **Noel Lawrence** (LJ 1995) and **Clay Meux** (LJ 2011).

Girl Scouts of Gateway Council has announced its 2019 Women of Distinction recipients. The awards will be presented in the spring to a group that includes: **Paola Harris** (LJ 2003) and

**Ann-Marie Knight** (LJ 2016).

LJ is well represented on the Episcopal Children's Services board: **Derrick Smith** (LJ 2003) is president, **Kristi Aiello** (LJ 2018) is secretary and **Mark Middlebrook** (LJ 1992) is on the board.

The City Rescue Mission's board includes **Kendall Spencer** (LJ 2002) as chair, **Barbara Darby** (LJ 1993) as secretary and **Jim Dickenson** (LJ 2006), **Doug Milne** (LJ 1978) and **Ed Perez** (LJ 2010) as board members.

TEDxFSCJWomen: Showing Up - TEDWomen2018 Simulcast + Panel event on December 6 will include on the local panel, **Melissa Ross** (LJ 2013) as moderator and experts including **Vicky Basra** (LJ 2017) and **Kristin Keen** (LJ 2016). The program at FSCJ's Downtown Campus runs from 4-7:30 p.m. and is free but registration is required.

[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tedxfscjwomen-showing-up-tickets-51316858104?mc\\_eid=abd02dfd1e&mc\\_cid=4c7f71828a](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tedxfscjwomen-showing-up-tickets-51316858104?mc_eid=abd02dfd1e&mc_cid=4c7f71828a)

Twenty-one LJ alumni are included on the 33 member board of directors of Community in Schools of Jacksonville. They are **Chris Greene** (LJ 1995) chair, **Josh Woolsey** (LJ 2015) vice-chair, **Rick Schart** (LJ 2014) secretary, **Jesse Forst** (LJ 2016) treasurer, **Michael Stewart** (LJ 1993) immediate past chair, **Steve Gilbert** (LJ 2014) CEO, **Arthur Adams** (LJ 2019), **Kristi Aiello** (LJ 2018), **Michael Barker** (LJ 2015), **Martha Barrett** (LJ 1981), **Eleni Derke** (LJ 1998), **Nancy Dreicer** (LJ 2005), **Abena Horton** (LJ 2017), **Todd Johnson** (LJ 2012), **Janel LeGard** (LJ 2018), **Athena Mann** (LJ 1999), **Robert Martin** (LJ 1988), **Melissa Nelson** (LJ 2012), **Jay Plotkin** (LJ 2001), **Judy Poppell** (LJ 1996) and **Clint Pyle** (LJ 2017).

City Council president Aaron Bowman has named 46 people to the new city task force on safety and crime reduction. The list will go to City Council for final approval and includes: **Lori Boyer** (Honorary), **Charles Moreland** (LJ 2008), **Lakesha Burton** (LJ 2019), **Warren Jones** (Honorary), **Josh Cockrell** (LJ 2016), **Richard Danford** (LJ 1997), **Frank Denton** (NLS 2009), **Constance Hall** (LJ 1996), **Linda Joseph** (LJ 2012), **Ronnie King** (LJ 2011), **Sean Mulholland** (LJ 2017), **Michael Munz** (LJ 1997) and **Vicki Waytowich** (LJ 2016).

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## NOTES OF SYMPATHY

Our condolences to **Janet** (LJ 1992), **Greg** (LJ 1989) and **Morgan** (CLE 2007) **Owens** and their family upon the passing of Janet's father and Morgan's grandfather, Fred Douglas "Chief" Garrett Sr., in Greenville, SC on November 8.

**Judy Truett** (LJ 1986) passed away on October 30 after a valiant battle with cancer. Judy served as a leader in local government for many years. She was the executive director of the Children's Crisis Center and also the director of the Community Services Department of the City of Jacksonville. In her earlier years she was the deputy director of the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the City of Jacksonville and the program director of the Department of Community Affairs for the State of Florida. Judy successfully lead the effort to attain the Governor's Sterling Award for the city. Our condolences to Judy's family and friends.

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## 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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