



THE LEAD STORY

NEWSLETTER FOR LEADERSHIP JACKSONVILLE

July 2017

BOARD PRESIDENT REMARKS * ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
CLASS NOTES * LEADERS WANTED

LJ Looks Forward to an Exciting New Year

2017-2018 Board of Directors



The Annual Meeting of Leadership Jacksonville's Board of Directors was held June 12 at the Epping Forest Yacht Club. The 2017-2018 officers were installed and new board members were introduced.

*Mobeen Rathore (LJ 2003) President

Clark Robertson (LJ 2012) President-Elect

*Chantelle Quick (LJ 2011) Secretary/Treasurer.

New board members:

Jennifer Chapman (LJ 2008)

Franklin Danley (NLS XI)

Faith Hall (LJ 2017)

Steve Kowkabany (LJ 2016)

Amy Lingren (LJ 2009)

Michael Spigel (NLS IV)

Michael Wachholz (LJ 2011)

Quint White (LJ 1988).

Thank you to our departing board members. We appreciate their dedication to our organization.

Peggy Bryan (LJ 1987)

Tricia Cannan (LJ 2008)

Michelle Cook (LJ 2016)

Kelly DeGance (LJ 2011)

Chuck Hedrick (LJ 2006)

Harold Stankard (NLS X)

Gary Wilkinson (LJ 2006)

From your Board President:

It is my privilege and honor to serve as the 41st President of Leadership Jacksonville. I look forward to the exciting year ahead of us and hope that LJ continues to prosper. We want to build on our successes from the past year under the able leadership of our Immediate Past President, Karen Mayfield.

Leadership Jacksonville is lucky to have an active and committed board and an exceptional staff. However, the life and blood of Leadership Jacksonville is our alumni. The



Mobeen Rathore

active support and participation of our alumni allows us to stay true to our motto: **Connect. Inspire. Strengthen.**

We want to hear from you. Please send us your thoughts and suggestions; tell us what we are doing well and where we can improve; provide us your critique and your advice.

God Bless
Mobeen Rathore

We need your support to keep our programs strong and affordable! Watch you mailbox in the coming weeks for 2017-2018 volunteer and dues information.



LEADERSHIP
JACKSONVILLE

Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2018

Fifty-seven class members gathered for the first time at Opening Reception on June 1. Opening Dinner will be held on July 25.



Gwendolyn Owens
and Angela Strain



Asghar Syed and Kristi Aiello



John Wallace and
Luke Layow



Janel LeGard, Tracie Loftis,
Jeannine Bytwerk and Keith Marks



Michael Howland (LJ 2012) with
Jarret Dreicer and Bill Haley

Collegiate Leadership Experience Class of 2017



Opening Retreat for CLE Class 2017 was held on June 2 and 3 at the University of North Florida. Program days on June 15 and June 24 focused on issues of poverty, crime, housing and healthcare and encouraged participants to visit and experience a variety of Jacksonville's parks, waterways and art venues.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CLE 2017 Program Day
Wednesday, July 5, 2017
"Exposing Our Community's Culture"

CLE 2017 Program Day
Monday, July 17, 2017
"Building Bridges to the Future"

LJ 2018 Opening Dinner
Tuesday, July 25, 2017
6-9 p.m., UNF University Center

CLE 2017 Closing Retreat
Saturday, July 29, 2017
Museum of Science and History

Orientation for New LJ Board Members
Monday, July 31, 2017
12 p.m., LJ Office

Remember that you have both July and August to arrange **Leadership Connect** get-togethers, but don't delay scheduling. We'll gear back up for monthly distributions in the mid-August.

If you are not already a part of this group, you may continue to sign-up to Connect with future groups. Click [here](#) to send your name, class year, preferred email and phone number.



Alumni Spotlight

The Alumni Relations Committee has prepared a series of short spotlights on Leadership Jacksonville alumni. Starting this month, be sure to watch for these interviews as a regular feature in *The Lead Story*.



Deborah Kaye (LJ 2003) is an Independent Educational Consultant and former Associate Vice President for Enrollment Services, University of North Florida. Deb stays involved in Leadership Jacksonville because it provides a wonderful opportunity for high school, college and adult members to learn more about our community and to become more involved in making it an even better place to live. She

enjoys helping select new members to join in this important work. The experience that impacted her the most is when she became part of CLE selection at the program's inception. Because of the generosity of UNF's deans and vice presidents, UNF raised funds to provide scholarships for UNF students to attend CLE for about 10 years. This was an opportunity that many of these students would not have been able to afford otherwise. During LJ 2003, Deb learned a great deal about our community's needs but also about herself. The experiences and people she met led her to understand the importance of being a community steward. As a result, she became much more involved as a volunteer and created her consulting business. LJ inspired her to do both of these enriching things and enabled her to give back to our community.

Class Notes

1984

Jane Upton retired from JEA on June 2. Best wishes in your retirement.

1990

The National Association of Social Workers recently honored **Lois Chepenik** at their state conference as the Public Citizen of the Year for the State of Florida..

1993

Roslyn Phillips has been elected chair of the board of directors for the Jacksonville Housing Authority.

1995

Pete Helow is preparing to open a new venture. By late July or early August he will be opening the first of three area Roosters Men's Grooming Centers. Roosters is described as an upscale, modern barbershop experience.



Leadership Connect lunchers
Paul Risner (LJ 1994), Nelson Bradshaw
(NLS VIII), Wen Raiti (LJ 2016) and
Bill Sorenson (LJ 2015)

1998

Charles Griggs has been elected the Southern District Representative for 100 Black Men of America. Charles is currently serving as President of 100 Black Men of Jacksonville, Inc.



Harriet Harral (LJ 1982) Executive Director of Leadership Fort Worth, Jill Dame (LJ 1987) CEO of LJ and Barbara Boone (LJ 1991) Executive Director of Leadership Tallahassee at the Association of Leadership Programs 2017 Annual Conference in Phoenix in June

1999

Sissy Crabtree Horn has been named the executive director of The Allison Brundick Haramis Foundation. Formed in 2010, the Foundation, better known as Angels for Allison, assists with the financial needs of families who are suffering with the loss of a child.

2000

Michelle Barth is back as the regional director for U.S. Senator Bill Nelson.

Mia Jones has been elected to the board of directors for Wolfson Children's Hospital.

2001

Sharón Simmons was named the Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association's 2017 Woman Lawyer of the Year.

2002

Kendall Spencer has been promoted to regional president at Ameris Bank, responsible for Northeast Florida market areas.

2006

In April **Hope McMath** was awarded the Dr. Frances Bartlett Kinne Distinguished Dolphin of Service Award by Jacksonville University. This award honors outstanding civic leaders who have provided superior service to the community and to JU. Hope was recognized for her work in the arts and social justice communities.

2007

Warren Grymes has retired as Chief Executive Officer of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida after more than 13 years of service. Warren's plans include travelling and enjoying his family.

2008

Jennifer Chapman has been selected by Fidelity Investments for a three month global rotation. Jennifer will spend three months based in Ireland, beginning this summer.

2012

Sunny Gettinger received the Jewish Community Alliance's Howard Korman President's Award, given annually to a JCA board member who embodies leadership, vision and other attributes. Sunny chaired the 2016 Jewish Film Festival.

2013

Melissa Ross is joining with others to start a Jacksonville Chapter of She is Fierce!. She is Fierce! events feature one inspiring woman sharing a little of the story of how she got to be who she is today - the failures and triumphs along the way and all the little moments in between. She is Fierce! is a global women's network with hundreds of members in eight countries around the world.



Clark Robertson (LJ 2012) and Jennifer Chapman (LJ 2008)

2014

Mai Keisling was awarded a \$1,000 grant from Any Given Child Jacksonville in recognition of her outstanding contribution to arts education as a visual arts teacher at Paxon School for Advanced Studies.

2015

Jessica Evans will be honored as one of the 2017 honorees at Girl Scouts of Gateway Council's Women Who Make a Difference-St. Johns County event September 7. The Women Who Make a Difference-St. Johns County is a new installment of the annual Women of Distinction awards. Click [here](#) for more information about Jessica and this new event.

Anne McCullen is now the vice president for university development and alumni engagement and executive director of the UNF Foundation at the University of North Florida.

Joanne Robertson has been appointed to the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Foundation board of directors.

2016

Congratulations to **Michelle Cook** on her selection to be the next chief of police for the city of Atlantic Beach.

Brian Coughlin has been elected to the board of governors of the Jacksonville Bar Association. He was also honored as Chair of the Year for his work as chair of the Litigation Section of the Jacksonville Bar Association during the past year.



Brian Coughlin

New Leadership Summit

George Scanlon (NLS X) has joined the board of directors of Landstar System, Inc.

Chris Sapienza (NLS XIII) received a 2017 Jacksonville University Faculty Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Professional Activities.

Various

Ken Babby (NLS XIV) and **Asghar Syed** (LJ 2018) have joined the board of Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville.

Congratulations to Leadership Jacksonville's two 2017 EVE Award winners, **Mai Dinh Keisling** (LJ 2014) and **Shirley Webb** (LJ 1999). Mai was selected for her activism collaborating to address social, economic and education issues, especially as they affect refugees and immigrants. Shirley has worked for over 40 years to improve the lives of women in Jacksonville, especially in the areas of health education, safety, cultural awareness and economic and career decisions.

Tracee Holzendorf (LJ 2008), **Tia Leathers** (LJ 2017) and **Lisa Moore** (LJ 2001) were recently inducted into the Bold City Chapter of the Links, Incorporated. The Links, Inc. is a premier volunteer service organization with over 270 chapters in 41 states and abroad.

Two LJ alumni were included in Attorney at Law Magazines' First Coast Women in Law 2017 special edition: **Giselle Carson** (LJ 2005) and **Paola Parra Harris** (LJ 2003).

TEDxJacksonville's August 19 Salon, Hidden No More, will feature panelists **Dane Grey** (LJ 2014), **Arjola Miruku** (YLJ XIII/CLE 2005) and **Mobeen Rathore** (LJ 2003). **Sabeen Perwaiz** (LJ 2016) will be the moderator.



LJ Adult Program Coordinator Nicole Bryan and Tia Leathers (LJ 2017)

Jacksonville Magazines 2017 Top Docs list included **Tim Groover** - Anesthesiology (2015), **Linda Edwards** - Internal Medicine (LJ 1990), **Wade Barnes** - Obstetrics & Gynecology (LJ 1995), **Guy Benrubi** - Obstetrics & Gynecology (LJ 1993), **William Cody** - Obstetrics & Gynecology (LJ 2008), **Deborah Lyon** - Obstetrics & Gynecology (LJ 2002), **Sonny Wilkinson** - Otolaryngology (LJ 2007), **Paul Pitel** - Pediatric Hematology- Oncology (LJ 1993), **Eric Sandler** - Pediatric Hematology-Oncology (LJ 2015), **Mobeen Rathore** - Pediatric Infectious Disease (LJ 2003), **Saswata Roy** - Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery & Pediatric Otolaryngology (LJ 2013), **Randy Thornton** - Pediatrics/General (LJ 1992) and **Ali Kasraeian** - Urology (LJ 2016).

Collegiate Leadership Experience

Chris Folds (CLE 2005) is the Director of Fund Development at Habitat for Humanity Jacksonville.

Patrick Murphy (CLE 2011) is the Workforce Development Manager for JAXUSA Partnership.

Andrew Scott Jr. (CLE 2009) has been elected to the Jacksonville Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section.

Rachael Tutwiler Fortune (CLE 2006) has returned to the Jacksonville Public Education Fund as executive vice president after completing her Masters of Arts at Stanford University, serving as a presidential management fellow at both the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education. Prior to returning to Jacksonville, Rachel was the senior director of America's Promise Alliance.

Notes of Sympathy

Our condolences to **Billy Wagner** (LJ 2016) and his family upon the death of his father, Bruce Wagner, on June 4.

Our condolences to **Coley Jones** (LJ 2014) and his family upon the death of his uncle, David Sams, on June 4.

Our condolences to **Mary Anne Jacobs** (NLS XI, LJ 2015) and her family upon the death of her father, Edward George Yoschak, on June 8.

Our condolences to **Jim** (LJ 1999) and **Susan** (Honorary) **Towler** and their family upon the death on June 12 of Jim's father, James Wilson Towler (Jimmy).

Our condolences to **Shannon Nazworth** (LJ 2011) and her family upon the unexpected death of her son, Cameron Joseph (Cam) Nazworth, in a drowning accident on June 16.

Our condolences to the family and many friends of **Bill Brinton** (LJ 1983) upon his passing on June 19. Bill served LJ as president in 1991. He has often been identified as one of our city's outstanding community trustees, ranking among the greats. His work with Citizens Against Proliferation of Signs (CAPSigns), Citizens for Tree Preservation, and term limits for elected officials are examples of his legacy of citizen initiatives changing our city. Bill also fought on behalf of our public libraries. Bill was a proud supporter of Leadership Jacksonville programs. Most recently Bill was recognized by Scenic Jacksonville for his leadership - not only in Jacksonville but on behalf of communities across the United States. He will be missed by many.



Leaders Wanted

Presidential Leadership Scholars Program

The Presidential Leadership Scholars program (<http://www.presidentialleadershipscholars.org/>) is a six-month course designed by former Presidents George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush. In a few short years, PLS has become the nation's premier national leadership program. The program: (1) is completely free to the scholar; (2) involves travel to four presidential centers; (3) includes 60 scholars across the country who are at least 10 years into their careers who are incredibly well qualified/credentialed in their various fields; and (4) provides direct access to

living presidents, members of their administrations, and a litany of famous historians/professors/industry leaders.

Until this year, Jacksonville had never had a participant, and Florida is woefully underrepresented. Our Northeast Florida community would benefit greatly by having a steady stream of graduates. That begins with solid applications to the program and the applications have just now opened. If you have questions regarding this program, please contact Rory Diamond at rory@k9sforwarriors.org or 904-686-1956.

Mandarin Community Advisory Board for Earth Fare

Earth Fare, a health food store whose food philosophy prohibits artificial colors, flavors, preservative, added transfats, hormones or antibiotics and bleached or bromated flour, is opening a store in Mandarin. They are forming a Community Advisory Board and are seeking individuals who have a passion for healthy food and who are interested in bringing innovative ideas, suggestions and feedback to the Earth Fare team. As an active board member, you will make a difference by acting as a voice for your community to address Mandarin's supermarket needs when it comes to healthy, all natural and organic options. You know your community best and Earth Fare is here to listen so we can provide the best shopping experience. If you are interested in applying for this board opportunity, contact Laurie Aker at laurie.aker@earthfare.com or 828-281-4800. The **deadline for applying is July 6**, so don't delay. To learn more about Earth Fare, visit www.EarthFare.com.

Community Health Outreach

Community Health Outreach is looking for one or two strong leaders to join its board of directors. They are looking for a skill-set in finance, marketing or business development and a visionary and motivational leader. This organization provides medical and dental services to the uninsured along with a food pantry and infant services. If you are interested in learning more about joining this board, please contact Matthew Garmin at matthew.garman@haskell.com.



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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