



# THE LEAD STORY

NEWSLETTER FOR LEADERSHIP JACKSONVILLE

June 2016

NEW ALUMNI \* YLJ MENINAK SCHOLARS \* CLASS NOTES  
LEADERS WANTED

## Selections Completed for 2016-2017 Leadership Classes



**Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2017** met on June 1 for their Opening Reception. The Opening Dinner for participants and their guests will be on July 26.



**Collegiate Leadership Experience 2016** gathered for a "Meet the Class" Reception on May 26 and the summer kicked off with Opening Retreat on June 3.



**Youth Leadership Jacksonville Class XXVII** orientation for students and parents was held April 25. Participants are looking forward to Opening Retreat on August 26-27.

Click [here](#) to view class lists.



## Welcome to Leadership Jacksonville's Newest Alumni



**Leadership Jacksonville Class 2016** wrapped up their program year with Closing Retreat at Amelia Island Plantation on May 20-21. Thank you to the class planning committee for spearheading the entertainment, awards and fundraising for a fun filled evening. LJ Class 2016 raised over \$16,000 for Leadership Jacksonville!



**New Leadership Summit XIV** was held at The Lodge and Club at Ponte Vedra Beach on May 2-3. Sixteen Jacksonville executives participated in the two day experience focusing on assets, issues, institutions, and leadership in Northeast Florida. See the participant list [here](#).



J.F. Bryan, Honorary (fourth from left) and Jerry Mallot, LJ 1995 (sixth from left) co-chaired the NLS committee and join participants of NLS XIV.



**Congratulations to  
Youth Leadership Jacksonville Class XXV  
Meninak Scholarship Recipients**

The Meninak Club of Jacksonville awarded five scholarships to YLJ alumni on May 23. The club has generously offered college scholarships exclusively to YLJ alumni since 1997. Each student received \$5,000. J.F. and Peggy Bryan are pictured with recipients (left to right) Eleanor Marshall, Keystone Heights; Ravi Patel, Stanton; Catherine Maige, Bishop Kenny; Robert Williams, Orange Park and Meklit Daniel, Stanton.



In *The Lead Story* May edition, we thanked our Celebration Gold Level Sponsors. This month we recognize and thank our **Silver Level Sponsors:**



Acosta Sales and Marketing  
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FIS

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Foley & Lardner LLP  
Harden  
Regency Centers  
RS&H  
VyStar Credit Union

\* denotes inkind contribution

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## LJ Board of Directors Annual Meeting

Monday, June 13, 2016

11:30 a.m., The River Club

## CLE 2016 Program Day

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

"Creating a Caring Community"

## CLE 2016 Program Day

Saturday, June 25, 2016

"Exploring Our Community"

## LJ Office Closed

Monday, July 4, 2016

in observance of Independence Day

## CLE 2016 Program Day

Wednesday, July 6, 2016 "Exposing

Our Community's Culture"

Alumni can now purchase a LJ **name tag** with the new logo. To order, make a \$10 payment **online**. In the description block tell us that payment is for a name tag, show your first and last name as you would like it to appear on your name tag (no titles please) and class year. We will forward your tag to you.



**Leadership Connect** is taking a break for the months of July and August, but alumni may continue to sign up to Connect with future groups. Click **here** to send your name, class year, preferred phone number and email. **Sign up by August 15** to be included in a group for September. More than 175 alumni are already Connecting.

## Class Notes



Bill Brinton

### 1983

**Bill Brinton** received the Cynthia Pratt Laughlin Medal, one of the highest honors bestowed annually by The Garden Club of America (GCA) recognizing outstanding achievement in environmental protection and the maintenance of quality of life. The GCA hailed his "fearless efforts" and "commitment to protecting the beauty of our land," beginning with his local advocacy against billboards that continues on the national level. Bill was previously recognized by the GCA in 2006 with a Zone VIII Conservation Commendation. Bill is a past president of Leadership Jacksonville.

### 1984

**Hans Tanzler** has announced his intention to run for U.S. Representative Ander Crenshaw's seat in Washington. **John Rutherford** (LJ 1995) previously announced.

### 1989

**Nat Glover** was recognized by Governor Rick Scott with a "Great Floridian" award for his dedication to education and the city of Jacksonville.

### 1996

**Jay Fant** has filed to run for re-election to the Florida House of Representatives, District 15.

### 1997

**Angela Corey** has filed for re-election as State Attorney for the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida.

### 2000

**Anna Dooley** has received the 2016 Lawrence Enersen Award from the Arbor Day Foundation. This award recognizes an outstanding individual who has had a positive impact on the environment due to their lifelong commitment to tree planting and conservation at a local community level. Anna is one of only 17 individuals, organizations and companies recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation at the annual Arbor Day Awards ceremony held in Nebraska City, Nebraska. Anna is recognized as a longtime advocate for tree planting and conservation, protecting the area's tree canopies and planting thousands of new trees. Because of her work, peers and colleagues around the city, and nation, would say that Dooley is leaving her community a better place and, in doing so, has become a tremendous role model for others.

### 2010

**Dawn Emerick** has accepted a position as the director of public health for Clackamas County, Oregon.

### 2012

**Brenda Ezell** has joined The Bold City Chapter of The Links.

**Courtney Grimm** received the Jacksonville Bar Association's Professionalism Lifetime Award at the association's Law Day luncheon. Courtney is chair of The Florida Bar Trial Lawyers Section Executive Council and a member of the 4th Judicial Nominating Commission. She is a past president of the association.

**Melissa Nelson** has filed to run for election as State Attorney for the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida.

## 2013

**Mai Keisling** has been selected for UNF's Educational Leadership Doctoral Program's 2015 Thomas Mulkeen Award which recognizes outstanding dissertation research that best exemplifies practice-centered inquiry by meeting seven requirements. Congratulations!

**Marcelle Polednik** is leaving the position of curator and director of the museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville to become director of the Milwaukee Art Museum in Wisconsin. Marcelle leaves MOCA on July 15.

**Melissa Ross**, host and producer of WJCT's First Coast Connect, received the 2016 "Ripple Effect" Award from Mental Health America of Northeast Florida for her work in raising awareness about mental health issues and challenges in the region.

## 2014

**Ken Jefferson** received the 2016 National Crime Victims Week Media Award at the annual luncheon sponsored by the Mayor's Victim Assistance Advisory Council. The award recognizes someone who has demonstrated respect for the dignity of victims of crime and sensitivity to victim issues.



Christina and Cliff Stone

## 2015

Congratulations to **Christina Parrish** who wed Cliff Stone on April 30.

**Betzy Santiago** is now working as director of international programs for Lutheran Social Services.

**Bill Sorenson** has been appointed to the board of Seaside Community Charter School in Mayport, the only public Waldorf charter school in the southeastern U.S.



Ken Jefferson

## 2016

**Stacy Aubrey** has joined SMG Jacksonville as Director of Theatres.

**Chris Kennelly** won a \$1,000 prize and the right to appear on Channel 4's Look Local program when his entrepreneurial pitch for Kennetic Productions won the fourth annual Bridge to Business event. The event was part of the JAX Bridges program through the JAX Chamber, which prepares small businesses to earn contracts with larger corporations.

**Moitreyi Nayek** has joined the board of directors of the Women's Center of Jacksonville.

**Emily O'Leary** has begun her term as president of the Junior League of Jacksonville.

**Wen Raiti** has left her position with EverBank and is embarking on a new venture to produce and sell healthy food products. She plans to open an organic cafe and offer space for people to relax and de-stress in a Zen-type environment.

**Tina Wirth** has been elected Jasmyn board of directors chair.

## Honorary

**Steve Pajcic** received The Jacksonville Bar Association's Lawyer of the Year Award. Steve was recognized for his philanthropy and community service.

## Various

Leadership Jacksonville was well represented at The Ritz Chamber Players Hat Luncheon fundraiser. **Martha Barrett** (LJ 1981) is currently chair of The Ritz Chamber Music Society, **Melissa Adams** (LJ 2014) was co-chair for the event and **Terrance Patterson** (LJ 2009) is the founder of the Players.

The University of North Florida Alumni Association announced its 2016 alumni award recipients at its annual Alumni Recognition Dinner and Awards Ceremony on February 17. **Sam Inman** (LJ 2002) received the Alumni Service Award. **Derrick Robinson** (CLE 2009) received the Young Alumni Achievement Award.

Every year since 1969 the Florida Times-Union has presented its Eve Awards to outstanding women in the categories of EVE: education, volunteerism and employment. Three of this year's four awards went to Leadership Jacksonville alumni. **Courtney Wilson** (LJ 1979) won the Arnolta J. "Mama" Williams Lifetime Achievement Award for her career of volunteer work, including as a past president and endowment campaign co-chair for Leadership Jacksonville. **Barbara Drake** (LJ 1992) received the EVE in the Volunteer category for her work with a variety of nonprofit boards (including Leadership Jacksonville) and this year for the work that she has done to grow the capacity of JASMYN. **Sherry Magill** (LJ 1993) won the Employment category EVE for this year's renovation of the Jessie Ball duPont Center - restoring a landmark, helping to revitalize downtown Jacksonville and demonstrating green building approaches.

## Collegiate Leadership Experience

**Hayden Whiting** (CLE 2014) received the David L. McKenna Scholarship from Seattle Pacific University's School of Business, Government and Economics.

A number of YLJ and CLE alumni attended and participated in Celebration 2016



YLJ XXV alums Sarah Jacobs and Benjamin Lantinberg



CLE 2014 alums Cutler Renard and Leigh Gould



YLJ XXVI alums Elan Sandler and Meg Van Cleve



Benjamin Keister, CLE 2015 and Keith Taylor, CLE 2014

## Youth Leadership Jacksonville

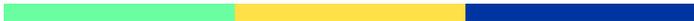
**Brent Whiting** (YLJ XXV) is a nominee for the Florida Times Union Academic Athlete of the Year, received the Kiwanis Club of Historic St. Augustine Outstanding Achievement and Community Service Award and has been accepted to the University of Florida.

## Notes of Sympathy

Condolences to **Edythe Abdullah** (LJ 1980) and her family upon the death of her father, David Dwight, Jr. on May 5.

Our sympathy to **Dan Croft** (LJ 2016) and his family upon the passing of his mother on May 26.

Our condolences to the family and many friends of **Wendell P. Holmes Jr.** (Honorary) who passed away on May 28 at the age of 94. Wendell was the Duval County School Board's first African American member and chairman and was in place to help guide the county through desegregation. He served for many years on the boards of Hampton and Bethune-Cookman Universities and has buildings named after him at both schools. He was active throughout the community. Fellow LJ alum Alton Yates was quoted by the Times Union as saying about Wendell: "He was not just a pioneer but someone who fought hard for equal rights. He loved his community and fought so hard ... to give all of us something to be proud of."



## LEADERS WANTED

Leadership Jacksonville is known throughout the community for our outstanding alumni and their willingness to make a positive difference. When the timing allows we will publish leadership opportunities for your consideration. If you are interested, we encourage you to make direct contact as requested in the listings. Please don't hesitate to encourage your LJ friends to consider these opportunities too. You might be or know the perfect person.

### Cathedral Arts Project

The CAPtivators are looking for some new board members for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. If you're interested in getting involved or would like more information, please contact Kristin Livingston at [kristin@capkids.org](mailto:kristin@capkids.org). The CAPtivators are professionals between the ages of 21-45 who help promote the Cathedral Arts Project's mission by raising awareness of the necessity for arts education for Jacksonville's children and youth. They are fans of the arts, practitioners of the arts and patrons of the arts.

## 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.

**DONATE NOW**



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