



THE LEAD STORY

NEWSLETTER FOR LEADERSHIP JACKSONVILLE

June 2017

WELCOME NEW ALUMNI * TILLIE K. FOWLER AWARD
MENINAK SCHOLARS * CLASS NOTES * LEADERS WANTED

Welcome to Leadership Jacksonville's Newest Alumni!

Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2017 closed their program year with Closing Retreat on May 19 and 20 at Amelia Island Plantation. Thank you to the class planning committee for organizing the entertainment and fundraising for an energetic and vivacious evening. LJ 2017 raised over \$12,500 for Leadership Jacksonville!



New Leadership Summit XV was held May 1-2 at White Oak. Fourteen executives participated in the two-day experience learning about Jacksonville's history, challenges and opportunities.



Front Row: Leon Haley, JoLynne Jensen, Frankie Gatlin, Bette Bolivar, Robin Rose

Center Row: Tim Johnson, Prakash Patel, Justin Terry(Committee, LJ 2005), Matt Walsh, Rob Johnston, Heather Hausenblas

Back Row: Jerry Mallot (Committee, LJ 1995), Adam Greene, J.F. Bryan (Committee, Honorary), Chris Pezzi, Mike Peters, Tonya Ray Bailey, Karen Mayfield (LJ 2006)

Tillie K. Fowler Distinguished Leadership Award

Don't delay. The deadline is June 15 to submit your nomination for the Tillie K. Fowler Distinguished Leadership Award.

This award is given to a Leadership Jacksonville program alumnus who remains active in Leadership Jacksonville and who:

1. Demonstrates exemplary community service
2. Has produced outstanding results with one or more projects/efforts (community or LJ) and
3. Demonstrates components of Leadership Jacksonville core values



Contact Yvonne Moore at 904-396-6263 x4 if you have difficulty submitting your form.

Congratulations to Youth Leadership Jacksonville Class XXVI Meninak Scholarship Recipients



Ryan Udell, Ponte Vedra; Natalie Starr, Ridgeview;
Kush Desai, Atlantic Coast; Rachel Blaydes, Bishop Kenny;
Isaac Ricks, Terry Parker

On May 22 Meninak awarded scholarships of \$5,000 each to five YLJ alumni. The club has generously offered college scholarships exclusively to YLJ alumni since 1997. Thank you to Meninak for making college a reality for our YLJ alumni.

2017-2018 Leadership Classes Ready to Begin



Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2018 meets June 1 for their Opening Reception. The Opening Dinner for class members and their guests will be on July 25.



Collegiate Leadership Experience 2017 gathered for a "Meet the Class" reception on May 24. Opening Retreat on June 2 and 3 kick-off their summer program.



Youth Leadership Jacksonville Class XXVIII held orientation for students and parents on April 25. The program will kick-off with Opening Retreat on August 25 and 26.

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



Continuing our recognition of Celebration sponsors, this month we highlight our **Silver Level Sponsors**. Thank you.

Acosta Sales and Marketing
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Bank of America / Merrill Lynch
BroadBased Communications, Inc.*
FIS
Florida Blue
Harden

Regency Centers Corporation
Republic Services
RS&H
Stein Mart
Stellar
VyStar Credit Union
W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractor

*denotes in kind contribution



LJ 2017 classmates
Priyesh Patel and Mark Sirota



LJ 2016 classmates
Dan Croft, Wen Raiti and
Chris Kennelly



Katie Dykstra YLJ XXVII and
Kendall Valliere, CLE 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

CLE Class 2017 Opening Retreat
Friday and Saturday, June 2-3, 2017
University of North Florida

LJ Board of Directors Annual Meeting
Monday, June 12, 2017
11:30 a.m., Epping Forest Yacht Club

CLE 2017 Program Day
Thursday, June 15, 2017
"Creating a Caring Community"

CLE 2017 Program Day
Saturday, June 24, 2017
"Exploring Our Community"

LJ Office CLOSED
in observance of Independence Day
Monday and Tuesday, July 3-4, 2017

Summer is always a busy time for all. Look for your next **Leadership Connect** list in mid-June to arrange get-togethers during July and August. We'll gear back up for monthly distributions in the fall.



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.

Class Notes

1983

Congratulations to **JuJu Taylor** upon her receipt of the 2016-17 Junior League of Jacksonville Tillie K. Fowler Community Service Award. This award is given to a Sustaining Member of the Junior League for outstanding leadership in the community and the League.

1983

May 17 was proclaimed **William D. Brinton** Day by Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry. Over 300 guests gathered for lunch to celebrate Bill's work for scenic beauty and against visual blight - at the local and national level. Scenic Jacksonville has established an endowment in Bill's honor at the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. The endowment will be used to provide perpetual funding for Scenic Jacksonville's mission protecting and enhancing scenic beauty in Jacksonville.

1984

Jack Milne assumed the position of vice president and dean of Jackson Academy in Jackson, Mississippi on May 31.



Gary Wilkinson, LJ 2006 and
Mary Alice Phelan, LJ 1984

1987

David Rader has been elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of Motorists Insurance in Columbus, Ohio. Motorists is a top twenty mutual insurer in America with assets of over \$4.5B writing in a variety of northern and eastern states.

1988

Connie Hodges has been elected to the board of trustees for the Baptist Health Foundation. Connie is also the chair-elect for OneJax.

1993

John Wilbanks has been named one of the Top 25 Chief Operating Officers in Healthcare for 2017 by Modern Healthcare.

1994

Mac McGehee has been reappointed by Governor Scott to the Florida State College at Jacksonville district board of trustees.

1999

Theresa O'Donnell Price has joined ERA Davis & Linn as a realtor.

2000

Marsha Phelts was recently honored by the naming of the Marsha Dean Phelts Grand Reading Room at the Jacksonville Public Library downtown. At the same time The Eva Rosier Lamar Information Desk was named after Marsha's mother who inspired Marsha's love of reading.



Amber Amerson, LJ 2007 and Jackie
Cornelius, LJ 1992

2003

Derrick Smith has established Grand Central Ventures LLC, a consulting company to assist small and medium sized companies with business development and market strategy.

2006

Biggs Knauer has joined Heritage Financial & Fiduciary Services as an independent consultant.

Kerri Stewart has resigned as Mayor Curry's chief of staff to take a position as the Jacksonville Electric Authority's chief customer officer.

2009

Sandra Brooks has joined the Clay County Chamber of Commerce in communications and marketing.

Anna Brosche has been elected 2017-2018 president of the Jacksonville City Council.

2010

Pat Willis has been appointed interim superintendent of the Duval County Public Schools.

2011

Congratulations to **Chris Heacox** who has been appointed as executive director of the new Auburn University Performing Arts Center effective July 1. Construction on the Center is set to begin later this year.

2012

Congratulations to **Meredith Schmidt Guess** upon her receipt of the 2016-17 Pam Paul Community Service Award from the Junior League of Jacksonville. The award honors an outstanding active League member who fulfills the mission of the Junior League through community leadership and League activities.

2013

Katie Ross is now the President's chief of staff at Florida State College at Jacksonville.

2014

Ken Jefferson emceed the Beta Alpha Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority's 12th annual Community Pearls Luncheon.

Coley Jones has taken a position as senior vice president, senior client manager with Bank of America Merrill Lynch.



Maria Hane, LJ 2002 and
Bob White, LJ 1995

2016

Sam Garrison has been appointed by Governor Scott to the St. Johns River State College district board of trustees.

Kelly Straub has accepted a new position as senior vice president of global accounts for SGSCO.

2017

Ellen Sullivan has taken on the role of interim director for the Jacksonville Women's Business Center.

New Leadership Summit

Brent Baxter (NLS XIII) has taken a position as vice president, controller and principal accounting officer with Sally Beauty.

Mark Dawkins (NLS XIV) has been elected to the board of directors for Baptist Medical Center South.

Chris Hartnett (NLS XIV) has taken a position as vice president at Lockton Companies in Nashville, Tennessee.

Various

Leadership Jacksonville alumni were among the hosts for the recent Community Suppers hosted by OneJax and the JAX Chamber. Hosts included **Michael Boylan** (LJ 2005), **John Peyton** (LJ 1991) and **Kyle Reese** (LJ 2008).

The JAX Chamber's "Business of Inclusion" forum speakers included **Rosa Beckett** (LJ 2007), **Eric Mann** (NLS X), **Darnell Smith** (LJ 2000), **Sabeen Perwaiz** (LJ 2016) and **Nicole Thomas** (LJ 2013).

Congratulations to our LJ alums who completed the 2017 Boston Marathon: **Giselle Carson** (LJ 2005) and **Tom Van Berkel** (NLS I).



Lee and Mickee Brown with Jerome,
Ali and Shannel

Congratulations to our Leadership Jacksonville alums who are finalists for The Florida Times-Union's Eve Awards: **Mai Keisling** (LJ 2014), **Ellen Siler** (LJ 2000) and **Shirley Webb** (LJ 1997).

Richard Sisisky (LJ 1994) and **Michael Grebe** (NLS I) have been named chair and vice chair of the Baptist Health board.

Congratulations to **Mickee** (LJ 2009) and **Lee Brown** (LJ 2006) on the adoption on May 12 of Shannel (7), Ali (5) and Jerome (21 months). Congratulations to Shannel, Ali and Jerome too!

Notes of Sympathy

Our condolences to the family and friends of **John Craddock** (LJ 1978) who passed away April 20. The April Lead Story neglected to note his status as an LJ alum.

Our condolences to **Jeff Michelman** (LJ 1996) and his family upon the passing of his mother, Claire Syra (Ravelson) Michelman, on May 10.

Our condolences to the family and friends of **Scott Skjordahl** (LJ 1989) who passed away on May 11 following a brief illness. Scott was the first president of the board for Youth Leadership Jacksonville. Scott was a recipient of Leadership Jacksonville's Distinguished Leadership Award in 1990.

Our condolences to the family of **Sidney Simmons** (LJ 1989) upon the passing of his mother, Joan McAdoo Simmons on May 22.

Our condolences to the family and friends of **Bill Myers** (LJ 1977) upon his passing on May 23 in Coral Gables, FL. Our thanks to **Sergei Kowalchik** (also a member of our first class, LJ 1977) who notified LJ of Bill's passing and shared, "Bill was a major mover among a small group of '77 graduates - all of whom following the end of the '77 program and discovering "that that's all there was" - chose/decided to spend (what turned out to be) nearly a year working through/discussing issues related to potential concepts, functions and purposes associated with perhaps establishing some type follow-up to this recent incredible experience; an experience that had left a significant mark on all. Resulting from all these efforts; in 1978, the original/initial "*Leadership Jacksonville Alumni*" was informally and unofficially "introduced to the world" - to include welcoming the members of Leadership Jacksonville Class of 1978. And as the saying goes: "the rest is history." Bill was a heck of a guy...and one whom thanks to Leadership Jacksonville, I was privileged to call a close friend for 40 years."



Leaders Wanted

Youth Crisis Center

Youth Crisis Center is seeking to add members to their Board of Directors. We are particularly in need of board members with financial expertise. YCC serves all of Northeast Florida and provides wrap-around services for children whose lives have been challenged by traumatic events. These services include, among other things, a residential program for children and young adults ages 10-21 and mental health services for the entire family. YCC consistently receives extremely positive reviews from its accrediting agencies. If you are interested in learning more about the YCC Board, please contact Terri Davlantes, at tdavlantes@gmail.com or 904-742-5906.



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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