



THE LEAD STORY

NEWSLETTER FOR LEADERSHIP JACKSONVILLE

MARCH 2016

LEADERSHIP CONNECT * CLE NOMINATIONS * CALENDAR
CLASS NOTES * DONATE

CELEBRATION 2016 TUESDAY, APRIL 26

A new look, a new location and two incredible honorees.

Plan to join us as we honor



Nina Waters (LJ 1991)
and
Jerry Mallot (LJ 1995)



for their many contributions to
northeast Florida.



Celebration 2016 will be in the lovely new Jessie Ball duPont Center.
Click [here](#) for more details and cost information.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available.
For information contact [Jill Dame](#).



Leadership Connect

Member responses to **Connect** with your fellow alums are off to a great start! But we would love to include more of you. When you sign on, you will begin to receive a monthly assignment to be in an alumni group for that month. You and three others will be a group to convene once at a mutually agreeable time and place. You may decide to meet for breakfast, lunch, coffee, drinks - it's up to your group. The next month, new groups will be assigned and you can get to know three new alums.

Sign up by March 10 and be included in our first monthly group assignments. Groups will be assigned nine times a year and members can join or stop at the end of any cycle. Click [here](#) to send your name, class year, preferred phone number and email.



Collegiate Leadership Experience Nominations

CLE is a unique program for undergraduate and graduate students between the ages of 18 and 28 who attend college in North Florida OR North Florida is their home and they attend a college/university across the country AND with proven leadership in high school and/or college. It takes place in June and July with an Opening and Closing Retreat and 3½ Program Days in between.

Recent participants have shared:

"This is one amazing once in a lifetime experience."

"CLE provided a full and diverse look at Jacksonville. Every student who's grown up here or in school here should be exposed to what Jacksonville has to offer for their future."

"This is a great program to become part of the solution instead of complaining about the problems."

Nominate online at www.leadershipjax.org until March 18, 2016, and don't forget the interns at your office, family members, friends and colleagues! Contact Meg Folds at meg@leadershipjax.org for additional information or questions.



Class XXVI enjoyed a visit to the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens and heard a Jacksonville Symphony rehearsal during Arts and Recreation Day on February 18.



At Understanding Each Other program day on February 11 members of the LJ Class of 2016 explored diversity, institutional racism and civil discourse.



Kristin Keen and Robert Massey



Moitrey Nayak and Ann-Marie Knight snap a selfie with Alton Yates (LJ 1988)



Josh Cockrell and Michael Huskey

Special thanks to Mary Rawlins (LJ 2014) and Firehouse Subs for providing lunch for LJ's program day on February 11.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LJ 2016 Program Day

Thursday, March 10, 2016 "Environment, Growth and Preservation"

YLJ XXVI Closing Retreat and Graduation

Saturday, March 12, 2016

CLE 2016 Nominations Due Friday, March 18, 2016

CELEBRATION 2016

Tuesday, April 26, 2016
6 p.m., Jessie Ball duPont Center

Class Notes

1984

Hans Tanzler has joined the Purcell Flanagan Hay and Greene Law Firm as senior counsel.

1990

Lewis Hunter is serving as a trustee on the Daniel Memorial Foundation board and is chairman of Daniel's Audit & Finance Committee.



Cindy Watson (LJ 2014), Jack Logue (LJ 1996) and Mickee Brown (LJ 2009)

1997

Jennifer Carroll received a Black American Trailblazer Award from Black Americans for a Better Future at their awards luncheon in Washington DC in February.

2005

Mike Jorgensen is co-chairing The Jacksonville Bar Association's Elder Law Committee.

2006

Roland Garcia has been named to Becker's Hospital Review's 100 Hospital and Health System CIOs to Know.

2007

Sandy Bartow has retired as president of the Jacksonville Chamber Foundation.

Jim Robinson has joined Seaman Realty and Management Co. as director of commercial real estate services.

2010

Crystal Broughan has been elected as shareholder with Marks Gray, P.A.

2015

Steffani Fletcher and the Hope At Hand team are launching Jax Poetry Fest on April 6 in conjunction with Art Walk. Contact **Steffani** if you are interested in hosting free poetry workshops or are willing to perform poems on-stage during Art Walk.

Tanya Johnson-Coomes has joined Deutsche Bank as assistant vice president, wealth management.

2016

Congratulations to Brooke and **Josh Cockrell** on their recent marriage.

Ann-Marie Knight has joined the board of directors of the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida.

Emily O'Leary is co-chairing the Jacksonville Bar Association's Law Week Committee.

David Smith is now project manager at Danis Construction LLC.



Brooke and Josh Cockrell



Wendell Holmes

Honorary

Wendell Holmes celebrated his 94th birthday in mid-February with festivities that included surprise visits from family members from throughout the country.

New Leadership Summit

Suzanne Hudson-Smith (NLS XII) has joined the Florida Theatre as director of development. Her class was incorrectly shown as NLS VII in February's edition of *The Lead Story*.

Various

Congratulations to Leadership Jacksonville alumni who were named to "2016 Jacksonville's 30 Top Women of Influence" by Southeast Small Business Magazine. The awards will be presented on March 25 to: **Kymerly Cook** (NLS VII), **Brenda Frinks** (LJ 2007), **Cynthia Griffin** (LJ 2011), **Kathryn Murphy** (LJ 2012), **Ju'Coby Pittman** (LJ 1993), **Melissa Ross** (LJ 2013) and **Tonyaa Weathersbee** (LJ 1995).

Collegiate Leadership Experience

Congratulations to **Kendall Sisisky** (CLE 2015) on her marriage to Sean Valliere this past October 10.

Youth Leadership Jacksonville

Matt Wilhelm (YLJ XX) has been accepted into Nova Southeastern University's College of Osteopathic Medicine and will begin medical school in Davie in the fall of 2016.



Kendall and Sean Valliere

Notes of Sympathy

Our prayers and thoughts are with the family and many friends of **W.O. "Bill" Birchfield** (Honorary) who passed away on February 5. Bill was the 3rd president of Leadership Jacksonville and was honored at Celebration in 2012. Bill had an amazing career of community service, including serving on the Local Government Study Committee that recommended consolidation. Among his many activities he served in the Florida legislature, on the JTA, JPA, Child Guidance Center, Meniak and JCCI boards. Bill will be missed but his impact will be long felt throughout our community.

Our condolences to **Nancy Soderberg** (NLS IV) and her family upon the death of her mother, Nancy M. Soderberg, on February 17.

Our condolences to **Paul Riel** (LJ 1997) upon the passing of his father, Richard Riel, on February 19.

Our condolences to **Jerry** (LJ 1985) and **Kathy** (LJ 1990) **Weedon** and **Lauren Weedon Hopkins** (LJ 2011) and their family upon the death on February 24 of Jerry's father, James William "Bill" Weedon.

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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