



# THE LEAD STORY

NEWSLETTER FOR LEADERSHIP JACKSONVILLE

September 2015

WEBSITE \* LJ NOMINATIONS \* LUNCH OPPORTUNITY \* LJ 2016 \* REUNION  
UPCOMING EVENTS \* CLASS NOTES \* YLJ XXVI \* DONATE

The Leadership Jacksonville office will be CLOSED for Labor Day on Monday, September 7, 2015.

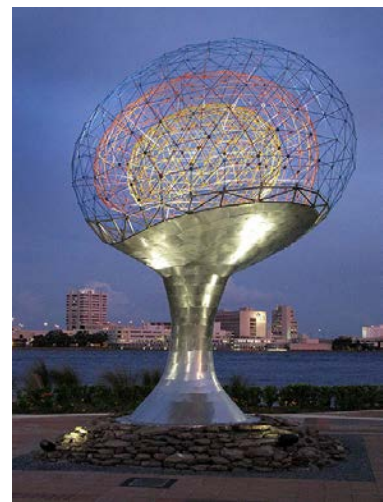
## NOMINATIONS are OPEN for the Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2017

Click [here](#) to begin the nomination process.

Nominations will be accepted through December 18, 2015. Please note this is an earlier deadline for submitting nominations than in previous years.

Nominees will receive instructions on completing their application in early January.

Goals and selection information for the Leadership Jacksonville program may be found on the [website](#). Tuition for the Class of 2017 is \$3,500.



## Special Lunch Opportunity Mark your calendars now.



On **Friday, November 13**, Leadership Jacksonville is joining with the Harvard Business School Club of Jacksonville for lunch at the River Club to talk with Gary Chartrand, Preston Haskell, Michael Ward and Wayne Weaver about business leaders' investments in our community that make a difference in people's lives. More details will follow in the October *Lead Story*. Seating will be limited, so plan now to join us. This is a good time to bring a friend or coworker who might be interested in applying for a future LJ class.

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## Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2016 Opening Retreat

56 members of LJ Class 2016 kicked off an exciting program year at their Opening Retreat on August 28-29. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this weekend a success.



Donteacia Seymore, Kristin Keen and Joni Poitier



Steve Gilbert LJ 2014, Michael Huskey and Pete Helow LJ 1995



Ali Kasraeian, Dan Croft and Wes Stapp



Seth Shapiro, Ann-Marie Knight and Michelle Query



Jeremy Ches, John Brigman, Billy Wagner and Clare Berry



Robert Massey and Kate Mesic



Tina Wirth, Nancy Rubin and Adult Program Coordinator Nicole Bryan



Dan Foley and Sabeen Perwaiz

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**REUNION information coming soon.**  
**Watch for details on the website and the next *Lead Story*.**

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## Upcoming events:

### LJ Office Closed for Labor Day

Monday, September 7, 2015

### YLJ XXVI Program Day

Thursday, September 17, 2015

"In living Color"

### LJ 2016 Program Day

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Poverty Day

We are excited to announce that LJ is looking for a full service agency to help us with rebranding. This work is the result of last year's strategic planning. If this is your expertise, contact Jill Dame as soon as possible.

## Class Notes

### 1989

**Mike Hightower** is the new chief public affairs officer for the JEA.

### 1991

**Susan Ponder-Stansel** has been installed as president of the Florida Council on Aging.

### 1998

**Brenna Durden** was included in The Best Lawyers in America 2016 for her work in real estate law and litigation and land use and zoning law.



Jim Penrod LJ 2013, Izzy Spence LJ 1987 and Barbara Drake LJ 1992

**Donny MacKenzie** is the 2015-16 president of The Florida Bar Foundation. Donny has served on the board since 2007.

### 2000

**Michelle Barth** has joined Feeding Northeast Florida as chief strategy and development officer.

### 2002

**Wanda Willis** has been named to the Teach for American Jacksonville regional advisory board.

### 2004

**Al Emerick** is serving as a Jacksonville University alumni board member and was named as one of the "80 Dolphins You Ought to Know."

### 2005

Mayor Lenny Curry has appointed **Kirk Wendland** to the position of director of the Office of Economic Development, the city's top economic development position.

### 2006

**David Sweeney** is the new chief executive officer of RS&H.

Governor Rick Scott has appointed **Gary Wilkinson** to a Fourth Judicial Circuit court judgeship.

### 2008

**Michael Freed** has earned Florida Bar board certification in the area of business litigation.



Michael Howland LJ 2012, Laurie Price LJ 2000 and Maria Hane LJ 2002

**2009**

**Susan Mack** is now special counsel at Adams and Reese.

**2010**

**Carl Patten** has relocated to Denver and joined Centura Health as director of medical legal partnerships.

**Jason Ramsey** has recently opened Nimble Creative, a creative services business where he primarily creates digital video content storytelling for business, ad agencies and nonprofits.

**2012**

**Brenda Ezell** has achieved board certification in Real Estate Law from the Florida Bar.

**2013**

**Paul Martinez** has been named the new president and chief executive officer of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida.

**2014**

**Lynne Elliott** has been elected as a director by the Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center board.

**Dane Grey** was recently recognized by Governor Rick Scott and the Florida Cabinet who awarded Dane and his company Elite Parking Services the Governor's Business Ambassador Award for his track record in spurring business, creating jobs and development technology innovation within the state.



Coley Jones LJ 2014 and Janice Donaldson LJ 1993

**2015**

**Christian Harden** has been promoted to senior vice president at NAI Hallmark Partners. In the announcing press release, Christian was described as "the consummate commercial real estate professional."

Congratulations and best wishes to **Jason Spencer** and Anne Claridge who were married on August 1.

**New Leadership Summit**

**Keith Tickell** (NLS III) has been named vice president of strategic assets and real estate for Baptist Health.

**Various**

Four Leadership Jacksonville alumni have been honored by the Jacksonville African American Library Collection for aiming for high office in the city, state and nation as pioneers following the passage of the Voting-rights Act in 1976. This group included: **Betty Holzendorf** (LJ 1978), former state representative and senator; **Corrine Brown** (LJ 1978), U.S. Congress; **Gwen Chandler Thompson** (LJ 1988), former Jacksonville City Council; and **Jennifer Carroll** (LJ 1997), former state representative and Florida lieutenant governor.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville recently appointed new members of its board of directors and included several LJ alumni: **Don Baldwin** (NLS XII), **John Duce** (LJ 2006) and **Paul Pitel** (LJ 1993).

**Collegiate Leadership Experience**

**Brandon Little** (CLE 2012) has relocated to work in the VW Los Angeles Parts Distribution Center.

**Sichao Ni** (CLE 2009) has been accepted by the American University School of International Service to pursue what will be his second master's degree, this one in the field of international relations. This degree will be completed while he continues with Medtronic and is living in Jacksonville.

# Youth Leadership Jacksonville XXVI

YLJ XXVI hard at work and having fun at Opening Retreat on August 17-18.



## 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. Consider a recurring gift to LJ. Call 904-396-6263 x 23 for details.

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