Developing Leaders to Strengthen Our Community

2015-2016 YEARBOOK

Leadership Jacksonville

IN MEMORY

Eleanor Johnson Ashby

October 17, 1931 – July 25, 2015

Executive Director, Leadership Jacksonville
1978-1998

What is once well done is done forever.
Henry David Thoreau

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Leadership Jacksonville alumni and friends,

For 40 years Leadership Jacksonville has educated, connected and inspired diverse leaders from across Northeast Florida. Wow! Two thousand adults have participated in our core adult program during this period and are building and strengthening their communities. The 2015-16 Yearbook cover shows a stunning array of area trees. Trees were intentionally chosen this year for their obvious representation of the reach of our alumni. Participants in our adult, youth, college and new leader programs form the roots of our community – they are the base upon which much good happens but their work isn't always seen. The product of your efforts branches and spreads across our region and many of the great things that happen in Northeast Florida are the result of the vision, hard work and collaboration of our alumni.

I am often reminded of a favorite quote,

"The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit."

Nelson Henderson

As a result of 40 years of hard work by alumni, staff and community volunteers and generous financial support, Leadership Jacksonville continues to plant trees. Our community is a better place because of your leadership, vision and action. Thank you.

Jill Langford Dame
Executive Director

Meg Folds
Youth Programs Director

Nicole Bryan
Adult Program Coordinator

Yvonne Moore
Administrative Assistant

Eleanor Ashby
Director Emeritus

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Mission Statement

Leadership Jacksonville educates, connects and inspires diverse leaders to build and strengthen their communities.

Core Values

Ethical community trustees
Knowledge of community issues and their complexity
Diverse leaders sharing their perspectives
Relationships developed among participants
Creation of a shared vision
Action taken for the greater good

Board of Directors 2015-2016

PRESIDENT
Charles Hedrick, LJ '06

PRESIDENT-ELECT
Karen Mayfield, LJ '06

SECRETARY / TREASURER
Clark Robertson, LJ '12

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Deborah Moore, LJ '03

BOARD MEMBERS

Gordon Bailey, LJ '14
Rosa Beckett, LJ '07
Peggy Bryan, LJ '87
Tricia Cannan, LJ '08
Scott Chamberlayne, NLS VI
Vilma Consuegra, LJ '08
Kelly DeGance, LJ '11
Broderick Green, LJ '12
Kimberly Holland, LJ '14
Ia Morales Howard, LJ '05
Mobeen Rathore, LJ '03
Jamie Shelton, LJ '13
Harold Stankard, NLS X
Rebecca Steele, LJ '15
Monica Whiting, NLS XI
Gary Wilkinson, LJ '06

Letter from the Board President

It is my privilege to serve as the president of Leadership Jacksonville in a year of transition and noteworthy milestones. Leadership Jacksonville has an exciting new strategic plan and mission statement, and in the coming year will develop the action steps necessary to implement that plan and serve that mission. We will be re-examining many of the things we do, with a renewed commitment to better connecting our alumni with Leadership Jacksonville and the community, telling our story better, and remaining relevant to our key constituencies.

In addition, we will move into our new offices in the Jessie Ball duPont Center, the former Haydon Burns Library, in the core of downtown Jacksonville, and believe it or not, Leadership Jacksonville will graduate its 40th adult leadership class this year! Finally, while LJ is proud of its history of demonstrated commitment to diversity, we move into 2015-16 with a newly adopted formal diversity policy that memorializes one of Leadership Jacksonville's core values.

The research we did in connection with our strategic plan also reaffirmed that our staff and committed volunteers do a fantastic job of leveraging our limited resources, and we are blessed to have an outstanding group of committed individuals leading the way. We will miss the dedicated efforts of Barbara Moulding, who retired after 11 years as the Adult Program Coordinator, but we are pleased to welcome Nicole Bryan to the team as her replacement.

If you are a donor or volunteer, I thank you for your contributions to Leadership Jacksonville's success and ask for your continued support. If you have been on the sidelines, I encourage you not only to support LJ financially, but to seek out opportunities to get involved.

Finally, I want to thank you for all you do for Jacksonville and the communities that you support and serve. Our adult, collegiate, youth and New Leadership Summit graduates have a proven history of community service, and I am grateful for the many things you do to make Northeast Florida a better place to live!

Charles Hedrick

Past Presidents

1978	Honorable Frederick H. Schultz*
1979	Albert Ernest
1980	W.O. Birchfield
1981	Robert Schellenberg*
1982	Frank Surface
1983	Douglas Milne
1984	Courtenay Wilson
1985	John G. McGiffin III *
1986	W.A. McGriff
1987	Julie Buckingham
1988	James Rinaman
1989	J.F. Bryan IV
1990	Kenneth Eilermann*
1991	William Brinton
1992	Espie Patrinely
1993	A. Quinton White
1994	Alton Yates
1995	Don Padgett
1996	Carlton Jones
1997	Carol Spalding
1998	Joanne Sawyer*
1999	H. Wade Barnes, M.D.
2000	Peggy Bryan
2001	Barbara Darby
2002	David Robertson
2003	Barbara J. Drake
2004	Madeline Scales-Taylor
2005	Michael J. Shalley
2006	Linda Larkin Smith*
2007	John Bottaro
2008	Sandra Ramsey
2009	Ben C. Bishop III
2010	Stephen Canty
2011	Nancy Kilgo
2012	Jerry Mallot
2013	Justin Terry
2014	Stephen Goldman
2015	Deborah Moore

*Deceased

COVER PHOTO CREDITS:

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Laura Evans Photography

L to R:
Will Dickey
Visit Jacksonville
Visit Jacksonville
Will Dickey

Distinguished Leadership Award

1989	Bruce Doueck
1990	Scott Skjordahl and Bill Etheredge
1991	Ed Hayes
1992	Carol Spalding
1993	Espie Patrinely
1994	Noah Henderson
1995	Honorable Nat Glover
1996	Honorable John Delaney
1997	John Ross
1998	Suzanne Montgomery, Ph.D.
1999	Barbara Drake
2000	Peggy Bryan
2001	Dinah Kossoff
2002	Robert Mitchell
2003	Jill Dame
2004	Honorable Frederick H. Schultz*

Tillie K. Fowler Distinguished Leadership Award

2005	Courtenay Wilson
2006	Toni Crawford

*Deceased

Jacksonville Legacy Series

The Honorable Jake Godbold, former mayor of Jacksonville, is the subject of the latest episode in the Jacksonville Legacy Series.

The Honorable Jake Godbold

This series is aired on WJCT-TV and videos are available for viewing on the Leadership Jacksonville website. In addition, longer unedited clips organized by topic are archived on leadershipjax.org. Each installment features a community leader sharing insight into their passions, challenges and inspiration. The series is full of historical detail and context that makes them a community gift to future generations.

Produced by Lindsey Films, the list of videos to date includes:

- Dr. Frances Bartlett Kinne
- Alton Wendell Yates
- The Honorable Frederick H. Schultz
- Robert Shircliff
- Delores Barr Weaver
- The Honorable Jake Godbold
- Lessons in Leadership (clips from previous episodes)

Dr. Frances Bartlett Kinne

Alton Wendell Yates

The Honorable Frederick H. Schultz

Robert Shircliff

Delores Barr Weaver

Celebration 2015

Celebration is Leadership Jacksonville's annual fundraiser to support its youth programs—Youth Leadership Jacksonville and Collegiate Leadership Experience. Each year one or more outstanding Leadership Jacksonville alumni are honored for their legacy of ethical, responsible leadership in our community. Be sure to look at the list of past recipients below.

M.C. "Ceree" Harden III, Connie Hodges, Cleve Edward Warren

Celebration 2015, held on April 9 at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront, recognized the leadership and achievements of three honorees:

- **M.C. "Ceree" Harden III** is CEO of Harden & Associates. He is a former director and officer of Baptist Health, and remains involved with the organization as Chairman of Baptist Health System Jacksonville and by serving on the Finance, Executive, and Investment committees; and, as Director of Baptist Physician Partners. In addition to previously serving on many boards, he is currently part of the United Way Campaign Cabinet and a board member at Riverside Presbyterian Day School.
- **Connie Hodges** is former President of United Way of Northeast Florida, and past president of Uptown Civitan and the Human Services Council. She is a member of the Jacksonville Women's Network, Downtown Rotary, and serves on The Early Learning Coalition of Duval Board of Directors. She is also a former member of the Jacksonville Children's Commission Board and JAX Chamber and Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida boards of directors.
- **Cleve Edward Warren** currently serves as Chief Financial Officer for Florida State College at Jacksonville. He was a founding member of the Jacksonville Civic Council and serves on the board of directors of Valor Academy of Leadership Charter School for Boys, Virtue Academy of Arts and Sciences Charter School for Girls, Tiger Academy Charter School, Baptist Health Foundation, The Eartha M.M. White Legacy Fund, First Coast Metropolitan YMCA, The Tournament Players Advisory Council, the Jacksonville Public Education Fund, the board of trustees for Florida A&M University, and is a former Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Jacksonville Transportation Authority.

Congratulations to all three honorees and thank you for the many contributions you have made to build and strengthen Northeast Florida. Thank you also to the individuals and organizations whose support made Celebration 2015 a success.

Celebration of Leadership Alumni Honorees

1996	Leadership Jacksonville 20th Anniversary Honorable John Delaney and Honorable Nat Glover
1997	Jane Condon, Gertrude Peele*, Honorable Frederick H. Schultz*
1998	J.F. and Peggy Bryan IV
1999	Director Emeritus, Eleanor Ashby*
2000	Ann Baker* and Robert Shircliff
2001	Carlton Jones, Dinah Kossoff, Richard Sisisky
2002	Honorable Tillie Fowler*, Adam Herbert, Howard Serkin
2003	Walt Bussells, Barbara Darby, Doug Milne
2004	Eleanor Gay, Jim McCollum, Audrey McKibbin Moran
2005	Honorable Martha Barrett, Leerie Jenkins, Alton Yates
2006	Leadership Jacksonville 30th Anniversary Hugh Greene, Ju'Coby Pittman-Peele, Bill Scheu
2007	Robert Helms*, Madeline Scales-Taylor, Peter Rummel
2008	Barbara J. Drake, Noah Henderson, Teala Milton
2010	Henri Landwirth, Suzanne Montgomery, Ph.D.
2011	MaliVai Washington, A. Quinton White, Jr., Ph.D.
2012	William O. Birchfield and Preston H. Haskell
2013	Gary Chartrand, Deborah Gianoulis Heald, Honorable John Peyton
2014	Toni Crawford, William C. Mason, Ed.D., Isabelle Owen Spence
2015	M.C. "Ceree" Harden III, Connie S. Hodges, Cleve Edward Warren

Lifetime Achievement Award

2009	The Honorable Frederick H. Schultz*
2012	Gertrude H. Peele*

*Deceased

Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2016 is the 40th class to benefit from a Leadership Jacksonville (LJ) program that educates, connects and inspires diverse leaders to build and strengthen their communities. From their opening receptions to their closing retreats, Northeast Florida leaders have had an opportunity to explore issues of community concern while they build a network of other community trustees with the interest and ability to make a difference. This year continues that tradition.

LJ selects participants who represent the broadest possible cross-section of the community in terms of gender, race, age, occupation and other factors. As an organization LJ believes that the collective sum of our individual differences, unique life experiences, capabilities, knowledge and talents enrich our processes and increase learning. This value is a significant part of Leadership Jacksonville's culture. Through a highly competitive selection process, teams of LJ alumni evaluate applicants for a combination of key criteria — including leadership skills, community involvement and a commitment to invest the time and energy required to complete the program.

This year LJ welcomes Nicole Bryan as Adult Program Coordinator. Working with experienced alumni, skilled in adult development activities and group facilitation, she helps to craft the LJ program and provides staff support for participant selection.

ADULT PROGRAM CALENDAR
CLASS OF 2016

May 27, 2015	Opening Reception
August 6, 2015	Opening Dinner
August 28-29, 2015	Opening Retreat *Mandatory for participation in the program*
September 24, 2015	Poverty Day
October 22, 2015	Education Day
November 19, 2015	Health Day
December 10, 2015	Justice Day
January 14, 2016	Leading from Within
February 11, 2016	Understanding Each Other
March 10, 2016	Economy, Growth & Preservation Day 1
April 7, 2016	Economy, Growth & Preservation Day 2
April 28, 2016	Arts Day
May 20-21, 2016	Closing Retreat

Stacy Aubrey is the Executive Director of Riverside Fine Arts. Before working in the arts community she held positions in the hospitality industry. The arts called to her and she started at RFAA eight seasons ago.

Stacy received a B.A. in theatre from the University of Colorado. She studied in Europe for two years both during and after receiving her degree. She went on to graduate from The Second City Training Center and was a regular performer with Improv Olympic. Married with two children, Stacy is active in their sports and the Jewish community.

Rachel Bechtel is the Senior Director of Product Development at Florida Blue. She is responsible for product strategy, innovation, development, management and operations for employer markets.

Upon moving to Jacksonville from the Washington, D.C., area in 1999, Rachel founded and became the president of The MOMS Club (Moms Offering Moms Support), an organization designed to reinforce and support moms who nobly choose to stay at home and raise their children. Today there are approximately 10 MOMS Club chapters in Jacksonville and the surrounding areas.

Rachel holds a B.A. from Jacksonville University. She and her husband, Brian, have two children, Jonathan and Andrew.

Sarah Bermudez is Director of Workscapes in Jacksonville, providing interior furniture services for corporate, healthcare and higher education organizations. She is responsible for market growth, client relations, brand recognition and her team.

Originally from Detroit, Sarah moved to Jacksonville six years ago. Her passion for people continues to grow as the leader of her market – servicing her clients and mentoring her employees – while engaging with the community. Sarah is a member of the board of directors for the YMCA of Florida's First Coast and the JAX Chamber Board of Governors.

A graduate of the University of Tennessee, Sarah is a proud Navy wife.

Jeffrey Bernardo is the CEO of Augustine Asset Management and has more than 20 years of experience investing in global capital markets. Jeffrey previously served as Vice President at JP Morgan Asset Management, London.

He graduated with a B.S. in economics with honors from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, and an M.B.A. from the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University. Jeffrey is a Chartered Financial Analyst; a Director and former President of CFA Society Jacksonville; a Director of the World Affairs Council of Jacksonville; and President of the University of Pennsylvania Club of Jacksonville.

Clare Berry has been a residential real estate broker in Northeast Florida for 30 years. She is broker and owner of Berry & Co. Real Estate, founded in 1993 in Ponte Vedra Beach following media and development careers. She has won many awards, including Northeast Florida's "Realtor of the Year."

Clare serves on Episcopal School of Jacksonville's board and has served on the Northeast Florida Regional Council. She volunteers for THE PLAYERS Championship, Northeast Florida Multiple Listing Service (President, 2010), Rotary and Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM).

A graduate of Auburn University, Clare enjoys design, nature, pro sports and the beach life with her husband, Vance.

John Brigman is the Small Business Specialist for the North Florida region for BB&T. John is in his fourth year with BB&T, having been in the banking industry for 15 years. John has been in Jacksonville since 1985, and is on the First Coast Hispanic Chamber of Commerce board. John spends free time with family, an occasional round of golf and rooting for all local sports teams. John holds a bachelor's degree from the University of North Florida.

He and his wife, Kimberly, are the proud parents of two young children whom they raise on Jacksonville's Westside. GO JAGS!

Monique Brown is Assistant Vice President with Deutsche Bank's legal department. She pursued law because service is the heart of a legal career. A native of Charleston, South Carolina, and graduate of the University of South Carolina School of Law, her family relocated to Jacksonville due to her husband's former career as a naval officer.

Monique donates time to various charitable and community organizations. She serves on the boards of Children's Home Society of Florida – Buckner Division and North Florida Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel.

Monique resides in St. Johns County with her husband, Darryl, and their two children.

Megan Bush is the Business Development Manager for the Tom Bush Family of Dealerships. Starting with Cox Media Group, she has worked in marketing since 2008. In 2013, Megan joined her father and brother in the family business, a group of automotive dealerships founded in Jacksonville in 1970. Her community involvement includes the Junior League of Jacksonville and serving on the board of the JAX Chamber's Professional Women's Council.

Megan received her B.S. from the University of Florida and her M.B.A. from the University of Colorado-Boulder. She lives in Jacksonville Beach and is engaged to Matthew Del Pizzo.

Lawson Carr is an Account Director with Harden, where he partners with businesses to solve issues about employee benefits and human resources. He and his team of experts consult to understand all areas of risk, then design, implement and manage solutions that allow clients to focus on the success of their business. He has served in a number of volunteer roles, including his church and mentoring through Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Lawson earned his B.B.A. in risk management and insurance from the University of Georgia. In 2009 he and his wife, Chelsea, relocated to the Riverside neighborhood where they work, live and play.

Jeremy Ches is a partner at the law firm of Holland & Knight LLP, where he specializes in complex commercial disputes and business torts. Before entering private practice, Jeremy was an assistant state attorney in Duval County. He was selected as a Florida *Super Lawyer* "Rising Star" (2013), and one of the *Jacksonville Business Journal's* "40 Under 40" (2014). Jeremy serves as the chair of the Make-A-Wish Foundation's Jacksonville Advisory Board, and on the Community Connections board.

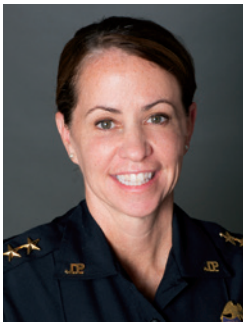
Jeremy graduated from Fordham University and Wake Forest School of Law. Having lived in Jacksonville since 2003, he loves spending time with his wife and two children.

Josh Cockrell is the Director of Economic Development for IGS and specializes in project management and government affairs. He also serves as the Executive Director of the Clay County Development Authority. He is an Eagle Scout, a graduate of the Jacksonville Regional Political Leadership Institute and an honoree for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Josh has a B.A. in political science from the College of Charleston and is completing his Master of Public Policy degree at Jacksonville University. He is a member of Celebration Church, ULI, NAIOP and International Economic Development Council. He enjoys spending time with his family and volunteering for Boy Scouts.

Kelly Coker-Daniel currently serves as the Assistant Superintendent for Research and Accountability within the Duval County Public Schools. Kelly has served as a principal at Darnell-Cookman Middle School and Julia Landon College Preparatory and Leadership School. She has also supported school-level work as a Region Superintendent of Schools. Kelly serves as a board member of the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens and is a native of Jacksonville.

Kelly holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Florida and a doctorate from the University of North Florida. She and her husband, Jim Daniel, reside on the Southside with their daughter, Madeline.



Michelle Cook began her career with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office in 1992. Over the past 23 years she has commanded, among other groups, the JSO Intelligence Unit, Training Academy, Internal Affairs and Narcotics/Vice. She now serves as the Chief of Patrol East and is one of three SWAT/Negotiator Team Incident Commanders. She is active in numerous charities and often takes the lead for JSO's participation in various charity events.

Michelle has a master's degree in criminal justice administration and education from the University of North Florida. She enjoys running, working out and raising her four adopted children.

Brian Coughlin practices law at Bedell, Dittmar, DeVault, Pillans & Coxe, P.A. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan in 2000 and his law degree from the University of Florida in 2003. Brian worked for three years as a prosecutor with the State Attorney's Office before joining the Bedell firm in 2007. He was recently named Vice Chair of the Florida Bar Professional Ethics Committee.

Brian serves on the board of directors of the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund and Daniel Memorial, Inc.. His wife, Susie, is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Columbia University. They have three children.

Dan Croft is Vice President of Business Strategy for Station Four, a digital marketing, design and development firm. He relocated to Jacksonville in 2005 having worked in advertising in Boston, New York, Seattle and Cincinnati, where he also taught branding. Dan has served on boards of various professional and civic organizations and is currently the Public Image Chair for the Rotary Club of Jacksonville, and serves on the International Association of Business Communicators and Snyder Church Renaissance boards.

Dan and his wife, Lucy, also serve the canine community, helping find homes and fostering 22 golden retrievers (so far) through a local rescue organization.

Karen Feagins is Vice President of Content and Operations at WJCT Public Broadcasting. She joined WJCT as host of 89.9 FM's "Morning Edition." For more than 10 years at the station she has filled a variety of roles in radio and television from on-air reporter to writing, directing and producing behind the scenes. She has been an integral part of many WJCT productions including First Coast Forum, the Health Matters television series and the Voices of the First Coast oral history project.

Karen holds a degree in broadcast journalism from the University of Missouri and lives in Jacksonville with her two daughters.

Dan Foley is the Vice President and Executive Director of City Year Jacksonville. Starting with City Year in 2008 as an AmeriCorps Volunteer, Dan has continued his work serving in various leadership capacities with the organization's New York, Los Angeles and now Jacksonville locations. He was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and received his B.S. in biology from Seton Hall University.

In addition to his service with City Year, Dan has passionately supported volunteer initiatives around the United States and abroad.

Dan and his partner, Alex, love pizza, the NBA and running marathons. They reside in Riverside.

Jesse Forst relocated to Jacksonville from Orlando in August 2014 as Vice President of Operations for the Transportation-Infrastructure Practice of RS&H, Inc. Throughout his 18-year tenure at RS&H Jesse has had steady professional growth and increasing levels of project, office and business development responsibility. Jesse previously served as the Orlando Office Leader.

Jesse is a graduate of the University of Minnesota with both a bachelor's and master's degree in civil engineering. Jesse is a registered professional engineer in Florida and Georgia. He lives in Ponte Vedra Beach and enjoys doing yard work and house projects.

Sam Garrison is a partner with the law firm of Kopelousos, Bradley & Garrison, P.A. and specializes in legal matters involving criminal defense, professional licensing and discipline and local government. Sam is Board Certified by The Florida Bar in Criminal Trial Law and serves as President of the Clay County Bar Association. He and his wife, Gayle, are longtime supporters of Young Life, currently serving on the ministry's Northeast Florida Regional Board. Sam is a proud graduate of Samford University and the University of Illinois College of Law. He enjoys Jaguars football, Cubs baseball and bragging about his two daughters.

Annie Grogan is President and CEO of The Hispanic Institute for Life and Leadership, a workforce and professional development organization focused on the Hispanic labor force of the region. She has more than 20 years of human resources experience working in top Fortune 500 companies. Her scope has included senior generalist roles, talent acquisition to include international expansion and enterprise diversity recruiting strategy. She actively serves in the community on boards and committees.

Annie has a B.A. in education from the University of Puerto Rico. As a 10-year U.S. Army veteran, she served as a commissioned officer in the logistics field stateside and in Europe.

Sean Haley is the Executive Officer of Naval Air Station Jacksonville. A career helicopter pilot, Sean has served in multiple assignments in the Jacksonville area throughout his 23-year career, including commanding officer of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light FORTY-FOUR. Before returning to Jacksonville, Sean was assigned to the Air Warfare Directorate on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations where he assisted in the development and budgeting of U.S. Naval Aviation warfighting requirements.

Sean is a 1992 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. He enjoys golf and spending time with his family. Sean and his wife, Annamaria, have two children, Ryan and Jake.

Chris Hoffman is the Executive Director of the Beaches Area Historical Society. In that role, she is also operator of the Beach Museum & History Park. She serves on the Jacksonville Beach City Council and is active in the Oceanside Rotary. Growing up in a Navy family, Chris was born in California and moved frequently along the East Coast, moving to Jacksonville three times in the process.

Chris attended Fletcher High School and the University of Florida and received an M.B.A. from the University of North Florida in 2012. She has traveled extensively and includes being a Jeopardy contestant among her achievements. Chris resides in Jacksonville Beach.

Michael Huskey is a Design-Build Team Leader with Haskell, where he has spent his entire career. For the past 20 years he has been in Northeast Florida serving public clients including the Cities of Cape Coral and Pembroke Pines, the United States Marines and Coast Guard, and the YMCA. He serves the United Way as a resource management committee chair and is a mentor in the Beyond School Walls program. Professionally he is active with the Design-Build Institute of America.

Mike is a Florida native and a University of Florida graduate. He and his family are sports enthusiasts and enjoy supporting the arts.

Ali Kasraeian, M.D., named among "America's Top Surgeons" by the Consumers' Research Council of America, joined his father at Kasraeian Urology in 2008. Fellowship trained in advanced laparoscopic, robotic and minimally invasive urological surgery at the world renowned Montsouris Institute in Paris, France, Ali has a passionate interest in personalized prostate cancer care. He also hosts "The Conversation: A Radio Show" on WOKV, where he discusses current trends in healthcare.

Ali is a Jacksonville native. A Bolles School alumni, he continued his education at the University of Florida, where he pursued his undergraduate, medical school and residency training.

Kristin Keen, founder and president of Rethreaded, worked for five years in Kolkata, India, with women trapped in human trafficking. In India, she co-founded a business, Sari Bari, which now provides work to more than 100 women. After returning to Jacksonville in 2009, Kristin began forming relationships with women living on the street and learned there were very few viable work opportunities available. Since Rethreaded started in 2012, it has provided more than 8,700 hours of work for women in Jacksonville. When she's not at Rethreaded, Kristin is usually biking, swimming, doing yoga or eating at some of Jacksonville's best local restaurants.

Chris Kennelly is a Catholic, a husband, a dad and a CEO. A 2003 graduate of the University of Florida, he started Kennetic Productions, a local video production agency, at age 22. Currently running that organization as the CEO, he is always focused on effective leadership. A past president of the South Council of the JAX Chamber and a current board of governor's member, he also volunteers with the American Marketing Association and International Association of Business Communicators.

His most important leadership position is held in partnership with his amazing wife leading his three beautiful children.

Ann-Marie Knight is an Operations Administrator at Mayo Clinic where she partners with physician leaders to ensure quality and timely access to patient care services. She also serves as adjunct faculty, University of North Florida and past president, North Florida Chapter, American College of Healthcare Executives. Ann-Marie is a U.S. Navy Veteran, retiring with 24 years of service and possesses over 15 years of progressive healthcare leadership expertise.

Ann-Marie holds an M.B.A. in healthcare administration from Baylor University, a B.B.A. from the University of North Florida, and is board certified as a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives. She is married and has two children.

Steve Kowkabany is the president of Neptune Fire Protection Engineering – a firm specializing in heavy industrial risk mitigation, process safety, and fire protection engineering. He founded the company in 2005. Steve holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in mechanical engineering from Georgia Tech and University of Florida.

As a founding co-chair of ImpactJAX in 2005, Steve got hooked on public service and the great rewards of seeing volunteer efforts result in positive community change.

Steve resides in Neptune Beach with his beautiful wife, three kids, and two cats. He enjoys racquetball and open-water swimming.

Richard Lovelace, a Jacksonville native, graduated from the University of North Florida with a bachelor's degree in construction management. After rising through the ranks of a large construction firm, he joined Stellar in 2003, quickly advancing to Divisional Vice President and eventually Senior Vice President in 2013. While overseeing the commercial division and safety and field services, he increased annual growth by over $70 million.

A licensed general contractor in Florida, Alaska and Hawaii, Richard is an active member of the Northeast Florida civic and philanthropic community. He and his wife, Darlene, have three children.

Robert Massey is President and CEO of the Jacksonville Symphony. He has built a reputation as an entrepreneurial arts administrator, a visionary with a proven record of success, and a dynamic manager and motivator of boards, staffs and musicians. He notably tripled the revenue and doubled the audience of two orchestras; raised a collective $71 million for historic and modern building campaigns; and, enhanced the cultural landscape through new creations, collaborative partnerships and innovative business models.

Robert lives in the Miramar neighborhood of Jacksonville with his wife, Lisa, daughter, Elsie, and West Highland terrier, Tess.

Renee McQueen is the Executive Director at PACE Center for Girls Jacksonville, whose mission is to provide girls and young women an opportunity for a better future through education, counseling, training and advocacy. Renee is also an adjunct professor with Webster University. Renee received her bachelor's degree from Florida State University, master's degree from Troy State University and doctorate degree from Argosy University. Renee is a licensed mental health counselor and certified addictions professional. Renee is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated and Uptown Civitan Club.

Renee enjoys traveling, music festivals, fishing, sports and spending time with family.

Yekaterina "Kate" Mesic is President of Law Offices of Kate Mesic, PA, focusing on business and criminal law. Kate graduated from University of North Florida and the University of Florida Levin College of Law. She is a past president of the Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association and serves on multiple committees of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers (FAWL). She is also the 2014-2015 Chair of the Young Lawyers FAWL Committee.

Kate is the recipient of the 2013 Women in Business "Up & Coming Entrepreneur of the Year" award, and a member of the 2015 FAWL class of "Leaders in the Law." Kate serves on the University of North Florida's Pre-Law Board of Advisors.

Moitreyi Nayek is a devoted social worker with a deep connection to the community. She is founder of the American Muslim Women Civic Group, a nonprofit organization advocating the advancement of Muslim women in civic engagement. Moitreyi is a mayoral appointee to the Asian American Advisory Board and regional deputy coordinator of the Asian American Federation of Florida. She serves as Executive Director at UDiON Foundation, fighting against child labor and promoting education. Moitreyi has more than 15 years of experience in banking and software and is a Senior Analyst at Bank of America. She holds a B.S. in business administration. Her greatest influence is her parents.

Johanna Nestor is an Assistant Attorney General in the Consumer Protection Division of the Florida Office of the Attorney General. The Division protects Florida consumers by pursuing individuals and entities that engage in unfair methods of competition or unconscionable, deceptive and unfair practices in any trade or commerce. Johanna is involved with the United Way as a Stein Fellow, Achievers For Life mentor and Atlantic Circle member.

Johanna holds a B.B.A. from the University of Notre Dame and a J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. Together with her husband, Sean, and dog, Nala, she enjoys running and is learning to sail.

Emily Friend O'Leary is a commercial litigator with Foley & Lardner LLP. She received her juris doctor from William & Mary School of Law and her bachelor's degree from the University of Florida, cum laude. Emily is currently President-Elect of the Junior League of Jacksonville and a Fellow with the Women's Giving Alliance. She is also on the United Way of Northeast Florida's Resource Management Team, a mentor with JAX Chamber Foundation's ATHENA PowerLink Program, and upcoming chair of the Jacksonville Bar Association's Law Day Committee.

Emily graduated from St. Johns Country Day School and currently lives in Ortega with her husband, Brian.

Sabeen Perwaiz is the Project Manager for Earn Up, a new collaboration at the JAX Chamber aiming to increase Northeast Florida's training certificate or college degree rate from 36% to 60% by 2025. Passionate about education, community development and gender equality, her career has centered on nonprofits empowering individuals through education. Sabeen moved to Jacksonville in 2011 and is the Co-organizer and Executive Producer of TEDxJacksonville, a member of the Women's Giving Alliance and a mentor with Take Stock in Children.

Born in Karachi, Pakistan, and raised in New York City, Sabeen has lived on three continents, visited 34 countries and hopes to visit at least 100 in her lifetime.

Rick Plotkin is a commercial trial attorney and shareholder with the Jacksonville office of GrayRobinson, P.A. Rick serves as Executive Vice President of the Jacksonville Jewish Center. He is a third-generation Jacksonville resident

Rick enjoys Orangetheory, traveling, going to the movies and being with his wife, Jennifer, and children, Jared (16), Julia (15) and Ethan (12).

Joni Poitier is an attorney at Moseley, Prichard, Parrish, Knight & Jones, practicing in the area of product liability, personal injury and commercial litigation. Joni was previously an Assistant State Attorney with the State Attorney's Office in Jacksonville, where she tried more than 30 jury trials to verdict and worked in the Special Assault Division. Joni obtained her J.D. from Vanderbilt University and undergraduate degree from Spelman College, graduating with highest honors. She is involved with the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Joni is on the board of Family Foundations of Northeast Florida, a member of the Civil Service Board and active with her church.

Michele Querry is the Director of Corporate & Foundation Relations for Jacksonville University. An experienced development professional who previously served as development director for the Florida State College at Jacksonville Foundation, Michele is also a political strategist who worked as a congressional aide, served in Mayor John Peyton's administration, raised funds for candidates ranging from Congress to City Council, and was Finance Director of the Republican Party of Florida. With an M.P.A. from Webster University and a B.S. from Texas A&M, she is a former Operation New Hope board member and mentor for the Jacksonville Women's Business Center.

Wen Raiti, CPA, Associate Vice President at EverBank, was born in Southern China. She moved to the United States with her family in 2000. Wen has more than 15 years of tax and accounting experience, holds an M.S. in accounting and tax from the University of North Florida and is an alumnus of Ernst and Young. Living in Jacksonville since 2006, Wen is active in community service for local, national and international nonprofit cultural and educational organizations. She currently serves as a president of the 80-20 National Asian American PAC FL and for the JWJ Raiti Family Foundation, and vice president of the Jacksonville Chinese Association.

Vickie Robinson has lived in Jacksonville for 35 years as a mother, retired middle school teacher, semi-retired tennis player, fundraiser and elder and retired cook for her church. She is a Reading Pal volunteer for United Way of Northeast Florida and does advocacy work with United Way in Tallahassee on a number of children's issues. Raising the quality and quantity of services for young children is near and dear to her heart. Vickie received the Sherwood H. Smith Children's Champion Award from United Way and led the charge to successfully replace old, unsafe playground equipment at her Reading Pal school.

Nancy Rubin has more than 30 years' experience in the communications field. She is JAXPORT's Senior Director of Communications, the primary communications liaison with citizens and their representatives, worldwide media, tenants and employees, and is responsible for all of the port's communications/marketing tools and content. Nancy spent more than two decades with Jacksonville's WJXT-TV as an anchor and reporter, and developed public relations programs for local medical centers, schools and nonprofits.

Nancy holds a B.S. in broadcast journalism/international relations from Boston University. She is active in the Duval County public schools. Nancy enjoys reading, working out and spending time with her husband, three children and two golden retrievers.

Ann Sabbag is the CEO and Founder of Health Designs, a leader in worksite wellness whose mission is to change lives and transform companies into healthier, happier workplaces. Her company was recently named one of the "Top Women-Led Businesses in Florida" by the Commonwealth Institute, and is a two-time winner of the *Jacksonville Business Journal's* "Best Places to Work." She earned a master's degree from the University of North Florida and a bachelor's degree from Florida State University. She is active in the Women's Business Center, United Way and Hubbard House.

Ann and her husband, George, live at the beach and have two grown children plus an old lab named Rufus.

Kyle Sanders is President of St. Vincent's Medical Center–Southside and System Vice President of Population Health for St. Vincent's HealthCare. He holds an M.B.A. from Arizona State University and B.B.A. from West Texas State University. Kyle is a certified Fellow with the American College of Healthcare Executives and is a certified public accountant. He is on the boards of the JAX Chamber, Community Hospice and Jacksonville Sports Council.

Kyle was born and raised in Amarillo, Texas. He moved to Jacksonville in 2012. He is married to Rhonda, has two sons and is a proud grandfather. Kyle enjoys exercising, golfing and reading.

Veronica Scott-Fulton, DNP, MBA-C, MPH, BSN, RN is Vice President of Operations and Patient Care Services at Wolfson Children's Hospital. She has a B.A. in sociology/psychology and M.P.H. from the University of South Carolina-Columbia, a B.S. in nursing from the Medical University of South Carolina-Charleston, and D.N.P. from the University of Miami. She is a candidate for the Executive M.B.A. at the University of Florida.

Veronica is on the boards of the South Florida Organization of Nurse Executives and Doctors of Nursing Practice and Dreams Come True. She serves as courtesy professor for the University of Florida and Executive Champion for America Diabetes for the Baptist Health System.

She and her husband, Dwight Fulton, have three children.

Donteacia Seymore is the founder and CEO of Mobile Grip Gear, a mobility apparel company with headquarters in Jacksonville. She is also President of The Seymore Group, a strategic planning firm that specializes in business development, with a focus on closing the achievement gap between women and leadership. As a corporate consultant and champion for gender and race equality, she challenges organizations to redefine the face of leadership through various workshops and team-building exercises. A native of Jacksonville, she graduated from the University of North Florida with a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration.

Seth Shapiro is Senior Vice President, Assistant General Counsel for Bank of America. He is a devoted child advocate, representing foster children pro bono, actively participating in the Jacksonville Bar Association's Legal Needs of Children Subcommittee, and working closely with Jacksonville Area Legal Aid and Florida's Children First to help children. He received a J.D. from Stetson University College of Law and a B.S. in business administration from the University of South Florida.

Seth is married to Jovanka and has two children. He enjoys playing tennis, exercising, the beach, helping the community, and spending time with family and friends.

Patrick Shea joined the Red Cross in October 2013 after a successful 26-year Navy career, most recently as Chief Operating Director of Naval Forces Southern Command. His previous assignments included destroyer and cruiser commands, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and executive assistant to the Navy Budget Director. Pat holds graduate degrees in international affairs/business administration and an undergraduate degree from the United States Naval Academy. He retired with the rank of Captain, United States Navy. He has an excellent record in personnel retention and professional development, complementing his volunteer management and fundraising experience. Pat is a member of the JAX Chamber and officiates youth basketball games.

David Smith is a Project Manager with Elkins Constructors, Inc., where he provides commercial construction management services locally and throughout the Southeast United States. A Jacksonville native, David earned a B.S. in building construction from the University of Florida in 2005. He is a member of NAIOP of Northeast Florida and has held various leadership positions within the organization. He is also an alumni board member for Episcopal School of Jacksonville, and is a six-year volunteer at THE PLAYERS.

David resides in Riverside and enjoys Gators sports, the Jaguars, running and spending time with family and friends.

Wes Stapp first and foremost is a family man. All he does in the community and professionally is rooted in his love and his responsibility to his family. He has been with Wells Fargo Bank for 14 years. His service to the individuals on his team who rely on him to grow and develop their skills is what he is most proud of in his role at the bank. He loves Jacksonville and serves on the board of Emergency Services & Homeless Coalition, which fights homelessness in Jacksonville.

Wes enjoys Crossfit and coaching his son's baseball and football teams.

Kelly Straub is Senior Vice President of Business Development for Acosta Sales & Marketing. Kelly has been with Acosta for more than 13 years, the past three at its headquarters in Jacksonville. Before joining Acosta, Kelly worked in both nonprofit and media positions. Kelly has an undergraduate degree from Florida State University and an M.B.A. from the University of Maryland. Kelly focuses the majority of her volunteer activities helping underprivileged children in the community through organizations such as Bright Holidays and Blessings in a Backpack.

Kelly resides in Ponte Vedra Beach with her husband, Bob, and two daughters.

Dr. Mark Tumeo is the Dean of the College of Computing, Engineering and Construction at the University of North Florida. He has more than 30 years of experience in environmental consulting, risk assessment, policy and regulation. He has served on local, state, national and international panels in the area of environmental management and law. In 2005, he was elected to the Cleveland Heights City Council and served two terms. Mark has published more than 40 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, and numerous conference proceedings in the area of waste treatment, management and risk analysis.

Billy Wagner is a Territory Owner with Brightway Insurance. He started his agency in 2006, and it is now recognized as one of the top agencies in the United States. When he set out to raise funds for the Folds of Honor, he authored a book on insurance. His book, *Insuring your Peace of Mind* has raised more than $15,000 for local charities in the last year. His community service includes Big Brothers Big Sisters for seven years and board membership for the Ponte Vedra Rotary Club.

Billy lives in Neptune Beach with his wife, Anouk, and two kids, Landon and Skylar.

Vicki Waytowich joined the Partnership for Child Health in 2011 as the Director of the Jacksonville System of Care Initiative, responsible for leading the implementation of an integrated system of mental health care for children. Previously, she was the Vice President of Operations for Daniel Memorial, Inc. She holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in sociology and criminal justice and a doctorate in educational leadership. She is an adjunct professor at the University of North Florida and has published research in the areas of education and delinquency.

Vicki and her husband, Richard, have two children and have recently become foster parents.

Darryl Willie is the Executive Director with Teach for America Jacksonville. The organization recruits, selects and develops recent college graduates and professionals to teach in Title I schools in Jacksonville. Darryl graduated with a B.S. from North Carolina State University and an M.Ed. from the University of Georgia. Before moving to Jacksonville, Darryl worked at the University of California Berkeley. He was named one of *Jacksonville Business Journal's* "40 Under 40," and volunteers with Achievers for Life as a mentor at Ribault Middle School. He also volunteers for Special Olympics, Urban Education Symposium, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and the 100 Black Men of Jacksonville.

Darryl and his wife, Erica, have one daughter.

Tina Wirth is the Vice President for Education and Workforce Development for the JAX Chamber and its economic development division, JAXUSA Partnership. Her work connects industry and education leaders in meaningful dialogue and partnerships to produce a career-ready workforce aligned to our region's targeted industries. Before joining the Chamber in 2007, she worked at Duval County Public Schools, City of Jacksonville, Junior Achievement and United Way. She is on the board of Cathedral Arts Project, is an active JASMYN volunteer and has mentored for several years.

Tina and her wife, Carrie, live in Avondale with their two mutts, and enjoy traveling.

New Leadership Summit XIII

L to R: J.F. Bryan, co-chair; Melissa Dykes; Bill McConnell; Kathleen Yohe; Carlton DeVooght; Chris Kaniut; Wenying Xu; David Cox; Brian Fay; Jerry Mallot, co-chair; Patrick Linfors; Brent Baxter; Christine Sapienza; David Miles

New Leadership Summit is Leadership Jacksonville's (LJ) crash course on Northeast Florida and community stewardship for newly relocated CEOs and top executives. This innovative two-day executive program, held in May 2015, focuses on Northeast Florida's history, assets, issues, institutions and leadership. True to LJ's mission to educate, connect and inspire diverse leaders, the group's intentionally small size fosters interaction and encourages participants to become oriented to—and engaged in—the region. In the process, participants forge relationships and alliances that can have lasting impact for the community.

BRENT BAXTER
Senior Vice President/Controller,
Stein Mart, Inc.

DAVID COX
President,
Suddath Relocation Systems

CARLTON DEVOOGHT
Senior Vice President,
Coastal Community Health

MELISSA DYKES
Chief Financial Officer,
JEA

BRIAN FAY
Managing Director,
Global Technology & Operations,
Deutsche Bank

CHRISTOPHER KANIUT
General Manager,
Saft Batteries

PATRICK LINFORS
Director of Field Service/Chief Operating Officer,
Boy Scouts of America, North Florida Council

BILL MCCONNELL
General Manager,
SMG Jacksonville

DAVID MILES
Chief Financial Officer,
Healogics, Inc.

CHRISTINE SAPIENZA
Dean, College of Health Sciences,
Jacksonville University

WENYING XU
Provost/Chief Academic Officer,
Jacksonville University

KATHLEEN YOHE
Director/Head of Legal, Jacksonville,
Deutsche Bank

Collegiate Leadership Experience Class of 2015

Collegiate Leadership Experience (CLE) educates, connects and inspires local university students, regardless of school location, to build and strengthen their communities – and many of them choose to call Northeast Florida their community after exploring our region through CLE. Participants include both undergraduates and those students who are pursuing upper level degrees.

This summer program gives students an opportunity to interact with government, civic and business leaders, network with professionals, explore the complex issues facing Northeast Florida and learn from collective experiences. An extra half day was added to the program this year making a program of two retreats and three and a half program days.

CLE receives enthusiastic collaborative support from Edward Waters College, Florida State College at Jacksonville, Jacksonville University and the University of North Florida. Since the inception of CLE in 2005, students representing 62 colleges and universities have participated. Nominations come from alumni of all Leadership Jacksonville programs and local educators. Following a rigorous application and interview, approximately 40 participants receive invitations to participate.

Meg Folds, Youth Programs Director, provides staff support to committees of LJ, CLE and YLJ alumni for the selection and program planning for both Collegiate Leadership Experience and Youth Leadership Jacksonville.

CALENDAR CLASS OF 2015

Thursday, May 28, 2015	Meet the Class Reception
Friday, June 5 - Saturday, June 6, 2015	Opening Retreat Focus on Community History, Trusteeship and Team Building
Tuesday, June 16, 2015	Creating a Caring Community Focus on Social Justice, Government and Education
Wednesday, July 1, 2015	Exposing Our Community's Culture Focus on Arts and Entertainment
Saturday, July 11, 2015	J'Action'ville - Exploring Our Community
Monday, July 20, 2015	Building Bridges to the Future Focus on Economy, Growth and Environment
Saturday, August 1, 2015	Closing Retreat Focus on Commitment to Community, Personal Vision and Goal Setting, Your Place in Our Community

L to R: Adkins, A., Austin, A., Bateh, A., Bateh, E., Camejo, L., Colvin, C., Corum, K.

Adia Adkins

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University | Major: Pharmacy
Florida State College at Jacksonville | A.A. Pre-Pharmacy - 2014
Hometown: South Brunswick, New Jersey

Gospel Choir; Colorectal Cancer Research Lab Associate; Florida Pharmacy Association; Student National Pharmaceutical Association; Omicron Delta Kappa; Class of 2018 Vice President; Red Cross, Muscular Dystrophy, HIV/AIDS and Florida Pharmacy Association Volunteer; Operation Medicine Cabinet Waste Collection; Guitar; Sudoku; Tennis; Singing

Aislinn Austin

Florida State College at Jacksonville | Major: Psychology
Hometown: Jacksonville, Florida

Colorguard; Winterguard; Fellowship of Christian Athletes; Student Government Association; Yoga Club; Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit Competitions; Rethreaded; Scuba Diving; Cooking

Ashleigh Bateh

Florida State College at Jacksonville | Major: Psychology
Hometown: Jacksonville, Florida

Student Government Association; Clothing Drives; Soup Kitchens; Church Volunteer; School and Church Service Project; Fishing; Reading

Edward Bateh

Jacksonville University | Major: Business Administration (Masters)
University of North Florida | B.B.A. Marketing - 2010
Hometown: Jacksonville, Florida

Ramallah American Club; Relay for Life Mandarin Event Chair; Golf; Jaguars Football; Reading

Luis Camejo

University of North Florida | Major: Business Administration
Hometown: Caracas, Venezuela

UNF Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity; Kappa Mu Chapter Founding Member; UNF Soccer Captain; UNF Ropes Course Facilitator and Coordinator; One Spark Producer Assistant; Volunteer Tough Mudder; HappyFeet Jacksonville Program Director; Sports, Soccer; Mountain Biking; Mud Runs

Cassidy Colvin

Florida State College at Jacksonville | Major: Business Administration
Hometown: Bryceville, Florida

Soccer; Volunteering; Dignity U Wear; Feeding Northeast Florida; Relay for Life; School Volunteer; Reading

Kelcey Corum

Florida State College at Jacksonville | Major: Psychology
Hometown: Callahan, Florida

SGA; Latin Dance Club; Spanish Club; Orienteering Team; Leadership Training; Relay for Life; Dignity U Wear; Rethreaded; Northeast Food Bank; Watershed Action Volunteer; Archery; Tennis

L to R: Daniel, H.; Diggs, B.; Ely, M.; Farhat, E.; Gharat, R.; Gonzales, C.; Hickman, V.

Henok Daniel

University of North Florida | Major: Biology
Hometown: Jacksonville, Florida

UNF Biomedical Pre-Professionals Program; Stanton Medical Society; Stanton Latin Club; Great Decisions; Hospital Volunteer; Helping Underprivileged Girls and Guys Succeed; Cummer Museum and Lutheran Social Services Volunteer; Reading; Cycling

Brandon Diggs

Florida State College at Jacksonville | Major: Linguistics
Hometown: Deer Park, Long Island, New York

ASA Times School Newspaper; Student Government Association; Community Service Club; International Club; Student Ambassador; Learning New Languages

Maurine Ely

Centre College | Major: Environmental Studies/Political Science
Hometown: Jacksonville, Florida

Soccer; Cross Country; National Honor Society; Cum Laude Society; Green Club; Camp Counselor; Down Syndrome Association, Daniel and Sulzbacher Volunteer; Running; Hiking; Paddleboarding; Yoga

Elana Farhat

University of North Florida | Major: Criminal Justice
Hometown: Jacksonville, Florida

National Society of Collegiate Scholars; Student Criminal Justice Association; Golden Key Honor Society; UNF Captain Blanchart Pathways Scholarship Recipient; Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship Recipient; Bright Futures Scholarship Recipient; Dean's List; President's Honor Roll; Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Citizens Academy; Church Volunteer; Political Campaign Volunteer; Volunteer at Ronald McDonald House, All Saints Nursing Home, Hubbard House, Second Harvest Food Bank, Clara White and St. Francis Soup Kitchens; Baking; Bowling

Riya Gharat

University of North Florida | Major: Computer Science
Hometown: Mumbai, India

Multicultural Club; Spanish Honor Society; National Honor Society; Society for Women Advancing Technology and Computing; Community Service

Cristobal Gonzales

University of North Florida | Major: Mechanical Engineering
Hometown: Palm Coast, Florida

American Society of Mechanical Engineers; Wolfson Children's Hospital; Toastmaster's

Victoria Hickman

University of North Florida | Major: Health Administration
Hometown: Brooksville, Florida

Brooks College of Health Living-Learning Community; Volunteer with Spring Hill Regional Health and Rehabilitation Center; Hiking; Camping; Rock Climbing

L to R: Howland, M.; Ikon, O.; Ira, C.; Johnson, D.; Kebede, H.; Keister, B.; Mejia, L.

Madeline Howland

Jacksonville University | Major: Nursing
Hometown: Atlanta, Georgia

Alpha Epsilon Phi Sorority; Order of Omega Leadership Society; Panhellenic Council; Student Nursing Association; JU Honors Program; Student Alumni Association; Baseball Volunteer; Outdoor Activities

Odot Ikon

Southern New Hampshire University | Major: Finance (Masters)
University of North Carolina at Greensboro | B.A. Economics – 2012
Hometown: Daytona Beach, Florida

Teach-the-Teacher; Back to School Drive; Fidelity Cares NC at Fidelity Investments; Jet Skiing; Water Activities

Christine Ira

University of North Florida | Major: Business Administration (Masters)
University of Miami | B.S. Communications – 2011
Hometown: Jacksonville, Florida

Alpha Delta Pi Sorority Alumnae Resource Director and Past-President; Junior League of Jacksonville Communication Council Vice-Chair and Fundraising Council Co-Chair; Stein Mart Associate Engagement Committee; Jacksonville Alumnae Panhellenic Association; Ronald McDonald House Charities Volunteer; Running

Danyelle Johnson

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
Major: Broadcast Journalism
Hometown: Jacksonville, Florida

Marching Band; FAMU TV-20; FAMU Association of Black Journalists; Transfer Student Association E-Board; Big Brothers Big Sisters; Tallahassee Community College Advising Day Volunteer; Relay for Life

Hawi Kebede

Florida State College at Jacksonville | Major: Biology
Hometown: Hawassa, Ethiopia

President's List; Dean's List; FCSSGA Leaders Training Award; Miss Multicultural Pageant; Student Recognition Award Day; World Relief Refugee Service; Tutor; TEDx; Student Life and Leadership; Student Government Association President; Singing; Reading; Blogging; Writing

Benjamin Keister

University of North Florida | Major: Health Administration/ Business Administration (Masters)
University of North Florida | B.H.A. Health Administration – 2011
Hometown: Jacksonville, Florida

Upsilon Phi Delta Treasurer; Health Administration Student Association Treasurer; Graduate Assistant; UNF Rock Climbing Club; Health Administration Leadership Institute; Rotaract; American College of Healthcare Executives; Healthcare Financial Management Association; Yoga Teacher Training: Cycling; Running; Rock Climbing; Bouldering; Hiking; Swimming; Yoga; Frisbee

Luis Mejia

Florida State College at Jacksonville | Major: Biotechnology
Hometown: Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico

TEDxFSCJ Guest Speaker; Phi Theta Kappa Speaker; Student Government Association; Microbiology and Cell Science Volunteer; Activist for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals; Alternative Rock Music; Fashion; Exercising; Running; Weightlifting; Yoga; Aerobics; Pencil Art; Biotechnology Research Crafts; Real Estate; Expanding Vocabulary

L to R: Mendlow, R.; Moholland, M.; Montgomery, D.; Ogbugo, M.; Sakara, L; Sassine, N.; Shefelbine, J.

Robyn Mendlow

Jacksonville University | Major: Speech Language Pathology (Masters)
Florida State University | B.S. Psychology - 2013
Hometown: Centreville, Virginia

Sign Language Club; National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association; Riverside Avondale Preservation and Civitan Volunteer; Traveling; Gardening

Meghan Moholland

University of North Florida | Major: Nutrition and Dietetics
Hometown: Spring Hill, Florida

UNF Swoop Squad Tour Guide; UNF Orientation Leader; Alpha Chi Omega Associate Executive Board; Student Nutrition and Dietetic Association; Honors Program Teaching Assistant; Anti-Bullying Club President; National Honor Society; National German Honor Society; Catholic Charities Tutor; Hospital Volunteer; Medical Office Intern; Musical Theater; Painting

Darrelle Montgomery

Edward Waters College | Major: Business Administration
Hometown: Washington, D.C.

Upward Bound College Prep; Political Campaign Volunteer; Small Business Administration Entrepreneurship Certificate Program; Architectural Firm Intern

Mark Ogbugo

University of North Florida | Major: Mechanical Engineering
Hometown: Delta State, Nigeria

National Society of Black Engineers; Food Pantry; Religious/Moral Outreach; Listen/Analyze Conversation; Personal Development; Music; Service; Technology

Lyubov Sakara

Florida State College at Jacksonville | Major: Biomedical Science
Hometown: Kiev, Ukraine

Language and Culture Club; OneSpark; Hospital and Library Volunteer; Swimming; Classical Music; Visual Arts; Volunteering

Natalie Sassine

University of North Florida | Major: Fine Arts
Hometown: Islamorada, Florida

Ospreys in Action; PeaceJam Southeast; Fossil Fuel Divestment Student Network; Divest UNF; Keys Coalition Against Human Trafficking; National Honor Society; Art

Julia Shefelbine

Florida State University | Major: Marketing
Hometown: Jacksonville, Florida

Recruitment Counselor; Chi Omega Sorority; Student Leadership Council; Spanish Honor Society; Dance Marathon; Relay for Life; Fitness and Health; Volleyball; Hiking

L to R: Sisisky, K.; Stoetzer, A.; Van Cleve, T.; Walker, C.; Waychoff, C.; Wise, K.; Yuen, J.

Kendall Sisisky

University of North Florida | Major: Public Administration (Masters)
Florida State University | B.A. International Affairs - 2011
Hometown: Jacksonville, Florida

American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure; Photography

Alexander Stoetzer

Jacksonville University | Major: Music Education
Hometown: Jacksonville, Florida

Residential Adviser; JU Choir Stage Manager; Presidental Leadership Advisory Council; JU Men's Choir; JU University Singers; Freshman Leadership Retreat; MLK Service Day; Library Guitar Instructor and Artist in Residence; Reading; Music

Tucker Van Cleve

Catawba College | Major: Business
Hometown: Jacksonville, Florida

International Club; PRISM Club; Cross Country; Mission Trip; Daniel Camp; The Walking Tree; Soccer; Running; Jaguars

Courtney Walker

Jacksonville University | Major: Elementary Education
Hometown: Jacksonville, Florida

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; JU Track and Field; Freshman Leadership Seminar; Tutor; Campus Clean-up; Track Volunteer; Homeless Volunteer; Elementary School Volunteer

Collin Waychoff

University of North Florida | Major: Criminal Justice
Hometown: Jacksonville, Florida

Student Government Association; College Republicans; Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity; Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Advisory Council; Political Campaign Volunteer; Community Projects; Fishing; Boating

Kevin Wise

University of Florida | Major: General Business (Masters)
University of North Florida | B.B.A. Business Management - 2012
Hometown: Hiroshima, Japan

Political Office Intern; Clara White Mission; High School Junior Achievement; Daniel Volunteer; TPC Volunteer

Jade Yuen

University of North Florida | Major: School Counseling (Masters)
University of North Florida | B.A. Child Psychology - 2014
Hometown: Orlando, Florida

Assistant Residence Life Coordinator; Ospreys in Action; Study Abroad; Northeast Florida Human Trafficking Coalition Ambassador; Relay for Life; High School Volunteer; Middle School Mentor; Elementary School Intern; Florida Association of Teacher Educators Presenter; Travel; Sports; Exploring; Beach

Youth Leadership Jacksonville Class XXVI

Youth Leadership Jacksonville (YLJ) prepares outstanding high school juniors to become responsible, ethical leaders inspired to take an active role to build and strengthen their communities.

Using an ambitious schedule of two retreats and six focused full-day programs, YLJ educates 54 students from participating accredited high schools in Baker, Clay, Duval and St. Johns counties about Northeast Florida. Participants receive a thorough grounding in the workings of government, criminal justice, human services, diversity, arts and business. Students interact with leaders in each area and are introduced to methods and skills that can be used to address community issues. Our goals are for students to: develop mutual trust and respect with their peers throughout the region, build community awareness, understand contemporary issues and develop effective leadership styles.

School principals submit applicants from their sophomore class and these students are interviewed by teams of Leadership Jacksonville alumni. Applicants demonstrate excellence in a variety of ways including student government, academics, athletics, the arts, youth organizations and community service. YLJ participants are intentionally chosen to create classes that reflect a broad cross section of the community in terms of gender, race, culture, schools, neighborhoods and experiences.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP JACKSONVILLE CALENDAR

Tuesday, April 28, 2015	Orientation
Friday, August 21, - Saturday, August 22, 2015	Opening Retreat Getting the Big Picture *Mandatory for participation in program*
Thursday, September 17, 2015	In Living Color Focus on Appreciating Differences
Thursday, October 15, 2015	Leading for a Lifetime Focus on Government
Thursday, November 12, 2015	Inside the System Focus on Criminal Justice System
Thursday, December 3, 2015	Are We Our Brothers'/Sisters' Keeper? Focus on Human Needs
Thursday, January 28, 2016	Dollars & Sense Focus on Business
Thursday, February 28, 2016	Everyday Creativity Focus on the Arts
Saturday, March 12, 2016	Closing Retreat/Graduation

Youth Leadership Jacksonville XXIV Scholarship Recipients

Youth Leadership Jacksonville (YLJ) alumni have the exclusive opportunity to vie for college scholarships provided by the Meninak Club of Jacksonville and The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. Six $5,000 scholarships are awarded annually to defray the cost of college-level education at accredited institutions.

- **The Meninak Club of Jacksonville** offers five scholarships each year for YLJ high school senior alumni. Through the generosity of its members, the organization has granted 95 scholarships to YLJ alumni totaling $475,000 since 1997. This year's recipients and their intended college choices are:

  - **Brandon Canaday** University of Florida
  - **Camila Rodriguez-Rojas** University of Miami
  - **Gracie Shepherd** Georgetown University
  - **Aleksandra Skrypko** Florida State University
  - **Harold Geddies** Florida State University

- **The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida** administers a scholarship established by Byon Morris, the foundation's first executive director and an enthusiastic supporter of programs that benefit youth in our community. This year's recipient is **Videll Williams III** who is attending Florida State University.

Congratulations to these outstanding students and thank you to the Meninak Club and the Community Foundation for making a difference in the lives of our youngest alumni

L to R: Brandon Canaday, Nease High School; Camila Rodriguez-Rojas, Stanton College Preparatory; Gracie Shepherd, Episcopal School of Jacksonville; Aleksandra Skrypko, Samuel W. Wolfson and Harold Geddies, Darnell Cookman High School.

L to R: Katie Patterson, Program Officer of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, Videll Williams III

Jacob Anderson
Baker County High School

Alyssa Castilio
Oakleaf High School

Kush Desai
Atlantic Coast High School

Nyshia Baker
Ribault High School

Hailey Caswell
Darnell-Cookman School of the Medical Arts

Lillian Dinkins
St. Johns Country Day School

Katherine Berlin
Orange Park High School

Phoebe Clements
Episcopal School of Jacksonville

Sarah Dyall
Clay High School

Rachel Blaydes
Bishop Kenny High School

Griffin Cook
Frank H. Peterson Academies of Technology

William Edwards
Frank H. Peterson Academies of Technology

Juan Bonilla
Terry Parker High School

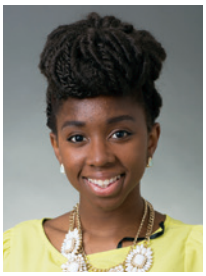
Madeline Daniel
Stanton College Preparatory School

Dylan Emerick
Douglas Anderson School of the Arts

Nora Brown
Bishop John Snyder High School

Mariana Dejuk
St. Joseph Academy

Elijah Fabrigas
Orange Park High School

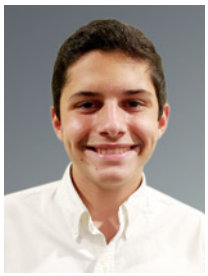


Alexis Gant
Samuel Wolfson High School

Tierra Jennings
First Coast High School

Rajeev Patel
Atlantic Coast High School

Nicholas Hall
Christ's Church Academy



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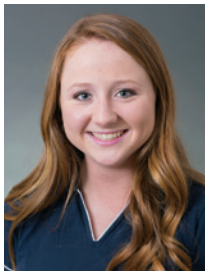

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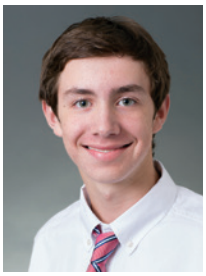

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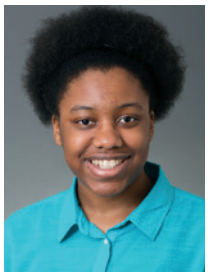

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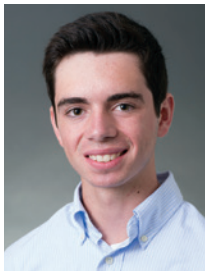

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