

We hope you are enjoying the e-blast of The Lead Story.  
Send us your comments (and your news) for future editions.



# THE LEAD STORY

NEWSLETTER FOR LEADERSHIP JACKSONVILLE

[www.leadershipjax.org](http://www.leadershipjax.org)

December 2013

---

**The Leadership Jacksonville office will be closed on  
Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24-25, 2013  
and on Wednesday, January 1, 2014.**

---

## **A Message from the Executive Director**



There are three valuable ways that LJ alumni support our programs:

1. Financially - dues and contributions are necessary to run our programs and are welcome year-round (if you haven't paid your dues, please do and consider adding a contribution to your check or charge);
2. Volunteer - our alumni are critical to the operation of all of our programs. Over 370 folks helped us in 2012-2013;
3. Nominate good candidates for our classes - **NOW is the time!** Our continued success relies on high caliber candidates for our programs.

LJ nominations are open on our web site [www.leadershipjax.org](http://www.leadershipjax.org). The deadline for nominations is January 10. Don't let the holidays interfere with making a nomination. Once nominated, candidates will receive information about completing an application.

Collegiate Leadership Experience nominations are also open on-line and will remain open until February 21. Don't have college age children? Think about mentioning our life-changing program to friends and co-workers who do.

Thank you to all of our alumni who keep Leadership Jacksonville going strong!

---

## **Nominations**

Click [here](#) to submit your nominations.

Remember, you may nominate more than one qualified candidate. Nominations are just the first step. Nominees will be invited later in the year to complete an application.

Nominations for **LJ Class of 2015** will be accepted until **January 10, 2014**.  
Nominations for **CLE Class of 2014** will be accepted until **February 21, 2014**.

---



**Youth Leadership Jacksonville Class XXV** application information has been forwarded to area high schools. If you need the name of the contact at a school, please email Meg Folds, [meg@leadershipjax.org](mailto:meg@leadershipjax.org).

## #GIVINGTUESDAY™

DID YOU KNOW that #GivingTuesday started in 2012 as a movement to create a **national day of giving** on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving? Last year's #Giving Tuesday was a resounding success. You can play a part this year by joining others in making your contribution to Leadership Jacksonville on **December 3**.

Click [here](#) for Leadership Jacksonville's Payment Center.

### **Debbie Johnson (LJ 2011) brings dining etiquette experience to students at Eugene Butler Middle School**

Debbie was inspired during her LJ Education Day school visit to do something for deserving students who rarely have the opportunity to dine in a nice restaurant. On November 22, she and a group of volunteers that included many LJ alumni transformed the Eugene Butler media center into a "fine dining establishment" and hosted 50 honor roll students for a delicious Thanksgiving lunch, using the opportunity to provide them with essential etiquette skills. Debbie and her volunteers enjoyed setting up, serving, and cleaning up for this wonderful event. Thank you Debbie for making a difference!



**Annual RECONNECT Event**  
**for Collegiate Leadership Experience Alums and**  
**Youth Leadership Jacksonville high school graduate Alums**

**Monday, December 30, 2013**  
**5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at**



Pass the word to the CLE and YLJ alums you know to  
RSVP to Meg Folds at 904-396-6263 x26 or [meg@leadershipjax.org](mailto:meg@leadershipjax.org)

---

**Jacksonville Legacy Series**  
**Receives Emmy Award**

Kent Lindsey (LJ 2003) accepted the 2013 Suncoast Emmy Award for the Lindsey Films, Inc. production of the **Jacksonville Legacy Series video featuring Alton W. Yates** at the 37th Annual Awards program November 23 in Hollywood, Florida.



The Suncoast Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences offers awards annually for excellence in television in markets throughout the state of Florida and select markets in Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, and Puerto Rico. The Jacksonville Legacy Series was recognized in the category of Interview/Discussion.

This series is truly a gift to our community.

---

**Collegiate Leadership Experience**

On November 20, Youth Programs Director Meg Folds and Collegiate Leadership Experience alumni Aaron Badida, Pomy Singh, Katherine Thomas, Kelly Turner and Keith Walters met with a delegation of international visitors that were exploring "American Youth: Inspiring Leadership and Civic Participation." The delegation included leaders from Albania, Angola, Belarus, Chile, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Grenada, Haiti, Morocco, Namibia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Uzbekistan. It was a lively afternoon and the delegation proclaimed that their discussion about our programs was the best of their three weeks in the United States! The visit was arranged by GlobalJax, the local partner for the U.S. Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program.



## Upcoming events:

### LJ 2014 Program Day

Thursday, December 5, 2013  
Health Day

### YLJ XXIV Program Day

Thursday, December 5, 2013 "Everyday Creativity"

### Office Closed

Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24-25, 2013

### Office Closed

Wednesday, January 1, 2014

### CELEBRATION 2014

April 17, 2014, 6:00 p.m., Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront

---

## Class Notes

### 1979

The Jacksonville Branch of the NAACP honored **Corrine Brown** with the President's Award at their 48th Annual Freedom Fund Awards dinner.

### 1987

Congratulations to **Sylvia Perry**, Publisher of the Jacksonville Free Press. The Jacksonville Urban League honored the Jacksonville Free Press with the Clanzel T. Brown Award at its annual Equal Opportunity Luncheon.

### 1991

**Hugh Greene** is the winner of Modern Healthcare's 2013 Community Leadership Award. This award honors top healthcare executives for their work to improve the health and well-being of people and patients in the communities they serve.

### 1992

**Madeline Scales-Taylor** has been named to the board of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.

### 1994

**Amy Rankin** has joined the staff at ruckus.advertising+public relations as director of public relations.

### 2000

Florida Blue has appointed **Darnell Smith** Market President-North Florida Region. In his new role, Darnell is responsible for Florida Blue's business market growth, as well as customer and community involvement across 36 North Florida counties, stretching from Palm Coast through Pensacola. This is the first time that the company has had a market president in North Florida.

### 2006

**Leith Oatman** has been promoted to senior vice president at Gresham, Smith and Partners.

### 2008

Habitat for Humanity Jacksonville (Habijax) has named **Brandon McCray** to its board of directors.

### 2010

**Mal Washington** will receive the Male Merit Award at the USTA Florida Section's year-end tennis honors.





## 2011

**James O. "Joby" Birr III** was recently inducted into the University of North Florida Athletics Hall of Fame. He played baseball at UNF from 1992-1995.

## 2012

The Early Learning Coalition of Duval has named **Sunny Gettinger** to its board of directors.



## 2014

Congratulations to **Lynne Elliott** and her husband Scott upon the birth of their twins Evan and Katherine born on October 29. Lynne didn't miss a program day!

## Honorary

Nancy and **Gary Chartrand** were recognized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Florida First Coast Chapter as the 2013 Outstanding Philanthropists. The Award was presented by the 2012 recipients of the award, **J.F. (Honorary) and Peggy (LJ 1987) Bryan**.

**Delores Barr Weaver** received an Urban Land Institute North Florida Award for Excellence in the Reuse/Repurpose category for her work on The John Gorrie condominiums.

## Various

**Valerie Stanley** (LJ 2014) will be honored by Florida's Children First as the Child Advocate of the Year at the 2013 Jacksonville Children's Advocacy Awards December 4. **Kierra Perkins** (CLE 2013) is the 2013 Youth Honoree.

**Brandon McCray** (LJ 2008) is a new member of the board of directors of Habitat for Humanity Jacksonville (Habijax). **Jane Upton** (LJ 1984) is serving as vice chairwoman and **Hamilton Cooke** (LJ 2000) is secretary of Habijax.

Two LJ Alums who are executive directors of Jacksonville cultural organizations have been selected to participate in The Chief Executive Program of National Arts Strategies. **Maria Hane** (LJ 2001), executive director of the Museum of Science & History, and **Tony Vecchio** (NLS VIII), executive director of the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, are among the 50 cultural leaders selected for the program, which trains leaders to explore new ways to tackle complex and critical challenges.

The JAX Chamber has announced its 2014 board of directors and includes many LJ alums. **William Rupp** (NLS VIII) is chair. **John Delaney** (LJ 86) is chair-elect. Members include **Cynthia Austin** (LJ 1989), **John Bottaro** (LJ 1993), **Giselle Carson** (LJ 2005), **Moody Chisholm** (NLS IX), **Tim Cost** (NLS XI), **Ray Driver** (LJ 2007), **Nathaniel Ford** (LJ 2014), **Fred Franklin** (LJ 1998), **Mike Hightower** (LJ 1989), **Robert Hill** (2007), **Connie Hodges** (LJ 1988), **Charley Hood** (NLS VI), **Scott Keith** (LJ 2003), **Andy King** (LJ 2011), **Kelly Madden** (NLS III), **David Mann** (NLS IX), **Eric Mann** (NLS X), **Maxine McBride** (LJ 2011), **Scott McCaleb** (LJ 1980), **Paul McElroy** (NLS V), **Audrey Moran** (1989), **Linda Scaz** (LJ 2009), **Greg Smith** (NLS V), **Tom Van Berkel** (NLS I), and **Lance Windley** (LJ 2013).



---

## Notes of Sympathy

Our condolences to **Randy Goodwin** (LJ 2001) and his family upon the passing of his father, Robert L. Goodwin.

Our condolences to **Jerry** (LJ 1985) and **Kathy Weedon** (LJ 1990) and their family upon the death of Jerry's mother, Loree Weedon.

---

Leadership Jacksonville proudly supports **JAX2025**.  
Click [here](#) to stay abreast of developments.



---

## Make a LJ Donation

---