



THE LEAD STORY

NEWSLETTER FOR LEADERSHIP JACKSONVILLE

www.leadershipjax.org

December 2014

The Leadership Jacksonville office will be CLOSED
on Thursday and Friday, December 25-26, 2014



Happy Holidays!



Alumni Survey



A huge thank you to all alumni who returned the recent Alumni Survey.

As a follow-up to the survey and next step in the strategic planning process, we are asking for your participation in one of two small listening groups. The groups will meet in the Leadership Jacksonville office at 4040 Woodcock Drive, Suite 155. Please select the date best for you. We'll be in touch in early January to confirm your participation.

Click [here](#) to join the listening group on **Tuesday, January 6, 8:30-9:30 a.m.**
or

Click [here](#) to join the listening group on **Thursday, January 8, 5:00-6:00 p.m.**



NOMINATION DEADLINE **JANUARY 9** for the **Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2016**

Visit the [website](#) for information and selection criteria.

Click [here](#) to submit your **NOMINATION**.

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

Nominations for Collegiate Leadership Experience Class of 2015
continue to be accepted until **February 20, 2015**.

Click the program name to visit the website for information and selection criteria.
Click [here](#) to submit your nomination.

November program days were active ones for both the Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2015 and Youth Leadership Jacksonville XXV. LJ toured area schools as part of Education Day. Our high school students were exposed to the Jacksonville criminal justice system by observing First Appearance Court and touring the Duval County jail.



Tom Hackney, Julie McNeil and Matthew Garman



Steve Rawlins, Steve Gilbert LJ 2014 and Lauren Feiner



Michael Barker and Kathy Miller



Steffani Fletcher, Tammy Daniel and Christina Schwing



Joanne Robertson and Tanya Johnson-Coomes



Maggie Cabral-Maly, LJ 2008 and Javelyn Arvey, LJ 2015



Melissa Ross, LJ 2012 and Kevin Gay, LJ 2015



Ravi Patel, Matthew Moore and Kevin Holzendorf



Chloe Carames, Olivia Printy and Cynthia Hund





Hasley Pitman, Emmett Lynch, Grace Michaels and Jennings Jackson



Jack Gare with program speakers Heather Solanka, LJ 2012 and John Guy, Assistant State Attorney



Shamara Wilburn, Casey Wood, Eleanor Marshall and Jocelyne Vasquez

Upcoming events:

LJ 2015 Program Day
Thursday, December 4, 2014
Health Day

YLJ XXV Program Day
Thursday, December 4, 2014
"Are We Our Brothers'/Sisters' Keeper?"

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Thursday and Friday, December 25-26, 2014

Reconnect for CLE and YLJ Alumni
Tuesday, December 30, 2014
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Mellow Mushroom

Nomination Deadline - LJ Class of 2016
Friday, January 9, 2015

Nomination Deadline - CLE Class of 2015
Friday, February 20, 2015

CELEBRATION 2015
Thursday, April 9, 2015
6:00 p.m., Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront

Class Notes

1979

Louis DiGiusto III is now senior partner and executive trainer at Louws Management Corporation and chief executive officer of Florida Project Center, Inc.

1981

Bill Scheu received The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida's Prize for Civic Engagement. The prize was awarded at The Community Foundation's 50th anniversary celebration and was only the second time it has been given. The prior recipient was Bill's law partner, **Bill Brinton** (LJ 1983), who received the award in 2007. Bill Brinton is quoted, "Bill Scheu embodies all the aspects that this prize was originally created for - he stands

resolutely for 'civic virtue against public indifference or the winds of uninformed public opinion or private interest He has earned his rock solid reputation as a consensus builder and a man of unquestionable integrity, and has patiently guided countless conversations with thoughtful candor to advance the public good."

1989

At the 41st Annual Urban League Equal Opportunity Luncheon **Linnie Finley** was recognized and thanked for her tireless efforts with the Urban League in the areas of marketing and communications.

1993

Congratulations to **Barbara Darby** who was recently awarded the Jacksonville Urban League's Clanzel T. Brown Award.

1996

Constance Hall was awarded the Rutledge H. Pearson Civil Rights Award at the 49th NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner.

1998

Will Ketchum has been appointed to the board of directors for Volunteers in Medicine Jacksonville.

2001

Jane Pomar is currently serving as co-chair for the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospitals' 2014 Art and Antiques Show.

2002

After 33 years with the National Park Service, **Barbara Goodman** will be retiring as superintendent of the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve in early January 2015.

2003

Stephen Ramsey is now general counsel and vice president of Railway Worker Training, Inc.

2004

Declan Reiley has been named vice president for economic development for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

2006

Kenneth Krismanth has recently relocated to Akron, Ohio as chief executive officer of Signet Enterprises LLC.



Jim Penrod, LJ 2013 and Tom Majdanics, LJ 2009

2007

Trish Kapustka acquired the Edible Arrangements store in the Shoppes at Paddock Park in Ocala, FL. This is her third location joining the North Jacksonville and Gainesville stores.

2010

Gary Brose has joined Mindgruve, a full-service digital marketing agency, as managing director for New York, Atlanta and Miami. He is responsible for creating and managing existing and new client relationships along the eastern seaboard.

2013

Crystal Freed was named Florida's Community Advocate of 2014 for her work as a community advocate and organizer fighting slavery and human trafficking.

Stephen Moore has been named to the board of directors at Smith Hulsey & Busey where he is a partner.

2014

Anthony Padgett has joined Georgia Public Broadcasting as chief operating officer. We wish him well in his relocation to Atlanta.

Mike Maguire was appointed to the board of trustees of The Guardian Catholic Schools, Inc.

Rory Diamond has accepted the position of executive director of K9s For Warriors. He suggests that you check them out at www.k9sforwarriors.org.

Congratulations and best wishes to **Alex Sifakis** on his recent engagement to Brittany Bussey.

2015

Lauren Feiner has been named as one of the Top 40, Best and Brightest from the Davis College of Business at Jacksonville University.

New Leadership Summit

Michael Spigel (NLS IV) has been promoted to president and chief operating officer at Brooks Rehabilitation.

Congratulations to **Damien Haituka** (NLS VIII) on his receipt of the Whitney M. Young National Leadership Award from the Jacksonville Urban League.



Tim Cost, NLS XI and
Nat Glover, LJ 1989

Honorary

David Stein received University of North Florida's Presidential Medallion, an honor given to community leaders who have helped guide the university during its 42 years.

Various

Girl Scouts of Gateway Council named **Adrienne Conrad** (LJ 2006) and **Susan Wilkinson** (Honorary) as 2015 Women of Distinction.

Jacksonville's own version of "Dancing with the Stars" to support the Jacksonville Children's Chorus included **Stephanie Cost** (LJ 2015), **Cheryl Riddick** (LJ 1999), **Kerri Stewart** (LJ 2006) and **Jesse Wilson** (CLE 2012).

Episcopal Children's Services recognized **Connie Hodges** (LJ 1988) as its 2014 Children's Champion in the Non-profit category. **Albert Wilkinson** (Honorary) was honored posthumously in the Health Care category. Other honorees were recognized in the November Lead Story.

Congratulations to a number of Leadership Jacksonville alumni who won election or reelection in the November races: U.S. House District 5 **Corrine Brown** (LJ 1979); Florida Chief Financial Officer **Jeff Atwater** (LJ 1988); Florida House District 15 **Jay Fant** (LJ 1996); and First District Court of Appeal retention **Scott Makar** (LJ 1999).

Mayor **Alvin Brown** (NLS I) has announced the following LJ alumni as members of a newly formed task force to guide a Community Wealth Building Initiative that will focus on strategies to create jobs and business opportunities in Northwest Jacksonville: **Darnell Smith** (LJ 2002) chair; **Sandy Bartow** (LJ 2007); **PeDro Cohen** (LJ 2014); **Janet Owens** (LJ 1992), **Melanie Patz** (LJ 2006); **Paul Tutwiler** (LJ 2010) and **Nina Waters** (LJ 1991). Ex Officio members include **Reggie Brown** (LJ 1999); **Nat Ford** (LJ 2014) and **Alesia Scott-Ford** (LJ 1998).

Collegiate Leadership Experience

Keith Taylor (CLE 2014) recently received one of four National Role Model awards given at the Minority Access National Role Models Conference. The award recognizes his successful completion of a major research project and outstanding academic record. Congratulations Keith.

Youth Leadership Jacksonville

Scott DiGiusto (YLJ II) is a lieutenant commander and naval aviator in the US Navy.

Notes of Sympathy

We are sad to announce that we believe **Randy Tucker, Jr.** (LJ 1983) passed away in Tennessee on April 21. If anyone knows this information to be incorrect, please let us know.

Our condolences to **Gordon Bailey** (LJ 2014) and his family upon the death of his father Gordon F. Bailey, Jr. on November 5.

Our condolences to **Bruce Jones** (LJ 2015) and his family upon the death of his father-in-law on November 5.

Our condolences to **Susan Lehr** (LJ 1987) upon the death of her husband Mike on Saturday, November 8.

Our condolences to **Mary Harvey** (LJ 2000) and her family upon the death of her oldest sister, Ellen Bennett Kauger on November 28.

YOU CAN HELP LEADERSHIP JACKSONVILLE

There are many ways you can help Leadership Jacksonville fulfill its mission:

Nominate a Candidate - high quality candidates keep the program fresh, informative and valuable to the community. Click [here](#) to start the process.

Volunteer for a program - volunteers keep our programs running smoothly and provide valuable direction to the participants. Click [here](#) to access the volunteer form.

Donate - Your contributions, in addition to your member dues, help us keep the cost of tuition low so that we can include youth and adults from all walks of life. Click [here](#) to access the website payment center.

Please consider a contribution today.

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.

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