

# e-Cast



Connecting a statewide community of leaders actively engaged in understanding and serving Florida.

Volume II, No. 3, Fall 2016

## DECISION 2016: BEFORE YOU VOTE OCTOBER 26 AT 7PM.



In the most closely watched U.S. Senate race in the country, **Senator Marco Rubio** and **Congressman Patrick Murphy** will participate in **Leadership Florida** and the **Florida Press Association's "Decision 2016: Before You Vote"** debate taking place **October 26** on Broward College's main campus in Davie.

The one-hour debate will be produced by **WPBF 25** and broadcast from 7:00-8:00 p.m. ET, through a "Before You Vote" network of television broadcasters in every one of Florida's 11 media markets. The live debate broadcast will also be simulcast on Florida Public Radio member stations.

Emmy award winner **Todd McDermott**, WPBF anchor, will moderate the debate, and **Neil Brown**, Vice President and Editor, *Tampa Bay Times*, and **Patricia Mazzei**, Political Writer, the *Miami Herald*, will serve beside him as panelists.

The sponsors of the "Decision 2016: Before You Vote" debate series are **Broward College**, **League of Southeastern Credit Unions**, **AARP**, **Claude Pepper Foundation**, **Black Alliance for Educational Opportunities**, **The Children's Movement of Florida**, and **Florida Realtors**. Together, these organizations represent millions of Floridians and thousands of businesses and institutions important to our state.

In addition to WPBF 25, the "Before You Vote" statewide broadcast partners include: **WJXX (CBS) in Jacksonville**; **WFTV (ABC) in Orlando**; **WTVJ (NBC) in Miami/Ft. Lauderdale**; **WFTS (ABC) in Tampa/St. Petersburg**; **WBBH (NBC) in Ft. Myers**; **WCTV (CBS) in Tallahassee**; **WMBB (ABC) in Panama City**; **WEAR (ABC) in Pensacola**; **WCJB (ABC) in Gainesville**; and **SNN-SunCoast News TV in Sarasota**.

**Is your region hosting a watch party? Join in on the fun with fellow members and friends.**

- [Calusa at Anna Maria Oyster Bar \(Landslide\)](#)
- [Northwest at The Edison \(Tallahassee\)](#)
- [Northeast at Susan Towler's house \(Jacksonville\)](#)
- [Southeast at Batch Gastropub \(Brickell\)](#)

Find all of the information and links to RSVP here: [Leadership Florida Regional Events](#)



DEBATE PARTNERS



L to R: Senator Marco Rubio and Congressman Patrick Murphy

## SPOTLIGHT ON WADE LITCHFIELD, XXXIII



*A year-long feature to showcase some of the incredible service work and time our members have put towards their communities and the state as a whole, which was influenced by what they learned and who they met during their class program.*

This month, we are featuring **Wade Litchfield** from Class XXXIII, "Top Gun," and his recent devotion and work related to fighting human trafficking in our home state.

**What first brought your attention to the issue of human trafficking?** My daughter Chloe first brought the issue to my attention. As an undergraduate student at Brigham Young University, she had the opportunity to work on a project in Cambodia that addressed efforts their government was making to curb human trafficking in that country. She quickly learned that the problem was not limited to Southeast Asia, but was an increasingly serious domestic issue here in the States. My wife and I were pretty shocked both at the extent of the problem worldwide, and that it could be so prevalent in this country. At about the same time, I attended the first session for Class XXXIII of Leadership Florida. At lunch, I sat next to **Mike Freed**, currently with the Gunster Law Firm in Jacksonville. In getting to know him, I learned that for some time he and his wife Crystal had been actively engaged in combating human trafficking. That afternoon, one of the presenters spoke to this crisis.

## LILA JABER ESTABLISHES SCHOLARSHIP TO HONOR HER FATHER



### Introducing the Abdel J. Baker Leadership Scholarship fund...

*I never really pictured my father as a "leader" in the way we use the word in our lives, politically or professionally, or in any context of Leadership Florida, for example. That just was not really a word we used in our mostly immigrant Middle Eastern family living in Sanford, Florida. In fact, my father only had a 5th grade education. While his vocabulary and command of the English language was spotty at best, I knew he was absolutely brilliant. I knew he was self-taught, wickedly smart, and had a strong work ethic. That much I surely knew. I knew that when he set his mind to do something... [Please click to read the rest of Lila's letter.](#)*

*...Here is the other thing I know from Yaba. We must GIVE. Remember where you came from and understand where you need to go.*

*In keeping with this, it is my privilege to establish the **Abdel J. Baker Leadership Scholarship**. The purpose is twofold: To honor and celebrate Yaba's legacy and all who came before and after him, calling Florida home not because they had to, but because they wanted to be here and to contribute to the rich and diverse fabric of our great State; and, to help enable leaders in small business to be a part of this incredible organization. My family and I have provided seed money for the scholarship and hope you will consider making a contribution.*

With appreciation,  
Lila A. Jaber (Class XXIII and Past Chair)  
Shareholder, Gunster

To make a contribution to this new scholarship for leaders in small business, [click here and select the scholarship.](#)

## SAYFIE REVIEW

### Florida Leaders Summit

NOV. 17-18 IN ORLANDO

Leadership Florida is proud to be a Thought Leadership Partner for the 4th annual Sayfie Review Florida Leaders Summit!

The program will include keynote speaker MSNBC's **Joe Scarborough** who will discuss "What We Learned from the 2016 Campaign" and CNN's **Jake Tapper** who will discuss "What Happens Next in Washington." The theme for this year's Summit is *Megatrends Disrupting Florida's Future* and will feature top speakers sharing their insights on this issue in a number of areas.

To register for this unique post-election event, please click [HERE](#).  
To book your hotel, please click [HERE](#).

The presentation resonated with me, Mike and several of our classmates. From that point, a few of us began to discuss how we might get engaged in this fight, if only to raise awareness of this unconscionable criminal conduct that is so destructive to its victims.

**What is the most powerful statistic you've learned?** It isn't so much the statistics that caught my attention -- although learning that Florida ranks third in the United States in human trafficking certainly makes the fight all the more important and relevant for our state --, but rather the sober realization that this is happening in our society, even in our own communities.

**What do you and your fellow Class XXXIII members hope to accomplish through An Evening of Hope, which you organized, and is taking place on November 10?**

Our primary goal is to increase public awareness of this crisis, but with an outcome that causes individuals to take stock of their own sphere of influence (e.g., education, law enforcement, executive or legislative functions of government) and then move forward in some capacity to address this growing problem. At the same time, we are raising money for three safe houses in the state: one in Sarasota County (Selah Freedom); one in Palm Beach County (Place of Hope); and one in Dade County (Camillus House). These charitable organizations seek to provide a place of refuge for girls who are attempting to recover from the trauma of being trafficked. Finally, we are especially excited that so many college and university campuses have agreed to receive a live feed of the event through a webcast, making the program available to students and faculty. At last count, we have seventeen separate institutions (some with multiple campuses) participating in the event.



At **5:30pm on November 10th**, Florida Power & Light will host an "Evening of Hope" at the **Lew Hay III Learning Center on FPL's Juno Beach campus**, as we unite influencers and college campuses from across Florida to raise awareness of this crisis. For more information, [click here](#).



The holidays are approaching and so is another opportunity to give back! Leadership Florida can receive a small percentage of your online spending when you shop on AmazonSmile. Click the image above to start shopping!

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. Don't forget to select **Leadership Florida Statewide Community Foundation!**

## CONNECT REPORTS

Check out the latest Connect Florida newsletters!

[Past Reports](#)  
[July 2016](#)  
[August 2016](#)  
[September 2016](#)



## UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE

- **October 26:** U.S. Senate Debate at Broward College
- **October 26:** Regional Debate Watch Parties:
  - ¿ NE Region at Susan Towler's home
  - ¿ NW Region at The Edison
  - ¿ CAL Region at Anna Maria Oyster Bar
  - ¿ SE Region at Batch Gastropub
- **November 1:** LF Board Meeting in Tampa
- **November 3-4:** Education Class II Session in St. Petersburg
- **November 9:** GC Region's Tasting & Crafting Experience at Breakthru Beverage
- **November 16-18:** Class XXXV Session in Pensacola
- **December 8-10:** Connect Florida Class VII Session in St. Petersburg



We'd like to hear from you! Please send photos, story ideas, suggestions, comments, etc. to [communications@leadershipflorida.org](mailto:communications@leadershipflorida.org).



**A big thank you to all of our program sponsors!**

[Class XXXV East Central Sponsors](#)

## CATCHING UP WITH EDUCATION CLASS II



Thirty-nine exceptional leaders involved in Florida's K-12 education field were gathered at the Mission Inn Resort & Spa for Class II of the Leadership in Education program. Homework preceded the session with the class reading *The Smartest Kids in the World* by **Amanda Ripley**. Starting off the agenda for the weekend was **Jessica Kehayes**, executive director of education for the Asia Society, and her captivating presentation on "Global Achievement in Education."

A fun and eye-opening game of "School Budget Hold'em," presented by Education Resource Strategies, brought forth differing viewpoints, priorities, and healthy discussions as they juggled the needs and costs of running an imaginary school district. Following was a 101 on "Human Resource Reform" from **Dr. Betsy Arons** of Urban Schools Human Capital Academy in D.C., before a team-building pizza challenge - you should have seen the dough flying! **Trey Csar** (Education I), **Jesus Jara** (Education I), and **Brian Dassler** (CLF IV and Class XXIII), co-chairs of the programming, are following up this session with an equally packed, challenging and thought provoking session in St. Petersburg next month.



L to R: Angel Gomez, Cathy Beaudoin, Andrea Messina and Marianne Simon; Christina Lambert, Stacy Chambers and Michele White

### Education Class II Mission Inn Sponsors

**BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation**



## CATCHING UP WITH CONNECT CLASS VII



Connect Florida Class VII has begun! This group of state leaders age 40-and-under kicked off their program year in The River City with a welcome from Jacksonville's City Council President, **Lori Boyer**. The agenda then tackled Florida issues and opportunities surrounding veterans, healthcare, and transportation for the city and beyond. Connect VII also learned more about themselves with **Susan Dellinger's** Psycho-Geometrics quiz, and about the challenges of leadership from Executive IX graduate, **Dr. Nathaniel Glover**, President of Edward Waters College and former sheriff of Duval County.

The finale for the weekend included a panel at the YMCA, summarizing "Health Strategies for a Better Jacksonville." Panelists included **Darnell Smith** (Class XXXIII) of Florida Blue, **Dr. Sunil Joshi** of Mission One Million, **Eric Mann** of YMCA of Florida's First Coast, and **Melanie Patz** of Baptist Health. **Ashley Smith Juarez**, a graduate of Education Class I and chair of the Duval County School Board moderated the final session before the class took their group picture and departed from the Omni in Jacksonville. Next up: St. Petersburg!



L to R: Crystal Agnew, Adriana Kostencki, Phillip Hamilton, Beth Bryant, Matt Anderson, and Jonathan Schwartz; Ian Cotner, Chris Benvenuto, Adriana Kostencki, Ryan King, Anna Eskamani



**Connect Class VII Jacksonville Sponsors**

