

SINCE 1991, THE MISSION OF LEADERSHIP PASCO is to identify and recruit current or potential leaders of Pasco County, facilitate the development and interaction of those leaders, and to foster an issues-oriented learning environment for these leaders and the citizens of Pasco County in order to encourage an exchange of ideas and generate enthusiasm for community growth and development.

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### President's Message



The Leadership Pasco year is off to a fantastic start! The Class of 2013 has been very busy the past couple months. Orientation was outstanding with a great turnout from our new class members and alumni. A huge thank you to our Chair, Evie Parks for coordinating Orientation. The class then went on the two day Bus Tour that shuttled them throughout the county. Thank you to our dedicated Program Leaders Harold Sample and Kurt Conover for always making the Bus Tour informative and entertaining. Also part of the bus tour day two was a session on Myers-Briggs personality testing and the team building exercises on the ropes course at the YMCA. In October, the class enjoyed Criminal Justice Day – thanks to our Program Leader Craig Laporte, Sheriff Chris Nocco and the Pasco County Sheriff's Office. As usual, this was a very enlightening and educational program day. I can't thank the program leaders enough for helping to coordinating these program days – each year, they raise the bar and make the programs better than ever!

The election was held for class officers and I'm excited to announce the winners: Class of 2013 President - Nikki Alvarez-Sowles, Vice President - Stefanie Ambrosio Pontlitz, Secretary - Summer Martin, Treasurer – George Tharin. Congratulations! We appreciate your willingness to serve.

As we move towards the end of 2012, I would like to wish all of you a very Happy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year! Looking forward to a fabulous 2013!

Tina Shelton

### Youth Leadership Pasco Class of 2013 – Climbing to New Heights

*Rob Aguis (Class of 2001)*

On October 10th the Youth Leadership Pasco class of 2013 officially commenced at the James Gills YMCA. This year a record high 60 students applied for the class. Barbara DeSimone and Rob Aguis had a tough time selecting 32 students, so they extended the class to 36.

The class of sophomores and juniors from 11 Pasco County Schools and Genesis Prep met for the first time and immediately began to formulate bonds.

The weather was absolutely perfect to set the stage for the Ropes Course, the planned activities and the program year. Thanks to the team at the YMCA, the students climbed out of their comfort zone and reached new personal heights learning about themselves and their classmates.

This year's program activities will include; Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, Health Care, Economic Development, Business, Media, Education, and Career Development.

For more information on Youth Leadership Pasco contact Barbara DeSimone (727) 847-8103 / Rob Aguis (727) 774-2200 or visit the Leadership Pasco website at [www.leadershippasco.com](http://www.leadershippasco.com).



# Criminal Justice Day Goes Off with a “Bang”

*Craig Laporte (Class of 2006)*

The Class of 2013's year started with a “bang” on Criminal Justice Day held at the county jail on October 18th. Sheriff Chris Nocco greeted the class by immediately involving them in a interactive exercise exposing them to the controlled chaos surrounding a major law enforcement emergency. Following that the class engaged in the usual panel discussions, walking jail tour, and interaction with Pasco's law enforcement officer brass. The class was then entertained by a live demonstration by the unified SWAT/TAC team.

During the afternoon session, the class adjourned outside where the events were started with an explanation by SWAT Commander, Chief James Steffens (NPRPD) of the job responsibilities of the SWAT team. Unbeknownst to the class, the group was infiltrated by two members of the SWAT team dressed in civilian clothes. Suddenly the perpetrator grabbed the female imposter, dragging her kicking and screaming toward a car. The perpetrator screamed, “get back or I'll kill her” as he began firing rounds from a pistol into the ground. The class was shocked by this sudden action!

Almost immediately the SWAT Bear, a large armored vehicle flew around the corner from one direction while an unmarked police car emerged from the other, surrounding the perpetrator who had just managed to get his hostage into a waiting car. The SWAT team responded to the crisis by deploying a “flash bang” grenade as it advanced on the scene. Even though the perpetrator fired multiple shots, the SWAT team was able to subdue and apprehend this violent make-believe criminal. Needless to say, the damsel in distress was released safely and the day ended with all going home safely; except for the class which was still trying to wear off the adrenaline from the momentary excitement.

The class then broke up into groups and had a chance to tour many of the Sheriff's specialty units, including the agricultural unit, the Missing & Abducted Children's Unit, SWAT, aviation, and tour the K-9 facility built by the class of 2011. K-9 finished the incredible day with a wonderful demonstration of their capabilities, led by Sergeant Brosnan.

As the effects of the “flash bang” wore off, the class shared their common experiences of the day between themselves and the hosts. Overall, the consensus seemed to be that the day had been jam-packed with valuable experiences and information, and that everyone was leaving the jail with a renewed appreciation for the challenges faced daily by our “thin blue line.”



# VOICES OF LEADERSHIP

## What about the Love?

*Evie Parks (Class of 2000)*

Our experiences and choices, at some point, are re-read to us at occasions like the big 50 birthday, or retirement. On those occasions, we don't talk about how much money we made or how many deals we made. We talk about people who have touched us, influenced us, encouraged us and loved us. Okay, I can feel you cringe at the thought of love in a leadership environment. But, there are all kinds of love...love of challenge; love of ideas; love of people; love of good honest work. It is this kind of love that has carried me through thick and thin.

This year my Leadership Pasco colleagues selected me to receive the prestigious Judith Rochelle Award. The selection criteria includes the ability to motivate and inspire, initiative, creativity, dedication and other humbling qualities. I choose not to speak about my accomplishments here. The most valuable part of receiving this recognition is the fact that my colleagues gave it to me. With love, I speak about OUR accomplishments! Together, not single-handed, we meet the challenges, overcome the obstacles and achieve our goal of presenting a quality Leadership program – year after year! And, yes, I have loved every moment of it!

Successful Leadership is not a formula. It's the loving and living that count, not becoming a famous name. In the end, do you love what you are doing? What will your retirement story be?

### AWARD CRITERIA

**Leadership** – ability to motivate and inspire others to action throughout East, Central and West Pasco County to accomplish our mission; to train and unite leaders.

**Initiative** – fosters an awareness of our community resources and demonstrates an ability to lead by recruiting new candidates, promoting participation in community service to Pasco County. Has a life-long bond and personal commitment to see Pasco County grow and prosper.

**Creativity** – promote a greater understanding of issues through interaction and problem solving with peers and community leaders.

**Dedication** – is recognized by others for being dedicated to Leadership Pasco, Alumni and Youth Leadership Pasco. Accomplishes much within the community by his or her pursuit, courage, enthusiasm, and passion.

**Recognition** – recognized by their peers for their commitment to the success of Leadership Pasco.

A minimum of five years serving Leadership Pasco



### Judith Rochelle Award Recipients

Harold Sample	2001	Jerry Sterner	2007
Kurt Browning	2002	Barbara DeSimone	2008
Chuck Bellerose	2003	Stone & Parker CPA	2009
Jennifer Smith	2004	Jill Corriveau	2010
Kurt Conover	2005	Chuck Hollweg	2011
Michele Baker	2006	Evie Parks	2012

## WE ARE ON FACEBOOK

[www.Facebook.com/LeadershipPasco](http://www.Facebook.com/LeadershipPasco)  
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## *Class of 2013 Photos*

*Photos from Bus Tour Day 2: Visit us on Facebook for more photos and to connect with Class of 2013!*

