



Opening Retreat with Roy Wood, Jr.



Birmingham native, comedian, and Comedy Central Correspondent **Roy Wood, Jr.** entertained and inspired Leadership Birmingham alumni and the new Class of 2020 at Opening Retreat Lunch on September 6. Roy spoke about growing up in Birmingham, his focus on hiring local film industry talent for the pilot of his show, *Jefferson County Probation*, and his love for the patient teachers who guided him as a kid. It was clear that as a now-New Yorker, Roy is a terrific ambassador for Birmingham and Alabama. To see more photos of this event, visit the website under the news tab.



Welcome Class of 2020!

See the 58 individuals of the Class of 2019-2020 on the website under members > current class. The full program calendar is available on the website under the calendar tab.

Leadership Birmingham nominations are accepted year-round. Applications for the 2020-2021 class will open Monday, March 16, 2020.

www.leadershipbirmingham.org

Recap: 2018-2019 Members Programs

Innovations & Libations

Leadership Birmingham members and guests gathered at Innovation Depot in February to learn more about Birmingham's epicenter for technology and startups and meet entrepreneurs who play pivotal roles in diversifying our economy. They enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and heard from Devon Laney ('11), CEO of Innovation Depot, and Kerry Schrader, co-founder of local tech startup, Mixtroz.



End of Year Celebration

Members gathered at the Birmingham Zoo in May for an end of year celebration following the final program day for the Class of 2019. Alumni and class members enjoyed cocktails on the Trails of Africa terrace, an elephant showcase, and heard from Jordyn Hudson, a 2019 Youth Leadership Forum graduate about her experience in our high school program.



On the Move

Khadijah Abdullah ('16) has been named the Executive Director of Teach for America Metro Atlanta.

Christy Alvord ('19) has been named President of the Central Division of Vulcan Materials Company.

DeeDee Barnes Bruns ('99) is the Executive Director of Community Recruitment Partnerships for UAB.

Howard Bayless-Bonventre ('09) is now the Director of Payer Relations & Contracting for Bradford Health Services.

Kimberly Baylor-Bivins ('12) is now the Associate Director of the Birmingham Construction Industry Authority.

Walter Body ('01) retired as Director of Multicultural Marketing and Consumers from Coca-Cola Bottling Co. United.

Kathy Boswell ('13) is the Director of Community Engagement for the Birmingham Education Foundation.

Tony Cooper ('04) retired as Executive Director of Jimmie Hale Mission.

Chris Engel ('09) has been appointed Board Chairman of Goodwyn Mills & Cawood.

Mark Ervin ('17) has been named the new President of BIG Communications.

Andrew Gnann ('19) has been named President of St. Vincent's Birmingham and Chilton.

Ellyn Grady ('02) retired from United Way as Senior Vice President of Resource Development.

Alicia Johnson-Williams ('08) is the Director of the Negro Southern League Museum.

Booker Joseph ('05) is the VP of Sales and Marketing for Medicare Advantage Specialist.

Donna Lawson ('08) is the Vice President of Quality & Patient Safety for Atlantic Health System in New Jersey.

Sharon Childs Long ('99) is the Deputy Clerk for the 10th Judicial Circuit of Alabama.

Fred McCallum ('11) has been named interim CEO of the Birmingham Business Alliance.

Michael Meeks ('14) is retiring as Executive Director of the Alabama School of Fine Arts in August. **Ann Florie ('97)** has been named Interim Executive Director.

Shanta Owens ('11) has been appointed to the Criminal Court place 2 seat for the 10th Judicial Circuit of Alabama.

Jerry Perkins ('09) is now the President of Southern and Gulf Coast Divisions for Vulcan Materials Company.

Ned Rand ('11) has been named CEO of ProAssurance.

Guin Robinson ('15) is the Associate Dean of Economic Development at Jefferson State Community College.

Patricia Todd ('09) has been named the Southern Director of Jobs to Move America.

Congratulations

Harold Apolinsky ('86) received the N.E. Miles Lifetime Achievement Award from the Birmingham Jewish Foundation.

Donald Boomershine ('91) received the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award.

Myla Calhoun ('16), Koko Mackin ('04), Isabel Rubio ('05), Nena Sanders ('07), and Allison O'Neal Skinner ('10) were named 2019 Women of Distinction by the Girl Scouts of North Central Alabama.

John England, Jr. ('15) has been honored with the naming of the new freshman residence hall at the University of Alabama.

Kira Fonteneau ('15) has been elected as the Board President of the American Civil Liberties Union of Alabama.

Key Foster ('16) has joined the Advisory Board of Southern Research.

Maury Gaston ('07) has been elected Chair of the Alabama Iron & Steel Council of Manufacture Alabama.

Thom Gossom ('86) and Jeff Stone ('99) received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Auburn University. **Ashley Robinett ('16)** received the Young Alumni Achievement Award.

Mark Jackson ('12) has received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Piedmont International University.

Mike Kemp ('12) has been named to the IBERIABANK Corporation Board of Directors.

Nick Sellers ('09) received the Alabama Restaurant and Hospitality Association's annual Stars of the Industry award for tourism related to economic development.

Larry Thornton ('90) wrote *Why Not Win*, reflections on his journey from the segregated South to America's board rooms. The book is available on Amazon and in most bookstores.

Susan Waldrop ('00) is serving a two year term as chair of the Alabama Board of Directors for the American Cancer Society.

Mike Wilson ('08) was named the National Distinguished Principal of the Year for the state of Alabama by the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

In Remembrance

We mourn the loss of these graduates:

James E. Jacobson ('84)
Dannetta K. Thornton Owens ('85)
Anthony Topazi ('97)
LaVona Rushton ('93)

Class of 2019 Study Group Projects

The Class of 2019 graduated on June 8th. The full 2019 class list and the newly announced Class of 2020 are available in the online directory at leadershipbirmingham.org.



THE UNICORNS: Michael Eady, Jonathan Coe, Gigi Douban, Brad Caskey, Anne Rygiel, Hunter Williams, Jessica Kirk Drennan, Mechelle Wilder, Reed Dimmitt



PARROTFISH: Andrew Gnann, DePriest Waddy, Christy Alvord, Elizabeth Dunn, Ken Riley, Eileen Markstein, Martha Emmett, Josh Carpenter



GLOBETROTTERS: Jack Sharman, Bob Shufflebarger, Gloria Howard, Anna Slive Harwood, Chris Brown, Katherine Bland, Allan Rice, John Henry. Not Pictured: Wendi Boyen



ALL ABOARD: Sharon Hamilton Broach, Patrick Carlton, Allison Dearing, Miller Girvin, Chris Pfefferkorn, Rachel Fry, Leigh Spencer, Ed Hauser



GROUP 1: Brantley Fry, Scott Burnett, Khalilah Brown, Laura McDonald, Jeff Grantham, Kathryn Strickland, Allison Nanni, Deon Gordon, Gerry D'Alessandro



OCTOPI B'HAM: Mark Taylor, Ivan Holloway, Gus Heard-Hughes, Anne-Laura Cook, Cheri Gardner, Melinda Sellers, Jay Pigford, John Burdett

Class of 2019 Study Group Projects

The Unicorns

The Unicorns proposed a monthly podcast to highlight the work of movers and shakers around Birmingham. The podcast will be an interview format, and guests are Leadership Birmingham alumni or class members. Birmingham-ians have a wealth of ideas, diverse viewpoints, and paths to a shared vision. Through personal stories, this podcast will highlight some of those ideas. Listeners will be inspired by people's successes and come away with knowing more about our region and the tenacious and dynamic people in it.

Parrotfish

Parrotfish learned that students who experience educational trips report better grades and higher graduation rates, but the cost of these experiences is out of range for many students. Virtual reality technology can bring a myriad of educational experiences to students at a current cost of roughly \$13,000 per classroom. The Parrotfish are working to secure corporate partnerships and grants to start with two virtual classrooms in Birmingham City middle schools to give over 7,500 students educational experiences in year one.

Octopi Birmingham

Octopi Birmingham was inspired by a friend's struggles to care for a growing son with cerebral palsy. Since most public changing tables have 50-pound weight limits, caregivers of older children and adults often resort to changing them on bathroom floors. Many airports and public spaces, including Hoover's Veterans Park, have installed adult changing rooms equipped with lift tables and slings. The team worked through specs, plans, and projected costs to encourage construction of an adult changing room at the Birmingham Airport. They hope to present their final plan to the Birmingham Airport Authority Board soon with a goal of having construction completed prior to the 2021 World Games.

Globetrotters

First responders are regularly exposed to stressful situations. The Globetrotters explored the idea of using technology to give first responders a new way to quickly receive support when they are feeling overwhelmed by on-the-job experiences. They are in the works to develop the Shoulder Project, a mobile app that will provide anonymous peer-to-peer help and mental health resources to firefighters, police officers, paramedics, and 911 operators.

All Aboard

All Aboard Birmingham focused on "revealing the truth, without discouraging." Their project was inspired by radio personality Will Lochamy's "What's Wrong? What's Right in Birmingham?" series. Via social media, the group presented local challenges including food deserts, women in poverty, pollution, and overcrowded prisons and juxtaposed these with positive examples: Birmingham's national recognition for a level 1 trauma center and stellar food scene, high biodiversity, and one of the top places to raise a family. The group also highlighted local organizations providing solutions to some of our challenging issues.

Group 1

Group One recognized that the generation of waste at local corporate and civic events is a common problem and produced a simple and impactful way to enable event planners and attendees to reduce waste. They created a "How-to Green Guide" to connect event planners and others to resources for implementing more sustainable practices. With a captive audience of decision-makers in the room during the final retreat, the study group also inspired their peers to consider thoughtful changes to the planning of their own events.

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Log is a publication of the Members Association, the alumni organization of Leadership Birmingham. The Members Association plans programs and activities to inform and educate members about current issues and challenges facing our community. Annual dues from our Members support the newsletters, annual print and online directories, and website.

Please share highlights of your business, civic, and personal life to include in future Log issues. We welcome and appreciate your ideas and suggestions for future programming.

SAVE THE DATE:
CENSUS 2020
with Leadership Alabama
Tuesday, October 15th
5:30-7:30pm
Vulcan Park & Museum

