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Photo by Sanjay Singh

PROGRAM DAYS HAVE GONE VIRTUAL, AND YOU'RE INVITED.

Join other alumni for lively, engaging discussions on critical issues and challenges. Hear from experts and innovators in health, human services, justice, economic development, and more. These events are free and open to all Leadership Birmingham alumni.

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Leadership Birmingham's alumni organization, which plans activities to connect and inform members around the community's issues and challenges.
WE WELCOME YOUR IDEAS FOR PROGRAMS AND NEWSLETTER STORIES.

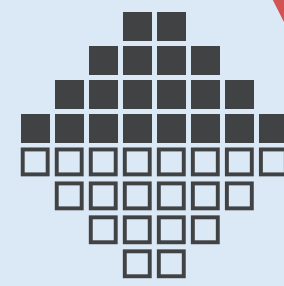
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LEADERSHIP BIRMINGHAM

Fall 2020

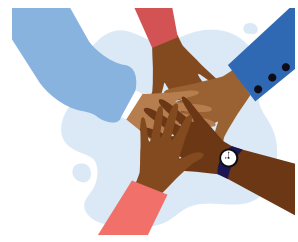
WORDS WITH FRIENDS

*When COVID
interrupted,
their conversation
didn't end*



Words with Friends

Alumni continue a conversation about Birmingham's challenges and opportunities



A judge, a priest, a provost, a president, and a management consultant walk into a room. It sounds like the beginning of a funny story. But in reality, that moment sparked a yearlong conversation among five Leadership Birmingham members—an exchange that continues to explore tough topics and build strong friendships. Even the COVID-19 pandemic couldn't stop it.



Some of you had crossed paths prior to Leadership Birmingham. What brought you together during the program and inspired your conversation?

A: **Hampton:** It was evident that we felt the same way about a number of topics we discussed in Leadership Birmingham. **Grant:** Probably more significant, though, are the cultural bonds we share as Black men. **Streety:** Our many differences also brought us together. Our camaraderie is a genuine effort to know one another better. **Elder:** I saw men who were sincere about matters that impact our community and not hesitant about sharing their thoughts. They balance that with a great sense of humor. We laugh a lot and don't take ourselves too seriously. **Grant:** On program days, we typically found a moment for a group huddle. We also kept a text chat dialogue going. Then three of us—Dr. Elder, Judge Streety, and I—met for dinner. **Watkins:** I missed it due to crazy overbooking.

I know I will never live it down. **Streety:** We met after work at a downtown restaurant. It was casual. I can't say the meeting had a serious tone, but serious topics came up. **Hampton:** I missed the initial meeting due to working in St. Louis. I recall getting an email the next day letting me know that they had a good time. I was jealous that I couldn't be there and was determined not to miss future connections. **Streety:** COVID-19 halted any intent to continue in-person gatherings. Now we send an occasional shout-out via email to see how things are going. **Hampton:** We connect via email and chat. I'm hoping that we can set up lunch or dinner for the group soon.

What do you discuss? Do you talk about Birmingham's challenges?
Grant: Our discussions tend to be free flowing, but

Leadership Birmingham topics typically spark follow-up conversation. One subject is the fact that as Black men and community leaders, we have some common values, but certain "leanings" are diverse—meaning that some of us are conservative on certain social topics, while others are more liberal. For instance, some of us have more faith in the criminal justice system than others. **Streety:** We have discussed race as it relates to how Black men often are viewed as cast from a single mold when, in reality, we are different in personality and experiences. **Elder:** We have discussed work, community, and politics, as well as the plight of Black men and the challenges we still face regardless of what we have achieved. We have talked about why Birmingham has not yet reached its fullest potential and why some Blacks feel disconnected.

WHO'S TALKING:



Keith Elder ('20)
 PROVOST AND
 EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
 Mississippi College



Daryl Grant ('20)
 MANAGING DIRECTOR
 KPMG Advisory Services



Joe Hampton ('20)
 PRESIDENT
 Spire



Michael Streety ('20)
 JUDGE
 10th Judicial Circuit of Alabama



Tommie Watkins Jr. ('20)
 RECTOR/PASTOR
 St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

We also have discussed what we could do to improve our communities. **Grant:** I recall worrying that the passion among our Leadership Birmingham classmates would quickly wane and fail to lead to action. We also wanted to hear more dissenting views from classmates. In terms of Birmingham, our inability to control our own destiny due to lack of home rule is an overarching and pervasive challenge. The fractured nature of the metro area, with its numerous distinct municipalities, is another impediment to driving substantive change for the region, and the gap between the haves and have-nots continuously widens. **Streety:** There is a reluctance to accept the city of Birmingham as the nucleus of what could be a thriving center of growth that ultimately would benefit the entire region. **Hampton:** There seems to be a negative perception of the city and state that goes back to the Jim Crow South and the civil rights movement. **Watkins:** We discussed how poverty, race, and gender seem to conspire to categorize Black men via uniforms: athletic, prison, or military. Seeing Black men in our disciplines and professions is unusual but necessary if the South is going to get unstuck.

How has Leadership Birmingham impacted your life and career?
Grant: Leadership Birmingham opened my eyes to many historical and pervasive challenges and provided clarity on some root causes. I walked away believing that someone like me, in partnership with a group like this, could step into the arena in a significant way to make a broader impact on this community. **Streety:** Meeting many people from different cultures, backgrounds, ideologies, and professions has been invaluable. Leadership Birmingham has refined the way I consider others because it has dissolved, confirmed, and perhaps called into question thoughts or a truth teller. Keith is an analytical, deep thinker. **Streety:** Joe is charismatic, witty, and smart. Keith is the consummate professional, wise, and deliberate. Daryl is prudent, intellectual, and subtle. Rev. Tommie is scholarly, comedic, and thoughtful. **Elder:** Daryl seeks to understand all points of view and build community. Michael gets to the core of matters with understanding. Joe is all things good about Southern living. Tommie is hilarious and deliberate. **Watkins:** Joe is practical and funny. Keith is the stoic professional thinker. Daryl is passionate and insightful. **Hampton:** These are some of the sharpest guys in the city. Tommie has the one-liners that make us all think.

How would you describe one another?
Grant: Judge Streety is conservative and patient. Joe is focused and driven. Tommie is expressive and

misconceptions that I had about others and their ideals. **Watkins:** Leadership Birmingham has proved to be an awesome instrument to align myself with civic and political influencers who share a similar passion to create change through hard and sustainable work. Birmingham is fixable, or winnable, in that this city can change if folks will commit to do so. **Hampton:** I learned so much about the place where I grew up. I had no idea about the history or work that goes on to make our city a better place. It was great to meet many individuals from different backgrounds who have a passion to make the region better for the generations that come after us.

All of you are leaders in different disciplines. What can we learn from your example about reaching out to one another and striking up conversations about challenging issues—even beyond Leadership Birmingham?
Hampton: If you care about where you live and about the well-being of others, then you can't help but be fired up to make a change in yourself and in your community. Be open and honest with your peers, but also be empathetic and open to listening to others. **Elder:** We can accomplish much more together and have fun while doing it. **Grant:** I have a network of people who, while having differing backgrounds, experiences, and opinions, share some values that

bind us together. More important, it's a network that I can tap into anytime for support and to make things happen. **Watkins:** Dialogue versus debate is the way forward to share congruency and passion on many issues, and thus work together for change. Leadership Birmingham facilitates so much of this kind of discussion that it proves priceless, especially given the overwhelmingly divisive nature of today's sociopolitical culture. **Streety:** We in the group seek to explore and understand our differences. Though we have things in common, understanding differences is beneficial to our friendship. For me, Leadership Birmingham was all about listening to others in a genuinely empathetic, nonjudgmental way. This experience solidified the truth that bridges are built via mutual respect and appreciation for those who don't necessarily think the way I do. For any community to move forward, there must be an effort to build upon commonalities. Hopefully others can look at our friendship and extend a hand inviting camaraderie. You never know where it could lead.

READY TO REACH OUT TO FELLOW LEADERSHIP BIRMINGHAM ALUMNI? Find out where they are and what they're doing at leadershipbirmingham.org. And send in updates about your own business, civic, and personal milestones.

Finding Her Voice

Andrea Smith reflects on the gift of perspective

“Leadership Birmingham makes our community stronger.”

Andrea Smith ('12) recalls that her Leadership Birmingham group project was “all about preserving perspectives.” She and fellow members created a presentation in which they narrated stories from Birmingham’s civil rights movement. But many of the voices they featured weren’t the familiar ones from history books.

Instead, the group highlighted ordinary people living and working in the city’s neighborhoods—people such as bus drivers, teachers, nurses, or bank employees. “What did they encounter when they were traveling to their job every day, or when they were looking for a place to live?” asks Smith, BBVA’s chief executive officer for the Birmingham market. “We wanted to understand the real impact of racism and the fight for civil rights. Without multiple perspectives, we are limited in our understanding.”

Valuing different perspectives is a key lesson Smith learned through Leadership Birmingham. She says she applies it to her work every day as the head of BBVA’s local commercial banking and global wealth management teams. It’s also a lesson she proudly shares with the community’s rising stars as a Leadership Birmingham donor.

Leadership Birmingham “has provided us with a dialogue and a platform to raise issues and access the breadth of the city in one place,” Smith says. But maintaining the level of quality that makes the program so rewarding requires resources, she notes. “As alumni, we have had a tremendous opportunity, and now we have the responsibility to make that same opportunity available for others. Think about your own experience. What is it worth to you?”

BBVA also is a donor—and has been since Leadership Birmingham’s inception in 1983. The company’s gifts are investments in a thriving, growing, connected community, Smith says. But BBVA benefits as well. For the company’s executives, Leadership Birmingham provides training that is both expansive and holistic, Smith notes. “There’s nothing quite like being in a class for 10 months with another 49 leaders, discussing difficult issues and being exposed to things outside their perspective,” she explains. “It gives them the opportunity to learn, to develop, and to find their voice. In my mind, there’s not a comparable method to do that.”

Smith says she enjoys going to work every day “with really good people in a really good city”—and emphasizes that gifts to Leadership Birmingham can fuel that positive momentum by shining a light on different viewpoints and shared challenges. “Leadership Birmingham makes our community stronger,” she says. “And I believe it will make it stronger for years to come.”



Andrea Smith ('12)
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
BIRMINGHAM MARKET
BBVA



Photo by Sanjay Singh

INVEST IN COLLABORATION AND COMMUNITY. Pay your annual membership dues—and make additional gifts—to support Leadership Birmingham and Youth Leadership Forum at leadershipbirmingham.org/support.

Photo to left: Courtesy of Andrea Smith

Lend a Hand to Leadership Birmingham

IT'S NO SURPRISE THAT THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS HIT NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS HARD. While Leadership Birmingham's decision to postpone the next class until 2021 has helped protect the health of members and the broader community, it also has meant the loss of tuition income that makes up 23 percent of the annual budget. Right now your support is crucial.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Pay your \$75 annual dues. These funds support the activities of the Members Association, Leadership Birmingham’s alumni group.
 - Make an additional donation along with your dues. Donations support the Leadership Birmingham flagship program and Youth Leadership Forum.
 - Give to the Ann D. Florie Scholarship Fund. Established by the class of 2018 to honor Ann Florie, Leadership Birmingham’s executive director from 2004 to 2018, the fund reduces financial barriers by providing partial tuition scholarships, based on need, for class members.
- PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES AND MAKE ANY ADDITIONAL GIFTS online at leadershipbirmingham.org/support. If your company would like to make a gift, email libbav@leadershipbirmingham.org. Thank you for supporting Leadership Birmingham.**



Firsthand experiences for the class of 2020 (above) included a visit with Rabbi Adam Wright (left) at Temple Emanu-El as part of One Community Day.

“I Can Wholeheartedly Say That Day Changed My Life.”

ELISE STOCKMAN ILLUMINATES THE IMPACT OF YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM ON HER CAREER AND CLASSROOM

Then: Sophomore, Leeds High School; Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) class of 2013

Now: Third-grade teacher, Leeds Elementary School

“I prepared for my YLF interview for weeks. My school counselor told me how great the program was and that it was selective. I was overjoyed and honored when I was asked to join.

“My most memorable YLF experience was Human Services Day. I can wholeheartedly say that day changed my life. I visited the Exceptional Foundation—a wonderful organization that provides social and recreational services for adults and children with special needs. I had known I wanted to be a teacher, but I realized I had a deep-rooted passion for working with people with special needs. (I later did student teaching in a special-education classroom and volunteered with Special Olympics.) We also did a privilege exercise that opened my eyes to the struggles of others. I just got chill bumps realizing how much that day shaped me into who I am today.

“Leadership is not just about what you know. It is about learning from others as well. YLF was a key part of my growth and development in my education and career. I was able to meet so many amazing people in our community that I never would have known otherwise. I learned the importance of listening, exchanging ideas, and fostering relationships. And I learned that my way of thinking is not the only way. I take these ideas everywhere I go.

“Everyone I met had someone else who encouraged or empowered them to get to where they were. We should strive to meet and listen to all of the diverse people around us. Because of YLF, I became more active in my community. If I want to see change, then I need to create the change.

“My favorite aspect of teaching is watching my students grow. I love teaching writing, and a third-grader’s imagination is something wonderful. I take special notice of students who may be labeled ‘strugglers’ and focus on their progress. I also have a few students with special needs whom I shower with love and encouragement. We always say, ‘It’s not that I can’t. It’s just that I can’t yet.’ I love to see the joy on their faces when they realize they have met a goal they didn’t think was possible.

“A socially distanced classroom has an entirely different atmosphere than a typical classroom. The biggest challenge for me has been the social aspect. There have been a lot less hugs! Last year my students collaborated in groups most of the day. This year, they are spaced out to respect everyone’s safety. My students have adjusted well. We have found new and interesting ways to interact and show kindness and love. For example, we use pool noodles to play tag at recess.”



Elise Stockman (top, at center) and YLF classmates visit Railroad Park on a program day. Stockman today (above).

Photo: Courtesy of Elise Stockman



A Pivot and a Preview

WHAT DOES 2020-2021 HOLD FOR LEADERSHIP BIRMINGHAM?

Leadership Birmingham isn’t immune to the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic. Like every other organization, we have had to redirect our path forward to help protect health and safety. In August, a group of board members and alumni unanimously made the tough decision to postpone the launch of the next class until September 2021.

We view this “gap year” as a unique opportunity for Leadership Birmingham to explore innovative, impactful programming that will support you and the broader community through this challenging time. Here are a few things to look forward to throughout the rest of 2020 and into 2021:

- **Alumni participation in discussions of critical issues:** In a sense, all of our alumni are this year’s class. We invite you to join us as we examine topics inspired by our monthly program days. For example, in October we hosted a Zoom discussion about election-related topics with former state representative Paul DeMarco (’07) and political strategist John Saxon (’94). Our November virtual session featured Trisha Crain, the Alabama Media Group’s education reporter, and Molly Killingsworth, director of federal programs for the Alabama State Department of Education, sharing insights on teaching and learning today.

- **More racial equity education:** Your response to our “Moving Forward” virtual conversations about systemic racism was overwhelmingly positive, but many of you suggested that they last longer, feature more voices, and include practical takeaways. We are working to schedule more opportunities to learn about racial equity and leadership strategies that can help achieve it.
- **New ways to interact with classmates:** Members Council representatives are brainstorming ideas for engaging, Zoom-friendly activities—such as class reunions featuring vintage photos and virtual toasts—to help you connect with fellow alumni.

We want to hear your ideas and thoughts as well. What programs should Leadership Birmingham provide this year? What topics or issues should we highlight? What skills and strategies would you like to learn? Tell us at leadershipbirmingham.org/2020-2021-suggestions. We look forward to seeing you soon—virtually, of course.

Libba Vaughan

Libba Vaughan
Executive Director

■ ANY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PREPARING FOR COLLEGE CAN REGISTER FOR YLF’S SKILLS WORKSHOPS AND OTHER ONLINE ACTIVITIES. See what’s coming soon at ylfbham.org/virtual-events. Support YLF by adding a donation to your annual dues.

COVID's Critical Decisions

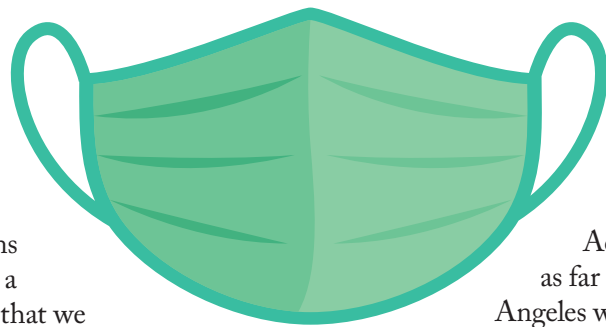
The unprecedented challenges of a pandemic have led to tough choices for many alumni. Mark Wilson ('13), Jefferson County's health officer, and Bobbie Knight ('06), Miles College president, walk us through their most consequential decisions.

Mark Wilson: My public health order on March 16 limited gatherings to less than 25 people and closed certain venues. I also asked the state health officer to extend the order to surrounding counties. The negative impact weighed heavily on me because I put thousands of people out of work. It was heart wrenching. At the same time, it felt like our house was on fire, and I had to act quickly.

I had watched COVID-19 cases pop up across the United States, and as they got closer to Alabama, I thought we probably had cases that were undetected because of limited testing. I also had read horror stories about overwhelmed hospitals and rationing of ventilators in places like Italy. I started drafting orders and calling colleagues for advice. On March 16, I scheduled a call with all Jefferson County mayors and commissioners. I asked Drs. Michael Saag and Jeanne Marrazzo from UAB's Division of Infectious Diseases and Dr. Paul Erwin, dean of the UAB School of Public Health, to paint a picture of what we were facing. I then shared my plans to issue orders that evening and received questions and feedback. There seemed to be a general understanding and assent that we needed them without delay.

Because of relationships developed through Leadership Birmingham, I had people I could call for information, advice, or assistance. Several members sent me words of encouragement. The program gave me a broader, deeper knowledge of many sectors of our community, which was invaluable as I considered the pandemic's effect on different groups of people and the quick mobilization of a response on multiple fronts.

Our actions probably flattened the curve after early April, when our local hospitals saw a tsunami of new COVID-19 admissions. At that time, those hospitals had only a few days' supply of personal protective equipment and limited knowledge about the best way to manage critically ill COVID-19 patients. When we faced a bigger surge during the summer, our hospitals were much better equipped and able to manage more patients and get better outcomes. I also believe our local actions had some statewide influence.



Bobbie Knight: On March 5, the Board of Trustees elected me as permanent president of Miles College. Within days we were pulling our athletes off the road and gathering the cabinet and critical staff to begin shutting down the campus. With the support of our board, we began to navigate uncharted waters.

We got students home safely and trained faculty within days to deliver courses totally online. The next challenge was ensuring that students remained engaged and that we continued our robust recruiting and enrollment efforts.

After normal operations were disrupted, students reached out to seek assistance for themselves and sometimes their families. We received calls daily from students who had no place to go or no stable housing in their home cities. Their top concerns were access to technology, access to emergency financial support, preregistration for classes, and housing.

Miles College assisted each student who requested emergency support of any kind from the start of the displacement in March through the end of the semester in May.

Administrators even assisted students as far away as Detroit, Chicago, and Los Angeles who faced housing or food insecurity. Many students still required support this

fall. In addition to distribution of funding from the United States Department of Education's CARES Act to students, we assigned staff to help students handle needs that might impact their matriculation.

CARES Act funding, along with our aggressive enrollment, grant-writing and fund-raising efforts, has helped us emerge in a position of strength. Assisted by alumni, numerous local and regional corporations and foundations, local fraternities and sororities, Trellis, and Project Success, we provided emergency assistance to every student who needed it, particularly those who lost parents to COVID-19.

Our goal is to build on that strength as a more student-centered, innovative, forward-thinking, and fiscally responsible institution. I am delighted that we reopened our campus early for the fall in the midst of a worldwide pandemic and social unrest. We remain committed to our students and to the mission of Miles College.

■ WHAT ARE THE CRUCIAL DECISIONS YOU'VE MADE DURING THE PANDEMIC? Share them with us at libbav@leadershipbirmingham.org.

Paging Through the Past

What were hot topics of discussion 27 years ago? Where did members visit, and whom did they meet? Let's look back at a few memorable moments from the 1993-1994 directory:

OCTOBER 14: EDUCATION DAY

A session dedicated to education reform featured five school system superintendents; members of the city, county, and state boards of education; the president of the Alabama Education Association; principals; teachers; and a high school student. During dinner, Samueta Nesbitt ('92), director of communication for the Birmingham Board of Education, presented the Principal of the Year award.



Left to right: Robert Holmes, Jr., Sharon C. Bell, Ed.D., Jeanne Jackson, William A. Sibby, Ph.D., Byron B. Nelson, Ed.D., Lorraine Washington

LEADERSHIP BIRMINGHAM 93/94

FEBRUARY 10: ONE COMMUNITY DAY

At sites such as the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church and Temple Emanu-El, members explored multiple aspects of the city's diversity—from religious and social barriers to the role of business in fostering change, along with initiatives to promote understanding. Marjorie White, director of the Birmingham Historical Society, revealed the origins of residential patterns that have led to lingering divisions across the region.

MAY 12: QUALITY OF LIFE DAY

Members examined amenities—the arts, cultural centers, festivals, and more—that make Birmingham a livable city. After touring the Birmingham Public Library and its archives, the class visited North Titusville to hear about revitalization efforts, learned about funding for arts and recreation, and enjoyed a conversation with local radio icons Shelley Stewart ('93), Tommy Charles, and Tim Lennox.

"Birmingham is the profile of individuals who live here. Our day was full of those who choose to make a difference."

—CLASS OF '94 MEMBER

1993			1994		
Mercedes-Benz announces plans to build its first North American automobile assembly plant in Vance.	The Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame opens in the historic Carver Theatre.	J. Claude Bennett is appointed president of the University of Alabama at Birmingham.	An "Ecoplex," a replacement for the Birmingham Zoo, is proposed for land off I-459.	Auburn University's football team goes undefeated.	Deadly tornadoes rip through the state on Palm Sunday.
				The movie Cobb is filmed at Rickwood Field.	The Rolling Stones perform at Legion Field.
					Shades Valley High School breaks ground on a new campus in Irondale.
					The city of Hoover annexes 2,400 acres of land.

■ SHARE YOUR OWN PHOTOS, MEMORIES, AND MORE FROM YOUR CLASS YEAR with us at susans@leadershipbirmingham.org. You might see them in a future newsletter.



Penfield (bottom row, center) helped Leadership Birmingham blossom. Here she is pictured with (clockwise from top left) members at the '98 closing retreat; her '90 small group; executive director Libba Vaughan and former director Ann Florie; Charlena Bray ('84) at Leadership Birmingham's 20th anniversary celebration; and Renee Blalock ('00) at the 35th anniversary.

Wisdom and Laughter

REMEMBERING ELISE PENFIELD

When Leadership Birmingham's second executive director passed away in July, alumni recalled her passionate energy, high expectations, and ability to command a room and connect people. They also celebrated her warm smile, kindness and openness, and her quick wit. "She listened to all sides and was a leader to be listened to," says Rodney Max ('90). "She could make you laugh and immediately make you reflect on her words of wisdom."

Penfield had a "fierce determination for what was right," notes Jeffrey Bayer ('02). As executive director from 1994 until 2004, Penfield challenged hundreds of leaders to use their talents to make Birmingham a better place. But she also took direct action to nurture the community's hearts, minds, and neighborhoods. Formerly a schoolteacher, children's theater director, and producer for instructional television programs, Penfield came to Leadership Birmingham after serving as the founding executive director of Partnership Assistance to the Homeless and the director of Birmingham's Meals on Wheels. A beloved member of the Birmingham-Southern College community, she taught

there and at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. And she treasured her work as a docent at the Birmingham Museum of Art.

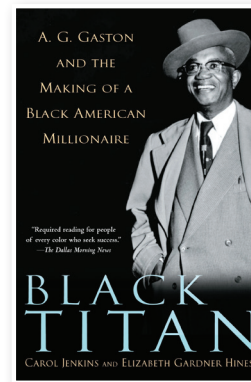
Penfield also made a national impact, serving on the board of directors of the National Council of Churches and as vice president of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns of the United Methodist Church. She received the Brotherhood and Sisterhood Award from the National Conference for Community and Justice as well as Birmingham-Southern's Distinguished Alumni Award.

Penfield "introduced many leaders to the challenges of the people and systems in Alabama and showed them how to make a meaningful impact," says Samuetta Nesbitt ('92). "Elise would say, as only she could, 'Here it is, and what are you going to do about it?'"

■ **READ MORE ALUMNI REMEMBRANCES AND SHARE YOUR OWN** at leadershipbirmingham.org/news/elise-penfield-tribute.

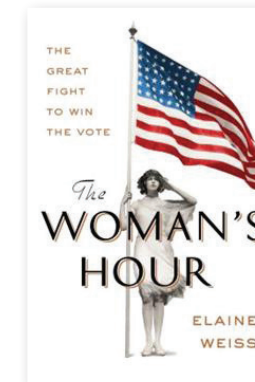
From A.G. Gaston to Willie Nelson

Discover the books, shows, and podcasts that are informing and inspiring alumni



Fred Elliott ('18)
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
Renasant Bank

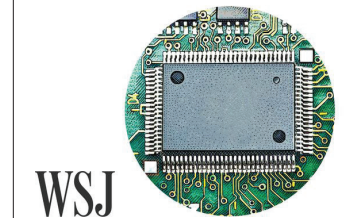
- **Black Titan: A.G. Gaston and the Making of a Black American Millionaire**, by Carol Jenkins and Elizabeth Gardner Hines
- **White Lies**, an NPR podcast investigating the unsolved 1965 murder of civil rights activist Rev. James Reeb in Selma, Alabama



Jera Stribling ('00)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Joseph S. Bruno Charitable Foundation

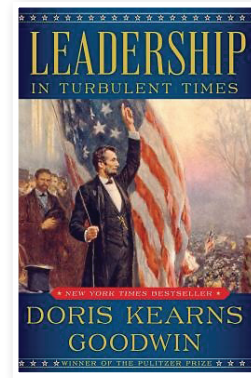
- **The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote**, by Elaine Weiss: "I didn't know the final vote to ratify the 19th Amendment happened in Tennessee."
- **Isabella: The Warrior Queen**, Kirstin Downey's biography of the Spanish monarch

TECH NEWS BRIEFING



Andy Hernández ('20)
CHIEF DIGITAL OFFICER
Regions Bank

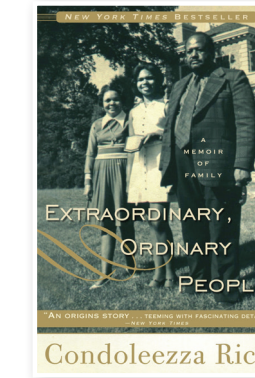
- **Start Here**, an ABC News podcast highlighting big stories from the previous day
- **Tech News Briefing**, a Wall Street Journal podcast: "COVID has accelerated technology adoption by consumers and businesses, which is relevant to me and my team."



Pat Hoban-Moore ('85)
RETIRED

U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development

- **Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City**, by Matthew Desmonds
- **The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness**, by Michelle Alexander
- **Leadership in Turbulent Times**, by Doris Kearns Goodwin



Katrina Watson ('20)

PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Literacy Council of Central Alabama

- **Extraordinary, Ordinary People: A Memoir of Family**, by Condoleezza Rice
- **I Am Enough**, a children's book by Grace Byers: "We read this as a family. Our children sometimes act out the pages. It helps build our children's mental fortitude to face tough situations."



Ryan Hankins ('12)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama

- **Politics Is for Power: How to Move Beyond Political Hobbyism, Take Action, and Make Real Change**, by Eitan Hersh
- **It Was Said**, a podcast from historian Jon Meacham about American political speeches
- **"This Is Willie Nelson"** playlist on Spotify

Interested in starting an online book club for your class?

CONTACT YOUR MEMBERS COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE OR EMAIL LIBBAV@LEADERSHIPBIRMINGHAM.ORG.