



Rotaract Review

THE ROTARACT CLUB OF BIRMINGHAM

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April 2007

A Note From the President



So I admit I have been trying not to think about birthdays lately. Usually, I am big fan of birthdays. Who wouldn't be? You get to eat cake, hang out with your friends and open presents! But recently I experienced one of those monumental birthdays where you move from one decade to another (and although I wish I could pull off 19, guess again). So until I have recovered from this crisis, I am just pretending that birthdays do not exist.

But then I remembered another monumental birthday that put me in the mood to celebrate again. Rotaract has just turned three years old! Now this may seem like a trivial number, but many businesses and civic organizations never make it to year three. Not only have we made it to year three, but we have experienced many successes along the way. Most notably is the size and strength of our club. With roughly 115 members, we have become one of the largest Rotaract clubs in the world. With over 8,000 Rotaract clubs in 155 countries and geographic areas, that is quite an accomplishment. In addition, notable business and community leaders have spoken to our group, we have sponsored two incredibly successful galas with over 350 people in attendance at each, and we have raised over

\$100,000 for our signature service project, Ready 2 Read. Not bad for a three-year-old!!

It's an exciting time to be in Rotaract and I encourage each of you to seize the opportunities you have by virtue of your membership. The more involvement you have with Rotaract, the more you will get out of it. Our membership is comprised of the best and brightest young professionals in Birmingham who have a desire to improve our community. The more active our members are in Rotaract, the bigger difference we can make in Birmingham. This month you will be receiving information about the various Rotaract committees you may join. I encourage each of you to consider joining a committee this year and taking an active role in the club.

I cannot express how excited I am about this upcoming year. Rotaract is full of momentum and I can see many more successes down the road for us. If you have any suggestions or comments regarding the direction of Rotaract or how you can get involved, please do not hesitate to contact me or any other board member. We would appreciate any feedback you may have.

Warmest regards,

April

Look Inside for ...

PROGRAMS

April 3rd Luncheon
Mr. Dalton Smith
Region 2020

April 17th Luncheon
Mr. Sandy White
UAB Research Foundation

SERVICE

Ready 2 Read
Fundraising Update

SOCIAL

April 5th
Workplay
YP/Rotaract Challenge

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Lindsay Smith
Brandon Wilson

Rotaract Vision

To be the premier civic club whose members, alumni, and sponsors responsibly lead the organizations that comprise a world-class community.

Rotaract Mission

To responsibly pursue the information, connections, and practical experience necessary to improve the quality of life of our community's citizens.

Future Events

**UPCOMING
LUNCHEON
SCHEDULE**

April 3rd

Mr. Dalton Smith
Executive Director
Region 2020

April 17

Mr. Sandy White
CEO, UAB Research
Foundation

May 1

****Joint meeting with**
Sunrise Rotary Club
****7:00 am Harbert**
Center

May 15th

Mr. Ruffner Page
CEO
McWane, Inc

**PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

April 24th at 6 pm
Wine 101 seminar

Wachovia Tower,
Burr & Forman,
34th Floor

More details about this
fun event coming soon!

April 3rd

Mr. Dalton Smith

Mr. Smith has worked in both the private and public sectors since receiving his law degree in 1990 from the University of Alabama School of Law. He served as law clerk for U.S. District Judge Robert Varner from 1990-1991. Following that he served as counsel for U.S. Senator Howell Heflin from 1991-1994. He worked for both former U.S. Housing Secretary Jack Kemp and former U.S. Education Secretary William Bennett in the mid to late 90's at Empower America, a Washington D.C. think tank. During this time he held the positions of policy analyst and congressional liaison.



Upon returning to Alabama, Mr. Smith helped form a real estate investment partnership. Returning to the political arena in 2002, Mr. Smith served as policy director for the Riley for Governor Campaign, where he was responsible for putting together then Congressman Riley's "Plan for Change". After the election, Mr. Smith was appointed to the Governor's cabinet as Senior Advisor.

He served in this capacity until July 2004 at which time he returned to the real estate business in Birmingham. Mr. Smith assumed the position of Executive Director of Region 2020 in June 2006.

April 17th

Mr. Sandy White

Sandy White oversees the operations of The UAB Research Foundation. Mr. White brings to this position over 20 years of experience in primarily the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries.

Beginning at the bench level in basic research his career progression has focused in the areas of licensing, technology commercialization, clinical development and new business creation. His experience also encompasses economic development with an emphasis on company relocation and venture capital.

Mr. White holds undergraduate degrees in biology and pharmacy, in addition to a master's degree in business administration.



Membership Spotlight on Anthony Oni

Name: Anthony Oni
Birth Place: Morristown, NJ
Company: Alabama Power



Briefly describe a typical day in your life as a young professional:

Typical days are few and far between working in Economic and Community Development at Alabama Power. Every day presents its own set of challenges whether its meeting with elected officials to plan for economic growth or work to bring a new industry to the state. But at the end of the day, it is extremely rewarding to work with a company like Alabama Power that helps move the state forward.

How did you come to join Rotaract?

Donna Smith, HR director at Alabama Power, spoke very highly of the program and encour-

aged me to join.

As a newly elected member of the Board, what goals do you have set for the service sector of Rotaract?

One of the goals for the service organization is to continue the success of Rotaract's Ready 2 Read project. Our program is at a very important milestone as we transition our pilot program to be deployed to all 150 Birmingham city schools.

Please describe the benefits you have seen of Rotaract for a young professional.

Being able to convene and work with other young professionals while investing in communities in Birmingham is wonderful. This benefit is hard to overlook. The enthusiasm and eagerness of those who make up the membership of Rotaract is infectious and strong enough to inspire others to do the work necessary to fulfill our vision of making Birmingham a world-class city.

April Social Event

Dress Up, Throw Down

ROTARACT / YP BIRMINGHAM CHALLENGE

Brought to you by **SCHAEFFER EYE CENTER CRAWFISH BOIL**
Join in as we face off...
 A great event with other young professionals
 Enjoy drink specials, light refreshments
 and entertainment provided by DJ Coco
(winner of the 2007 Birmingham Area Music Award for best DJ)

"Free to party", but feel free to empty your pockets in support of Ready 2 Read!

4.5.07 5:30 to 8:30pm
 @ WorkPlay
 Bar and Theater

G R E A T P R I Z E S
Every dollar you donate is worth one chance to win:
 Meet the Band of your choice at The Crawfish Boil
 VIP Passes to The Crawfish Boil
 Gift Certificates to Schaeffer Eye Center
 and more...
 Top donor for each club will receive VIP passes
 PLUS, SCHAEFFER WILL MATCH THE WINNING CLUB'S TOTAL

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS

Rotaract Club of Birmingham Board of Directors

Chairman	Ben Moncreif
President	April Mason
Vice President	Jarred Brown
Membership Recruitment	Bentley Sloan
Membership Development	Caroline Williams
Treasurer	Andrew Petrofsky
Programs Director	Grant Lauderdale
Communications	Jason Goggins
Service Director	Anthony Oni
Social Director	Sarah Peinhardt

Ready 2 Read

“Reading in the Classroom” Volunteer Opportunity



In case you haven't heard, February 27th was initial launch date for the Ready 2 Read “Reading in the Classroom” program.

On that day, our Rotaract volunteer readers read the book *Jamaica's Find* to all seven Glen Iris Elementary 2nd grade classrooms and thanks to the Literacy Council and their “United We Read” project, we were even able to give a copy of the book and a bookmark to every student that morning!

Here's one volunteer's comments after reading, “The response from the kids was amazing. Every one of them seemed glued to my words as I read and whenever I asked them a question, all their hands popped in eagerness to share their thoughts. It was just great!!”

If you're interested in volunteering as a reader, here's all you have to do... simply email your phone #, email address, best day & time to volunteer, and the part of town in which you work to richard.davis@hrh.com and I'll assign you to a team. Each team is responsible for one classroom. There are generally three to four volunteers to a team. That means that out of the nine months of school a year, you'll read three times for roughly thirty minutes. That's only an hour and a half of your time for an entire year!!

With an estimated 150 second grade classrooms in the Birmingham City School System, we'll need all the volunteers we can get. So please volunteer!



Happy Birthday to our April Birthdays



- Regan Fisher - 3rd**
- Anthony Oni - 3rd**
- Ginny Debardeleben - 5th**
- John Peinhardt - 6th**
- Shannon Mayock - 11th**
- Laura Ellen Lewis - 16th**
- Marietta Urquhart - 26th**
- Key Hudson - 30th**

Fundraising Update from the 2007 “Dress Up, Get Down” Gala Benefiting the Ready 2 Read Service Project

GALA UPDATE

2007 Gala Sponsorship numbers are in: \$50,025! Our \$50K includes commitments from 5 foundations, 18 corporations, and 6 individuals. **31** different club members were successful at arranging sponsorships! This is a testament to what our membership can accomplish, and it's only the beginning. Our goal is \$250,000 so we have a long way to go!

Total Ready 2 Read funds committed are now near \$75,000. We have some exciting large asks in process and will continue fundraising in the coming months. Come out on Thursday April 5 for another great event at WorkPlay, the Rotaract/YP Challenge! If you are interested in joining the fundraising committee, please contact Mike Mahon at mmahon@fhcapital.com. For more information on Ready 2 Read, please visit www.birminghamrotaract.com/ready2read.aspx.

