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In praise of Birmingham's up-and-comers

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In this issue of the Birmingham Business Journal, we want to introduce you to seven people who aren't particularly well-known in our region - at least not yet.

These are people who are making a mark in their fields and who, we believe, will continue to rise in 2007.

The list is an interesting one. The editorial staff of the Business Journal sat in our conference room one afternoon in November, poring over various names from our news beats and trying to come up with the best possible list for you.

Eventually, we came up with seven names. After this exercise, which was based on nothing but merit, someone in our group made this startling observation: Six of the seven people chosen were either women or members of a minority group.

We didn't plan it that way - it's just how the list came out. And we believe it's a tremendous reflection of the Birmingham business community as we head into 2007.

This is a diverse community that is in an excellent position to grow and thrive in the future.

So, congratulations Neeysa Biddle, HB Brantley, Barbara Bushnell, Patrick C. Cooper, Cherie Fields, Rob Henger and K.C. Pang.

We will, indeed, be watching you in 2007.

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