

Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce

JUNE 2014

the **business**VIEW



Outokumpu
Provides Internships
to High School Students

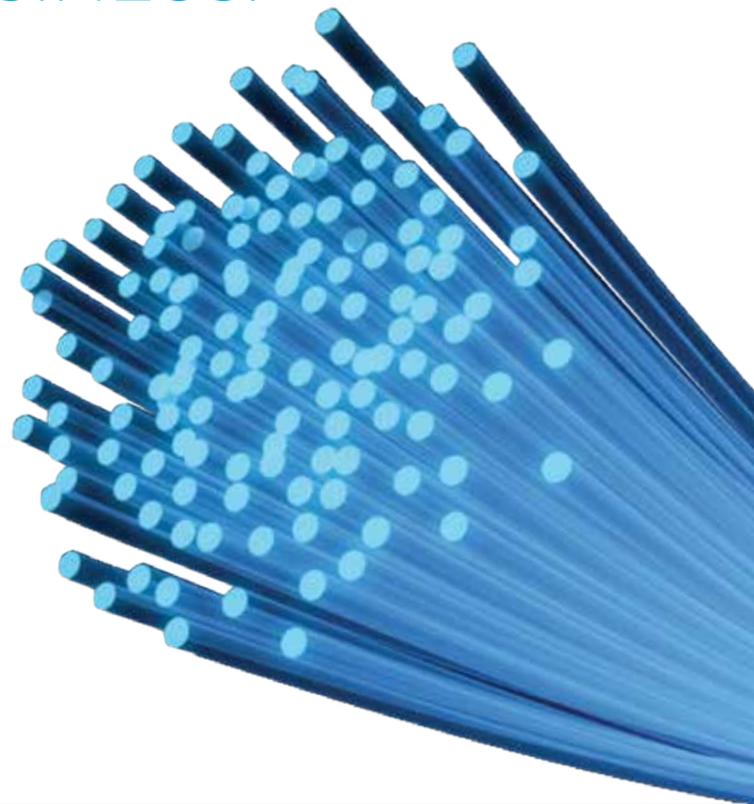
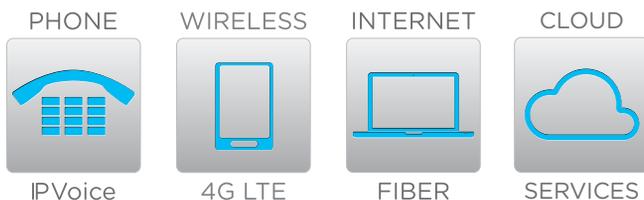
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Continental
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From the Publisher - Bill Sisson

A Hurricane Management Plan

As we enter the beginning of hurricane season on the Gulf Coast, it's a good time for all businesses to make sure their crisis management plans are in place so they can manage their next crisis decisively and effectively. Studies have shown that even though many of us have been or eventually will be involved in a crisis, surprisingly few organizations will be ready with a plan to manage the crisis.

I think it's a healthy exercise to start with the premise that "things" will happen in our companies – and the better we plan, the more likely we are to react appropriately. The core principle is to have a plan in the first place, communicate the plan and train our employees.



Below are five steps the American Red Cross recommends to develop an effective crisis management plan:

- Purchase essential safety equipment.
- Plan emergency communications.
- Prepare evacuation routes and shelter.
- Back up essential business data.
- Develop a continuity of operations plan.

It's the nature of business that a crisis will happen at some point. An effective crisis management plan can quickly distinguish our companies as ones that react well when unforeseen things occur. The old adage "prepare for the worst and hope for the best" was never more true or necessary.



ON THE COVER

Continental Motors Inc., manufactures airplane engines and is located in Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley. Pictured here is Vice President of AVIC International and Director of Continental Motors Group, Rhett Ross. See pages 14-16 to learn more about the company. *Photo by Jeff Tesney.*

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Gulf Coast Energy Forum to Focus on Importance of Smart Policies

A first-time event is designated to power up regional dialogues on smart energy policies. The Mobile Area Chamber will support the Thursday, June 5, forum presented by the Partnership for Affordable Clean Energy (PACE) and the Consumer Energy Alliance (CEA).

Organizers expect to draw 150 to 200 thought leaders in the energy arena, local and regional elected officials, corporate participants and the public at the full-day Gulf Coast Energy Forum set to take place at the Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza.



It's rare that energy industry executives talk outside of industry meetings and with the public, said **Lance Brown**, PACE's executive director, who touts the event as an opportunity to discuss the importance of energy policy for the central Gulf Coast, representing Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

"Energy is a tremendous contributor to our national and local economy," said **Ginny Russell**, the Chamber's vice president of community and governmental affairs. "Energy projects are bringing in billions of dollars in revenue that help fund projects at all levels. More importantly, it's providing millions of jobs and generating trillions in private-sector investments."

Speakers include Florida's State Energy Director, **Patrick Sheehan**, Alabama Rep. **Bradley Byrne**, and Mississippi and Florida policy makers in panel discussions on important energy issues. The forum will also include an executive roundtable of utility leaders from across the three-state region.

In addition to the Chamber, other key participating organizations are Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance, Manufacture Alabama, Alabama Municipal Electric Authority, Alabama Rural Electric Association and the Coalition of Alabama Waterways Association.

Registration and other details for the full-day event are at www.gulfcoastenergyforum.org.

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Ann Claire Carnahan, a senior at UMS-Wright, created a new website for Keep Mobile Beautiful, and in doing so, earned the Girl Scouts' highest award – the Gold Award. Carnahan, left, is pictured here with Clayton Ratledge, board chairman of Keep Mobile Beautiful and Business Improvement District Service Manager for Downtown Mobile Alliance.

Local Girl Scout Earns Highest National Award for Work with Keep Mobile Beautiful

Ann Claire Carnahan, a senior at UMS-Wright, has always had a passion for environmental conservation.

Volunteering for Keep Mobile Beautiful (KMB), a local nonprofit organization, led her to create a website for KMB, which earned her the Girl Scouts' highest award – the Gold Award.

“As soon as I started finding useful research and awesome contacts for volunteers who were eager to help, I gained confidence and became more excited and less intimidated to work toward

completing my Gold Award project,” she said.

KMB Executive Director **Bob Haskins** has worked with local Girl Scout troops for many years, but never on an internal project like a website.

“From volunteer projects like helping to clean up litter to working with the Clean Campus Celebration, they have shown a great tenacity for staying involved,” he said.

Carnahan hopes the website will enable a two-way easy avenue of communication between KMB and the community to further improve

recycling, beautification and litter prevention throughout the city.

Open only to girls in high school, the Gold Award challenges them to change the world through a seven-step process: identify an issue; investigate thoroughly; get help and build a team; create a plan; present your plan and gather feedback; take action; and educate and inspire.

To visit KMB's website, go to www.keepmobilebeautiful.org.

Outokumpu Offering Paid Internships to High School Students

Outokumpu will need to hire new employees every year to keep up with growing demand, promotions and attrition, according to Chris Comstock, human resources manager. To meet this demand, the stainless steel manufacturer is turning to Citronelle High School's Advanced Manufacturing Academy.

Comstock says he will hire 10 to 12 high school students for a two-year rotation at the company's Calvert facility beginning this summer.

The school will pre-screen those who are interested who have at least a "B" grade point average and a solid attendance record. Students will then be interviewed at the company, where additional considerations will be factored in, such as technical coursework, extracurricular activities, aptitude and initiative.

Once hired, students will rotate among safety training, technical training and actual crew assignments with Outokumpu's melt shop, cold rolling works and infrastructure groups. Once they complete the program, students will qualify for entry-level positions within the company with the potential to earn \$19 to \$25 an hour.

The Advanced Manufacturing Academy began last fall at Citronelle, in

response to input from students, parents and business and industry discussions about future workforce needs. Currently 82 students are enrolled.

"I first learned about the signature academy initiative a year and a half ago, and it immediately felt like a right fit for Outokumpu," says Comstock. "Not only does the program align with our goal of building a

talented, world-class workforce, it also allows us to give back to the Mobile

community that has been so welcoming and helpful to us."

"Equipping students with academic and career-based skills allows them to begin achieving and earning earlier in life," says Mobile County Public Schools Career and Technical Education Executive Director **Larry Mouton**. Students who participate in academies "earn more course credits, have a lower dropout rate and a higher on-time graduation rate," he adds.

Finland-based Outokumpu bought the stainless steel facility from ThyssenKrupp in 2013. Its current employee base exceeds 900, and the mill's products are used in a variety of items, from coins to bridges to iconic skyscrapers.

“Not only does the program align with our goal of building a talented, world-class workforce, it allows us to give back to the Mobile community that has been so welcoming and helpful to us.”

*Chris Comstock,
human resources manager, Outokumpu*



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AltaPointe Health Systems Merges with Baldwin County Mental Health

The merger of AltaPointe Health Systems and Baldwin County Mental Health became official in April, creating a broader-based system for behavioral healthcare services in southwest Alabama.

As a result of the merger, AltaPointe's service area will include all of Baldwin County, in addition to Mobile and Washington counties.

"The merger is helping us become a better regional behavioral healthcare system," said **Tuerk Schlesinger**, chief executive officer of AltaPointe. "It also helps us respond to the changes that have already happened in healthcare, as well as the ones we know are coming our way."

According to Schlesinger, there will be no employee buyout, downsizing or layoffs. Instead, services will expand as all Baldwin County services are converted to the AltaPointe brand over the next several months.

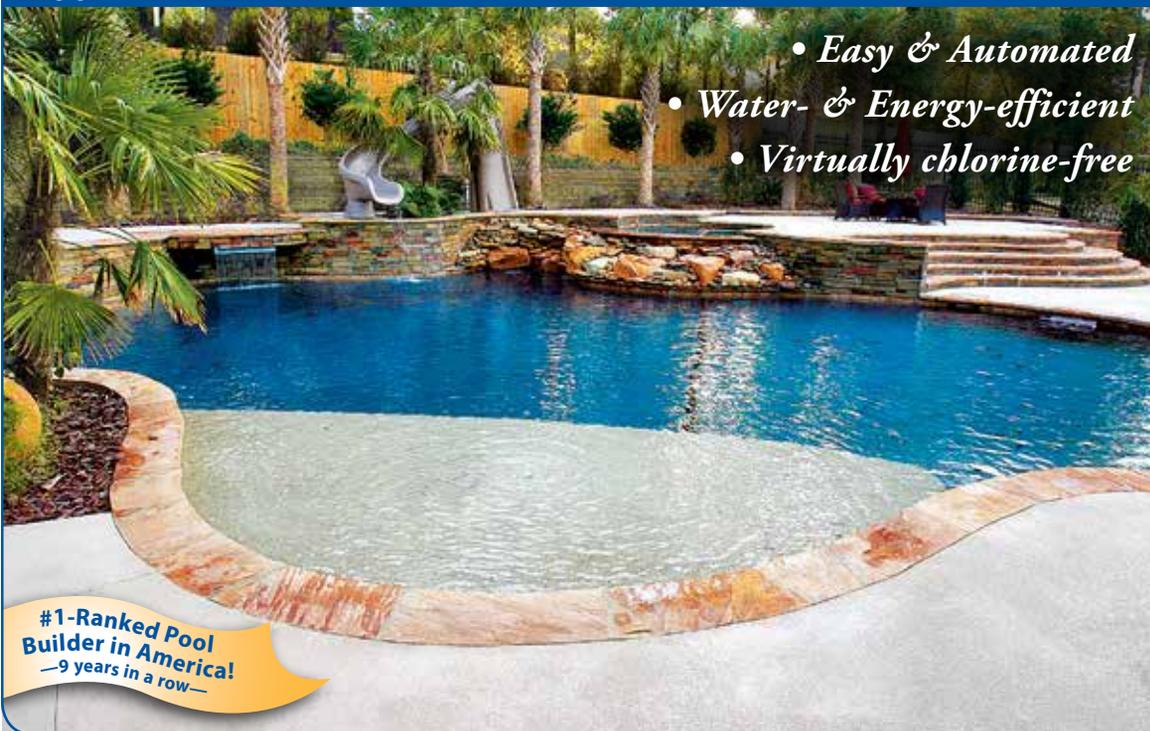
AltaPointe employs nearly 1,300 people and provides treatment to more than 20,000 individuals.



Tuerk Schlesinger, AltaPointe Health Systems CEO, left, and Robin Riggins, AltaPointe Executive Director of Community Behavioral Services, agree that merging AltaPointe and Baldwin County Mental Health will bring about a better and broader-based behavioral healthcare system for the people of the Greater Mobile region. Riggins was the executive director of BCMH until the merger.

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United Way Surpasses Goal

Staff at the Mobile Area Chamber worked during the United Way's Day of Caring at St. Mary's Home on a variety of projects. The Chamber has participated in Day of Caring since its inception.



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Pacesetter companies throughout the Mobile area are running early campaigns to jump start the United Way of Southwest Alabama's 2014 efforts.

Austal USA's Vice President of Human Resources **Don Keeler** is at the helm of this year's fundraising campaign.

"Needs continue to grow, and although the economy is improving we are still challenged with dropout rates, ways to improve health in our community and more," said Keeler. He adds he is inspired by the fact that the organization is more efficient than ever and contributes more than 90 cents of every dollar given to help those in need.

One of the first donations to this year's effort is a result of Austal's third golf tournament. With support from its vendors, Austal raised \$102,445.

At the organization's annual meeting in April, United Way announced it exceeded last year's \$4.8 million goal by raising more than \$5 million, representing a 5.2 percent increase over the previous year.

David Trent, site director for Airbus Americas Engineering and 2013 United Way campaign chairman,

tied the success to the support of individuals and businesses for United Way's newly identified funding priorities – education, financial stability, health and essentials. "As support for our focus on the building blocks grew, so did our campaign," he said.

Several local businesses received accolades from United Way for their campaign efforts, including: the Mobile Area Chamber, United Way's Outstanding Mid-Size Business Award; ServisFirst Bank, the Outstanding Small Business Award; Publix, Outstanding Campaign Efforts; and Austal USA, Spirit of the Gulf Coast award.

Individuals recognized were **Lt. Kay Taylor** with the Mobile City Police Department as Employee Campaign Coordinator of the Year; **Jackie Orso** with Regions, Loaned Executive of the Year; and **Sarah Damson** with Long's Human Resource Services, Outstanding Philanthropist Award.

The campaign officially kicks off Thursday, Aug. 28. For more information, visit www.uwswa.org.



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² "You're probably wrong, but just guess where the safest hospital in Alabama is located," *al.com*, July 31, 2013

³ "Consumer Reports rates 41 Alabama hospitals on surgery outcomes. How does yours stack up?" *al.com*, August 30, 2013

⁴ Dr. Iqbal is a specialist in internal medicine and not a participating oncologist in MD Anderson Cancer Network.



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Hillcrest Optical is located at 1261 Hillcrest Rd., in west Mobile. Pictured here from left to right are: Kerry Whatley, Michelle Broadus, Felicia Huff, Aubrey Roberson and Dr. Nuria King.

How does a locally owned eye care clinic, nestled in a strip mall on Hillcrest Road, thrive in an economic recession and against big box and corporate chain competitors? The answer is simple for **Dr. Nuria King** with Hillcrest Optical – provide patients with “the best of both worlds” when it comes to eye care.

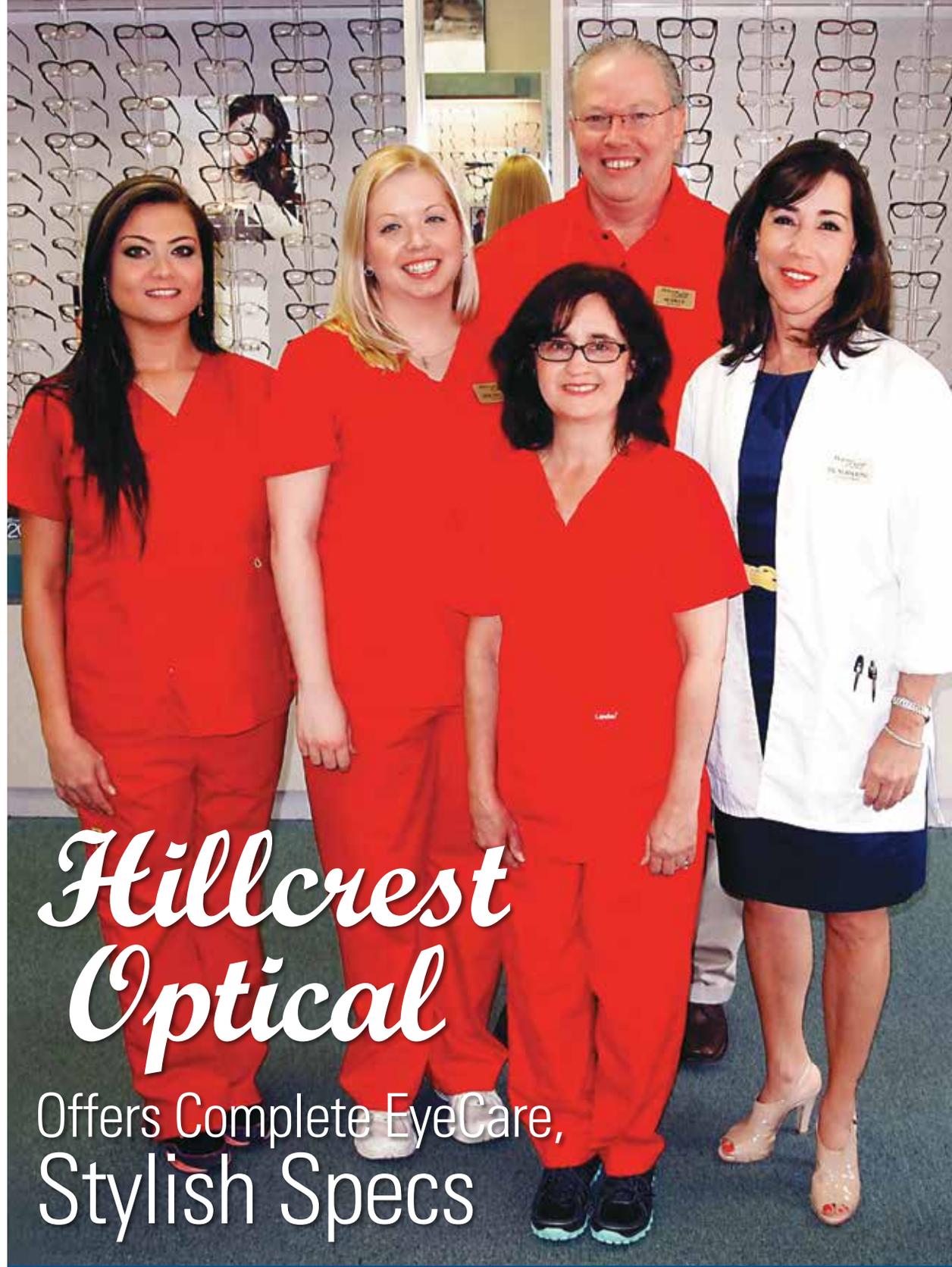
The company’s full-service capabilities combine medicine, the latest diagnostic technology, optical wear and personal attention. King performs eye exams and screenings to check for diseases and declining sight issues, using photographs of patients’ retinas to explain what she is seeing, as well as her recommendations.

Head optician **Aubrey Roberson**, who founded the company in 1998, operates the in-house lab where he creates custom-fitted frames and can make needed adjustments quickly. Other area doctors often refer patients to Roberson rather than sending difficult prescriptions out to other labs, King notes, because of his 29 years of experience and excellent reputation.

For patients, one of the largest draws is the extensive selection of contact lenses and eyewear choices, including safety eyewear, sunglasses, children’s and sports frames. Some of the most popular brands that line the practice’s entry walls are Versace, Tory Burch, Michael Kors and Coach.

Hillcrest Optical has a team of five employees, each trained in a specialty. King, who is bilingual in English and Spanish, received her degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry, giving her the ability to write medical prescriptions.

Both King and Roberson attribute much of the company’s success to expanding vision insurance and customer service that starts with appreciating the business-to-client relationship. Because customer service means something different to every



Hillcrest Optical

Offers Complete EyeCare, Stylish Specs

person, the staff at Hillcrest Optical tries to understand each customer’s needs and strives to make them happy, Roberson says.

The customer base includes loyal patients who refer other patients, and even a few who, though they have moved from the area – some as far away as Europe – plan their annual eye exams with Hillcrest Optical while visiting friends and family in Mobile and still send their glasses prescriptions to Roberson.

“Great prices and great help”

set the business apart from the competition, King adds.

King joined the practice in 1999, and bought out Roberson’s previous partner in 2008.

One of the biggest challenges – and opportunities – for the eye industry is the public’s increased use of computers, smartphones and tablets. King expects the trend will continue to grow and recommends the industry’s 20/20 exercise – looking 20 feet away every 20 minutes – and eating plenty of leafy greens.

SMALL BUSINESS of the month

Go to mobilechamber.com/award.asp to submit a Small Business of the Month application, or contact Danette Richards at 251-431-8652 or drichards@mobilechamber.com.

MADE in mobile

Continental Motors Powering Up the Skies



Continental Motors recently invested more than \$24 million to upgrade equipment and further research and development. Pictured here is Rhett Ross, vice president of AVIC International and director of the company's newly-created Continental Motors Group, and Mike Skolnik, vice president of operations for the Mobile facility.

Whether you're a pilot or a passenger, when flying in an airplane

the pulsing, harmonic hum of the propellers gives you a sense of security that everything is running smoothly.

If you're in a small plane, chances are the engine powering those propellers was made in Mobile at Continental Motors (CMI).

The company has a 48-year history at Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley under three different owners, and is a leading manufacturer of new and rebuilt FAA-certified piston engines, spare parts and components for small propeller-driven airplanes.

Among its clients are well-known manufacturers in the aviation industry, including Beechcraft, Cessna, Cirrus and Piper. And at the controls are leisure, agriculture, charter, cargo and business pilots.

In 1966, when the original Continental Motors was then a 61-year-old company based in Muskegon, Mich., it was looking to separate its aviation business from its vehicle engine manufacturing. At the time, Brookley Air Force base was in the process of closing. The site offered key logistical advantages, a ready workforce and came wrapped in a deal too good to refuse, says **Rhett Ross**, vice president of AVIC International and director of the company's newly-created Continental Motors Group. So the company moved its new aviation manufacturing facility to Mobile.

Three years later, Teledyne bought CMI and kept the name. Until three years ago, this community knew it as Teledyne Continental Motors, but Teledyne's business model was changing explains Ross, and the company was looking to sell this division. In April

2011, a Chinese government-owned holding corporation made its first purchase outside its country and CMI became a wholly owned subsidiary of Aviation Industries of China (AVIC).

With major customers such as Airbus, Boeing and Honeywell, AVIC is known as a trusted supplier and partner of leading aviation companies. Recently, the company consolidated its aircraft engine businesses under a single corporate

structure and established the Continental Motors Group Ltd.

The Mobile facility remains the oldest and largest division and is the company's North American headquarters. In addition, AVIC owns CMI's sister divisions Mattituck Services, a maintenance and repair operation in Baldwin County, Zulu Flight Training in Baldwin County and German-based Technify Motors, making it the only global player capable of designing,

manufacturing and maintaining both gasoline and diesel piston engines.

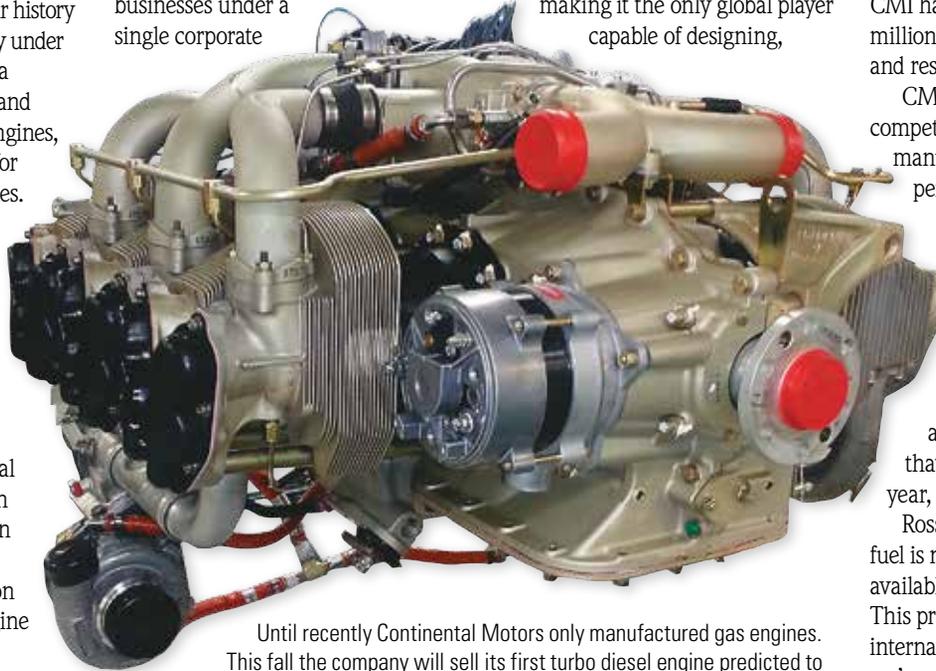
Since AVIC took ownership of CMI, the company made some much-needed investments to position its legacy product for a relevant future, says **Mike Skolnik**, vice president of operations.

But don't let the words history and legacy lead you into thinking this is anything but a 21st century product. CMI has spent more than \$24 million in robot-operated machinery and research and development.

CMI's biggest advantage over its competitors is that the company manufactures more than 80 percent of motors on site.

There are 1,500 possible variations on the company's current gas engines, but few have drawn the attention and anticipation of the TD300, a turbo diesel model, combining fuel availability and efficiencies that will go to market later this year, says Skolnik.

Ross adds, "Lead-based aviation fuel is no longer economically available anywhere outside the U.S. This product (the TD300) opens the international market for planes and we're going along for the ride."



Until recently Continental Motors only manufactured gas engines. This fall the company will sell its first turbo diesel engine predicted to accelerate the international market and more than double the nation's annual half-billion dollar aviation manufacturing industry.

Continued on page 16

Continental Motors manufactures new and rebuilt engines. Pictured here are the parts needed for a rebuilt engine. Company officials estimate there are 600 unique parts in a gas engine, 1,200 total, and 770 in its new diesel engine that goes to market later this year.

Photos by Jeff Tesney





Cessna is one of the most recognizable manufacturers in the aviation industry, and carries the Continental Motors engines made at the company's North American headquarters at Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley.

Fast Facts:

Continental Motors is Mobile's first and oldest aviation company.

Between **85,000** and **90,000** small airplanes are powered by CMI engines made in Mobile, representing a little more than one-third of the market.

538 miles – You could more than cover the distance from Mobile to Tampa if you lined up those planes wingtip to wingtip.

Locally, there are **450 employees**, including **20** plus pilots.

The Voyager aircraft set an endurance record in 1986 flying around the world without stopping or refueling with a CMI engine.

770 – the number of parts in a diesel engine made at CMI

1,200 – the number of parts in a gas engine made at CMI

1906 – the year the first aviation engine was made by Continental Motors

Continental Motors *Continued on page 15*

The demand for diesel is huge, according to Ross, in South America, Asia and Africa, and could easily double or triple America's half-billion dollar aviation manufacturing industry, creating jobs and new exports.

Not only is CMI the only company positioned to provide a diesel product domestically – its sister division in Germany is making a small number of them now Ross says. "It is the only company developing a full-range of diesel engines to supply three different classes of aircraft based on the number of passengers each can carry."

Locally, there are 400 employees in Mobile and another 50 in Baldwin County. On its team are 20 plus licensed pilots, 34 licensed airframe and power plant technicians.

Ross says CMI has all the land it needs to double its production at Brookley, and is tearing down old buildings to either build a new facility or house potential new tenants.

"We're here for the long haul, says Ross. "We want to continue to manufacture and improve operations."



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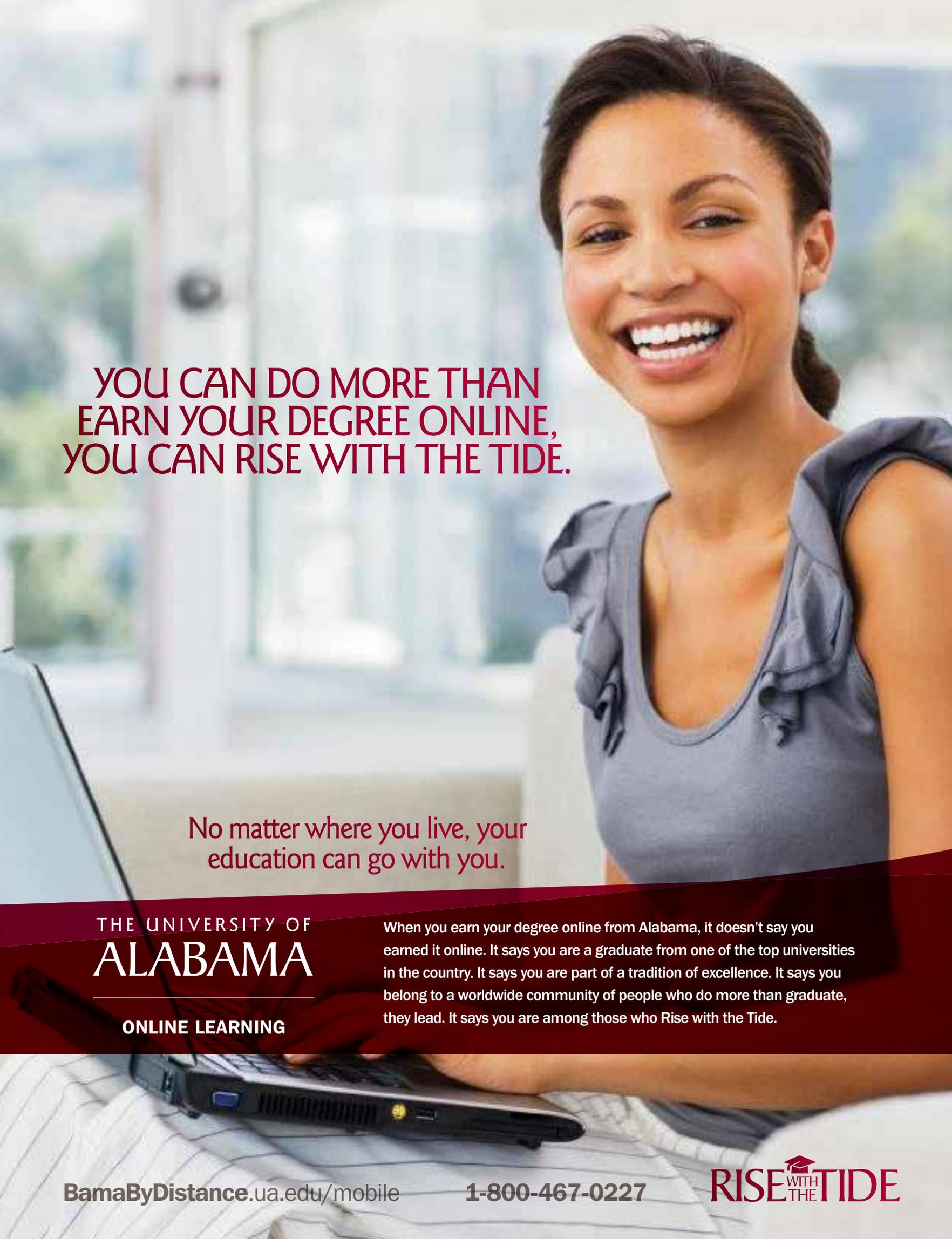


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2014 Legislative Scorecard

By Ginny Russell, Vice President, Community & Governmental Affairs
Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce



Editor's Note: The Chamber's Community and Governmental Affairs oversees programs including governmental relations and lobbying, military affairs and a number of events and activities providing the business community with opportunities to network with elected officials and impact public policy. This column was previously submitted to Lagniappe for its March 20 edition.

1. How and why does the Mobile Area Chamber advocate for business-friendly legislation?

For Mobile to have a robust economy, we need a regulatory and legislative environment that is friendly to business. The Chamber believes a less-bureaucratic government encourages entrepreneurs and businesses to locate and/or expand here.

To accomplish this, we develop our annual legislative agenda based on a tremendous amount of members' feedback and committee work that we then use to lobby our local, state and federal elected officials.

2. What are our key areas of focus for 2014?

Our legislative agenda is far-reaching. Hot topics in 2014 include:

- Growing support for a new I-10 Mobile River Bridge and widening the Bayway/I-10 to the Florida state line;
- Maintaining funding levels for education and job training programs that prepare current and future workers for existing and future positions;
- Ensuring the availability of affordable flood insurance for business and home owners;
- Maintaining funding for two federal shipbuilding contracts at Austal;
- Securing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funding to widen and deepen the Mobile ship channel, as well as those in Bayou la Batre and Coden;
- Establishing a separate Alabama Tax Appeals Commission; and,
- For accredited universities, establishing a research and development income tax credit to parallel the federal tax credit.

3. Can you give an example of what the Chamber does to impact some of the above mentioned items?

There's not a person in Mobile or Baldwin County who doesn't understand how the increasing traffic build-up in-and-out of Mobile impacts the movement of goods and services and our quality of life. The Build the I-10 Bridge Coalition is a critical, grassroots group interested in moving the project forward. It's been the Chamber's focus for many years, and will continue to be until the problem is resolved with the construction of a new bridge.

For a number of years, south Alabama homeowners and business owners have struggled to pay rising property insurance rates. The Chamber joined a national coalition of communities from Maine to California in seeking revisions to federal flood insurance, in the form of the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act. While it's not perfect, the act will postpone steep increases when the southwest Alabama flood maps are released by FEMA later this year. (see related story on page 20.)

3. What are some of the Chamber's recent successes?

The statewide effort to reduce metal thefts costing businesses and even homeowners thousands of dollars, was initiated in Mobile. The Chamber collaborated with Mobile County Sheriff's office and local utilities to write and pass legislation to make those who buy scrap metal accountable for where they buy it. According to Sheriff Sam Cochran, thefts have greatly decreased.

In partnership with Downtown Mobile Alliance, the Chamber advocated for the creation of entertainment districts. Its passage has made downtown more hospitable and is growing our hospitality business.

To even the playing field for Alabama's aerospace industry, the Chamber successfully worked for a sales tax exemption for parts used to convert passenger aircraft to freight aircraft. This statewide bill positively impacts ST Aerospace, an employer of more than 1,200, so they can maintain their FedEx contract.

The Chamber also continues to advocate for local school funding. If Mobile wants to maintain recruited jobs and continue to bring higher paying jobs here, we must be able to supply a trained and educated workforce. Our last push was a few years back, when we worked with the Mobile County Public School and Saraland School Systems to renew a local property tax in 2011. More recently, we have actively supported the school system efforts to create career academies in all high schools with the support of local industry. (See this year's results in a related story on page 7.)

4. How does the Chamber determine the issues it will advocate for or against?

We have a systematic process to develop public policy positions and encourage member participation in policy decision-making. The Chamber surveys its members annually on issues that are important to them, and brings in experts to present a variety of views. We listen to our key community partners (Alabama State Port Authority, University of South Alabama, City of Mobile, Mobile County and the Mobile Airport Authority) and look for ways we can cooperatively work together. In addition, the Chamber has an active governmental affairs committee that meets regularly to discuss issues and seek input before making policy recommendations to our governing board of directors.

5. What do you expect in the future?

With party primaries in June and the general election in November for statewide office (Governor, Lt. Governor, etc.) and the state legislature, we'll all be exposed to lots of political speeches and handshaking. Learn where the candidates stand on issues that are important to business. Attend events where you can meet the candidates and ask questions. A few of the issues we'll be asking candidates about are how to invest in our aging infrastructure, how to guard against local, state and federal regulations that can make it difficult for business to expand, and how to ensure that RESTORE Act funds (allocated to states from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill) are used to have the greatest long-term impact.

The following items were among policies and positions adopted by the Mobile Area Chamber's board of directors and tracked by governmental affairs committee members during the 2014 session of the Alabama Legislature. Of the 1,103 bills introduced in this session, 268 have been enacted.

Passed

- **Career-Technical Dual Enrollment Program**
Establishes a \$10 million scholarship program to assist high school students taking job training classes, such as welding, at two-year colleges.
- **Workforce Council**
Establishes an Alabama Workforce Council to advise and support the chancellor of the Alabama Community College System and the superintendent of the Alabama Department of Education
- **Increased funding for pre-K programs**
Increases by \$10 million the state's pre-K programs included in the FY 2014-15 Education Trust Fund budget to allow 1,800 more four-year-olds to attend high-quality pre-K in 100 new First Class classrooms in the 2014-15 school year.
- **Prompt Payment**
Requires public agencies to pay contractors working on public jobs within 35 days after the contracting agency approves payment.
- **Crowd-funding Law**
Allows someone trying to start a small business in Alabama to use social media and advertising to find small investors in the state. "Crowd funding" is limited to raising \$1 million and restricted to Alabama businesses and investors.
- **Taxpayer Fairness Act**
Creates the Alabama Tax Tribunal for hearing appeals of tax matters.
- **Tax Collection Relief Act**
Authorizes the Alabama Department of Revenue to administratively suspend collection of a tax or fee if the cost of collecting the tax is greater than the amount to be collected.
- **Online tax filing**
Creates an online electronic filing system which allows small businesses to file annual business and personal property tax returns at no charge to the taxpayer or the taxing jurisdiction.
- **Small Business Tax Relief Act**
Raises the average monthly tax liability threshold from \$1,000 to \$2,500 for businesses to make advance estimated sales tax payments. An estimated 3,900 businesses will be relieved from making estimated payments, allowing them to redirect those resources to other areas of their businesses.
- **Quiet Title**
Provides for further expedited quiet title actions in Class 2 municipalities (Mobile is a Class 2 municipality). This bill improves and strengthens the legislation passed in 2012.
- **Constitutional Amendment**
Transfers assets and liabilities of the Water and Sewer Board of the City of Prichard to the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners of the City of Mobile. The measure will appear on the June 3 primary ballot for voter approval.

Died

- **Repeal of Alabama College and Career Ready Standards (Common Core)**
Would have allowed local school boards to opt out of using common core academic standards, and called for a moratorium on further adoption or use of common core until Jan. 1, 2017.
- **Loaded guns in cars**
Would have allowed a person of any age to have a loaded pistol in a vehicle without a permit.

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Preparing for Disaster

Just in Time for Hurricane Season

Stop for a moment and think about all the time and resources you've

invested in your small business. Now, imagine that it's all gone – your building, equipment, everything. What do you do?

Disasters can include fire, theft, chemical spills, wildfires, tornadoes and of course, along the Gulf Coast, hurricanes. Regardless of the cause of the disaster, business owners should plan for the unexpected. Your customers and your employees will count on your business being operational as quickly as possible.

Although many potential disasters are unpredictable, a thoughtful, proactive disaster preparedness plan can mitigate the effects on your business and help speed your return to normal operations.

Here are some tips for developing a disaster preparedness strategy for your business:

- Think ahead and identify potential hazards.** Consider both natural events such as hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and ice storms as well as manmade disasters such as fires, toxic material spills, etc. While your business may not be directly affected by an emergency or disaster, a key supplier or customer may be closed for a period of time, or permanently, seriously affecting your business operations.
- Develop operational contingency plans.** Have a detailed task list and timeline for preparing the business facility and equipment for a pending disaster, such as a hurricane. Also have a task list for readying the business for reopening following the emergency. Assess the feasibility of operating out of rented office space and what equipment/resources will be needed. Important records, software and other vital information should be secured at an off-site location.
- Ensure the safety of employees and customers.** After a disaster occurs, communications may be limited. Make sure a system is in place to communicate with your employees, and everyone knows what it is. Keep emergency telephone numbers clearly posted, and maintain up-to-date emergency contact information, especially cell phone numbers. When power and telephone service is interrupted, texting may be your only communication option.
- Perform a safety inventory.** Regularly clean and test smoke detectors, have well-stocked first-aid kits, fully charged fire extinguishers and a fresh supply of all types of batteries used in your business. If you have portable generators for emergency power, make sure the fuel is fresh and safely stored.
- Review your business insurance coverage.** At a minimum, your coverage should be enough to get your business back in operation and cover the replacement cost of essential equipment and facilities. And for our businesses along the Gulf Coast, disaster and business interruption insurance is becoming a must for business owners concerned about damage or a prolonged shutdown resulting from a disaster.

Much more information can be found online. You can also see the Mobile Area Chamber's crisis manual on the Chamber's website, www.mobilechamber.com. Go to www.ready.gov, www.fema.gov, www.Redcross.org or www.sba.gov for readiness and recovery checklists and information.

To craft a disaster preparedness and management plan for your small business, contact SCORE, Counselors to America's Small Business. Call or visit your local SCORE office at 251-431-8614.

Congress, President Approve Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014

Coastal property owners can breathe a bit easier knowing that

Congress and President Barack Obama have approved an important measure to stabilize federal flood insurance rates. Alabama Sen. **Jeff Sessions** and Rep. **Bradley Byrne** voted in favor of these reforms.

On March 21, Obama signed the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act (HFIAA) of 2014. This law repeals and modifies certain provisions of the 2012 Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act, and makes additional program changes to other aspects of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

"This law is a victory for hard-working homeowners and business," said Mobile Area Chamber President and CEO **Bill Sisson**. "Working with other coastal communities across the nation, we can ensure the financial stability of NFIP and maintain affordable flood insurance."

Since May 2013, the Chamber has been an active member of a national coalition of business and

elected leaders seeking to address the economically harmful changes to the NFIP. The Coalition for Sustainable Flood Insurance (CSFI) has worked to address drastic and unintended increases to NFIP rates for home and business owners.

A confluence of the Biggert-Waters Act of 2012 (meant to stabilize NFIP), incomplete FEMA maps and questionable actuarial calculations led to premium increases of up to 3,000 percent and more in some states for policy owners who have never flooded and who have built as the government told them.

The new law protects home and business owners from exorbitant rate increases and keeps real estate markets alive while putting the NFIP on a more realistic path to solvency, according to Coalition (CSFI) leadership.

The Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) will be responsible for implementing these changes.

More information can be found at www.csfi.info.

Information Transport Solutions Inc. (ITS)



Information Transport Solutions Inc. (ITS), headquartered in Wetumpka, employs 21 people in its Mobile office. Pictured here from left to right are Lee Hartley, Henry Ziegler, Casey Hofberger, Patrick Drinkard, Jonathan Burroughs, Chris Bagley, Rudolph Hayes, Toni Henry, Marcy McDuffie, Gary McGilberry, Jared Colf, Michael Williams and Barry Franklin.

Company officials: The employee-owned company is led by **Quincy Minor**, president; **Steve Meany**, chief executive officer; **Jeff Drury**, vice president, finance; **Barry Carpenter**, vice president, technology; and **Barry Franklin**, vice president, Mobile operations.

Years in business: 16

Brief company description:

Information Transport Solutions Inc. (ITS) is a full-service provider of technology solutions integrating voice, video and data to make organizations more profitable and productive. ITS and its more than 120 employees help educational, financial,

healthcare and manufacturing clients build scalable, secure hardware and software infrastructures.

Why are you located in Mobile?

“Mobile is a city of incredible growth, and we are proud to have an office in this great city,” said Franklin. “We originally opened a location here to work with Mobile County schools, and since then our client base has grown beyond education. Our home office is in Wetumpka, but our home is here.”

Why do you support the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce’s Partners for Growth initiative?

“ITS works every day to help

other businesses grow and become more profitable. A growing Mobile benefits everyone,” said Franklin.

What do you see as Mobile’s greatest potential?

“Roads, railroads and shipping lanes all lead to Mobile, and that’s for good reason,” said Franklin. “Mobile’s infrastructure is second only to this city’s driven and hard-working people. We have a lot to be proud of here, and I’m glad to see others around the country and world take note of what we here in Mobile have always known.”

Length of continuous Chamber membership: Since 2006



Partners for Growth (PFG) is the Mobile Area Chamber’s long-term economic and community development program. For more information, contact **Katrina Dewrell**, the Chamber’s investor relations coordinator, at **251-431-8611** or kdewrell@mobilechamber.com.

Former Mobile Area Chamber Board Chair Takes Key Role With the City

In January, Dianne Irby was named executive director of planning and development for the city of Mobile and a key member of Mayor Sandy Stimpson's administrative team.

Irby was most recently at the helm of KBR, a Houston-headquartered engineering firm. She became the Mobile Area Chamber's first female chair in 2000, and from 2002-2004 she served as director of United Way of Southwest Alabama.

The Business View sat down with Irby in April, not long after she went to work for the city of Mobile.

The Business View: *What prompted you to join Mayor Stimpson's team?*

Irby: The mayor's energy and vision. I'm very fortunate to have the chance to contribute to the mayor's high-performance team and support him as he provides the leadership our community deserves.

TBV: *What were you able to accomplish in your first days on the job?*

Irby: A candid assessment of needs, issues and community expectations has been my focus, and that will guide my decision-making. The mayor has restructured the organization to align departments for effectiveness. My time has been dedicated to meeting employees, businesses that need our services, citizens, council members and other stakeholders.

TBV: *What will you focus on in the short-term?*

Irby: Coming into this role in early February, we faced a number of existing regulatory issues – one of those being stormwater management. Tackling contractual matters and regulated or mandated items had to come first.

TBV: *How will you go about constructing your long-term plan of action?*

Irby: There are tremendous untapped talents within and throughout the city – people ready to be a part of significant changes and improvements. We're developing a plan of action that prioritizes and allocates our limited resources to best serve our multiple constituencies.

TBV: *The Chamber has a local Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC) that works to influence the enactment of local policies to maintain a business-friendly climate for our members. How will the work you do complement efforts already underway?*

Irby: I met with this group recently to hear their current focus areas, to understand their issues and challenges and to begin working with them to stay aligned on key objectives.





Discussing community development block grant locations in the city of Mobile are (from left to right): Laura Clarke, director of urban development; Nick Amberger, city engineer; Dianne Irby; Nigel Roberts, director of community planning and development; and Rosemary Ginn Sawyer, assistant city engineer.

TBV: *GAC has voiced concerns about the process businesses have to undertake to establish or grow in Mobile, especially related to permitting. What is broken and what works?*

Irby: Working on process improvements and fostering a customer-friendly mentality of responsiveness is part of the culture this team will continue to support.

TBV: *There has been discussion about ways to improve stormwater drainage. What are your thoughts, and have you considered alternatives to the way stormwater is handled today?*

Irby: There are dissertations written on this subject and we will always be looking to improve every

aspect of how we manage stormwater. As a city, we were working against a hard May deadline to put a new plan in place that city employees could support with effective reporting and documentation. Almost every department plays a role in this, and we will continue to engage the community in our ongoing improvement and educational efforts on this front.

TBV: *How can the Chamber, its business members and various committees and task forces help you in your efforts?*

Irby: Be careful what you ask for! There will be many ways for the Chamber's business members to help, and I can be more specific as we develop our plans. Of immediate concern is both litter and blight. Litter is a major contributor to our

stormwater management issues, and we must declare war on litter in our community. We are committed to addressing blight, our zoning and potential changes and many other issues. In all of these efforts, we need the active leadership of the Chamber and its members to partner with the city, educate the community and bring resolution to some long-standing problems.

TBV: *What do you see as your biggest challenge?*

Irby: My biggest challenge so far has been making the private sector-to-public sector adjustment or transition. I'm learning so much and am so impressed with how many people and organizations are coming from every direction to offer their help. Understanding that the pace

of change is different in the public sector and has to be manageable to create buy-in internally and from the public, this requires thoughtful approaches – so I'm working on my patience.

TBV: *If you had one word to describe yourself in your new role, what would it be and why?*

Irby: Tenacious. Why? Because I don't give up easily, I believe in what I'm doing and will work hard to make a difference. I have strong courage of conviction and believe in persistence and perseverance – along with the patience that must accompany worthwhile efforts such as the ones put forth in the mayor's vision.

State of the City & County Luncheon

Commitment to Mobile and its citizens was one of the many topics touted by both the city and the county at the Mobile Area Chamber's 17th annual State of the City and County lunch. The sold out crowd listened to reports from the Chamber, the county and the city. Pictured here from left to right are Chamber President & CEO Bill Sisson, Chamber Chairman Michael Chambers, Mobile County Commission President Connie Hudson and City of Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson.



Military Appreciation Luncheon



The Mobile Area Chamber hosted its inaugural Military Appreciation Lunch to honor Mobile's military men and women and high school ROTC cadets in April at Battleship Memorial Park. Participating in this year's event were (from left to right): LTC (Ret) Robert Barrow, Director of Army Instruction for MCPSS; Rep. Bradley Byrne, Mobile County Public Schools Superintendent Martha Peek, City of Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson, Mobile Area Chamber Vice Chair for Military Affairs Steve Carey; and Chamber President & CEO Bill Sisson.



Receiving the Cadet of the Year award during the Mobile Area Chamber's Military Appreciation Day luncheon was Cadet Nathalie Decker at Baker High School, right. She is pictured here with her ROTC instructor Ramona Austin.

Rebecca Byrne

Company: The Community Foundation of South Alabama

Title: President/CEO

Hometown: Montgomery

Education: Bachelor's degree in English from Auburn University

First job: Director of speaker services at Colonial Management in Montgomery

Previous experience: Byrne previously was the executive director of the United Way of Baldwin County, and before that, she was a commercial real estate agent at White-Spunner Realty Inc.

Accomplishments: During her term at the United Way of Baldwin County, Byrne attracted new grants totaling more than \$700,000 and she launched the Young Leaders Society to encourage the participation of young professionals. She has also served as chairman of the Mobile Public Library, Beckwith Camp and Conference Center and Colony Center for the Arts.

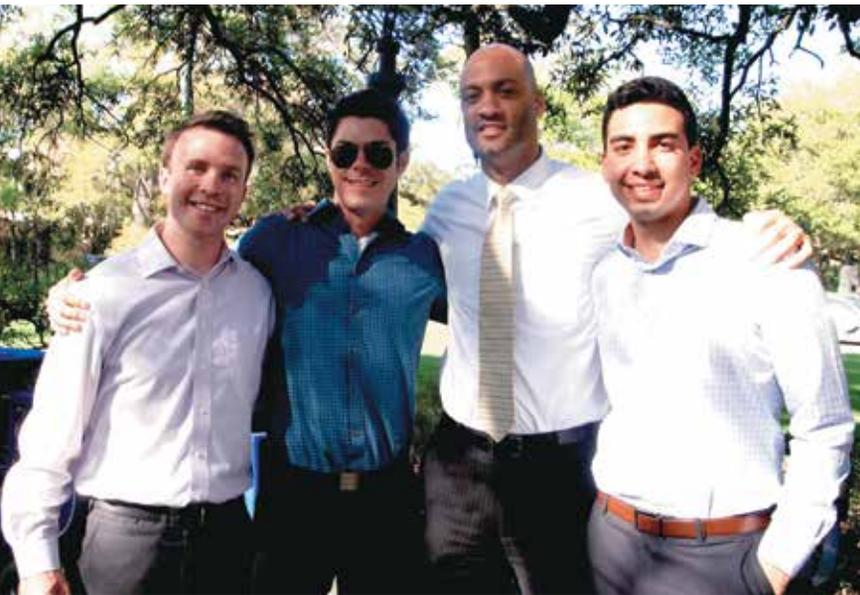
Secret to success: Love people and work hard.

Brief company description: The Community Foundation of South Alabama distributes grants with special emphasis on promoting economic opportunity, arts and culture, health and wellness, and civic engagement. The organization assembles and directs philanthropic assets which today total more than \$66 million.



Blue Skies and Live Music Welcome Hundreds to Annual Member Appreciation Day

In April, the Mobile Area Chamber held its annual Member Appreciation Day on the lawn. The event, attended by more than 300 members, included a crawfish boil provided by Chef Rob & Co., and live music by The Tommy Morse Band.



Attending the Chamber's member appreciation day were (from left to right): Dylan Sherrod, Alabama Media Group; Justin Coker, Alabama Media Group; Marques Ivy, PNC Bank; and David J. Jack, C Spire.



Guests spent the afternoon networking and soaking in a glorious spring afternoon on the Chamber lawn. The fun event was made possible by BlueCross BlueShield of Alabama, C Spire, Coastal Bank & Trust, LLB&B Inc. Real Estate, Quality Valve, Roberts Brothers, State Farm – Makeda Nichols and YP Local Search, Media and Advertising.

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MBDA Business Center Forming Advisory Board

Mobile's MBDA Business Center is looking to expand its outreach and economic impact by involving community stakeholders on an advisory board to develop a long-term strategic plan. This board will assist the center to identify contracting and financing opportunities for MBDA clients and act as advocates for the center. Under the leadership of the Chamber's Minority Business vice chair, Larry Dorsey, president and chief executive officer of Dorsey Engineering Inc., the advisory board will meet four times a year. If you are interested, contact **Darrell Randle** at 251-431-8615 or drandle@mobilechamber.com for more information.

Protégé Program Seeks New Mentors

The Gulf Coast Mentor-Protégé Program is building a broad base of diverse businesses capable of providing high-quality construction, utility

contracting, and other services and products at competitive prices for diversity-conscious companies. The initiative is a partnership between the Mobile Area Water and Sewer System Board of Commissioners (MAWSS) and the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) Business Center, operated by the Mobile Area Chamber. The goals of the partnership are to increase the volume of work awarded to minority-owned businesses; expand areas of inclusion of diverse businesses as supply-chain participants; increase the involvement of diverse businesses in the building, utility, highway, heavy industrial and other industry sectors; and continually improve the financial strength and bonding capacity of minority-owned businesses. Protégé companies are currently undergoing assessment, and new mentors are encouraged to participate. Contact **Darrell Randle** at 251-431-8615 or drandle@mobilechamber.com for more information.

Federal Funding for Research Supported by Chamber

Recognizing that cuts to federal research budgets threaten innovation and economic growth, the Chamber joined with 32 other chambers across the country to form "Business for Federal Research Funding," a new coalition advocating for strong research funding growth in the federal budget. Nearly 60 percent of funding for basic scientific research in the U.S. is provided by the federal government, followed by funding from academic institutions such as the University of South Alabama.

Chamber Names New Ambassadors

Several new ambassadors were selected to volunteer for the Chamber. They are: **Ashley Davis**, Brownlee-Morrow Engineering Co.; **Zue Farmer**, Principal Financial Group; and **Raven Miller**, DRC Security Services. Ambassadors are

a group of volunteer members who assist the Chamber with a variety of projects, including event registration, member visits and ribbon cuttings. To learn more, contact **Dawn Rencher** at 251-431-8649 or drencher@mobilechamber.com.

New Board of Advisors

Several Chamber members joined the Chamber's board of advisors recently. They are: Advanced Dermatology & Skin Care Center PLLC, Autry Greer & Sons Inc., Century Bank, City of Jackson, C Spire, Country Club of Mobile, Inchcape Shipping Services, Rouses Markets, Rural Sourcing Inc. (RSI), S.S. Nesbitt & Co. Inc., Sears Holding Corp. d/b/a Sears Teleserv, The Stewart/Perry Co. Inc. and Wind Creek Hospitality. The total number of board of advisors members is now 255. To learn more about this program, contact **Katrina Dewrell** at 251-431-8611 or kdewrell@mobilechamber.com.

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Woodside Apartment Homes

Open since 2012, Woodside Apartment Homes is a luxury apartment community in west Mobile. Located at 5089 Government Blvd., just west of Knollwood Drive, Woodside offers 240 one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments with amenities such as a saltwater pool, a 24-hour fitness center, a pet park, online rent payment and a business center. Pictured, left to right, are Pam Greenwood, community manager, and Kristen Eastman, assistant manager. For more information, visit www.LiveAtWoodside.net or call 251-660-6674.

The Business Spotlight of the Month is selected from a random business card drawing at the Chamber's monthly Business After Hours.



AMBASSADOR of the month



Since she retired as a vice president and branch manager at Regions Bank, **Trish Banker** has continued to volunteer for the Mobile Area Chamber "to keep me in the business eye," she said. Banker is the Chamber's Ambassador of the Month. A Chamber volunteer for 25 years, Banker also participates in the annual total resource development program, Chamber Chase. She previously served as chairman of the group and was named Ambassador of the Year in 1994.

Ambassadors are volunteers working for Mobile Area Chamber member businesses. They support the Chamber by visiting members, assisting with event registrations and attending ribbon-cuttings. To learn more about this program, contact Dawn Rencher at 251-431-8649 or drencher@mobilechamber.com.



A Grand affair.

'Tis the season' to celebrate. Host your 2014 holiday party at the Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa. The Grand transforms into a holiday spectacular throughout the resort, making it the perfect setting for your event. With an award winning culinary team and creative catering managers to assist in planning, a party at the Grand is sure to be the toast of the town this holiday season.

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BOARD of advisors



Elizabeth Damson Freeman is vice president of Long's Human Resource Services. She earned a bachelor's degree in human and organizational development from Vanderbilt University. Freeman serves on the board of directors for United Way of Southwest Alabama and UMS-Wright Preparatory School. She also chairs University of South Alabama Children's and Women's Hospital's advisory council. Long's Human Resource Services is a Partners for Growth Investor.



Mark E. Hieronymus is a partner with Wilkins Miller Hieronymus LLC. He earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of South Alabama and a master's degree in tax accounting from The University of Alabama. He serves on the boards of the Community Foundation of South Alabama, the Exceptional Foundation of the Gulf Coast and Young Life of Mobile. Wilkins Miller Hieronymus is a Partners for Growth investor.



Warren Hopper is vice president of BancorpSouth Insurance Services. He is a graduate of The University of Alabama and is involved with the Multiple Sclerosis Society and Leadership Baldwin County. He is BancorpSouth Insurance Service's regional technical resource for catastrophe property modeling and risk assessment. Hopper is one of only 32 certified workers' comp loss trend analysis brokers in the U.S. In his spare time, he is also the owner of Pickers' Paradise guitars in Stapleton.



Hugh Hyland is co-owner and co-founder of Sanders Hyland Corp., a commercial/industrial flooring company with offices in Mobile, Birmingham and Gulfport, Miss. He earned a bachelor's degree in industrial management from Auburn University. Hyland is involved with the Ronald McDonald House and Outback America, and is on the advisory board of Catholic Social Services.

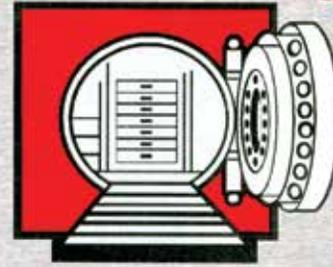


Joe Leach is manager for ABS Business Systems, which provides customized document output and distribution solutions. He received a bachelor's degree in marketing from Florida State University and moved to Mobile from Chicago. He serves as a board member for the Better Business Bureau of South Alabama, BNI and the American Heart Association.

For more information about the Chamber's board of advisors, contact Katrina Dewrell at 251-431-8611 or kdewrell@mobilechamber.com.

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JUNE

For information on Chamber events, visit events.mobilechamber.com.

5 MEMBERSHIP 101 *Members Only
 Come meet other members and Chamber staff to learn how to benefit from your membership.

When & Where: 8 to 9 a.m. – Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Contact: Kelly Navarro at 251-431-8638 or knavarro@mobilechamber.com
 No charge, but seating is limited. RSVP requested.
 Free parking.

11 COFFEE WITH THE CHAMBER
 Start your day with the Chamber and network with other business professionals.

When & Where: 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. – Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Contact: Kelly Navarro at 251-431-8638 or knavarro@mobilechamber.com
 No charge, but seating is limited. Free parking.

Sponsor: 

Doughnuts provided by Sugar Rush Donut Co.

17 EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE *Members Only
 A monthly forum exclusively for Chamber member small business owners and managers.

When & Where: 8 to 9 a.m. – Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Speaker: Glenda Snodgrass, president, The Net Effect LLC
Topic: “Protecting Personal Information in the Digital Age”
Contact: Brenda Rembert at 251-431-8607 or brembert@mobilechamber.com
 No charge, but seating is limited. RSVP requested.
 Free parking.

Sponsor: 

18 WOMEN’S ROUNDTABLE *Members Only
 A bi-monthly forum exclusively for Chamber member women business owners and managers.

When & Where: 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. – Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Speaker: Dr. Michael Ledet, Springhill Medical Center
Topic: Sleep Disorders
Contact: Kelly Navarro at 251-431-8638 or knavarro@mobilechamber.com
 No charge, but seating is limited. RSVP requested.
 Free parking.

Sponsor: 

18 GCTC LUNCH
 A bi-monthly lunch hosted by the Gulf Coast Technology Council.

When & Where: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. – USA Shelby Hall Room 2121

Speaker: Dr. Alec Yasinsac, University of South Alabama
Topic: Cyber Security
Cost: \$20 for Chamber members and \$25 for potential members and includes lunch
Contact: Emily McGrath at 251-431-8651 or emcgrath@mobilechamber.com
 Reservations required. Cancellations after June 13 not reimbursed to cover lunch cost.
Sponsor: USA School of Computing

26 BUSINESS AFTER HOURS
 Join fellow Mobile Area Chamber members for this After Hours event.

When & Where: 5:30 to 7 p.m. – Kitchen on George, 351 George St.

Cost: \$5 for members and \$10 for potential members
Contact: Kelly Navarro at 251-431-8638 or knavarro@mobilechamber.com
 Reservations are not needed.

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Who's New

Clark Personnel Inc. welcomed Greta Koch as a professional placement specialist specializing in direct-hire placements. The personnel company also hired Amy Holland for a staffing support position.

Chris Richards was named president of the newly created AM/NS Calvert, formerly ThyssenKrupp Steel USA.

Richards has a bachelor's degree in metallurgical engineering from the University of Idaho and a master's degree in business from St. Bonaventure University in Bonaventure, N.Y. ArcelorMittal and Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corp. acquired the facility from ThyssenKrupp AG through a 50/50 investment.



Richards



Barnes

Kinard

Jeff Barnes and Jan Kinard joined Stirling Properties LLC commercial brokerage division of the Mobile office. Barnes, a sales and leasing executive, has more than 25 years of experience in commercial real estate and has a CCIM (Certified Commercial Investment Member) designation. Kinard, a senior property accountant, earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Auburn University, has 20 years of experience in commercial property accounting and is a certified public accountant.

Rose Bud Flowers & Gifts hired Rebecca Kirkland, who recently received a degree in interior design from Virginia College Mobile. She will be available for design service and marketing.



Reyes

Davis



Gilbert

Pope

The PNC financial services group created a wealth management team in Mobile to serve the Gulf Coast market. Four industry veterans will provide asset management, financial planning, estate and trust planning and other comprehensive banking solutions to clients. Charlene Reyes, vice president and senior relationship manager, is a certified financial planner with a bachelor's degree in business administration and more than 10 years of banking experience. Rená Davis, banking advisor, holds

a bachelor's degree in marketing from the University of South Alabama and brings almost 20 years of banking experience. Heather Gilbert, assistant vice president and channel development advisor, earned a bachelor's degree in marketing from Auburn University and has more than 10 years of experience in banking. Amelia Pope, a sales and service specialist, has more than 35 years of financial service experience, attended the University of South Alabama and is a graduate of the Alabama School of Banking.



Moffatt

Mobile Gas, a Sempra Co., promoted Sharon Moffatt to director of operations. Moffatt received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of South Alabama. She worked as the company's engineering manager for the past 10 years.



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The Mobile Symphony Orchestra named longtime board member and former board chair Celia Mann Baehr as its president and chief executive officer, effective July 1. Baehr is the owner of Celia Mann Baehr CFP, a financial planning and investment advice firm. Baehr has consistently led funding efforts for both live music performances and music education. Diana Brewer, acting CEO for the last year, will continue on staff in her role as director of marketing.

The Community Foundation of South Alabama named Rebecca Byrne president and chief executive officer. Byrne formerly served as executive director of United Way of Baldwin County.

Business Endeavors

Mobile-based ASF Intermodal opened its ninth terminal location in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metro Area

and the firm's second in Texas, expanding capacity to its customer base throughout the Southeast and Midwest.

Pilot Catastrophe Services Inc. is partnering with BBVA Compass and MasterCard to implement a virtual credit card interface for virtual credit card payments for goods and services.

Well Done

The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail/Magnolia Grove golf course was recently named one of the "Top 50 Public Courses" by *Golf World* magazine readers. Magnolia Grove hosts the Airbus LPGA Classic, held in May.

The Alabama Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) presented **Hargrove Engineers + Constructors** with the 2013 Safety Excellence Award, and also named Hargrove teammate Sonny Weeks the 2013 Safety Leader of the Year.

January Williams was named **Infirmiry Health's** iHelp Volunteer

of the Year. In the past year, Williams volunteered with several organizations in the community, including The Junior League of Mobile, HandsOn South Alabama and Infirmiry Health. Williams, who has logged 875 volunteer hours to date, designated The Junior League of Mobile as the nonprofit organization to receive a \$1,000 donation from Infirmiry Health.

D. Terry Greenfield, senior principal consultant for **CorroMetrics Services Inc.** and one of the company's founders, was



chosen treasurer-elect for NACE International, The Corrosion Society. NACE, a provider of corrosion solutions, serves more than 30,000 members from 110 countries.

BrightStar Care was recognized as an Enterprise Champion for Quality by the Joint Commission for its commitment to its franchisees in promoting the highest level of quality for those they serve.

Six college students were chosen to serve as ambassadors for **Battleship Memorial Park** as USS ALABAMA Crewmates. Crewmates for 2014-15 are: **Morgan Carithers**, a junior at the University of South Alabama majoring in musical theater; **Morgan Everett**, a sophomore at the University of South Alabama studying to be a secondary history teacher; **Rebecca Hamlin**, a sophomore at Bishop State Community College studying dermatology; **Kristen Lee**, a freshman at the University of South Alabama majoring in business; **Chelsea Seitz**, a junior at the University of Mobile studying music therapy; and **Hannah Shelton**, a freshman at Faulkner State Community College studying to be a foreign language teacher. Each crewmate receives a \$1,000 scholarship to the college of their choice.

Submission deadline for Member News is two months prior to publication. News releases should be one or two brief paragraphs. Photos must be professional headshots, labeled with the person's last name, and must be 300 dpi at full size and saved in an eps, tiff or jpg format. Send your information to news@mobilechamber.com.

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Community News

The Reese's Senior Bowl welcomed three new members into its Hall of Fame this year with the addition of Denver Broncos defensive end **DeMarcus Ware**, former St. Louis Rams wide receiver **Torry Holt** and Houston Texans defensive line coach **Bill Kollar**, who played for the Cincinnati Bengals in the 1970s. The trio makes up the 26th class in the Senior Bowl Hall of Fame, presented by Mobile Gas, and pushes the total number of inductees to 105.

The Mobile Area Chamber was awarded a five-star rating by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the highest designation given. Of the 6,936 chambers in the U.S., only 301 are accredited, and of those only 43 have achieved five-star distinction.



The Mobile Area Chamber has been accredited by the U.S. Chamber since the designation's inception more than 40 years ago.

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