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

## mall Business of the Month

## The Palette Café

Susan Carley says she was born to cook. The owner of The Palette Café located at the Mobile Museum of Art, started cooking at age four and by age seven was writing her own menus. Her restaurant is the Mobile Area Chamber's Small Business of the Month.

Overlooking Langan Park, the Palette Café offers a welcoming atmosphere. But ambience is only half the recipe for success – the other is homemade food that includes soups, salads, sandwiches, entrees and desserts. "As Mobilians, we are so lucky to have this museum and this park to enjoy," said Carley, who started the café in 2008.

Carley, who has worked in the restaurant business since college, took time off to start a family but kept cooking for friends. She ventured out when she learned the museum wanted to start a café. She said the museum staff was accommodating and allowed her the latitude to make decisions about what to serve. The menu incorporates lunch staples like red beans and rice, and Southern pot roast, and also offers gourmet entrees including crabmeat goat cheese quiche and Asian fish tacos – a customer favorite.

Diners can also chose from fast selection items, low carbohydrate versions of salads and entrees, and a take-home dinner selection. "The dinners are perfect for anyone who needs a homemade meal prepared for them," said Carley.

In addition to the museum restaurant, Carley also owns and operates Cream & Sugar, a coffee, dessert and ice cream shop in the Oakleigh district.

With its nine employees, The Palette Café is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for lunch. Private parties are available on the balcony. For more information, visit www.ThePaletteCafe. com.



The Palette Café owner Susan Carley and manager Kristi Eady pose on the balcony of the museum overlooking the café located in the Mobile Museum of Art. Langan Park is in the background.

