

BUSINESSVIEW

MOBILE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

JUNE/JULY 2021

SUMMER FUN IN MOBILE

MEET THE
CHAMBER'S
BOARD OF
ADVISORS

TRAVEL ON THE
RHINE RIVER



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THE FLEET'S NEWEST COMBAT SHIP

THE FUTURE USS MOBILE (LCS 26): READY FOR ACTION



REMAINING MILESTONES

- Trials
- Commissioning (May 22, 2021)
- Delivery
- Deployment

BUSINESSVIEW

MOBILE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

JUNE/JULY 2021

IN THE ISSUE



14 ON THE COVER:

George and Jack Heyer enjoy the pier at Arlington Park in Mobile. Read about more fun things to do this summer in Mobile on pages 14-16. Photo by Brian Jordan Photography



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ABOUT THE MAGAZINE

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Publisher William B. Sisson
Managing Editor Jennifer Jenkins
Copy Editor Michelle Irvin

Additional Writers and Editors
Mike Dumas, Ashley Horn,
Susan Rak-Blanchard and Carolyn Wilson

Printing Services: Panaprint Inc.

Graphic Design: Wise Design Inc.

Advertising Account Executive:
René Eiland • 251.431.8635
reiland@mobilechamber.com



PUBLISHER'S NOTE: THE TRUE VALUE OF MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Bill Sisson, President & CEO, Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce

It is age-old knowledge that member engagement is essential for the growth of any membership organization. This is certainly the case for chambers of commerce. Engaged members keep renewing, and they can increase membership by word of mouth. The more excited they are, the more likely they are to stay a member – and that excitement can be contagious.

Your Chamber has an exciting new strategic plan that was built for you, by you. One of the most important metrics in the new plan is engagement. We want to do an even better job – and

this means staying in touch with our members, posting more often on social media, creating meaningful content and inviting your participation in everything we're doing as an organization.

You will notice that as our three-year strategic plan is put into action, there will be more and more ways for you to plug into Chamber programs and activities. Please don't hesitate to let us know if there are other ways you'd like to contribute. I'm grateful for each and every one of you, and look forward to working together in the years to come.



SSAB MOVES AHEAD WITH EXPANSION

Pictured above is SSAB-produced steel from the QL6 line.

Photo by Alec Thigpen Photography

In late April, the Mobile Area Chamber announced the continued investment at SSAB Americas' steel operations in Mobile County. The project at the Mobile-headquartered company is part of one originally launched in 2019 and postponed in 2020 due to COVID-19.

This phase of work, valued at \$69 million, is directed at expanding the company's manufacturing footprint by 54,000 square feet and adding new equipment to increase production capacity and efficiencies for quenched and tempered (Q&T) steels. The company expects to add 31 employees over the next three years to its current roster of more than 600.

“SSAB is critical to establishing Mobile County as an industry hub for the steel industry. We are grateful for the company's continuing investment and the more than 600 people they employ.”

David Rodgers, vice president of economic development, Mobile Area Chamber

“SSAB is committed to further investment in the Alabama mill and its future with a project of this size,” said **Tom Toner**, SSAB Americas vice president, operations. “COVID-19 and economic recession concerns put the project in jeopardy for more than a year. We are excited to get started on it.”

“For more than a decade, SSAB has been a leader in our manufacturing sector, providing high-paying jobs to residents throughout our region,” said Mobile County Commission President **Merceria Ludgood**. “Relocation of its headquarters to Mobile in 2018 signaled its commitment to being a long-term contributor to our economy. This new investment indicates its continued confidence in our area and is evidence that this sector is rebounding after a year of uncertainty caused by the pandemic.”

“This investment and expansion by SSAB demonstrates the company's commitment to our area and underscores the strength of our workforce,” said City of Mobile Mayor **Sandy Stimpson**. “Mobile continues to shine as a place where companies like SSAB can locate and grow their business on a global stage. We are proud to be part of this important partnership and look forward to the continued success of SSAB.”

“SSAB is critical to establishing Mobile County as an industry hub for the steel industry. We are grateful for the company's continuing investment and the more than 600 people they employ,” said **David Rodgers**, the Chamber's vice president of economic development.

The steel mill was built in 2001, and SSAB began operations in 2007. It is one of Alabama's largest steel scrap recyclers, consuming approximately 1.6 million tons of scrap metal annually.

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MOBILE AIRPORT RELOCATES DOWNTOWN BY 2024



How do you move an airport? Without the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) approval, you don't. But the Mobile Airport Authority (MAA) had quite a convincing case, and the FAA agreed.

In April, MAA officials received news the FAA approved the organization's master plan to relocate commercial air passenger service to the Mobile Downtown Airport, a move that could recapture 55% of the market lost to neighboring airports.

The master plan outlines the next 20 years of development, and includes feedback from citizens and stakeholders.

"The input from community leaders, business owners and local residents was invaluable to our team," said **Chris Curry**, MAA president. "Their recommendations helped our team develop the best possible plan to provide premium air service from the Mobile Downtown Airport."

What happens next? Phase one, valued at \$160 million, includes a new, 130,000-square-foot international terminal that will be smaller but more efficient than the current terminal at the Mobile Regional Airport, according to a news release. It will house federal inspection services such as customs and global entry interviews, necessary to qualify as an international terminal, and is expected to be open and operational in early 2024.

Additionally, the first phase of development includes a parking garage, surface parking and tarmac expansion.

In May 2019, MAA opened a temporary terminal to serve the leisure market and enhance the recruiting process for

additional airlines and flights, following an earlier feasibility study that found it would be cost-effective to move commercial air traffic downtown.

Fabulous events await you!

Wonderful Wednesdays
– June 2 – July 28

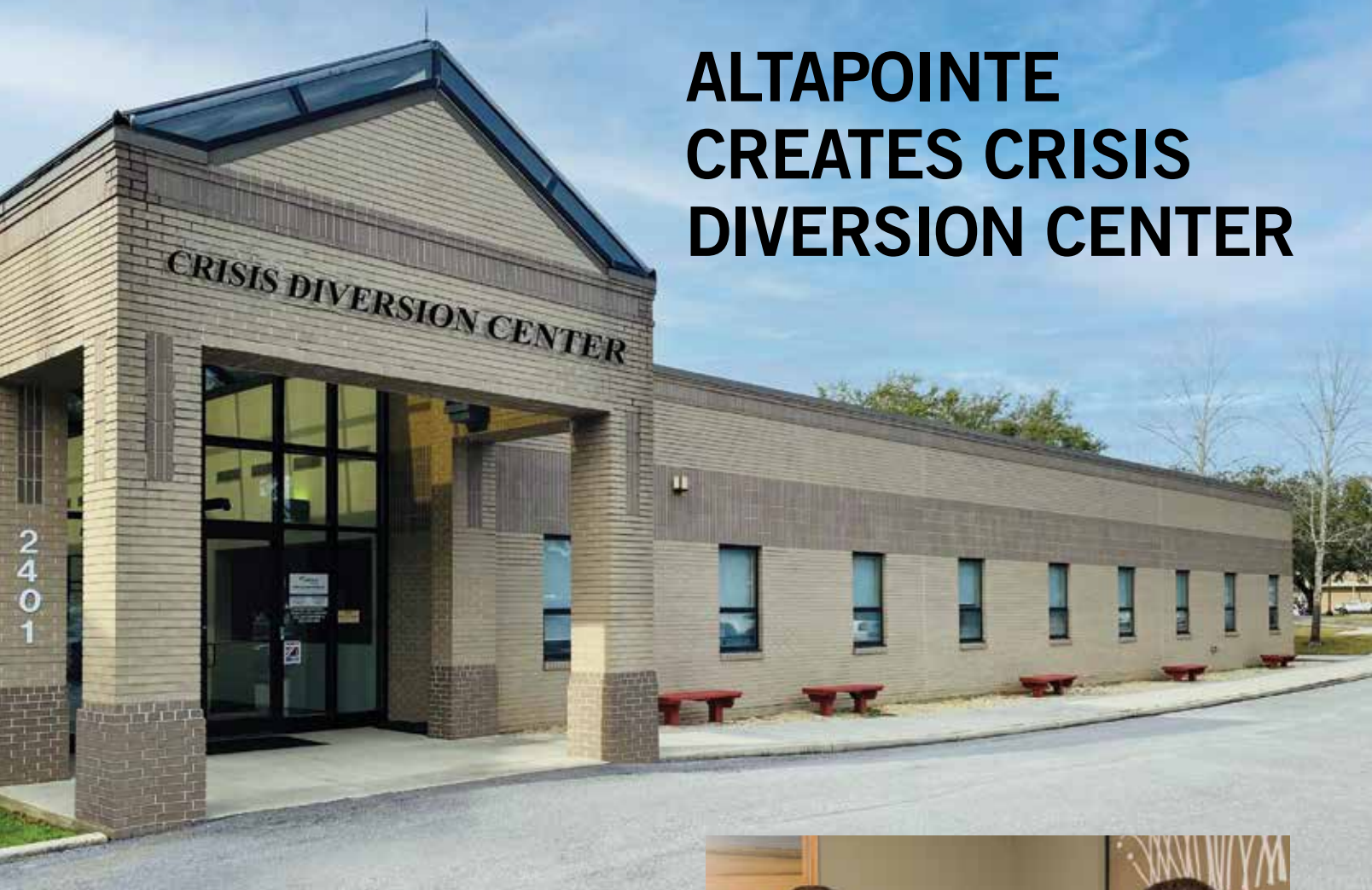
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ALTAPOINTE CREATES CRISIS DIVERSION CENTER



There's a new resource for adults with mental illness to get the help they need quickly, free up emergency room space and give law enforcement an option for prompt access to mental health treatment when they encounter certain situations. AltaPointe's Crisis Diversion Center opened in May and runs 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

AltaPointe was one of three Alabama organizations announced by Gov. Kay Ivey, as part of a pilot program. Each center is funded through a grant aimed at offering the mental health services needed by local law enforcement, hospitals, judges, families and individuals.

In addition, with monies granted to the City of Mobile, AltaPointe will help train police officers to assist with mental health issues before an arrest is made.

The center is located at the Fred Delchamps Center at 2401 Gordon Smith Dr., and serves the seven-county area of Mobile, Baldwin, Washington, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia and Monroe counties. The other centers are in Montgomery and Huntsville.

"I have a startling statistic for you," said **Tuerk Schlesinger**, AltaPointe Health CEO, as he emphasized the need for these specialized services. "Since October 2020, we have done 6,000 mental health screenings in Metro Jail. Since 2019, we have done 21,000."



The facility is equipped with 21 beds, 15 of them designated for temporary observation. AltaPointe was also approved to fill 77 positions. Some of the team will consist of patient peers – people who have been through this or a similar situation of their own. There is also an option for walk-in access.

Success for both the center and police training will be measured by:

- reduced number of arrests;
- reduced number of visits to hospital emergency departments;
- increased care to individuals in crisis; and
- sustained recovery and referrals to other community services.



DISTINGUISHED YOUNG WOMEN STILL STRONG IN ITS 63RD YEAR

The Distinguished Young Women organization has empowered young women to reach their full potential since it was founded in Mobile in 1958.

Formerly known as America’s Junior Miss, this unique program combines the chance for high school seniors to win college scholarships with life skills training to prepare young women for the world.

More than 3,000 young women compete nationally, with 46 local programs in Alabama alone. Sponsors, supporters and volunteers – 10,000 people nationally – work to make this program possible.

“It goes well beyond the young women who participate every year because you also have to include the impact on our volunteers,” said Executive Director **Kendra Haskins**. “As much as I got from the experience of participating in the program, I know the biggest impact I have gotten is from mentoring and working with hundreds of women over the course of the 25-plus years I have volunteered with the organization.”

Each year, one representative from each state and Washington D.C. is chosen and evaluated on the following categories: scholastics (25%), interview (25%), talent (20%), fitness (15%) and self-expression (15%). Local program winners advance to the state level. All state winners participate in the National Finals held in Mobile.

“Scholarships are the most visible benefit of the program,” said [Haskins] This past year, more than 100 colleges and universities made available more than \$1 billion dollars in scholarships to nearly 3,000 participants in almost 400 local and state programs. In its 63 years, young women have earned more than \$2.1 million in cash scholarships.

Life Skills workshops offer training in interviewing skills, public speaking, self-confidence, community involvement and more. There is also a positive peer network connecting intelligent, ambitious young women with each other, and program participants can stay connected through a Distinguished Network online community of alumnae.

The National Finals will be held Saturday, June 26, at the Mobile Civic Center. Finals night will be streamed live nationally from the theater and will include on-stage performances with video submissions from the state representatives. All three nights of finals will be streamed online for free on June 24, 25 and 26 at 7 p.m. CST.

“All our viewers will be able to see the excitement and hear the cheers from Mobile and cheer on the Class of 2021,” said [Haskins]. For more information, visit <https://distinguishedyw.org>.



Photo by Brian Jordan Photography

HARPER TECHNOLOGIES SPECIALIZES IN SOLVING PROBLEMS

Harper Technologies employees: (from left to right) Ravyn Otis, project manager; Tiffany Fuller, receptionist; Ted Shade, technician; Abe Harper, president; Carl Harper, vice president; Cecily Harper, public relations; Audra Harper, operations administrator; and Titus Kirkland, technician.

It's one thing to be lauded by the business community and the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce for entrepreneurship, but it's quite another to be singled out time and time again. Such is the case with Harper Technologies, the Chamber's Small Business of the Month.

Founded in 2004 by **Abe Harper** and **Carl Harper** as a "Concierge Culture IT Service Provider," the Harper brothers were Eagle Award winners in both 2017 and 2018 and were one of three Small Business of the Year finalists in 2018. Even after winning these impressive Chamber awards, Harper Technologies hasn't slowed down in the three years since.

In terms of business philosophy, not much has changed in 17 years. Since day one, the Harpers have used a value proposition of transparency, authenticity and sincerity to frame a lifetime's worth of tech savvy and passion.

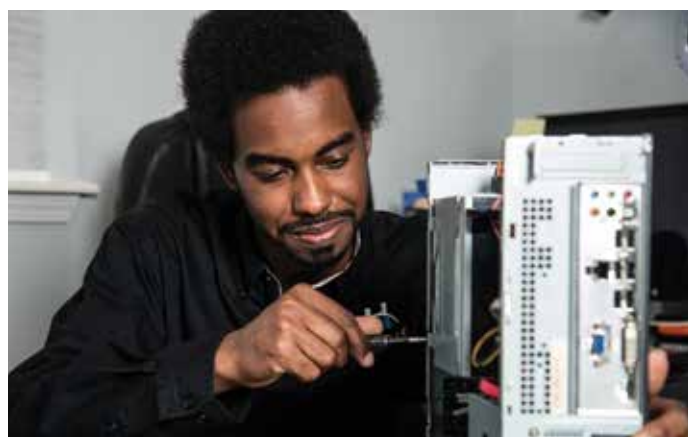
"We've been geeks since we were born," Abe said. And they've nurtured that enthusiasm into a business that's grown ahead of the field that used to be known as "computer repair services," not the now widely used "information technology."

The company, which has a staff of 10, is focused on managed services, infrastructure services and data services, which runs the gamut from forensic data recovery, hardware design and analytics to network consulting.

In the early days, Abe said, many of the consultants flooding the field were lacking in the critical areas of personality and customer service.

"They knew what they needed to know, and they could do it, but you were going to pay dearly and they were going to make you feel like you were the smallest person in the room," he said. The Harpers saw it differently, going back to a lesson their parents taught them about their interactions within any environment: that you can either destroy it or improve it.

"We believe that we have a God-given charge to improve the environment we're in, wherever that may be," Abe said. "And however we may be able to do that with the gifts that we've been given, we have to take that with us daily when we work."



Photos by Brian Jordan Photography

COMPANY NAME: Harper Technologies LLC

OWNERS: Abe Harper and Carl Harper

PHONE: 251.690.9029

WEBSITE: harpertechnologies.com

LOCATION: 50 N. Broad St., Mobile

“When you talk to the Harpers, you feel like you’re their most important client,” said **Darrell Randle**, the Chamber’s vice president of small business development. “They have a rare ability to make you feel like we’re in this together.”

Whether that’s accomplished through service to a client or to the next generation via mentorships and ministry, the Harpers have dedicated their lives to it.

“It gives us a platform to have genuine authenticity of caring about someone else’s pain or their implicit problem of the moment,” Abe said. “And then being able to help them resolve it, because at our root we’re problem solvers.”

Want to be featured as a Mobile Area Chamber Small Business of the Month? Go to mobilechamber.com to submit an application online, or contact Danette Richards at drichards@mobilechamber.com or 251.431.8652 for questions and/or additional information.



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21 THINGS TO LIKE ABOUT *Summer in Mobile*



Photo courtesy of Visit Mobile

1 KAYAKING AT 5 RIVERS

The **Business View** editors asked the Mobile Area Chamber team to name some of their favorite things to do in Mobile during the long, hot summer months that generated a lot of responses. From boating in the city limits to our city's European-like culture to the weather to the cuisine, we could go on and on.

We invite you to add your own favorites on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

- 1** Kayaking at 5 Rivers Delta Center
- 2** Participating in summer camps, especially at the Mobile Museum of Art and the Gulf Coast Exploreum



Photo by FusionPoint Media

2 GULF COAST EXPLOREUM

3 Touring the USS ALABAMA Battleship and the USS DRUM

4 Learning from the Dora Franklin Finley African-American Historic Heritage Trail tour

5 Enjoying airboat and paddle boat rides in the Delta and along the many rivers

6 Walking and eating tours in downtown Mobile AND the fact that there are so many places to eat downtown

7 Walking on trails like those at Medal of Honor Park and Arlington Park



4 DORA FRANKLIN FINLEY AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORIC TRAIL



9 GOLFING

- 8** Enjoying all the outdoor activities at Chickasabogue Park and the Escatawpa Hollow Campground
- 9** Playing golf at the many nationally recognized golf courses in our area
- 10** Being only 45 minutes from walking on a beach and dipping your toes in the Gulf of Mexico
- 11** Watching Fourth of July fireworks on Mobile River
- 12** Taking a tour of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab and watching alligators at Alligator Lake
- 13** Biking on trails throughout the city and the parks
- 14** Being able to go freshwater and saltwater fishing almost everywhere



11 FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS

Photo by FusionPoint Media



Photo courtesy of Visit Mobile

12 DAUPHIN ISLAND ALLIGATOR LAKE



15 BELLINGRATH GARDENS & HOME

- 15** Strolling through Bellingrath Gardens and Home and seeing all the plants and flowers in bloom
- 16** Boating under the Dog River and the Fowl River bridges
- 17** Shopping the abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables at local farmers' markets

- 18** Visiting museum traveling exhibits that are constantly changing and amazing to view, including art, sculptures and history
- 19** Strolling at the monthly LODA Artwalk, a fun time to walk downtown, eat food and enjoy art
- 20** Watching the large ships roll along the river at Cooper Riverside Park
- 21** Enjoying rainy afternoons in Mobile and how the rain keeps everything green



17 FARMERS' MARKET PRODUCE



19 LODA ARTWALK

BOARD OF ADVISORS

The Mobile Area Chamber provides board of advisors members an avenue to give valuable input on critical organization and community issues; facilitates peer-to-peer interaction; and delivers a high level of recognition.

This group meets three times a year at various locations, hearing business and governmental leaders and other speakers address pertinent topics. In addition, the group receives invitations to other events for Chamber leadership.

For information on joining the board of advisors, contact Shelly Mattingly at 251.431.8655 or smattingly@mobilechamber.com.



★ The star indicates those whose companies are also investors in Partners for Growth, the Chamber's long-term economic and community development program.

As of April 2021



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Glyn Agnew

AT&T



Diana Allen

The SSI Group LLC



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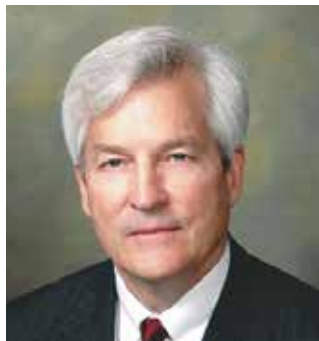
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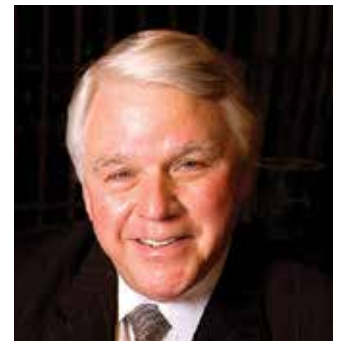
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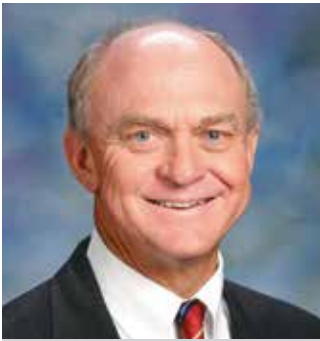
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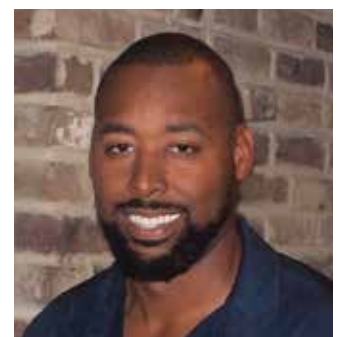
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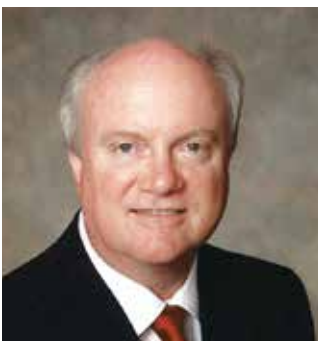
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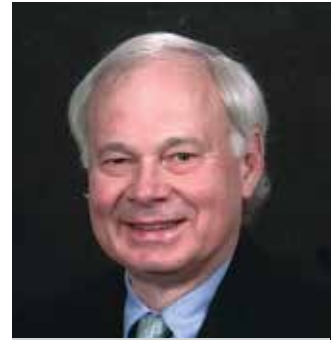
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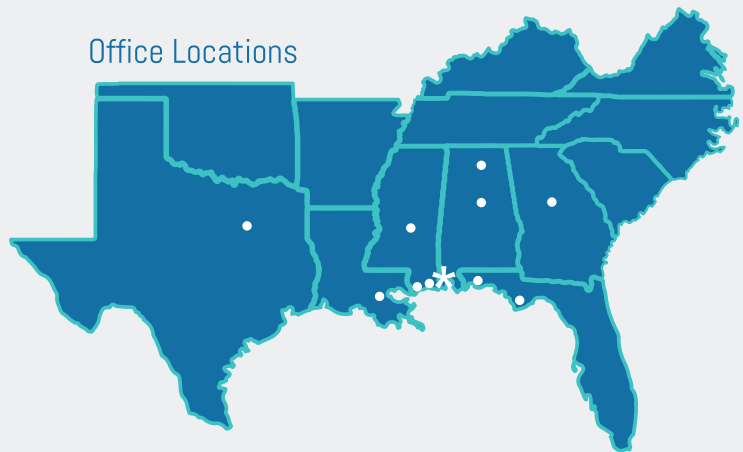
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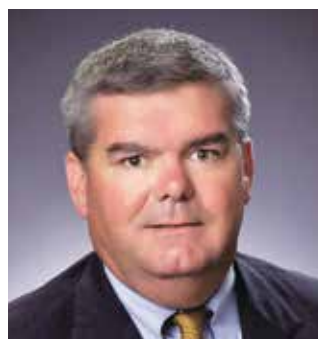
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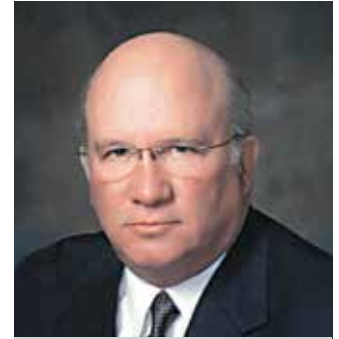
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Titanium Wireless

Jamie Sumpter

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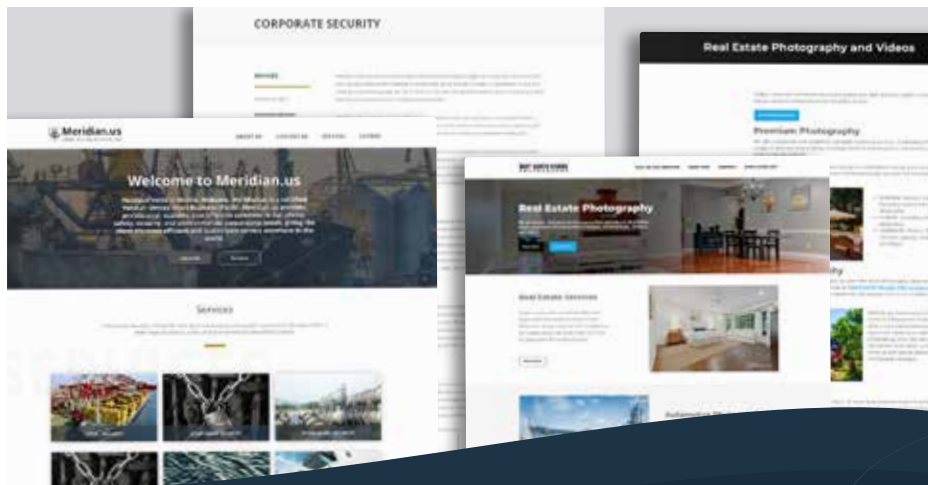
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Seated, left to right: Garrett Zoghby, Patrick Dungan, Jay Ross and Michael Berson. Standing, left to right: Vicki Clarke, Sherry Cates, Bradley Byrne, Kris Stanton, Britton Bonner, Becky Gibson, Nash Campbell, Leigh Lods, Jackie Parks, Sherri Charles, Brian Smithweck, Andrea Mitchell, Andy Freeman, Kayla Seawell, Rachel Mahoney, Nicole Bourg and Bob Campbell. Not pictured: David Johnson, Vic Lott, Jannea Rogers, Blake Richardson, Matt Jackson, Scott Hetrick, Blake Hardwich, Suntrease Williams-Maynard, Rusty Russell, April Smith, Bradley Sanders, McLean Bramlett, Suzanne Clark, Joy Massey, Joni Huddleston, Christopher Lewis and RA Crumbley.

Company official: Jay Michael Ross, Mobile office partner in charge

Address: 11 N. Water St., Ste. 23200, Mobile

Number of Employees: 41 in Mobile, 482 firmwide

Website: adamsandrees.com

Years in business: 70

Brief company description: Adams and Reese LLP is an industry-focused practice group of attorneys and advisors who are strategically organized throughout the southern U.S. and Washington, D.C.

Adams and Reese professionals are advisors and advocates who tailor their approach and counsel to the specific needs of each situation and client. Many have years of on-the-job experience within the industries serving as executives, professionals and in-house counsel.

Why do you support the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce's Partners for Growth Initiative? "As lawyers and government relations professionals, it's our business to know and understand our clients, their businesses, their current needs and their future plans," said Ross. "As neighbors, our commitment to community has become a deep-rooted characteristic of our firm's personality. Our team in Mobile is focused on serving a wide range of businesses, and we support the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce's Partners for Growth initiative, which ensures a bright future for local businesses as they grow both domestically and internationally. We have

been proud to support a number of economic development initiatives that directly benefit Mobile."

How long have you been a continuous Mobile Area Chamber Member? 30 years

About Partners For

Growth: Growing Global, Investing Local 2018-2022,

Partners For Growth is a five-year, public-private

initiative of the Mobile Area Chamber, to grow and diversify Mobile's economy. Its five pillars include: 1) new business recruitment and investment attraction; 2) existing industry support, innovation and entrepreneurship; 3) workforce attraction, retention and development; 4) diverse business development; and 5) business advocacy and quality of place.

Join the Chamber's economic development investors by contacting **David Rodgers**, vice president, economic development, at **251.431.8657** or **drodgers@mobilechamber.com**.





DISCOVER AND EXPLORE RHINE RIVER CRUISE

10-DAY TRIP INCLUDING 7 NIGHTS ABOARD THE NEW AMADEUS CARA CRUISE SHIP - OCT. 9-18, 2022

Zurich | Lucerne | Strasbourg | Rudesheim | Koblenz | Cochem | Cologne | Amsterdam

The Mobile Area Chamber has chartered the Amadeus Cara for a glorious cruise up the Rhine River, Oct. 9-18, 2022. Over the course of this 10-day trip, you will discover the many beautiful facets of “Father Rhine” along one of Europe’s most important and attractive rivers.

Along the way, you will pass the Dutch IJsselmeer and take a detour along the winding Moselle River. Delight in the panorama of the myth-enshrouded Middle Rhine Valley with its winelands, the prominent Lorelei rock and the highest density of castles in the world.

Other highlights of this trip include visits to the historic river cities of Basel,

Strasbourg, Cologne and Amsterdam.

Start the trip in Lucerne, Switzerland, then spend seven nights aboard the new five-star Amadeus Cara Cruise Ship featuring 73 spacious deluxe cabins and 12 suites.

The cost of the tour is \$3,899 per person, based on double occupancy, if booked by April 9, 2022. The price includes roundtrip airfare from Mobile, your hotel and cruise accommodations, city tours and all meals on the ship.

To learn more about the tour, or to book the trip, contact Brooke McIngvale at 251.431.8640 or bmcingvale@mobilechamber.com.

TRIP AMENITIES

- Roundtrip scheduled airfare
- 1 night in Lucerne, Switzerland
- 7 nights aboard the new five-star Amadeus Cara cruise ship
- Superb dining with all meals included during your cruise (buffet breakfast, lunch, dinner, midnight snack)
- 24-hr. coffee and tea stations
- Quality red and white wines from Europe’s great wine regions with every dinner onboard the ship

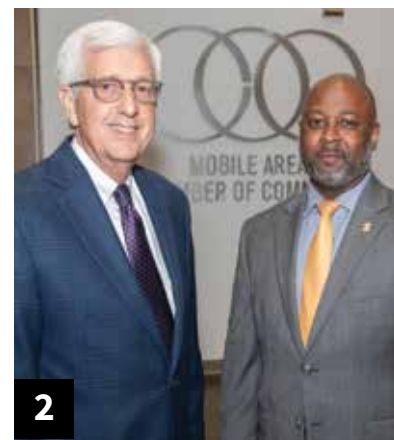


Some of the trip highlights include:

- Speyer, a former Roman settlement that is one of the oldest in Germany, is characterized by its religious architecture steeped in history, impressive facades, winding alleys and romantic squares.
- Enjoy Rudesheim, a small picturesque typical Rhine Valley wine town, home of the Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum with its curious self-playing calliopes and music boxes from the 18th to the early 20th centuries.
- One of Germany's largest cities and the capital of the Rhineland, Cologne straddles both sides of the Rhine, and is known for its soaring, twin-steeped gothic cathedral.
- On the Amsterdam city tour, see the Royal Palace, numerous canals and the Museum Quarter.



CHAMBER AT WORK



1 FORMER BOARD CHAIRS CALLED BACK INTO SERVICE Sixteen former Mobile Area Chamber board chairs attended a meeting with current board chair Terry Harbin, chair-elect Matt White and Bill Sisson, the Chamber’s president and CEO, who shared the organization’s three-year strategic plan. The members were then asked to serve in an advisory role as the Chamber begins working on goals included in the plan.

2 MACC AND MABCC Approximately 45 board members from the Mobile Area Chamber and the Mobile Area Black Chamber gathered in April. Prior to the pandemic, the two organizations met regularly to explore ways to collaborate and host joint programming. Leavie King III, MABCC board chair, encouraged attendees to join both chambers, saying “we are stronger together.” Terry Harbin, the MACC board chair, focused

on the “value of chambers working together for economic development, which helps everyone in the region.”

3 RECORD START TO 2021 In just one month, the Mobile Area Chamber’s economic development team finalized seven projects: Ren Seafoods, Ray-Mont Logistics, Myer Marine Services, Chart Industries, Coca-Cola Bottling Co. United, Austal USA and Burton Property Group’s South Alabama Logistics Park. Together, the projects account for \$196.98 million in capital investments and will create 263 new jobs and retain 41 more.

4 LUCKY “FORE” YOU More than 180 players participated in the Mobile Area Chamber’s Golf Classic on St. Patrick’s Day at Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail/Magnolia Grove.

CHAMBER & INNOVATION PORTAL FEATURED ON POPULAR WEEKEND SHOW

Chamber staff were invited to speak with WALA FOX-10's Eric Reynolds about the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on area businesses, and how the community can support small businesses. Find the link to the program, along with Reynolds' interview with the Innovation Portal team, on the Chamber's Facebook page.

5 MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

Members filled the Chamber's front lawn for Member Appreciation Day in mid-April. Attendance topped 200, aided by perfect "Chamber of Commerce" weather, for in-person networking, music and a fish fry.

COVID-19 RESPONSE CONTINUES

The Chamber created a COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance and Resource guide to help navigate current locations and other information. It can be found at mobilechamber.com/covid19-resources.

THE VOICE OF BUSINESS

The Mobile Area Chamber continued to publish *From the Floor*, a weekly newsletter highlighting the activities of the Alabama Legislature as it relates to the Chamber's 2021 legislative agenda and interest of members.

In other news, the Mobile Area Chamber added its name to a U.S. Chamber of Commerce letter urging Congress to extend the application deadline for the Payroll Protection Program to Dec. 31, 2021, to help ensure the segment of small businesses facing the greatest obstacles do not get left behind. President Biden signed the PPP Extension Act of 2021; however, the SBA may not accept new lender applications for loans submitted after May 31.



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EXECUTIVE PROFILE

ROBERT STOPPEK

CONTINENTAL AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGIES

TITLE: CEO

HOMETOWN: Mt. Prospect, Ill.

EDUCATION: Bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering from Iowa State University; master's degree in business administration from Northwestern University- Kellogg School of Management

FIRST JOB: General mechanic and welder at Go-Kart Track

HIDDEN TALENT: Juggling

WHAT WORD WOULD YOU USE TO DESCRIBE YOURSELF? Passionate

SECRET TO SUCCESS: Challenging yourself every day in something new or uncomfortable.

FAVORITE FOOD: Sushi

MOST USEFUL THING YOU OWN: iPhone

YOUR PASSION: Flying helicopters

YOUR FIRST CAR: Royal Blue Chevy Cavalier Z24

HOW YOU RELAX: Biking, hiking, skiing

TALENT YOU WISH YOU HAD: Musical capability/ playing an instrument

QUALITY YOU MOST ADMIRE IN PEOPLE: Humility

YOUR MOST MARKED CHARACTERISTIC: Determination

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JUNE 2021

For more information on Chamber events, visit mobilechamber.com

8 MEMBERSHIP 101

**Members only.*

Meet other members and Chamber staff to learn more ways to benefit from your membership.

When: 8 to 9 a.m.

Where: Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Contact: Carolyn Golson at 251-431-8622 or cgolson@mobilechamber.com

No cost to attend. Reservations required due to limited space.

9 NETWORKING@NOON

**Members only; one representative per company*

Make 20-plus business contacts in 90 minutes over lunch.

When: Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Where: Via Health, Fitness and Enrichment Center, 1717 Dauphin St.

Cost: \$10 and must be paid with reservation

Contact: Mallory Tyson at 251-431-8621 or mtyson@mobilechamber.com

Reservations required.

Sponsors: Keesler Federal Credit Union

15 EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE

**Members Only*

IN PERSON: A monthly forum for Chamber-member small business owners and managers featuring speakers on important business topics.

When: 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. (note earlier time)

Where: Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Speaker: Mayor Sandy Stimpson, City of Mobile

Topic: City of Mobile Update

Contact: Brenda Rembert at 251.431.8607 or brembert@mobilechamber.com

Sponsor: BancorpSouth

23 BUSINESS 2 BUSINESS TRAINING

VIA ZOOM: Learn new negotiating techniques to improve your company's bargaining ability and discover new techniques of how to make better deals, from major contracts to subcontracting.

When: 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Speaker: Thomas Quinn, Construction Estimating Institute

Topic: Negotiating and Estimating

Contact: Brenda Rembert at 251.431.8607 or brembert@mobilechamber.com

No charge to attend. Registration requested for ZOOM meeting code.

Sponsor: BBVA

30 BUSINESS 2 BUSINESS MATCHMAKING

**Members Only*

This in-person seminar introduces Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) and small businesses to governmental agency procurement agents as well as those at large local companies.

When: 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Where: TBA

Participating Companies: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile Area Water and Sewer System, U.S. Small Business Administration, The Wave Transit, City of Mobile

Contact: Brenda Rembert at 251.431.8607 or brembert@mobilechamber.com

No charge to attend. Reservations required due to limited seating.

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JULY 2021

5
CHAMBER CLOSED -
INDEPENDENCE DAY

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20 **EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE**

**Members Only*

A monthly forum for Chamber-member small business owners and managers featuring speakers on important business topics.

When: 8 to 9 a.m.

Where: Mobile Area Chamber,
451 Government St.

Speakers: Eddie Tyler, superintendent, Baldwin County Public School System, and Chresal Threadgill, superintendent, Mobile County Public Schools

Topic: Back to School

Contact: Brenda Rembert at 251.431.8607
or brembert@mobilechamber.com

Sponsor: BancorpSouth



ABOUT THE **PHOTOGRAPHER**

BRIAN D. JORDAN

Brian D. Jordan, a photography and videography professional with FusionPoint Media, has been capturing moments his entire life. Shortly after college graduation, Jordan started his own company to provide video and photo services to Mobile-area businesses. This began an almost 40-year career behind the lens.

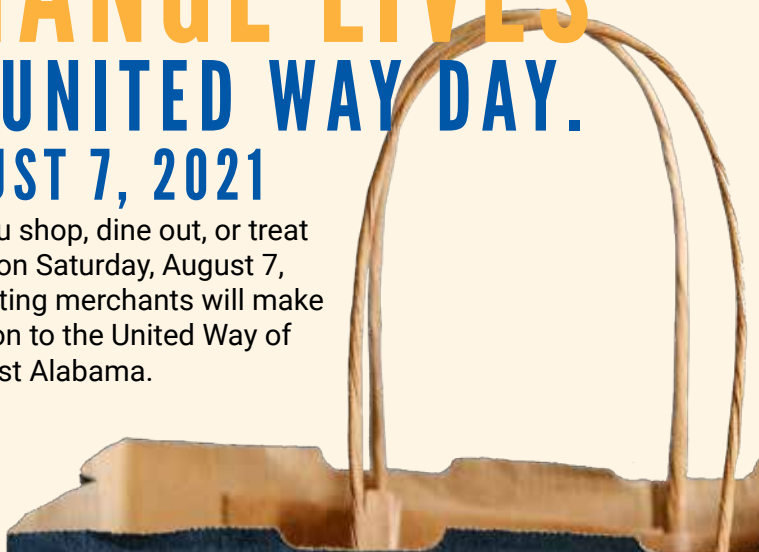
In 1999, Jordan started FusionPoint Media, a creative services firm known for providing comprehensive marketing support solutions backed with a personal touch. In this role, he has truly gotten to showcase a wide range of expertise as he supports clients both locally and across the country.

With this longevity in the business, Jordan has had the opportunity to get to know Mobile, its businesses and people in depth. His skills include proficiency in staged, candid and action photography; in-studio and on-location production; and photography and videography for a broad range of mediums.

In this issue, Jordan's work can be seen on the cover, as well as featured stories on summer fun and Small Business of the Month. To see more of his portfolio, visit fusionpointmedia.com/services.

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WHO'S NEW

Hitson Joins Burr & Forman



Hitson

Burr & Forman added **Bryant Hitson** to the firm's construction and project development practice group. Hitson earned a bachelor's degree in history and a law degree from The University of Alabama.

SSAB Announces New Positions/Promotions

Steve Fulton joined **SSAB** as director of transportation – Americas. Fulton is responsible for developing and overseeing execution of the division-wide strategy for SSAB's transportation needs. Fulton attended Indiana Institute of Technology in Fort Wayne, Ind., with a focus on electrical engineering.

Leigh Perry-Herndon is the new director of communications – Americas. She is responsible for developing and overseeing execution of the company's communication needs. She has a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of South Alabama.

John Sisk was named staff metallurgist for **SSAB Americas**, supporting the QL5 Heat Treat facility at the Mobile mill. Sisk has a bachelor's degree in metallurgical engineering from the University of Idaho, and served the Army National Guard as infantry and combat engineer.

Destiny Thomas joined **SSAB** in the corporate office as the organizational development and training assistant. Thomas has a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of South Alabama.

Ron Givens was hired as a business intelligence associate analyst. He graduated from the University of South Alabama with a bachelor's degree in computer science.

Bruna Nicholson was promoted to safety coordinator at SSAB's Mobile mill. Nicholson holds a bachelor's degree in biology and environmental science from Santa Ursula University in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, and has a master's degree in sustainability in oil and gas from Rio State University in Brazil.

Bob Keeling was promoted to rolling mill manager in Mobile. Keeling holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh.

DJ McGahee was promoted to finishing manager. McGahee holds a bachelor's degree in history from the University of South Alabama.

SSAB also announced a team within its information technology department to help bridge the worlds of information technologies (IT) and operational technologies (OT). SSAB Business Area Manager **Derrick Martin** will lead the IT/OT technical support team, and **Greg Smejkal** and **Aaron Lynch** are IT analysts.

Roberts Brothers Names New Hires



Aultman



Cruz



Elmore



Field



Ghasemi



Henderson



Moynihan



Neissl



Tillman



Tuokkola



Searcy

Roberts Brothers welcomed the following new agents to its staff: **Brooke**

Aultman, Tereasa Cruz, Sharron Elmore, Pamela Field, Behnaz Ghasemi, Christina Henderson, Chris Moynihan, Amanda Neissl, Jennifer Tillman and Laura Tuokkola, as well as **Cari Searcy** as agent tools and technology specialist.

Trustmark Promotes Dominescy to Assistant Vice President



Dominescy

Jennifer R. Dominescy of **Trustmark** was promoted to assistant vice president at its Mobile office, where she serves as branch manager. Dominescy graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi with a bachelor's degree in English, and she is a 2020 graduate of the Alabama Banking School.

White-Spinner Construction Expands Marketing Department

White-Spinner Construction LLC, a general contractor and construction services company headquartered in Mobile, added **Cynthia Barton** and **Judith Fuller** to its marketing and communication department.

Barton will lead the team as director of marketing and communication. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Arizona.

Fuller is the new marketing coordinator and lead graphic designer. She graduated from Auburn University with a bachelor's degree in graphic industrial and environment design.

Singler Joins Altaworx



Singler

Altaworx named **Keith Singler** vice president of finance. He brings 15 years of finance and IT management experience. Singler studied business administration at Virginia Tech and Dixie State.

Callaway Named Chief Resilience Officer



Callaway

Casi Callaway joined Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson's administration as chief resilience officer, a newly created position to help strengthen the city's efforts related to resilience, emergency management and sustainability. Callaway has a bachelor's degree in philosophy and human and natural ecology from Emory University. She served as executive director of Mobile Baykeeper for more than 23 years. She is the first chief resilience officer in the state of Alabama as Mobile joins other progressive coastal cities preparing for the challenges of the future today.

C² Wealth Strategies Hires Smith



Smith

C² Wealth Strategies welcomed **Jared Smith** to its financial team. Smith specializes in insurance strategies, money management and estate planning. He earned a bachelor's degree in business marketing with a concentration in finance from the University of South Alabama. Before joining C² Wealth Strategies, he was a consultant specializing in retirement planning.

Seven Agents Join Bellator



Clarke



Davis



Huffman



Milstead



Shoemaker



Wilson



Toomey

Bellator Real Estate & Development added seven new Realtors: **Debbi Clarke, Kelsey Davis, Alex Huffman, Lee Milstead, Sviatlana Shoemaker, Joe Toomey and Joe Wilson.**

BUSINESS ENDEAVORS

USA Health Creates New Fellowship Program

USA Health is establishing a gynecologic oncology fellowship program to train physicians to diagnose and treat women's reproductive cancers. The three-year fellowship will improve access to gynecologic cancer care for women in Alabama, and includes two years of clinical training and one year of basic science and clinical research. **Dr. Annelise Wilhite**, a graduate of the OB/GYN residency program at the University of Minnesota, is the first fellow.

University Hospital Adds Automated CPR Device

To improve patient survival rates and minimize potential exposure to the novel coronavirus, **USA Health University Hospital** is now equipped with the LUCAS Chest Compression System, a battery-powered device that performs automated chest compressions during cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The system provides additional benefits to cardiac arrest patients by delivering guideline-consistent, high-quality chest compressions even under difficult conditions and for extended periods of time.

WELL DONE

Bishop State Ranks Among Top Colleges for Career Tech

Bishop State Community College was awarded Best for Career Technical Education on a list of Best Colleges in Alabama by Intelligent.com. Bishop State was listed among thousands of public institutions in the nation, based on an

assessment of 2,277 accredited colleges and universities. Each university is evaluated based on curriculum quality, graduation rate, reputation and post-graduate employment.

Bixler Selected for Fellowship Program



Bixler

United Way of Southwest Alabama Vice President of Resource Development **Justine Bixler** was selected to participate in United Way's Fellowship Program. The program is an accelerated, year-long development course designed for core leaders of United Way who are high performers with a proven capacity for leadership. Selection is based on an individual's performance, mastery of skills and core competencies and potential for leadership.

Spring Hill College Professor Receives Fellowship

Dr. Alexandria Ruble, assistant professor of history at **Spring Hill College**, was recently awarded a summer fellowship from the German Academic Exchange Service, an international funding organization for German and global studies. Ruble will spend two months in Berlin and Emmendingen, Germany, focusing on court records and autobiographical texts to highlight the relationship between civil law and everyday life for average Germans in the 1950s.

ASMS Instructor Named Cyber Security Teacher of the Year

Deborah Gray, computer science instructor at the **Alabama School of Mathematics and Science**, was recognized as Teach Cyber's 2020 Cyber Security Teacher of the Year with the "Pathways to Cybersecurity" Award. The award recognizes teachers who, in addition to teaching

a cybersecurity class, develop cybersecurity programs, host clubs and/or coach competitions. Gray has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from University of Southern California and master's degree in business from Santa Clara University, which she earned while working for Hewlett Packard in the San Francisco Bay area.

Bailey Among Top Talent CPAs



Bailey

Andrew Bailey of Crow Shields Bailey PC was recognized by *Business Alabama Magazine* and Alabama Society of CPAs as a Top Talent CPAs for 2021. This is the inaugural year for the award, which recognizes professionals for their work in the industry as well as their efforts in their communities.

Jones Named to Alabama Real Estate Commission



Jones

Don Jones, branch manager of Bellator Real Estate & Development's west Mobile office, was appointed by Gov. Kay Ivey to serve on the Alabama Real Estate Commission. The commission is tasked with serving the public through the licensing and regulating of real estate agents to ensure excellence in the profession.

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 first and 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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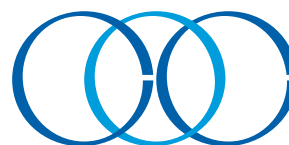


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