

the  
**businessVIEW**



# U.S. Coast Guard –

Significantly Impacts  
Mobile's Economy

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Working in a Workout

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Local Small Business  
to Double Workforce

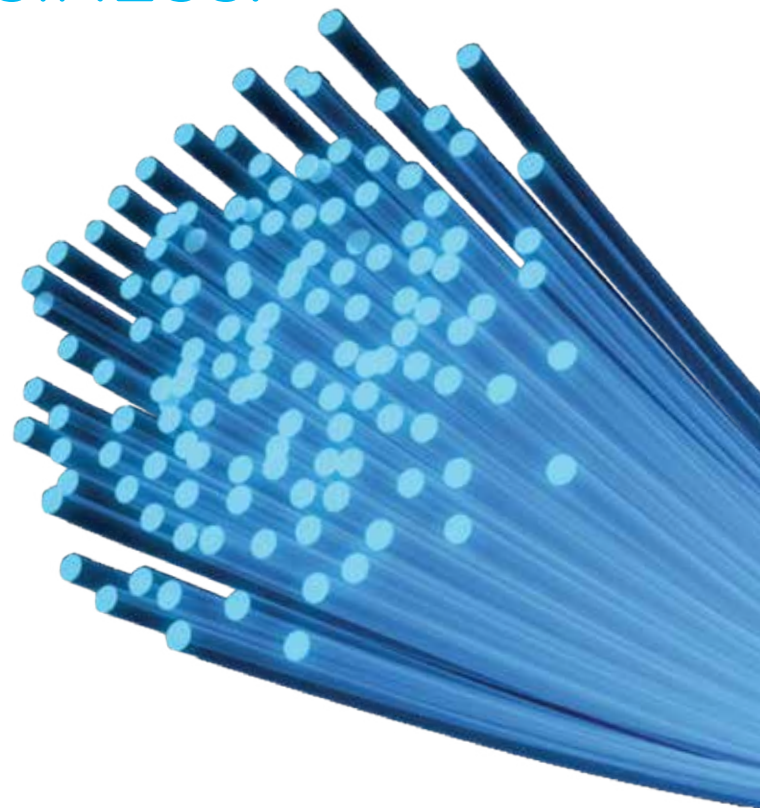
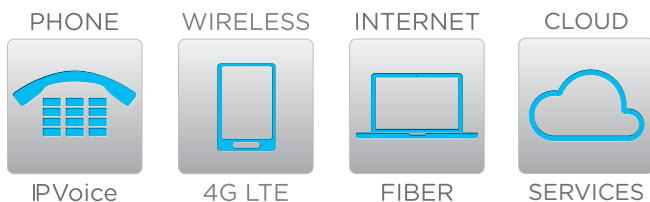
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From the Publisher

# The Coast Guard Effect

by Bill Sisson

There is no question that the U.S. Coast Guard has a tremendous economic impact on the Mobile Bay region. Tucked away at Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley and at Mobile Regional Airport, the Coast Guard installations sometimes go unnoticed by everyday citizens. As one of the region's largest employers, the Coast Guard remains not only vital to our local economic prosperity – it also serves a huge role in upkeep and maintenance of our runway infrastructure at both airports.

All three of our Coast Guard units have significant military “operations,” meaning the number of aircraft that take-off and land at the aeroplex and regional airport. The large number of take-offs and landings help place both of our airports in the top 10 in the country for aircraft



Sisson

operations. Similar to how tonnage numbers coming in and out of the Port of Mobile determine the amount of federal funds that are allocated to the Alabama State Port Authority for maintenance and upkeep, operations numbers help determine the amount of Federal Aviation Administrative (FAA) funds that are granted to the Mobile Airport Authority.

As you will read in this issue, the Coast Guard's impact is huge – to our regional economy, our airports and, of course, to our nation's safety and security. We're proud of the strength it adds to our growing aviation/aerospace sector, and we look forward to its continued economic vitality for years to come.

**ON THE COVER**

The U.S. Coast Guard has an enormous presence in Mobile with several facilities. See page 12-13 to learn more about the Coast Guard's impact here.

*Photo by Jeff Tesney*

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# Local Small Business to Double Workforce

**In less than a year, Myer Marine Services has grown so fast the company has**

to run some of its equipment on diesel (a generator) because there's not enough electric power at its current site. That's just one of the reasons the father-and-son team of **David and Brandon Myer** announced an expansion that would take the 32-employee marine and dredging company to more than 70 in just four years.


To accomplish this, the company announced it will build a 43,000-square-foot building, complete with two bays and a machine shop on 6½ acres in west Mobile.

"We knew the business would grow, but not this fast," said David, who has more than 34 years of experience in the maritime industry.

The company opened its doors in May 2013 with five employees. It provides dredging fabrication and repair, field service on equipment and installation. David noted that most of his company's clients are out of state.

**Jana Stupavsky**, project manager for the Mobile Area Chamber, worked with the owners on this expansion, and said it was especially exciting to work with a local, home-grown business that will add good-paying jobs here.

The company expects the new facility to be open later this year.

You'll see this symbol  with stories featuring Chamber initiatives.

# Airbus Group Expands Repair Facility

## at Mobile Regional Airport

Airbus Military NA opened a new 7,500-square-foot component repair facility located at the Mobile Regional Airport.

The expansion will enhance service of the company's medium and light multi-mission aircraft operators and offers hydraulic, avionics, composite and structural repairs, painting, component exchange and highly skilled engineering support.

The company's Mobile operation expanded in October 2009 to become Airbus Group's military aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul

delivery center in the U.S. This 30,000-square-foot, 45-person facility provides American operators of the C212 and CN235 tactical transport aircraft with the capabilities of a certified Federal Aviation Administration and European Aviation Safety Agency repair station as well as direct support from the aircraft manufacturer.

Some capabilities at the repair facility may support the Airbus A320 Family assembly line, currently under construction at Brookley Aeroplex.

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# CIMCO's U.S. Headquarters Rises From the Ashes

An unassuming road behind the bus station on Government Boulevard leads you into an older commercial park. But it's the building nestled just past a bend in the road that forces a double-take. There you'll find the modern, newly-designed 12,000-square-foot building of CIMCO Refrigeration Inc., a Canadian-headquartered company specializing in engineering, design, installation and service of industrial, process cooling and recreational refrigeration systems.

Probably most known for having installed 80 percent of the National Hockey League's ice rinks and every National Basketball League teams' arena floors since 1990, CIMCO's Mobile office has been operational for more than 20 years, and previously was Mobile Refrigeration.

A fire during Hurricane Isaac over Labor Day weekend 2012 changed the look of the company's U.S. headquarters here in Mobile, according to Jose Mergulhao, vice president of the U.S. operations.

"The building was a complete loss. Nothing was recoverable," he said.

But thanks to the fast action of several friends and business contacts, Mergulhao said the company was up and running days after the fire, and plans were immediately put into place to rebuild.

"We could have moved anywhere, but we chose to stay in Mobile," he added. There are 40 employees working in the Mobile office, and another 30 to 40 service providers working out of the office.

The new building, designed by BES Inc. of Fairhope, tells the story of CIMCO's rich history in the black-and-white photos that adorn the wall, and in a stunning frozen piece of art that greets visitors. During a tour of the building, Mergulhao – an avid sports and fitness fan – showed off the large gym for his employees just off the break room.



CIMCO, located at 2502 Commercial Park Dr., in Mobile, was destroyed by a two-alarm fire in 2012. The company has rebuilt on the former site, and the building is a masterful design. Pictured here is Jose D. Mergulhao, vice president of U.S. operations for CIMCO.

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<sup>1</sup> The grades used in the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Score<sup>TM</sup> program are derived from expert analysis of publicly available data using national evidence-based measures of patient safety. The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Score program grades hospitals on their overall performance in keeping patients safe from preventable harm and medical errors. For more information, visit [www.hospitalsafetyscore.org](http://www.hospitalsafetyscore.org).

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

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

<sup>4</sup> Dr. Israel is a specialist in internal medicine and not a participating oncologist in MD Anderson Cancer Network.



# USA Names Tony Waldrop as its Third President

**In February, the University of South Alabama (USA) named Dr. Tony G. Waldrop**

as the school's third president. He comes to USA from the University of Central Florida, where he served as provost and executive vice president since 2010. Previously he was vice president for research and economic development at the University of North Carolina.

Mobile Area Chamber President and Chief Executive Officer **Bill Sisson** had the opportunity to host a dinner in honor of Waldrop and his wife Julee, a professor and nurse. He noted that Waldrop is a firm supporter of economic development, and said he fully supports the relationship and synergy that has been built between the Chamber and the university.



Waldrop

"Tony and his wife Julee will be tremendous assets to Mobile, and their influence will benefit the Chamber's efforts to grow Mobile's economy," said Sisson.

An accomplished teacher, scientist, researcher and administrator, Waldrop holds a bachelor's degree in political science, a master's degree in physical education and a doctorate in physiology, all from the University of North Carolina

at Chapel Hill.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to join USA at this exciting juncture," said Waldrop. "The people of the university are unified in their energy and dedication to providing an outstanding, affordable education."

## Area's First After-Hours Orthopaedic- Specific Center Opens

**Because injuries don't always happen during regular business hours, The Orthopaedic Group PC**

opened Ortho After Hours, the region's first walk-in, orthopaedic-specific night clinic. Located at 6144 Airport Blvd., the clinic is open Monday through Thursday from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

The extended hours are walk-in only, according to **Ellen Niland**, the company's public relations director. Minor orthopaedic problems such as sprains, strains, tears and even breaks can be handled at the clinic, bypassing an emergency room where there might be long waits, Niland said.

To learn more about the services provided, visit [www.TheOrthoGroup.com](http://www.TheOrthoGroup.com).

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# More than 600 Students Participate in Health Occupations Career Fair

In February, students from public and private schools across Mobile and Baldwin counties participated in the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Health Occupations Career Fair, presented by the Bay Area Healthcare Coalition, a program of the Mobile Area Chamber.

Students spent two hours immersed in learning about various career options in the field of healthcare ranging from surgery to orthopaedics to pharmacy to physical therapy. In all, more than 600 students in grades 10 and 11 from 25 schools participated.

Sponsors for the two-day event were the University of South Alabama Medical Center, Mobile County Public Schools, Infirmary Health,

Providence Hospital, Springhill Medical Center, AltaPointe Health Systems, Columbia Southern University and USA Children's & Women's Hospital.

The Bay Area Healthcare Coalition is a group of hospital, K-12 and higher education executives whose goal is to work together to ensure classroom instruction is applicable to the skill sets needed to move students into successful careers in the healthcare industry. 



Ashley Petelinski, EMT/paramedic instructor at Faulkner State Community College, spent two days working with students interested in a career in healthcare. Pictured at right is a student from Alma Bryant High School learning how to apply chest compressions during CPR.

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FusionPoint Media provides marketing services to clients across the country. Pictured are, from left to right: Laurie Jordan, Brian Jordan, Ashley Heyer and Rodney Reed.

# FusionPoint Media Offers 'Uniquely Friendly Attitude' to Clients

Brian Jordan spent 14 years in marketing at QMS, the Mobile-based laser printer manufacturer that was eventually bought by Konica Minolta. Using the experience he gained through those years, and keeping Konica Minolta as one of their first clients, Jordan and a couple of partners founded FusionPoint Media, which has grown to become a comprehensive marketing resource company that works with a wide range of clients. FusionPoint is the Mobile Area Chamber's Small Business of the Month.

"We took that knowledge and a uniquely friendly attitude to offer companies a marketing resource team to complement their current efforts or take on all facets of their marketing operations," Jordan said.

It is that "uniquely friendly attitude" that Jordan believes sets FusionPoint apart – an emphasis on customer service.

"We always say we'll do anything our clients need us to do," he said. "While our core specialties are design, website development, business-to-business web applications, video production and photography, our real focus is customer service. We get to know our clients and their needs and are able to take a project idea and carry it to completion. Most of our clients have been associated with us for over 10 years, but we're always bringing our experience and willingness to assist new and growing companies in any way."

Jordan, who serves as the company's president, employs a staff of five.

Among the projects the company has tackled recently are the Mar-Ke Group's eAutotraining, Asbury Automotive's online budgeting platform, and the Chamber's annual meeting, for which FusionPoint provided design, photography, videography, script

writing and meeting support.

Jordan and his employees are also active in community and charitable work. Jordan has served as communications chair on the board of the United Way for six years, and FusionPoint has produced the organization's annual meeting and campaign kickoff presentation for the last several years, as well.

"To be a part of a growing city and to have a good quality of life, you have to give back with your time and services," Jordan said. "I think there is a misconception that only larger organizations can afford to donate their time and talents. With small businesses making up the majority of Mobile's economic landscape, we can make a huge difference in our city and beyond."

Ever wondered if your business qualified to be featured here? Check out the guidelines below and make the step to apply today. Contact Danette Richards at 251-431-8652 or email [drichards@mobilechamber.com](mailto:drichards@mobilechamber.com).

- Must be a Mobile Area Chamber member for one year
- Have 100 or fewer employees
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Photo by Jeff Tesney

# How the U.S. Coast Guard Keeps the Coast Clear

## By air, land and sea, the U.S. Coast Guard plays a starring role in Mobile and its surrounding area.

With 876 military and civilian employees in its three local branches, it is a major employer. From inspecting commercial fishing vessels to navigation to conducting search-and-rescue missions and responding to natural disasters, the Coast Guard ensures maritime safety and security for the Gulf Coast.

Here's a glimpse at the Coast Guard's three local divisions and what they do:

### Aviation Training Center Mobile

- One of the Coast Guard's largest units, with 595 active duty military and civilian personnel
- One of the largest non-industrial employers in Mobile County
- Generates nearly \$98 million in payroll in Mobile and surrounding counties

"Aviation Training Center Mobile is the Coast Guard's Center of Excellence for aviation, training all Coast Guard pilots and producing mission-ready aircrews for operational commanders," said Captain **Tom Maine**, commanding officer. "ATC Mobile is also an operational air station, responding to hundreds of search and rescue missions and patrolling tens of thousands of square miles in the Gulf each year." Additionally, ATC Mobile provides constant aviation support to the Coast Guard Atlantic Area and the Eighth Coast Guard District operations.

In 2013, ATC Mobile participated in 164 search and rescue missions, saving 26 lives, assisting 68 individuals and saving or assisting \$2.1 million in property. The center spent 2,200 hours in support of law enforcement missions in 2013, including a foiled drug smuggling attempt. Within 30 minutes of notification, an HC-144A and crew is ready to launch for search and rescue or law enforcement missions.

ATC Mobile's major facilities include 230 acres and 48 buildings at the Mobile Regional Airport. This includes two aircraft hangars, a flight training systems building, a health services

clinic, barracks and galley, and the Coast Guard Exchange and gas station.

ATC Mobile's aircrafts include four MH-60T Jayhawk Helicopters, seven MH-65 Dolphin helicopters and five HC-144A Ocean Sentry Maritime Patrol aircraft. The HC-144A patrols some 8,000 square miles each week in the Gulf of Mexico, including channel entrances, local rivers and bays, and anchorage areas, providing Maritime Domain Awareness for the Department of Homeland Security.

### Sector Mobile

- 206 active-duty military and civilian personnel
- Generates close to \$8.7 million in payroll impact in Mobile and surrounding counties

"Coast Guard Sector Mobile stands ready to respond to all hazards, all threats in the maritime environment while also mounting a significant prevention effort through its inspections and regulation programs. We rely on a wide array of state and local partners in government and industry to execute all assigned missions on the navigable

Photo by Jeff Tesney



rivers and coastal waters of the Gulf Coast,” explained Captain **Duke Walker**, sector commander.

Sector Mobile maintains nearly 3,000 aids to navigation. Each year, it carries out more than 600 search-and-rescue cases, saving some 180 lives annually. In addition, it assists more than 3,700 people and protects more than \$4 million in property. The unit is responsible for the following deep-draft ports: Port of Mobile, Port of Panama City, Port of Pensacola, Port of Gulfport/Bienville and Port of Pascagoula.

Its major Mobile facilities include 25 acres and 15 buildings at Brookley Aeroplex, with patrol cutters – two of which are located at Sector Mobile, and two buoy tenders located at Sector Mobile. It also maintains stations at Dauphin Island, Destin, Panama City, Pensacola, Gulfport and Pascagoula, as well as Aids to Navigation Teams in Eufaula, Mobile, Panama City, Pensacola and Gulfport.

## Gulf Strike Team

- 75 personnel
- Vital component of the National Response System and Homeland Security
- The Gulf Strike Team is part of the National Strike Force

“The elite Gulf Strike Team is one of only three such U.S. Coast Guard teams in the country, responding to oil, hazardous materials and other threats throughout the country and the world,” said Commander **Kevin Lynn**, commanding officer. Additionally, its competencies include national disaster response, site safety oversight and incident management support.

The team responded to the earthquake in Haiti in 2010, the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in 2010, Hurricanes Isaac and Sandy, and protected the Democratic and Republican national conventions.

Photo by Jeff Tesney



In 2013, the team responded to 10 oil-related incidents, six hazardous materials events, two national special security events, six natural disaster responses and one international deployment.

Overall, the Gulf Strike Team provided more than 49,500 response hours in support of the Coast Guard and Environmental Protection Agency last year. In addition to its regional responsibilities, it serves South and Central America and the Caribbean.

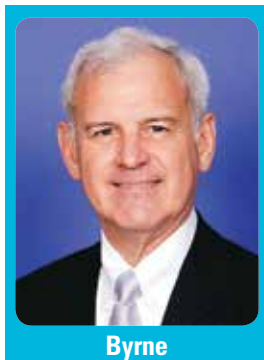
The Gulf Strike Team is located with the Aviation Training Center at Mobile Regional Airport. Its assets include a hazardous materials response trailer, a mobile command post trailer, a flood response trailer, two 26-foot trailerable aids to navigation boats, two 18-foot response boats, and air monitoring, chemical and radiation detection equipment.

# Military Appreciation Luncheon Set for April 22

The U.S. military presence in Mobile is significant, especially when you start to include groups like the U.S. Corps of Engineers with more than 800 employees in downtown Mobile, and the U.S. Navy presence at Austal USA overseeing the Littoral Combat Ship and Joint High Speed Vessel contracts.

On Tuesday, April 22, from noon to 1:30 p.m. the Mobile Area Chamber will host the inaugural Military Appreciation Day luncheon at the USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park – Aircraft Pavilion.

U.S. Congressman Bradley Byrne will be the guest speaker at this luncheon.



**Byrne**

Tickets for this luncheon are \$25 or \$200 for a table of eight, and can be ordered by contacting **Carolyn Hunt** at 251-431-8621 or [chunt@mobilechamber.com](mailto:chunt@mobilechamber.com). Payment is due at the time of the reservation. This event typically sells out, so act quickly.

Sponsors are: Airbus Military NA, Army Aviation Center Federal Credit Union, Austal USA, BAE Systems, ExxonMobil, Ingalls Shipbuilding, International Shipholding Corp., Mobile Airport Authority, Shell Chemicals and Volkert Inc.

## [ 2014 Board of Directors ]

*Due to the retirement of one of the Mobile Area Chamber's board of directors, the Chamber's board approved Scott Rothermel of Performance Contractors to a term on the board.*



**Rothermel**

Scott Rothermel is operations manager, Southeast Division of Performance Contractors Inc. A graduate of Louisiana State University with a bachelor's degree in construction management, he has been with Performance Contractors for 26 years, and in his present position for the past 16 years.

Rothermel serves on the board of Partners for Environmental Progress, and is a member of the Chamber's board of advisors and the Associated Builders and Contractors. Performance Contractors is a Partners for Growth Investor.



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PNC is here for our corporate clients and community partners alike, and we're already making a lasting impression with our support of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab through grants from the PNC Foundation. In addition to funding summer program opportunities for underserved kids, we're the driving force behind the BayMobile — a mobile learning experience that will be traveling to local schools, bringing marine science lessons to classrooms. It's proof of our commitment to everyone all around Mobile, and all part of a different kind of banking experience. One with a singular focus — You.

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# Working in a Workout

We all know we should exercise and eat right to be healthy, but who has the time? *The Business View* posed the question to several friends who work at member companies – and actually work out – and Mobile Area Chamber asked them how they do it. What’s their advice to the struggling people who know they need to move, but just get discouraged? How do they find the time to work in a workout? Whether

it’s skipping lunch to go to the gym for a class, or getting up extra early in the morning for a walk, jog or run around the block, or stealing your kid’s Wii for a quick fitness fix with or without your kids, there are so many different ways to get moving and active during our busy schedules. Their answers to our questions might motivate you to get moving and in shape.



“The *most* important part of working out is to fix in your mind that, like brushing your teeth and bathing, it’s *not optional*. No matter what, you work out. You don’t *decide* whether or not you are working out, you definitely *are*; what you might decide is what you’re going to do that day. Run? Walk? Take a class? Lift weights? Pop in a DVD?”

**Sally Adams Trufant**  
General Manager, B&B Pet Stop Inc.



“I will squeeze in a workout during work hours at least twice a week. Occasionally, I will go to the gym on my lunch break. Also, I will walk/run at Municipal Park. My location definitely helps. Also, I wear the Fitbit Flex, which records my activity throughout the day. I would do better if I could give up sweets.”

**Pamela Ware**  
Director of Marketing and Public Relations, Mobile Works



“I realize the ease of location and flexibility of employer are not the case for everyone (as it is for me), so my best piece of real advice is to join a class of some sort. I’ve started going to a class (like Zumba – which I had *never* done before), and once you’ve gone for a little while, you get to know the others in the class and it gives you a sense of accountability when others notice when you miss.”

**Penny Hatcher**  
Marketing Director, Southern Earth Sciences

“I find time for exercise each day with a busy schedule because I build it into four of the five workdays during the week and make up the rest on the weekend. I have found taking a class at the Downtown YMCA over lunch is an efficient use of time. I bring lunch in and store it in our break room, so I really don’t lose much time. I find this really helps me in the afternoon and makes the whole day more productive. Other small things you can do are park your car further away so you have to walk more steps and take the stairs instead of an elevator. Those extra steps add up.”



**Christopher L. Lee**  
Executive Director, The J. L. Bedsole Foundation

“I began working out during my lunch hour at the Moorer YMCA 19 years ago when I began working at the Alabama State Port Authority. I try to work out 5-6 times per week. Since I am a mother of three children, going during lunchtime is the best solution for me. I am so fortunate to have such a great facility like the YMCA across the street from my office so I can take opportunity of daily lunchtime fitness classes or enjoy a nice run in downtown Mobile under the canopy of oaks. My tip for someone wanting to work out is if you really want it, you’ve got to work for it.”



**Sheri Reid**  
Manager, Public Affairs, Alabama State Port Authority



## Chamber Member Fitness/Gyms

### Anytime Fitness

171 E. I-65 Service Rd. S., Ste. D  
Mobile, AL 36606  
251-479-0999  
www.anytimefitness.com

### Alabama Youth Sports Combine

2513 Leroy Stevens Rd.  
Mobile, AL 36695  
251-633-6263

### Bodies by Cindy

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Mobile, AL 36608  
251-510-4929  
www.bodiesbycindy.com

### Cheer Force One

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251-634-0203  
www.CheerForceOne.com

### Dearborn YMCA

321 N. Warren St.  
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251-432-4768  
www.dearbornymca.org

### Gem of Champions

25421A State Hwy. 181, Ste. 100  
Daphne, AL 36526  
251-517-3200  
www.gemofchamps.com

### Nasser Gymnastics Academy

3055 Old Shell Rd.  
Mobile, AL 36607  
251-479-9311  
www.nassergymnastics.net

### Personal Edge Fitness

3480 Springhill Ave.  
Mobile, AL 36608  
251-341-0927  
www.personaledgefitness.com

### Pure Barre

9 Du Rhu Dr., #368  
Mobile, AL 36608  
251-345-1180  
www.purebarre.com

### Sterling Hot Yoga Works

2540 Old Shell Rd.  
Mobile, AL 36607  
251-471-5775  
www.BikramHotYogaMobile.com

### Total Athletic Development Systems

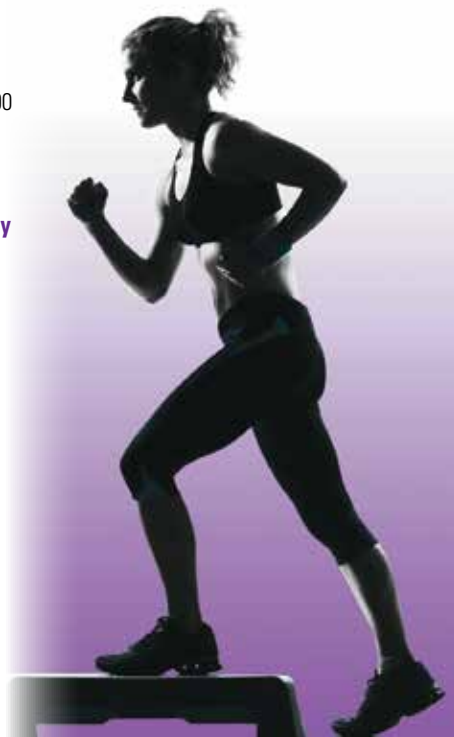
918 Government St.  
Mobile, AL 36604  
251-751-9996  
www.toadsystems.com

### Via Health, Fitness & Enrichment Center

1717 Dauphin St.  
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www.viamobile.org

### YMCA of South Alabama

101 N. Water St.  
Mobile, AL 36602  
251-438-1163  
www.yosal.org



“I started out going to the gym twice a week after work. I went from 5:30 until 6:15 p.m. I noticed that over a course of two weeks, I started feeling a little better and I was sleeping better as well. Therefore, I increased my workout to three times a week. Same time, but different days – all after work.



On days I couldn't make it to the gym, I began to find things around the house I can do, so I can get some form of exercise in. For example, playing with my 4-year-old for an hour has been a form of working out. I will pretend that I am bench pressing him, or I lay him across my lower legs and do some leg raises – sounds crazy, but it works. We both saw it as us having fun and me working out at the same time.”

**LeMaris Alston** *Owner, L.A. Fotographee & Mobile Area Chamber Technology Support Specialist*

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# Members Mean Everything to the Mobile Area Chamber

Join the Mobile Area Chamber for its sixth annual Member Appreciation Day on Thursday, April 10, from 4 to 6 p.m. Enjoy a fun afternoon of networking, crawfish, beverages and live music on the Chamber's lawn, 451 Government St.

With your support, the Chamber is more than 2,100 members strong. On Member Appreciation Day, Chamber staff members will be on hand to thank you for your investment in this pro-business organization established more than 177 years ago. The Chamber recruits jobs and advocates for business-friendly legislation on local, state and federal levels.

Do you know how many opportunities there are for involvement with the Mobile Area Chamber? Drop by and let the staff tell you how, or visit [www.mobilechamber.com/committees.asp](http://www.mobilechamber.com/committees.asp) for details.

Are you aware of the extra benefits available to Chamber members that could help your bottom line? Information is available at [www.mobilechamber.com/memberdiscounts.asp](http://www.mobilechamber.com/memberdiscounts.asp).

From communications to small business to governmental affairs to economic development and trade initiatives, all the Chamber's departments will be represented by staff members who look forward to seeing you.

## Member Appreciation Day

**When:** Thursday, April 10 – 4 to 6 p.m.  
**Where:** Chamber Lawn and Atrium, 451 Government St.  
**Contact:** Carolyn Golson, 251-431-8622 or [cgolson@mobilechamber.com](mailto:cgolson@mobilechamber.com)

### Why attend?

- Drop by to meet Chamber staff and member company sponsors and allow us to say "thank you" in person
- Crawfish boil catered by Chef Rob & Co.
- Live music by The Tommy Morse Band

### Thank you to our sponsors:

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Thank You

**MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY**

Thursday, April 10  
 4 to 6 p.m. – 451 Government St.

Join us for crawfish, live music, and fun, and let us thank you for your membership.



MOBILE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# Member Testimonials

The goal of the video shown at this year's Mobile Area Chamber annual meeting was to get people in Mobile excited about businesses and to show how the Chamber works for its members every day. During filming, representatives of local

businesses were asked to share the best thing the Chamber has done for their business. You can watch the entire video on the Chamber's YouTube channel, [www.youtube.com/Mobile Chamber](http://www.youtube.com/MobileChamber). Here's a snapshot of what they had to say:



**Devin Ford, Devin Ford Photography**

"I'm really excited about some of the larger businesses that the Chamber is bringing to Mobile because it is going to bring the opportunity to grow my business."

"Most of my business for the year came from Expo and different people I met and the word of mouth that happened from working with those people. And that was great."



**Janice Malone, BNI Business Resource Print and Ship Center**

"Being recognized as a Small Business of the Month and then as an Eagle Award winner has demonstrated to people in the market that we are very much a player and that we are ready to grow and here to stay."



**Matthew Sharpe, Mobile Popcorn Co.**

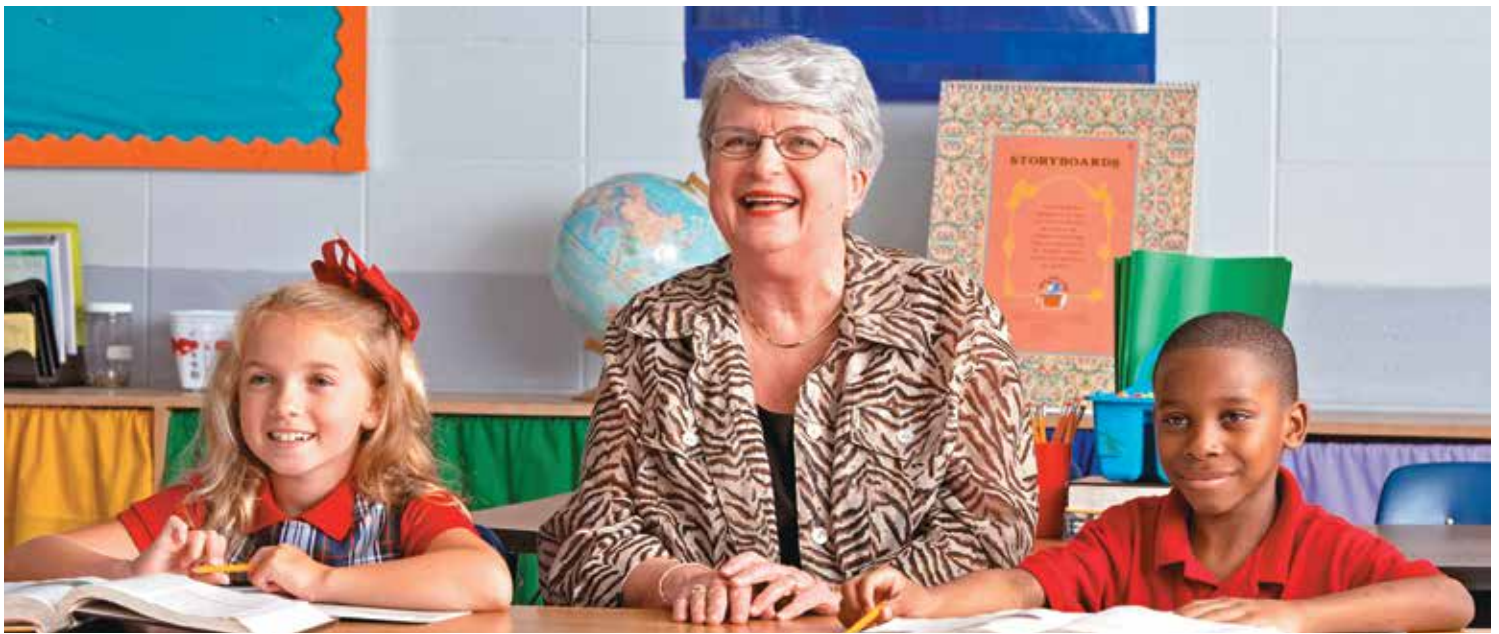
"As a result of attending the social media seminar recently sponsored by the Chamber, we went from 1,600 Facebook likes to more than 2,400."

"It's nice to know that when laws are being passed there's an entity that stands for what businesses and small businesses need in the legislature. So it's nice to know that's happening in the background."



**Cindie Carter, Walks and Wags**

"Being a member of the Chamber has meant so much to my business. We've been here for 8½ years now, and when the economy went south in 2010, the Chamber had my back."



# Common Core Will Raise Academic Standards

by Martha L. Peek, Superintendent, Mobile County Public Schools

**We have a lot of buzzwords in education. I am sure you have heard at least some of them: “No Child Left Behind” and “Whatever it Takes.”**

If we truly want “College and Career Readiness” not to become the next buzzword, we have got to keep the Common Core standards in place.

The focus of the Common Core Standards, or what are known here as the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards, is on teaching math and reading/language arts at a higher level, with more rigor. The focus is to teach the subjects more in-depth and get students to use higher-order thinking skills to

apply the knowledge they gain.

Common Core is here. We are implementing it, and it will take learning in Mobile County Public Schools to a higher level.

There are a lot of questions about Common Core because there are a lot of misconceptions. People do not understand that this was an idea that came out of the National Governors Association and that it was not mandated by, nor is it being mandated by, the federal government.

Many critics do not have access to seeing what the standards really are.

From what I have seen in the classroom and from what people who are implementing the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards in their classrooms have shared with me, they are enjoying it.

Teachers have more latitude in how they use instructional time. They are able to make more choices about the learning activities taking place in their classrooms.

Students, meanwhile, are expected to demonstrate what they have mastered. Students are doing more hands-on learning. They are being more engaged in their learning, and they are learning the really critical

skills in mathematics and reading that they need.

The students are much more engaged. They are talking more. They are discussing. They are debating. They are problem-solving. They are doing actual projects in the classroom that are meaningful.

The large majority of educators both across the country and locally have adopted the Common Core standards. They are working to make the transition into implementing their instruction at this higher level. I feel like the education community has embraced it and we are moving forward.

This is a transition period, as everyone is learning how to implement and teach these new standards, so we may see some dips in our test scores. That doesn't mean learning has fallen. It just means we will have to learn how to address the tests.

Learning is going on in our classrooms at a higher level.

We have seen nothing in these standards that are not good, solid standards in teaching mathematics and reading/language arts.

Our students can do it. They are doing it.

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## Where the Mobile Area Chamber Stands:

To support a more qualified and ready-to-begin workforce, the Mobile Area Chamber supports College and Career Ready Standards, including a Common Core base curriculum in Alabama public schools. The Chamber is a member of Alabama GRIT (Graduate Ready. Impact Tomorrow.) initiative, and advocates for high academic standards. For more parent and business information on College and Career Ready Standards, visit [www.alabamagrity.org](http://www.alabamagrity.org).



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# Cintas Corp.



**Company officials:** Scott Farmer, chief executive officer

**Local officials:** Loka Mistretta, general manager; Russ Watkins, plant manager; Kevin Gravley, market sales manager; Kevin Calkins, service manager; Annah Freeman, service manager; Aaron Anderson, office manager; and Laurie Lemonds, human resource manager

**Years in business:** Cintas began in 1929, during the Depression, in Cincinnati, became known as Cintas in 1973 and has operated in Mobile since 1989.

**Brief company description:** Cintas Corp. designs, manufactures and implements corporate identity uniform programs, provides entrance mats, restroom supplies, promotional products, document management, fire

protection, and first aid and safety services for more than 900,000 businesses across North America.

**Why are you located in Mobile?**

“Mobile is the ideal base location for our Gulf Coast operations,” said Mistretta. “We are very bullish on this market and see strong growth potential in the future. The workforce talent is terrific, and we have had an easy time finding people who want to do a great job each day and take pride in ‘wowing’ our customers. In addition to the local economy, though, Mobile is just a great place for our employee-partners to call home.”

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

“Our business is a business-to-business model, and we have more than 2,500 customers in the local

area,” said Mistretta. “As the saying goes, ‘A rising tide lifts all boats.’ We believe that as Mobile grows, so will our business.”

**What do you see as Mobile’s greatest potential?**

“Mobile already possesses many world-class elements – great people and culture, a beautiful cityscape and natural setting, and a vibrant, business-friendly economy,” said Mistretta. “I believe that it is critical to continue pursuing the best education system for our young people and improving our quality of life with great parks, biking and walking avenues, and the safest streets possible. I look forward to seeing the great things in Mobile’s future!”

**Length of continuous Chamber membership:** Since 1989

Cintas Corp. is located in Mobile Commerce Park and employs more than 105 people. Headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio, Cintas operates more than 430 facilities worldwide in North America, Europe, Latin America and Asia, including six manufacturing plants and nine distribution centers, and employs approximately 30,000 people.



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 **kdeuwrell@mobilechamber.com**.

**New Mentoring Program for Minority Business**

The MBDA Business Center, operated by the Chamber, and the Mobile Area Water and Sewer System, began a mentoring program for qualified minority-owned businesses to help take their businesses to the next level.

**Legislators Introduced to Chamber Legislative Agenda**

In January, more than 200 business and community leaders, along with nearly all members of the Mobile-Baldwin legislative delegation, attended a luncheon to launch the Chamber's 2014 legislative agenda. Sponsored by AT&T and Jones Walker, Chamber Chairman-elect Frank Lott presented the agenda to the delegation that included members of the Mobile City Council and the Mobile County Commission. State Sen. Cam Ward was the guest speaker and shared his insight on Alabama's increasingly significant role in energy production as well as the changes and growth in this dynamic industry.

**Monk Selected for Harvard Leadership Program**

Austin Monk, director of the Washington County Economic Development Initiative, was invited to participate in an executive education program in leadership studies at Harvard University titled "Leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." The program focused on enabling opportunities and engaging other people through understanding their backgrounds, expertise and skills.



**Showcasing Academies to Businesses**

The Chamber's workforce development division partnered with the Mobile Area Education Foundation to showcase four of the Mobile County Public Schools career academies to local business leaders. The purpose was to gain business support for the next phase of career academies at local schools, set to begin in the fall. To participate, contact

Bridget Wilson at 251-431-8619 or [bwilson@mobilechamber.com](mailto:bwilson@mobilechamber.com).

**Directory of Partners for Growth Investors Published**

To better serve economic development prospects in investing in Mobile and highlight the businesses who invest in the Chamber's economic development plan, a directory of Partners for Growth (PFG) investors was recently published. The directory includes company profiles on all PFG investors, and will be made available to investors, prospects and new companies investing in Mobile.



**Chamber Names New Ambassadors**

Thao Nguyen with Climate Control Service Experts and Maggie Thrasher with SMG/Arthur R. Outlaw Mobile Convention Center

were named new Chamber ambassadors. Ambassadors are a group of volunteer members who assist the Chamber with a variety of projects, including event registration, member visits and attending ribbon-cuttings. To learn more about this group, contact Dawn Rencher at 251-431-8649 or [drencher@mobilechamber.com](mailto:drencher@mobilechamber.com).

**Chamber Participates in Member Grand Openings and Ribbon-Cuttings**

Chamber staff and Ambassadors helped cut ribbons and celebrate grand openings at Jasmine's Beauty Care, Greer's CashSaver Cost Plus – Government Street location, Daten System Consulting, Sears Teleserv, PDOQ, Century 21 Meyer Real Estate and Walmart Neighborhood Market #4648.

If your business is a member and you would like assistance with planning a grand opening or ribbon-cutting event, contact Dawn Rencher at 251-431-8649 or [drencher@mobilechamber.com](mailto:drencher@mobilechamber.com).

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# The Maids



Founded in 1986, The Maids of Mobile is dedicated to providing services for clean and healthy homes for its residential clients. What sets the franchise apart, say co-owners Kathy and David Senseman, are the environmentally friendly preferred products used in the cleaning process. The company is located at 4321 Boulevard Park S. For more information, visit [www.themaids.com](http://www.themaids.com), or call 251-287-9175.

Pictured from left to right are Constonie Talbert; Meghan Ros, assistant team leader; Karen Axt, field manager; Leigh Ann Miles, branch manager; Sandee Terril, field manager; Vanessa Grasty; and Courtney Roberts, team manager.

*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


Sheila Murphy

Sheila Murphy is a financial sales specialist at Regions Bank where she offers advice, guidance and education to help customers reach financial goals.

Murphy is a 25-year veteran of the Chamber's Ambassador program and is this month's Ambassador of the Month.

*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](mailto:drencher@mobilechamber.com).*

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# Board of Advisors



**Armijo**

**Donald E. Armijo** is chief operations officer for Marine Well Containment Co. He earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Oklahoma. He has more than 30 years of experience in the oil and gas industry and has held various engineering and production operations leadership assignments with Shell Oil Co. in the United States, the United Kingdom, Nigeria and the Netherlands. Prior to his current position, Armijo was Shell's global operations excellence manager. He resides in Houston.



**Golson**

**Russell Golson** is operations manager for ExxonMobil. He earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Louisiana Tech University. Golson comes to Mobile from his most recent ExxonMobil assignment in Milan, Italy. He serves on the boards of the Gulf Coast Exploreum, Manufacture Alabama and Corpus Christi Catholic Church. ExxonMobil is a Partners for Growth investor.



**Luce**

**Robin H. Luce** is president of JubileeScape. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Louisiana State University. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Mobile, Youth Lacrosse League board of directors and St. Ignatius Catholic Church. JubileeScape specializes in landscape maintenance of commercial and industrial properties, as well as diverse projects that include residential landscapes, native plant landscapes, environmental restoration and vegetable gardens.



**McCall**

**Jenny McCall** is president of WESCO Gas & Welding Supply Inc., which serves the Gulf Coast with 10 locations. She earned a bachelor's degree from Troy University, and is a member of Associated General Contractors, Associated Builders and Contractors, Partners for Environmental Progress, Vistage, the American Welding Society Mobile Chapter and Spanish Fort United Methodist Church.

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

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# APRIL *For information on Chamber events, visit events.mobilechamber.com.*

## 9 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. – Panera Bread, 750 Schillinger Road S.

**Contact:** Kelly Navarro at 251-431-8638 or [knavarro@mobilechamber.com](mailto:knavarro@mobilechamber.com)

*No charge, but seating is limited.*

**Sponsor:**



## 10 MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

*See page 18 for story.*

**When & Where:** 4 to 6 p.m. – Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

**Contact:** Kelly Navarro at 251-431-8638 or [knavarro@mobilechamber.com](mailto:knavarro@mobilechamber.com)

*No charge. Free parking.*

**Sponsors:** Callis Communications, Coastal Bank & Trust, LLB&B Inc. Real Estate, Makeda Nichols - State Farm Insurance, Quality Valve, Roberts Brothers, YP Local Search Media and Advertising

**Catering:** Chef Rob & Co.

## 15 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:** Dr. Robert D. Lightfoot, founder and medical director, Victory Health Partners

**Topic:** An overview of the full spectrum of healthcare services Victory provides individuals and small businesses

**Contact:** Brenda Rembert at 251-431-8607 or [brembert@mobilechamber.com](mailto:brembert@mobilechamber.com)

*No charge, but seating is limited. RSVP requested. Free parking.*

**Sponsor:**



## 16 WOMEN'S ROUNDTABLE *\*Members Only*

*A bi-monthly forum for Chamber member women business owners and managers.*

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

**Speaker:** Kathy Scarbrough, chief communications officer for Navigator Credit Union

**Topic:** Credit Score Management

**Contact:** Kelly Navarro at 251-431-8638 or [knavarro@mobilechamber.com](mailto:knavarro@mobilechamber.com)

*No charge, but seating is limited. RSVP requested. Free parking.*

**Sponsor:**



## 16 GULF COAST TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL LUNCHEON

*A bi-monthly lunch hosted by the Gulf Coast Technology Council*

**When & Where:** 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Holiday Inn Downtown Historic District

**Speaker:** Robert Foster, business development manager for Technology Integration Group

**Topic:** “The Money Game – Fundraising is not a Moment”

**Cost:** \$20 for members and \$25 for potential members

**Contact:** Emily McGrath at 251-431-8651 or [emcgrath@mobilechamber.com](mailto:emcgrath@mobilechamber.com)

*Reservations required. Cancellations after April 11 not reimbursed to cover lunch cost.*

**Sponsor:**



## 16 GCTC ANNUAL TECH MIXER

*An annual networking reception hosted by the Gulf Coast Technology Council*

**When & Where:** 5 to 7 p.m. – Sky View Lounge at Holiday Inn Downtown Historic District

**Contact:** Emily McGrath at 251-431-8651 or [emcgrath@mobilechamber.com](mailto:emcgrath@mobilechamber.com)

*No charge; reservations required.*



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## 18 TRADE WORKSHOP: INTERNATIONAL FINANCING AND EXPORT INSURANCE

*This workshop is designed for new and established companies looking to advance their international business.*

**When & Where:** 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

**Cost:** \$35 per person

**Contact:** Christina Stimpson at 251-431-8648  
or [cstimpson@mobilechamber.com](mailto:cstimpson@mobilechamber.com)  
*Reservations required. Free parking.*

## 22 MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY

*See article on page 14.*

**When & Where:** Noon to 1:30 p.m. – USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park, Aircraft Pavilion

**Cost:** \$25 per person or \$200 for table of eight

**Contact:** Carolyn Hunt at 251-431-8621  
or [chunt@mobilechamber.com](mailto:chunt@mobilechamber.com)  
*Reservations required by April 17 and payment due at time of reservation.*

**Sponsors:** Airbus Military North America, Army Aviation Center Federal Credit Union, Austal, BAE Systems, ExxonMobil, Ingalls Shipbuilding, International Shipholding Corp., Mobile Airport Authority, Shell Chemicals, Volkert Inc.

## 24 BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

*Join fellow Mobile Area Chamber members as well as members from neighboring chambers for this regional After Hours event.*

**When & Where:** 5:30 to 7 p.m. – Hank Aaron Stadium

**Contact:** Kelly Navarro at 251-431-8638  
or [knavarro@mobilechamber.com](mailto:knavarro@mobilechamber.com)

*No charge, and reservations are not needed.*

**Sponsor:**



## 30 STATE OF THE CITY AND COUNTY LUNCH

*City of Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson and Mobile County Commission President Connie Hudson discuss our local government over lunch. A don't-miss event.*

**When & Where:** Noon to 1:30 p.m. – Arthur R. Outlaw Mobile Convention Center

**Cost:** \$25 per person or \$250 for table of 10 (members) and \$35 for potential members

**Contact:** Carolyn Hunt at 251-431-8621  
or [chunt@mobilechamber.com](mailto:chunt@mobilechamber.com)  
*Reservations required. Cancellations after April 24 not reimbursed to cover lunch cost.*

**Sponsors:** Alabama Power, Aker Solutions, Austal, BBVA Compass Bank, Commonwealth National Bank, Hargrove Engineers + Constructors, Infirmiry Health, International Shipholding Corp., Mitsubishi Polysilicon, Mobile Airport Authority, Mobile Gas, a Sempra Co., PNC Bank, SSAB, AM/NS Calvert, All A Bloom Florist (*Floral Sponsor*) and Artcraft Press (*Printer Sponsor*)

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Who's New

BB&T hired **Mark Spivey** as a sales and service officer vice president. The Montgomery native earned a bachelor's degree in finance and a master's in business administration from the University of South Alabama.



Spivey



Ankerson



Carpenter



Adams



Johnson

Russell Thompson Butler & Houston LLP hired **Tabitha Ankerson** and **Kayli Carpenter** as staff accountants. Ankerson earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's of professional accountancy from the University of Southern Mississippi. Carpenter graduated from The University of Alabama with a bachelor's degree in business administration with a specialization in professional

accounting and a master's degree in business administration from Troy University.

In other news, the firm promoted **Daniel Adams** to supervisor and **Shelby H. Johnson** to senior accountant. Adams graduated from Auburn University with a bachelor's degree in business administration and a major in accounting. Johnson graduated from the University of South Alabama with a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in accounting and recently earned a CPA designation.

**Bob Slaby** joined **Wilkins Miller Hieronymus LLC** accounting and advisory firm as an accountant. Slaby earned a bachelor's degree in business



Slaby

administration with a major in accounting from Kent State University. He has more than 13 years' experience in public accounting.



Williams



Hope



Nguyen



McGlon

**Prudential Cooper & Co. Inc., REALTORS** welcomed new associates **Pia Williams, Leonard Hope, Hon Nguyen** and **Thom McGlon**.



**Amanda Sathchakham** was promoted to general manager for the **Mobile I-10 West Hampton Inn**. Sathchakham previously

worked as director of sales for the hotel. She currently attends the University of South Alabama.

# 17th Annual State of the City & County Lunch

Wednesday, April 30

Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Arthur R. Outlaw

Mobile Convention Center



Join Mobile County Commission President **Connie Hudson** and City of Mobile Mayor **Sandy Stimpson** as they discuss the state of our local government at this annual Chamber luncheon.

Tickets are \$25 per person or \$250 for a table of 10 (Chamber members only) or \$35 per person for nonmembers.

Program Sponsors: Alabama Power, AM/NS Calvert, Austal USA, Aker Solutions, BBVA Compass Bank, Commonwealth National Bank, Hargrove Engineers & Constructors, Infirmary Health, International Shipholding Corp., Mitsubishi Polysilicon, Mobile Airport Authority, Mobile Gas, a Sempra Co., PNC Bank, SSAB All A Bloom Florist (Floral Sponsor) and Artcraft Press (Printer Sponsor)

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Jackson

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Nicholson

Moody



Brown

Beeker

Smith Dukes accounting firm recently announced several new hires and promotions. **Clifton T. Jackson** has more than 14 years experience and specializes in tax preparation, consultation, research and tax-exempt entities. **Charles Brinson** joined the firm as a senior accountant and earned a bachelor's degree in finance and a master's of accountancy from The University of Alabama. **Frank Nicholson** graduated from the University of South Alabama with a bachelor's

degree in information technology. **Kelly Moody** graduated from Spring Hill College with a bachelor's degree in business, and obtained an accounting degree from Auburn University.

In addition, **Jacob Abernathy**, **Ashley Smith**, **Autumn Brown** also joined Smith Dukes as staff accountants; and **Curry Beeker** joined the administrative support department. Abernathy and Beeker attended the University of South Alabama. Smith attended Auburn University. Brown graduated from



Wooden

Harvell

the University of Southern Mississippi with a master's of professional accountancy.

Smith Dukes also promoted **Brooke M. Wooden** to senior assurance accountant. **Brittney Harvell** advanced to the assurance and tax departments. Harvell attends the University of South Alabama.



Yarborough

Rogers

**Sheila Yarborough** and **Eryka Rogers** joined Roberts Brothers West Mobile office.

## Business Endeavors

Theodore-based **Sirius Technical Staffing Services** opened a new information technology staffing division. For more information call 251-377-2423.

**WALA FOX10 and WFNA CW55** recently expanded its morning newscast starting at 4:30 until 9 a.m. The lifestyle and entertainment program, **Studio 10**, takes over at 9 a.m.

The Mobile County Commission awarded **Driven Engineering** the contract for the final design, bidding and construction of a \$1 million baseball complex at Schillinger and Hitt roads. The project is expected to be complete at the end of summer.

Mobile-based **Cam-Air LLC** is a long-term engineered energy solutions provider for facilities of all sizes located at 23210 U.S. Hwy. 98 Ste. A in Fairhope. Through a suite of innovative products, including patented, American-made products Cam-Air provides commercial and industrial clients energy-related technologies

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Dr. Robert Lightfoot of Victory Health Partners received the 2014 Hettie Butler

Terry Community Service Award from The University of Alabama Medical Alumni Association. The award recognizes those who have made an outstanding commitment to the advancement of their community.

Sherri Grubbs of HR Coastal Inc., received the 2013 community service award from Mobile Society for Human Resource Management. Grubbs was selected in recognition of her longtime commitment as a volunteer career counselor with the

Mobile Bay Job Seekers Network. Coastal Bank and Trust, a division of Synovus Bank, announced Synovus recently received 16 national awards from Greenwich Associates for excellence in middle market and small business banking. Among 750 banks evaluated nationwide, only 34 received national excellence awards for Middle Market banking, and only 43 for Small Business banking.

Jud Freeman of Long's Human Resource Services was elected as the 2014 president of the Alabama Staffing Association. Freeman is the third generation in his family to serve in this position.



Freeman

Remington College Mobile Campus received the Modern Salon's 2013 Excellence in Education award, recognizing leadership and best practices among cosmetology schools. The college earned the distinction based on technical skills, placement opportunities and its ability to connect with graduates.



Peterson



Williams

Earlier this year, Prudential Cooper & Co. Inc., REALTORS recently awarded its outstanding sales associates: Mike Peterson was named Rookie of the Year for 2013, and Rosemary Williams earned the

prestigious Aden Jack Cooper Award, given annually to an associate who reflects the same positive leadership qualities, principles and ideas as the company's founder, Jack Cooper.

Andrew Edwards and Marshall Tucker of Thompson Engineering have earned professional engineering licenses.

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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# LAGNIAPPE

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# Anniversaries

Members are our greatest asset. Please show your support through the patronage of these businesses.

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OEC

## 35 years

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## 30 years

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SeaCliff Agency LLC

## 5 years

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Omega Properties Inc.  
Pelican Coast Conservancy/Atlantic Coast Conservancy  
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Survivors of Mental Illness Outreach Inc. (SOMI Inc.)  
Team Share the Road Alabama  
United America Security Services Inc.  
Waite's Cleaners Inc.  
Woodside Apartment Homes

If you know a company interested in benefiting from Chamber membership, contact Tricia Bradley at 251-431-8642 or Rebecca Milam at 251-431-8647. View the complete membership directory at [www.mobilechamber.com](http://www.mobilechamber.com).

### AARP

Anne Hails  
201 Monroe St., Ste. 1880  
Montgomery, AL 36104  
334-954-3070  
[www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org)  
Nonprofit Organization

### Access Magazine

Hayley Hill  
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251-263-1555  
Magazine - Publisher

### Alabama Contract Logistics Services (ACLS)

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### The Exceptional Foundation of the Gulf Coast

Jennifer Flad  
28788 N. Main St.  
Daphne, AL 36526  
251-625-8955  
[www.exceptionalfoundationgc.org](http://www.exceptionalfoundationgc.org)  
Nonprofit Organization

### Keith Holobeck

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St. Louis, MO 63125-4239  
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Individuals

### The Learning Tree Inc.

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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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At the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, our goal is simple – to help your business grow. Membership links you with resources and contacts for success during challenging times. Join us. Get involved in the Gulf Coast's most dynamic business community. Connect to our more than 2,100 members – network, ask questions, learn, share insights and form important business relationships. Believe in a strong future for Mobile. Belong to the Chamber – because it's good for business and good for Mobile.

