

Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce

MAY 2015

the **businessVIEW**

**Arkema
Announces
Expansion**

**Spring Hill
College
Has New
President**

**Chamber
Chase
Kicks Off**

Emphasis on New Members



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From the Publisher - Bill Sisson

Remembering Bishop State's James Lowe Jr.

President John Quincy Adams once said, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." James Lowe Jr. was that kind of leader, and our community was fortunate to have him serve as president of Bishop State Community College for the past seven years.



He was a key player in the Chamber's Partners for Growth initiative, and he served on the Chamber's board of directors and many committees and task forces.

Jim guided Bishop State through numerous capital improvement projects at all of its campuses and set out an ambitious plan to increase

enrollment and provide programs designed to provide much-needed training for jobs being created in the community's fast-growing business sectors.

History will show that Jim's hard work and determination had a lasting mark on Bishop State, and he left it, and this community, in better places than he found them. Farewell to one of Mobile's great champions and advocates.

I had the great fortune of working directly with Jim on various projects. It was apparent to me from the beginning that he had a vision of growth and opportunity for Bishop State, for its students, the faculty, the staff and the entire Mobile community. Throughout his tenure, he dedicated himself every day to fulfilling that vision and ensuring the success of students.

Jim immediately became involved in the Chamber because he understood that the business community was the ultimate consumer of the "product" of the community college system – the graduates and our future workforce. He intuitively realized that Bishop State played a key role in the region's economic development process.



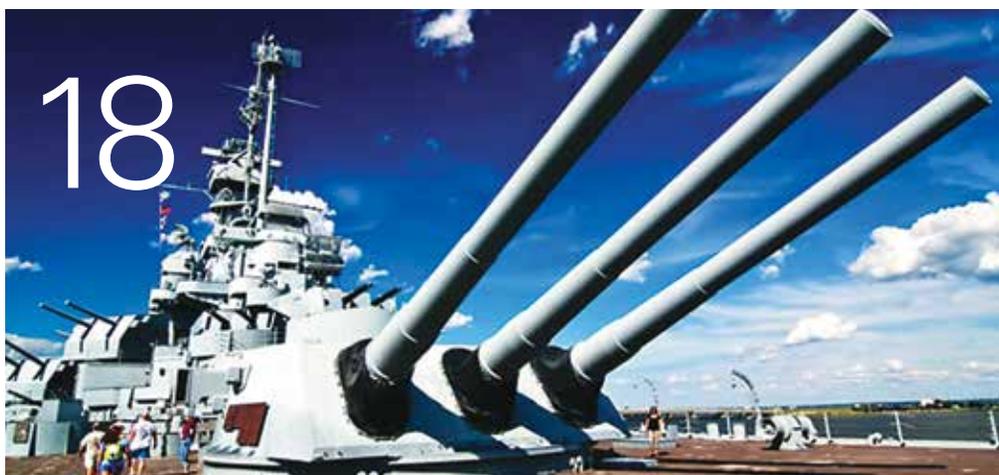
In 2011 the Mobile Area Chamber traveled to Louisville for its annual Leaders Exchange. Jim Lowe and Bill Sisson traveled together on this trip and are pictured here together with other attendees.

ON THE COVER

Lance Covan, CEO of Mitternight Inc., is chairing the Chamber's annual Chamber Chase. His priority is recruiting new members like The Noble South, who recently joined the Chamber. See story on page 16.

Photo by Jeff Tesney.

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New Hospice Care Center

First of its Kind in South Alabama

With its new facility tucked inside Providence Hospital, Covenant Hospice will soon provide individual care for patients needing round-the-clock care and/or special equipment in Mobile. Currently these patients are being cared for in similar Covenant facilities in Florida.

The Covenant Hospice Inpatient Care Center at Providence Hospital will be the first of its kind in the area, and will include 15 private rooms.

Leased and run by Covenant, the new 5,900-square-foot center will be on the 11th floor of Providence Hospital, located at 6801 Airport Blvd. A fall 2015 opening is projected. Staff will include physicians, registered nurses, nurse practitioners,

social workers, hospice aides, bereavement and spiritual care volunteers and administrative positions. Once fully operational, the center will provide jobs for an estimated 28 full-time employees.

Each patient room will be equipped with comfortable guest seating and sleeping accommodations, a desk and Internet access.

Visiting hours will be unlimited and family, friends, loved ones and children are welcome.

“Bringing an inpatient center like this to Mobile will help to relieve anxiety that families and

“Bringing an inpatient center like this to Mobile will help to relieve anxiety that families and patients who need access to these special services often encounter.”

Jeff Mislvey
Covenant Hospice
President and CEO

patients who need access to these special services often encounter,” said Jeff Mislvey, Covenant Hospice president and CEO.

“This new service will fulfill a significant unmet need

in our community and is consistent with Providence’s longstanding commitment to

palliative and hospice care,” said Clark Christianson, president and CEO of Providence Health System.

In 2014, Covenant Hospice served more than 650 patients in Baldwin, Mobile and Washington counties.

Considered the model for quality compassionate care for people facing a life-limiting illness, hospice provides medical care, pain management, and emotional and spiritual support tailored to the patient’s needs and wishes. In most cases, care is provided in the patient’s home but may also be provided in freestanding hospice centers or hospitals, such as Providence.

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Arkema Looking to Increase Its Market Share in 3D Printing Industry

Arkema is positioning itself to impact the 3D printing market. Recently company officials announced Arkema would make a \$60 million capital investment in their Mobile area operations, generating 25 jobs with an average salary of \$100,000.

The France-based company is adding a production line to make Kepstan® PEKK (Poly-Ether-Ketone-Ketone), used in 3D printing and carbon fiber applications. The project will locate within the current footprint of the Axis operation, and is expected to be completed in 2018.

As the trend increases, 3D printers can create a variety of

products from prototypes to architectural models used in numerous industries, including automotive, aviation and medical.

“Kepstan is the ink in the printer,” explains **John Lakenan**, Arkema’s Mobile site manager.

While the company is increasing its current capabilities in France, the local facility is the only one of Arkema’s 24 production sites in North America that will make the product.

“We are excited that the Mobile site has been selected to receive a world scale PEKK production facility,” says Lakenan.

“We are extremely grateful for the enthusiastic support we have received not only recently but through the history of this site from the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, the Mobile Industrial Development Authority, as well as state and local elected officials. This support was a factor that helped Mobile become the site of choice for Arkema,” he adds.

“Arkema has been a great member of our chemical cluster in the Mobile area and an integral member of our international-based manufacturing community,” says **Troy Wayman**, the Chamber’s vice president of economic

development. “This expansion means continued success and is a testament to the pro-business environment in our region. And this capital investment and the creation of these high paying jobs is further proof of Arkema’s commitment to Mobile.”

Currently Arkema’s locally made products are used in the construction industry to make roof coatings and windows more energy efficient.

The company employs 105 people in Axis and 19,000 worldwide. 

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

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Lyn Peterson



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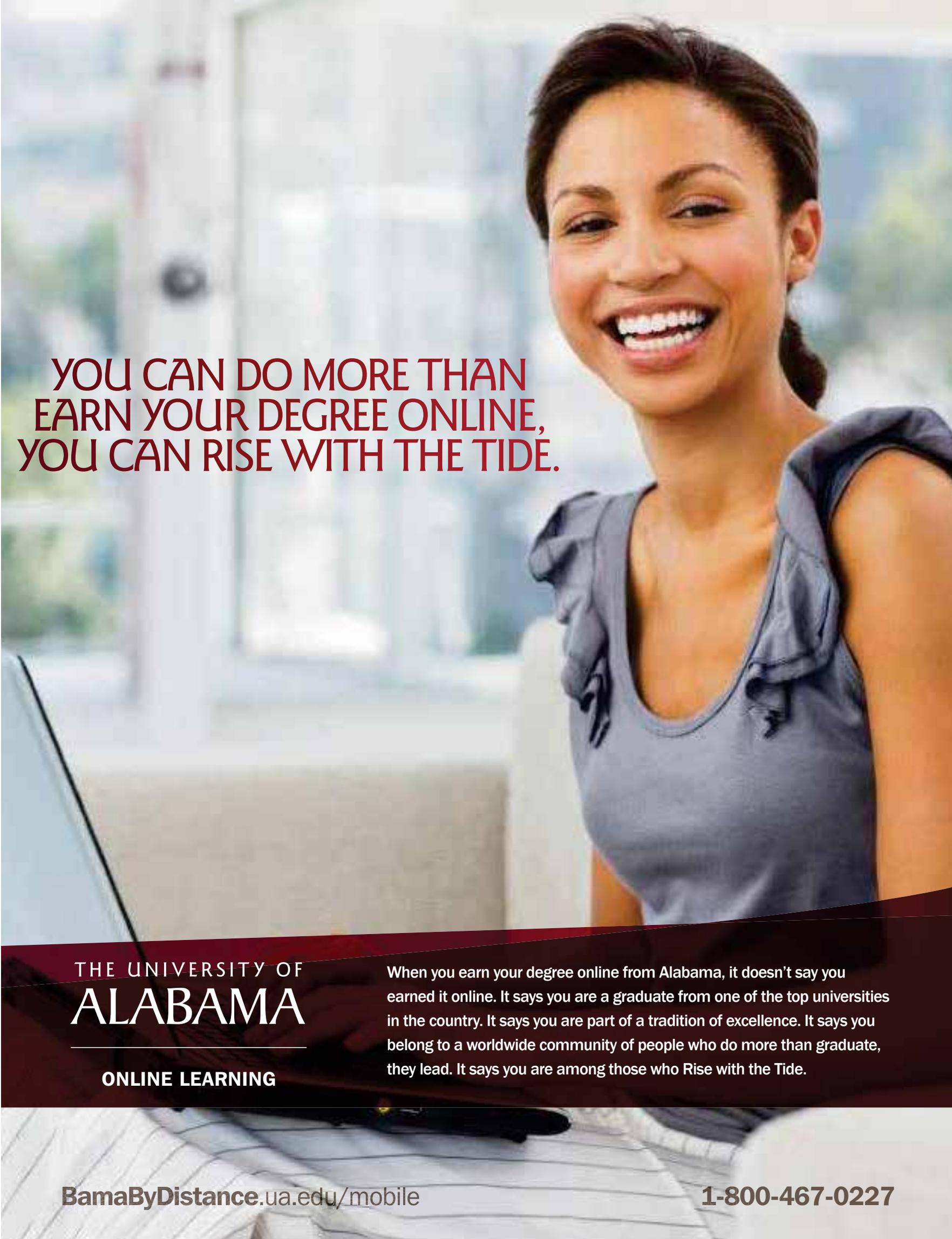
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New President Named at Spring Hill College

Spring Hill College (SHC) named **Dr. Christopher Puto** as its 37th president, succeeding the Rev. Gregory F. Lucey SJ, who will continue to serve the college in a senior administrative role focusing on mission and identity.

"Spring Hill College is fortunate to have such an outstanding academic administrator lead us into the future," said **Michael Coghlan**, board chair for SHC. "Dr. Puto has superb credentials as a business professional, educator and academic dean of two highly regarded business

schools. Furthermore, as a Spring Hill alumnus, he exemplifies the mission of the college to form leaders in service to others."

Puto graduated from Spring Hill College in 1964 with a degree in economics. He earned a master's degree from the University of Miami and a doctorate in business administration with a concentration in marketing



from Duke University. He served Spring Hill College as a member of its board of trustees from 2003 to 2012.

"He is the right person for the college at this time," added Lucey.

From 2002 to 2014, Puto served as the dean and the Opus Distinguished Chair in the Opus College of Business at St. Thomas

University, a Catholic liberal arts college in St. Paul, Minn.

In addition to his accomplishments in academia, Puto has a wide range of industry and consulting experience, with clients including Bank of America, Eastman Kodak Co. and General Electric Co. He started his career as allied sales manager at Burger King Corp., where he contributed to developing the strategic foundations for the "Have It Your Way" advertising campaign.

Local Nonprofit Teams Up with the City to Expand Animal Shelter

The Friends of the Mobile Animal Shelter (FOMAS) and the city of Mobile teamed up to construct new buildings for dogs and cats at the city's animal shelter.

FOMAS raised \$150,000 to expand the dog kennel to include 11 kennel runs and an indoor bathing area for dogs awaiting adoption.

During the bidding process, the trailer used to house stray and adoptable cats exceeded its shelf life. The city allocated \$75,000 to help FOMAS replace this facility.

Donna Turner, president of FOMAS, expects the facilities to be completed this summer, and says they will increase accessibility to the public and ensure the shelter is equipped to carry out its "no healthy death" policy.

The city of Mobile and Friends of the Mobile Animal Shelter held a groundbreaking for two new facilities. Pictured from left to right are Joel Daves, Bess Rich, Donna Turner, C.J. Small; and Mayor Sandy Stimpson.





Over the past few years Tanner's Pecans and Candies has expanded its business model. Recently the owners opened a commissary kitchen to help food trucks, caterers, bakeries and more looking to build their businesses. Tanner's Danny Fox is pictured here with Brook Moore who is preparing salsa cups for the Smokin' Gringos taco food truck.

Tanner's Nurtures Businesses in Food Service

Tanner's Pecans and Candies is expanding its palate. The company isn't actually adding new delicacies to its menu, but is helping others do so. President **Danny Fox** says the company bought its Springdale Boulevard location and began what he calls a "small business incubation center for the local food industry" last August.

Created in the company's former warehouse space, The Commissary at Tanner's Pecans opened in December. The facility has commercial kitchens and washrooms needed by food trucks, caterers, bakeries, processors and more.

At press time, five local mobile units and one processor are taking advantage of the space open to its customers 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

"It's the best way to start a business because we're open

after hours – handy if you have a day job – and there's no long-term commitment," says Fox.

Tanner's expanded its business model over the past several years by producing and packaging products for area entrepreneurs, so the idea of renting its commercial kitchen space is not new. But discussions with the local health department turned the idea into a new venture for the Mobile-based business.

Last year, the state changed its Cottage Food law, limiting what people can make and sell from their house. And health department regulations require a commissary for mobile units. "Until now, they had to find a restaurant, church or some other commercial kitchen facility that would comply with health department regulations – which is very difficult," says Fox.

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I-10 Mobile River Bridge Design Process Approved

In mid-February, **Gov. Robert Bentley** announced the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) will move forward with the preliminary design process for the “B Prime” route of the proposed I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway widening project.

Advertisement for design consultants followed, and ALDOT anticipates selecting the consultant this summer.

“It’s a significant step in speeding up the construction process,” and could reduce the project time by a year or more, says **Mike Lee** with Page and

Jones, who serves as the co-chair and spokesman for the Mobile Area Chamber’s Build the Bridge Coalition.

“Normally, that step is delayed until the final draft environmental impact study (EIS) and the record of decision come out,” said Lee. “That was estimated to take a year or more, and only then would the design and engineering work begin. This allows those things to run concurrently.”

“By starting the design process, ALDOT

will be able to fully analyze issues like the construction vibration concerns, bicycle and pedestrian issues, effects of storm surge on the ‘Bayway’ bridge, and other items that we need to resolve for the final EIS



and a record of decision,” says Southwest Region Engineer **Vince Calametti**.

The “B Prime” route was the preferred alternative corridor in the draft EIS and approved by the Federal Highway Administration in July 2014. The bridge route starts at Virginia Street, crosses the Mobile River just south of the Mobile Cruise Terminal, continues across Pinto Island and joins the center of the Bayway, where it will continue through the U.S. Hwy. 90/98 interchange in Baldwin County.

Stay up to date on this project at www.MobileRiverBridge.com.



Experts Weigh In on **Mobile’s Tourism**



Panelists in town for the Tourism Town Hall Meeting were top executives from Destination Marketing Association International, American Society of Association Executives, American Bus Association, Meeting Professionals International and Professional Convention Management Association.

Just six months into his new role as president and CEO of the Mobile Bay Convention & Visitors Bureau (MBCVB), **Al Hutchinson** hosted six icons

of the tourism, meetings and group travel industries in an open-format Tourism Town Hall event in Mobile, drawing nearly 300 local attendees.

With **David Dubois**, president and CEO of the International Association of Exhibitions and Events, as facilitator, panelists addressed

issues, opportunities and actions that a mid-level city like Mobile needs to take to compete at the national level, to attract more conventions and tourist groups and gain stronger brand awareness.

As a result, MBCVB officials are working to revive local passion and pride, looking at regional initiatives and rebranding Mobile as a historic, coastal, vacation and convention destination.

“I’ve said this before and I know I’ll say it again. It will take the entire community to take Mobile where we need to be,” says Hutchinson.

The organization is hosting its Annual Travel Rally on Tuesday, May 5, at 4 p.m. at Mobile Government Plaza. Find more information at www.mobile.org.



For Chicken Salad Quick, See This 'Chick'

Misty McClure is pictured above at her store on Hillcrest Road in West Mobile.

Once a staple of Southern tea parties, chicken salad has now become trendy, thanks in part to Auburn-based Chicken Salad Chick. Founded in 2008, the fast-food chain now has 30 locations in the Southeast, and has sold 100 franchises in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

In Mobile, franchise owner **Misty McClure** opened her first Chicken Salad Chick at 2370 Hillcrest Road, in the Hillwood Shopping Center with Heath McClure. The restaurant has been so popular that McClure plans to open another one this summer on Old Shell Road near the University of South Alabama.

Chicken Salad Chick is the Mobile Area Chamber's Small Business of the Month.

McClure found the venture to be the ideal investment. "I loved the fact that it was a Christian-based business and it would allow me more time with my two children," she said.

She moved from Mobile to Raleigh, N.C., in 2002, but wanted to come back to Mobile. Friends Tiffany and Brady Dubberly had Chicken Salad Chick franchisees in Columbus, Ga., and the Dubberlys introduced McClure to the concept.

The restaurant, which has a drive-through as well as a dine-in area, offers 15 types of chicken salad, ranging from the

traditional to the more exotic. In addition to the basic ingredients, chicken and mayonnaise, some of the recipes include cheese, fruit, nuts and even jalapenos.

McClure said that Classic Carol, the signature recipe created by founder Stacy Brown, is the restaurant's most popular flavor, but her personal favorite is Jalapeno Holly. "It has just the right amount of spice," she said.

With a crew of 28 on staff, daily production begins each morning at 7:30 a.m., said McClure. The salads are made fresh every morning. "It's all homemade and made in-house," she said.

Open Monday through

Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Chicken Salad Chick also offers full-service catering for parties and other events.

For more information, visit www.chickensaladchick.com/mobile, or call 251-660-0501.

Want to be featured here?
Go to mobilechamber.com to submit an application, or contact Danette Richards at 251-431-8652 or drichards@mobilechamber.com.

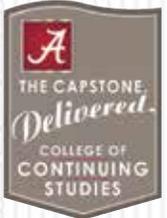


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1702 Brings Silicon Valley's Entrepreneurial Ecosystem to Mobile



The Mobile Area Chamber recently launched a new initiative called 1702. Pictured here are from left to right are: Dean Parker, 1702 chair; Frank Lott with Heritage Homes and Chamber chairman; Bill Sisson with the Chamber; and Michael Chambers with Swift Biotechnology and past Chamber chairman.

Inspired by the Mobile Area Chamber's Leaders Exchange to St. Louis in 2014, Mobile's first-ever peer network of chief executive officers and business leaders, known as 1702, was created to foster a thriving entrepreneurial community similar to Silicon Valley.

1702 is a combined vision of **Michael Chambers** with Swift Biotechnology and immediate past Chamber board chairman, and entrepreneur **Dean Parker**. A local board will serve as class mentors.

"Launching 1702 is all about forming an entrepreneurial ecosystem that will transcend our city as one of the best cities for innovative, world-changing companies," said Parker, 1702 board chair. "We have a ripe opportunity to build critical mass among the top companies in our region and bring the Silicon Valley entrepreneurial DNA to Mobile."

Class presenters will share their success stories and lessons learned on topics critical to launching, scaling and exiting a company, such as corporate formation structures, legal and risk, raising venture capital, driving revenue, building a board, recruiting and retaining top talent and successful exit strategies.

"Right now we are in a growth phase," said class participant **Marcus Neto**, owner

of Blue Fish Design Studio. "I'm hoping to learn from other business owners in the services sector how they have grown their businesses.

"1702 is where business innovation happens, and the impact of that will be exponential," said **Bill Sisson**, president and CEO of the Mobile Area Chamber.

Twenty-four chief executives from the region's most promising companies spanning the technology, aerospace, manufacturing and consumer sectors were selected to join the inaugural class and year-long program. Graduates will play a significant role in future programs, according to Parker. ☺☺

Dean Parker, chairman of 1702, will be the keynote speaker during the Mobile Area Chamber's Small Business Week awards luncheon on Thursday, May 7, at the Battle House Hotel. Parker founded Callis Communications, which he sold to C Spire in late 2013.

Make plans to hear from Parker, and learn more about his commitment to growing Mobile's entrepreneurial community.

See page 30 for more details on the luncheon, and all of the Small Business Week activities.

Members of the Inaugural Class of 1702 are:

Jeffrey Adams, Advanced Integrated Security
Bart Briggs, Safety Plus Inc.
Ty Bullard, Joe Bullard Automotive Cos.
Andrew Byrd, University of South Alabama entrepreneur
Austin Cadden, University of South Alabama
Drew Delaney, Beard Equipment Co.
Will Fusaiotti, Foosackly's
Andrew Grinstead, Leavell Investments Management Inc.
Monique Henley, H&S Management Co.
Richard Inge, Inge & Associates Inc.
Silas Leavesley, SpectraCycle
Janice Malone, Business Resource Center Design & Print
Nik Martin, Open Frame LLC
Marcus Neto, Blue Fish Design Studio
Harris Oppenheimer, Entrepreneur
David Padgett, Davison Fuels & Oil
Lyman Ramsay, Gulf Equipment Corp.
Paul Shorosh, AccuReg
Travis Short, Horizon Shipbuilding Inc.
Michael Smith, ASF Intermodal LLC
JC Smith, Skilled Jobs Direct
James Wink, WEI
Martin Yost, Warion Industries LLC
Scott Zimmerman, Televox

Board Members for 1702 are:

Michael Chambers, Swift Biotechnology LLC
Terry Harbin, BancorpSouth
John Jefferies, Wilkins Miller LLC
Kim Littlefield, University of South Alabama
Frank Lott, Heritage Homes
Keith Manwaring, ManwaringSolutions
Sandy Myers, ASF Logistics Inc.
Andy Newton, Southern Light
Dean Parker, Vita Capital
Bill Sisson, Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce
Billy Stimpson, Bienville Capital Management LLC
Rich Sullivan, Red Square Agency
Jay Watkins, Maynard Cooper & Gale PC
Brian Willman, Regions Bank

Annual Total Resource Development Campaign Kicks Off



Lance Covan, Chamber Chase chairman talks with key volunteers in advance of the 2015 campaign. Pictured from left to right are Daniel Dennis, Roberts Brothers; Terri Owler, Arkema; David Hagan, Trustmark Bank; Covan; Terry Harbin, BancorpSouth; and Mark Spivey, BB&T.

Each year, the Mobile Area Chamber organizes a total resource campaign with volunteers and staff recruiting new members, securing event sponsorships and more – all designed to help the Chamber continue its mission of being a progressive business advocate.

This year's effort will be led by **Lance Covan**, chairman of Mitternacht Inc.

"Chamber Chase is an outstanding opportunity to not only participate in the growth of the community but also for individuals to participate and earn great incentives along the way," said Covan. "For employers it is an excellent opportunity for their participating team members to expand relationships with

their existing clients as well as develop new ones."

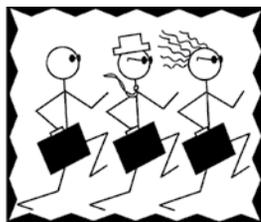
He is encouraging prospective members to join with the Chamber's 2,100 current members that represent 110,000 employees, to continue making this area strong. "Your participation is critical for our Chamber to continue to grow the business community and to move our progressive City forward," said Covan.

"Teams benefit from the exposure and networking with other volunteers and it's a link to developing stronger relationships with customers," said **Carolyn Golson**, the Chamber's vice president of membership.

Chamber Chase officially kicked off April 30 with a goal

of securing \$1.625 million in memberships, sponsorships, advertisements and donated goods and services.

To volunteer, participate with a company team, donate a door prize for the volunteers or to get involved, contact Golson at 251-431-8622 or cgolson@mobilechamber.com.



CHAMBER CHASE '15

making this area strong. "Your participation is critical for our Chamber to continue to grow the business community and to move our progressive City forward," said Covan.

"Teams benefit

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PNC Bank
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Roberts Brothers Inc.
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* As of 3/28/15

How can the business community be a part of the Mobile Area Chamber's annual Total Resource Development campaign, Chamber Chase?

Visit the campaign website, www.chamberchase.com, for ideas.

- Join the Chamber
- Raise your visibility by joining the Chamber's Board of Advisors
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Fourteen million visitors have paid tribute to the *USS ALABAMA* since she first arrived on Sept. 14, 1964. Facing destruction, the state of Alabama matched her fighting spirit, determined to bring this World War II battleship to her namesake state.

Nicknamed the “Mighty A,” she stands in full glory, flanking Mobile’s cityscape in memory of Alabama veterans of all branches of the Armed Services: Navy, Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

Jan. 9, 2015 marked the 50th anniversary of the opening of *USS ALABAMA* Battleship Memorial Park.

In preparation for her arrival, the Mobile Area Chamber led a

statewide fundraising campaign that included the efforts of more than 1 million school children who donated nickels and dimes from their lunch money and allowances. Funds grew to \$800,000. With a faith loan from three local banks for the remaining \$200,000 needed, these efforts launched what is today 175 landscaped acres of Battleship Memorial Park.

Each young donor received a free pass to the park, and every year since 50 of those passes are redeemed. The park has generated \$250 million dollars in direct, statewide economic impact based on admission receipts, according to park’s history.

Since the loan was repaid, the park has been self-sufficient and recently concluded a \$15 million restoration project for its two National Historic Landmarks.

“Sitting in Mobile Bay for the past 50 years probably makes Battleship *USS ALABAMA* the most recognizable symbol of the state. Every year, we have visitors from every U.S. state and more than 70 foreign countries,” says **Bill Tunnell**, executive director.

Most thought the ship’s three-month, 5,600 mile voyage from Bremerton, Wash., to her new Alabama home would be her toughest post-war challenge. Yet in August 2005, Hurricane Katrina tilted the ship and

rained significant damage on the *U.S.S. Drum*, the World War II submarine that joined the ship in 1969. Katrina closed the park for nearly five months, with damages adding up to \$7 million.

The park has grown over the years to include a vintage aircraft museum and war memorials honoring the service men and women in the Vietnam and Korean Wars.

Tunnell says plans include a new Fallen Heroes Memorial dedicated to Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, is tentatively scheduled to open in late summer or early fall.

Feb. 1, 1940

Construction starts on Battleship *USS ALABAMA* (BB-60) in the Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Va.

Aug. 16, 1942

The vessel was commissioned into U.S. Navy. It cost \$80 million to build and was completed a record nine months early.

Sept. 3, 1945

After earning nine Battle Stars for heroic action during WWII, the *USS ALABAMA* leads the American Fleet into Tokyo Bay after official Japanese surrender.

Jan. 9, 1947

The *ALABAMA* was decommissioned and placed in mothball fleet in Bremerton, Wash.

May 1, 1962

An Associated Press announcement printed in a Mobile paper says the *ALABAMA* would be scrapped (disassembled). Later that day, a statewide committee was formed to bring the ship to her namesake state. The Mobile Area Chamber led the charge.

Sept. 12, 1963

A *USS ALABAMA* Battleship Commission was created by state legislation to represent the state and pursue negotiations with the U.S. Navy.

March & April, 1964

School children fund drive raises \$100,000.

June 7, 1964

The Document of Transfer was signed by Capt. James Twing, the commission’s representative in Bremerton, Wash., accepting the Battleship at “no further expense to the Federal Government.”

July 21, 1964

The battleship hooked up to two ocean-going tugs to begin her tow to Mobile down the West Coast and through the Panama Canal.





Sept. 14, 1964

USS ALABAMA Battleship arrived in Mobile Bay with great fanfare.

Jan. 9, 1965

Battleship Memorial Park, created from 2.9 million cubic yards of bay bottom dredged to bring the ship to Mobile, was opened to the public – 18 years

to the day from her decommissioning. Also in 1965 – Battleship Memorial Park receives its first aircraft, the OS2U Kingfisher.

The Kingfisher was wrecked in Mexico and brought back to Mobile after the Mexican Government gave it to the Commission. It was restored at Brookley Air Force Base before it closed in 1967.

July 4, 1969

Submarine USS DRUM (SS-228), America’s oldest existing WWII submarine, becomes first American submarine ever on public display in the U.S. at Battleship Memorial Park.

May 8, 1995

The Medal of Honor Aircraft Pavilion was dedicated on the 50th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day.

Nov. 7, 1998

A Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated.

June 25, 2002

A Korean War Memorial was dedicated.

Aug. 29, 2005

Hurricane Katrina slams the park, doing more than \$7 million in damages.

Jan. 9, 2006

The park reopens after being closed four and a half months for repairs from Katrina.

Jan. 9, 2015

USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park celebrates 50 years of operation, more than 14 million visitors and a statewide economic impact of almost \$1 billion.



Gulf City Body & Trailer Works Inc.

A staple in Mobile for 70 years, Gulf City Body & Trailer Works Inc. is a full service and sales facility for the transportation industry. Pictured from left to right are Scott Heathcoe, Clint White, Teddy May, Hunter Lyons, Bobby Wilson, William Anderson and David Henson.

Company officials: Barry Gritter, CEO; Hunter Lyons, president; Terri Weaver, controller

Years in business: 70

Brief company description: Gulf City Body & Trailer Works Inc. is a full-service and sales facility for the transportation industry, including new and used trailer sales, truck equipment sales, and tank and barrel inspections. The company also performs trailer and truck equipment repair and trailer leasing.

Why are you located in Mobile?

“We started in Mobile in 1945 and are proud to call Mobile home,” said Lyons. “We have been blessed with a talented and dedicated workforce. The quality of life in Mobile and the surrounding area has been second to none, and [it is] a wonderful place to raise a family. The business diversity in Mobile has allowed us to continue to be successful and continue to grow our business.”

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

“We support the PFG initiative because it’s almost like investing

in ourselves – if the Partners for Growth program is successful, then we will be, too.”

What do you see as Mobile’s greatest potential?

“The diverse and pro-business climate, the Chamber leadership and now the new leadership within our city with Mayor Sandy Stimpson are Mobile’s greatest assets,” said Lyons. “Mayor Stimpson is the best thing to happen to Mobile in a long, long time. He has already established integrity and fiscal responsibility back into our city. The business community loves him, and it will pay huge dividends to our city for years to come. The word is out –

people want to do business in Mobile.”

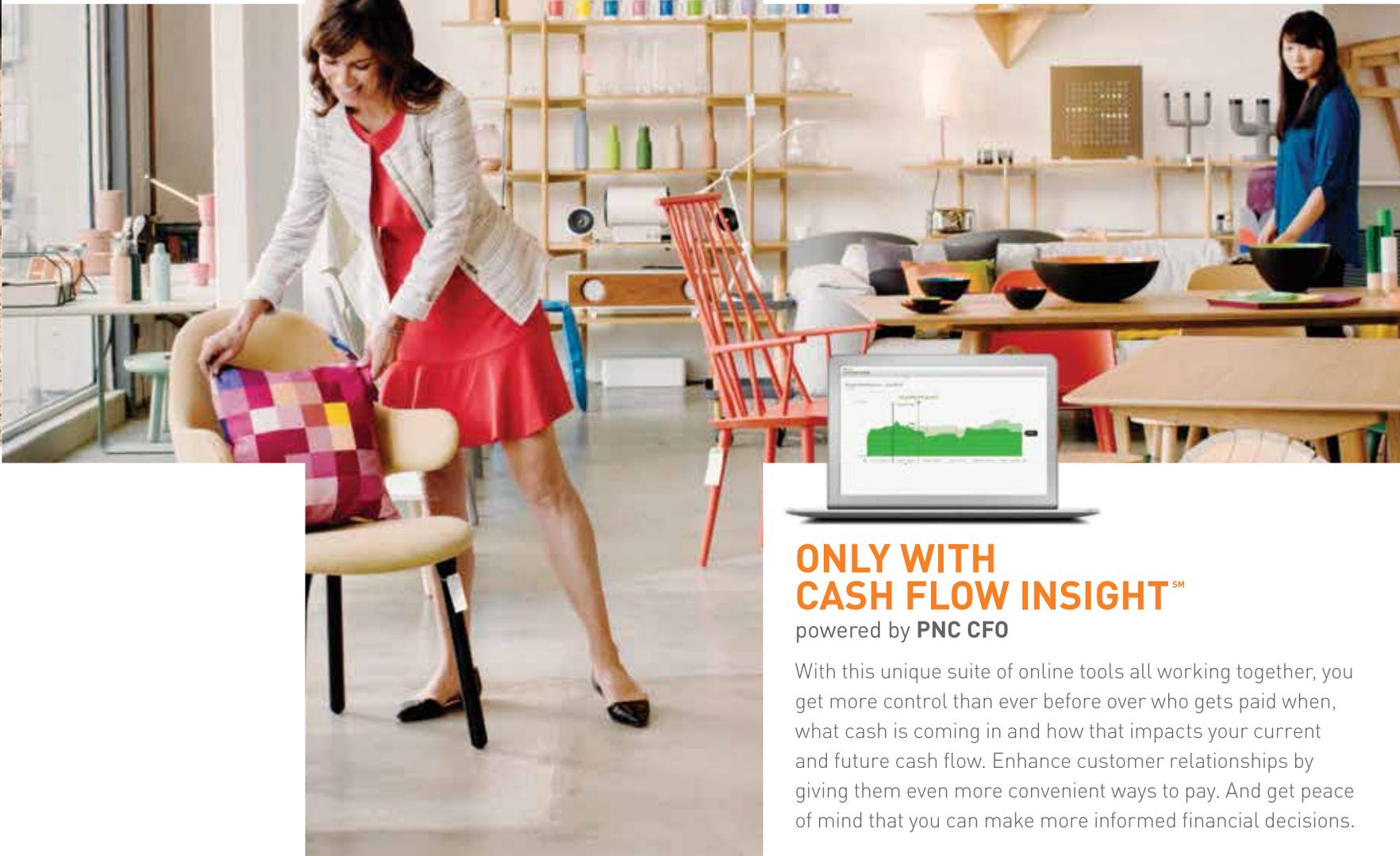
Length of continuous Chamber membership: Since 1991



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 **kdwrell@mobilechamber.com**.

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State Governmental Affairs Committee Meets

The Mobile Area Chamber's State Governmental Affairs Committee held its first meeting of 2015 with a presentation from Chamber President and CEO Bill Sisson on the package of economic development incentive bills that will go before the Alabama Legislature this spring. Michael Berson with Irvin Grodsky PC serves as committee chairman. Other topics discussed included prison reform, state budget shortfalls and Medicaid expansion.

Sessions Staff Updates Local Chemical Manufacturers

Sen. Jeff Sessions' staff visited with local chemical manufacturer Chamber members to provide an update on proposed changes to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). Brandon Middleton, Sessions' counsel on

environment, energy and transportation, Chief of Staff Rick Dearborn and Field Representative Valerie Day briefed the group on changes to TSCA to ensure the safe use of chemicals, while encouraging the development of new products and protecting jobs. Briefings were also provided on new EPA air/water quality regulations and strategies for reauthorization of the federal transportation bill.

Chamber Participates on U.S./China Roundtable

Steve Russell, the Chamber's director of business retention and expansion, participated in a U.S. and Chinese business roundtable on energy hosted by the Birmingham International Center. The business roundtable focused on four sectors: automotive, energy, agriculture and investment. It served as a forum for exploring new opportunities and discussing challenges for the two countries to partner.

Canadian Trade Group Meets with Local Business

The Chamber's trade division worked with the business retention and expansion committee to present "International Business Opportunities in the Service Sector." Ruth Williamson, a senior commercial specialist with the U.S. Consulate General in Toronto, Canada, and Robert Stackpole, director of the U.S. Export Assistance Center-Alabama Field Office, gave presentations and advice on best practices for entering the Canadian service market.

Attendance Up at Coffee with the Chamber

Coffee with the Chamber, a casual networking event, is held bimonthly to allow members to network before work. The most recent ones were held at Habitat for Humanity and catered by Royal Cup Coffee, and at the Courtyard Mobile/Daphne Eastern Shore in Spanish Fort.

Matchmaking Event Held for Large and Small Businesses

The Chamber co-sponsored an annual matchmaking and business-to-business event in partnership with the Alabama Small Business Development Center's Mobile office. There were 25 buyers and procurement organizations in attendance and more than 100 small business owners and entrepreneurs, resulting in more than 350 face-to-face appointments.

Chamber's Social Media Sites Growing

The Chamber continues to increase its outreach through social media platforms, with 3,164 likes on Facebook, 5,402 followers on Twitter (@MobileChamber) and 1,166 members in its LinkedIn group (numbers as of March 19, 2015). In addition, the Chamber hosts a YouTube channel at youtube.com/mobilechamber.



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Just right for you





Sen. Richard Shelby spoke to members of the Chamber in March, providing attendees an update on what's happening in the federal legislature. Pictured from left to right are: Jimmy Lyons, Alabama State Port Authority; City of Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson; Shelby; Angus Cooper, Cooper T. Smith; and Bill Sisson, Mobile Area Chamber.

Growth Alliance Task Force Grows

The Chamber's Growth Alliance Task Force, which supports the needs of minority-owned businesses in Mobile, meets monthly. More than 40 people attended a recent meeting where **Tom Rogers**, with the Office of Government Contracting for the U.S. Small Business Administration, presented an introduction to government contracting work. The task force also named its new chair, **Clarence Johnson**, president and owner of Bama Pest Control.

New Member Named to Board of Advisors

HUB International Gulf South joined the Chamber's board of advisors. There are 257 companies represented on this board. To learn more about the program, contact Katrina Dewrell at 251-431-8611 or kdewrell@mobilechamber.com.

Annual Golf Tournament a Sellout

Chilly morning temperatures didn't dampen the spirits of the 200 golfers who participated in the sold-out annual Chamber Classic Golf Tournament in March.

Minority Business Seminar Held

In March, through its Minority Business Development Agency-Mobile, the Chamber hosted a seminar titled "Doing Business with Government Enterprises." The seminar was for local businesses seeking, or who have obtained, the federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) certification who want to do business with governmental agencies. Approximately 50 people attended the seminar sponsored by the Alabama Department of Transportation.

BEACON on the BAY

May 7th

He inspired the movie... **Black Hawk Down**

Special Guest Speaker: **Michael Durant**
 6:00 pm Dinner and Fundraiser
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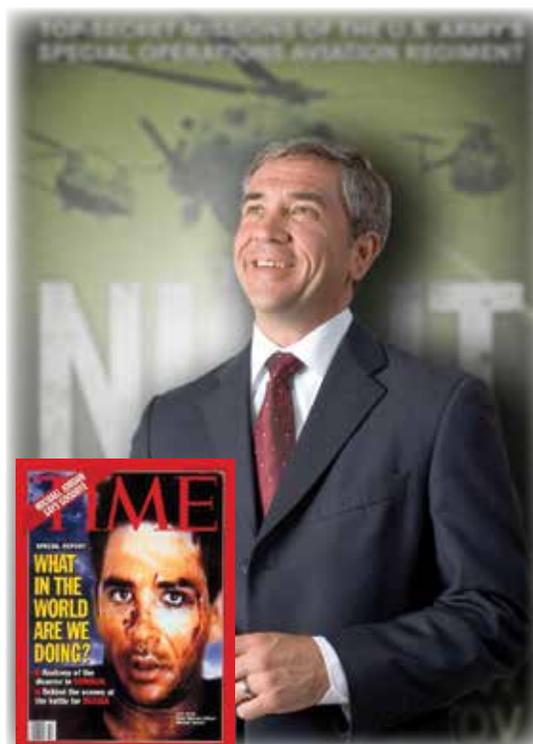
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Mobile *Connect* Helps Executives New to Mobile

It often takes more than a cocktail party to get to know people. That's one of the reasons the Mobile Area Chamber developed an immersion program for new executives who recently moved to Mobile.

MobileConnect is a four-session series led by Mobile's community and business leaders. The first class has now graduated, and the second sessions are underway.

Participants learn about the historical, physical, social and economic character of Mobile, while getting to know a group of locals committed to easing the transition into Mobile's community and social sectors.

"MobileConnect is a Partners for Growth (PFG) program designed to enhance the Mobile

experience for senior-level management and their families," said **Bill Sisson**, Mobile Area Chamber president and CEO. "Henry and Beth Morrisette led the inaugural program to great success, and the spring series, which kicked off in March, has doubled in size."

MobileConnect is open to PFG companies. This year's sponsors are Alabama Power, Continental Motors, Hand Arendall, Helmsing Leach Herlong Newman and Rouse, Regions Bank and Thames Batré Insurance.

To learn more about the program, or to nominate someone for a future class, contact **Katrina Dewrell** at kdewrell@mobilechamber.com.



MobileConnect helps acquaint new-to-Mobile executives and their partners with the community. Pictured from left to right are Henry Morrisette, Hand Arendall LLC; Dr. Julee Waldrop, Mobile County Health Department; Dr. Tony Waldrop, University of South Alabama; and Beth Morrisette, Manufacturer's Packaging Services. The Waldrops completed the program last year.



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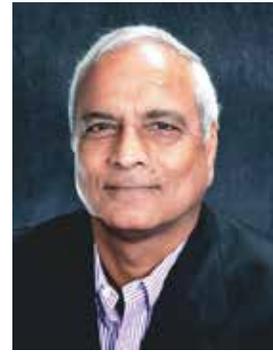
Tickets start at just \$20.
 Tickets available online at www.mobilesymphony.org
 Phone: 251-432-2010
 In person: 257 Dauphin Street



Elegant Knights Limo-Party Bus

The Elegant Knights Limo-Party Bus provides group and individual transportation throughout the Mobile area in a fun and elegant setting while creating a memorable experience for special occasions such as weddings, proms, birthdays, office parties, reunions, etc. Owner Mary Taylor and staff work to customize each rental based on the customer's needs. For more information call 251-317-1287.

AMBASSADOR of the month



Saty Putcha, owner of Murphy Business and Financial Corp., works to help clients understand the financial concepts behind insurance, retirement, estate planning and wealth preservation, and help them attain their financial goals. Outside of work, he enjoys the networking events hosted by the Chamber and the opportunity to work with fellow members. He has been a member of the Mobile Area Chamber's Ambassador Program since 2009. A native of India, Putcha is the Chamber's Ambassador of the Month.

Ambassadors are volunteers who support the Mobile Area Chamber by visiting members, assisting with events and ribbon-cuttings. To learn more, contact Dawn Rencher at 251-431-8649 or drencher@mobilechamber.com.

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Robert A. Fertitta is president and CEO of Navigator Credit Union. Fertitta earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of New Orleans. He currently serves on the board of directors and as chairman of the strategic issues council for the Financial Managers Society, providing services to credit unions and community banks nationwide. Most recently, Fertitta was appointed to a three-year term on the

board of directors for the \$4.2 billion Corporate One Federal Credit Union of Columbus, Ohio. He has also served on Southeast Corporate Federal Credit Union's board and was also elected chairman of Southeast Corporate's supervisory committee.



Jay M. Ross is special counsel in Adams and Reese's Mobile office. Ross is a member of the Alabama Municipal Attorneys Association, the Alabama Municipal Judges Association and the International Municipal Lawyers Association. He serves as a municipal judge throughout Mobile County, and is a member of the Alabama Bar Association family law section, and the Mobile County Bar Association. Ross is a graduate of

Leadership Mobile and Leadership Alabama, a member of Mobile United, and a board member for Goodwill Easter Seals of the Gulf Coast and Mobile Area Boy Scouts. After earning a bachelor's degree in commerce and business administration from The University of Alabama, he received a law degree at Samford University Cumberland School of Law. Adams and Reese LLP is a Partners for Growth Investor.



Thomas D. Thompson is executive vice president for Turner Supply Co. He graduated from the University of South Alabama with a bachelor's degree in business management studies. He began his career with Turner Supply Co. during college and began his full-time employment in 1979, holding various positions in sales and management. Turner Supply Co. is supported by field sales, significant inventory and branches in Alabama,

Mississippi, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Pennsylvania and Texas. Thompson is active in the Affiliated Distributors Marketing Group and currently serves as president of the Industrial Supply Association, a professional industry trade association consisting of 875-plus suppliers, distributors, service providers and manufacturer representatives throughout the United States and Canada.

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



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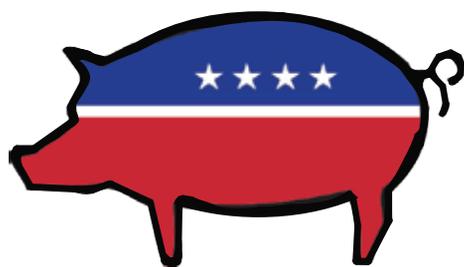
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Thank you to our Small Business Week sponsors:



Visit events.mobilechamber.com for costs, details and to register.

Pork & Politics in the Park



Don't miss this opportunity to "ham it up" with local, state and federal officials to find out where they stand on critical legislative issues.

Tuesday, May 19

USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$20. Reservation and cancellation deadline is May 13.
For reservations, call 251-431-8621 or chunt@mobilechamber.com.

Sponsored By: Austal USA • C-Spire • GA West & Co. Inc.
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This event has been approved by the State of Alabama Ethics Commission for participation by elected officials and government employees.



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

SMALL BUSINESS WEEK CONFERENCE EVENTS

Cost: \$60 members/\$75 potential members
Contact: Brenda Rembert at 251-431-8607 or brembert@mobilechamber.com
Free parking at all events.

4

MOBILE'S BEST RESOURCES FOR SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Get advice from local experts on business topics including financial analysis, business planning, marketing, research, branding your business, financing and more.

When: 1:30 to 4 p.m.
Where: West Mobile Regional Library
5555 Grelot Rd.

5

TRIED-AND-TRUE WAYS TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Hone your company's growth strategy in four fundamental ways. Presented by Kenny Crow of Crow Shields Bailey PC.

When: 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Where: Mobile Area Chamber
451 Government St.

5

LEGAL ISSUES IMPACTING SMALL BUSINESSES

A panel of local attorneys will address critical issues that impact your business. Facilitated by David Hannan of Maynard Cooper & Gale PC.

When: 1 to 5 p.m.
Where: Mobile Area Chamber
451 Government St.

6

WHERE'S THE MONEY?

A number of financing organizations will be present to work with companies in breakout sessions focused on debt, equity and alternative sources of funding. Presented by the University of South Alabama Melton Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

When: 1 to 5 p.m.
Where: American Red Cross
35 N. Sage Ave.

7

AWARDS LUNCHEON

The 2015 Outstanding Entrepreneur and Small Business of the Year finalists will be recognized, and the Small Business of the Year winner will be announced. Keynote speaker Dean Parker will tell how chance and innovation create great opportunities.

When: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Where: The Battle House Hotel & Spa
Speaker: Dean Parker, entrepreneur and former owner of Callis Communications
Cost: \$40 for Chamber and MBDA Business Center members/\$50 for potential members
Contact: Brenda Rembert at 251-431-8607 or brembert@mobilechamber.com
Payment and reservations required by Friday, May 1. No refunds after that date.

13 NETWORKING@NOON **Members Only*
 Make 40-plus business contacts in 90 minutes over lunch.

When: Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Where: Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center, 65 Government St.
Cost: \$10 and must be paid with reservation; one representative per company
Contact: Alison Unger at 251-431-8617 or aunger@mobilechamber.com

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

When: 8 to 9 a.m.
Where: Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.
Speakers: Glenda Snodgrass, The Net Effect; Michelle Ritter, e-worx web and new media; Kevin Flynn and Keri Senditak, Save Local Now
Topic: Buy Local Initiative
Contact: Brenda Rembert at 251-431-8607 or brembert@mobilechamber.com
 No charge, but seating is limited. RSVP requested.
 Free parking.

Sponsor:



19 PORK & POLITICS IN THE PARK
 Don't miss this opportunity to "ham it up" with local, state and federal officials to find out where they stand on the issues you care about.

When: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Where: USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park Aircraft Pavilion
Cost: \$20
Contact: Carolyn Hunt at 251-431-8621 or chunt@mobilechamber.com
 Reservations required by Friday, May 13, and payment is due at time of registration. No refunds after that date.

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20 NONPROFIT ROUNDTABLE **Members Only*
 A bimonthly forum for Chamber member nonprofit executives and managers.

When: 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.
Where: Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.
Speaker: Kristin Woods, Volunteer Coordinator, United Way of Southwest Alabama
Topic: "How to Use United Way Volunteer Connect" – free community resource
Contact: Alison Unger at 251-431-8617 or aunger@mobilechamber.com
 No charge, but seating is limited. RSVP requested.

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20 CashMOB
 Help support local small businesses through a CashMOB by committing to spend \$20 and enjoy a festive reception while shopping.

When: 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Where: Domke Market, 2410 Dawes Rd., Suite D
Cost: Free to attend; commit to spend \$20 at this small business
Contact: Carolyn Wilson at 251-431-8606 or cwilson@mobilechamber.com
 Reservations are required.

25 CHAMBER CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY

28 BUSINESS AFTER HOURS
 Join fellow Mobile Area Chamber members for this after hours event.

When: 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Where: Hilton Garden Inn-Mobile West, 828 W. I-65 Service Rd. S.
Cost: \$5 for members and \$10 for potential members
Contact: Alison Unger at 251-431-8617 or aunger@mobilechamber.com
 Reservations are not needed.

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Who's New

Chad Kirtland was named general manager for **3 Echoes Productions**, a full-service production company specializing in creating visual messages. Kirtland is an 18-year veteran of the production and marketing industry.



Kirtland



Bell

Harbor Financial Services LLC added **Raymond L. Bell Jr.** to its public finance division. Bell, managing attorney of Bell Law Firm PC in Mobile, is also a member of the Chamber's board of directors.

Ericson graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, with a bachelor's degree in journalism and English. She most recently was a reporter for the *Mobile Press-Register* and Alabama Media Group.



Ericson

Lacey D. Smith became a partner with **Armbrecht Jackson LLP**. She received a law degree from Cumberland School of Law-Samford University and a bachelor's degree in history from Birmingham-Southern College.

Bellingrath Gardens and Home hired **Sally Pearsall** as director of marketing and public relations.

EXIT Allstar Realty welcomed **Jody Marsh** to its team of real estate professionals. Marsh has worked as a real estate professional in Alabama for nearly 10 years.



O'Connor

Henry F. O'Connor III joined the law office of **Jones Walker LLP** as special counsel in the firm's business and commercial transactions practice group. He earned a law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law and a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College.



Blanchard

Franklin Primary Health Center Inc. hired **Dr. Susan Blanchard** as its family medicine physician at the newly opened Evergreen Family Medical Center in Evergreen, Ala.

Wilkins Miller LLC accounting and advisory firm promoted **Scott L. Browning** CPA to partner. Browning has more than 17 years' experience and graduated from The University of Alabama with a bachelor's degree in commerce and business administration and a minor in accounting and a master's in taxation.

Tommy Druhan and **Richard Hall** were promoted to vice presidents at **Marsh & McLennan Agency**, insurance broker company.



Druhan



Hall

The Fuse Project, non-profit organization, named **Rebecca Howard** as their new executive director. Howard, a Birmingham native, previously worked in both radio broadcasting with iHeart Media and regional marketing with Limited Brands.



Howard

Tommy Fulton is a new commercial realtor at **NAI Mobile**. Fulton earned a bachelor's degree in finance with a concentration in transportation from The University of Alabama.



Fulton

Alabama Telco rebranded as Avadian Credit Union to reflect growth and a broader membership base. The organization was first formed in 1934 as a credit union for telephone company employees and families.

Business Endeavors

Mobile Asphalt Co. was awarded the Alabama Department of Transportation Baldwin County resurfacing project, which will affect a nine-mile stretch along I-10 from the east end of the Bayway to SR-59 in Baldwin County. The expected completion date is summer 2016.



Griffith

The attorneys of **McDowell Knight Roedder & Sledge L.L.C.** hired **Matthew R. Griffith** in the firm's construction, medical malpractice, and professional liability groups. Griffith holds a J.D. from Faulkner University, Thomas Goode Jones School of Law.

GREAT THINGS THAT COME ONCE A WEEK:

1. Your favorite football team's game.
2. Your favorite TV show.
3. 5 p.m. Friday.

AND NOW LAGNIAPPE!

Mobile's locally owned newspaper is now weekly, providing more news coverage than ever before. Now you have something to look forward to each Thursday!

LAGNIAPPE
SOMETHING EXTRA FOR MOBILE

The **Admiral Semmes Hotel** launched its new website (www.admiralsemmeshotel.com) to match the property's ongoing multimillion-dollar remodel. The site features photos of the finished lobby and ballroom space.

*

Tate & Lyle launched a new low-calorie sugar, *Dolcia Prima*, the company's name for allulose. Allulose tastes similar to table sugar and can be found in small quantities in some fruits and foods.

Well Done

Several agents of **Cooper & Co. Inc. REALTORS** received the company's 2014 Annual Awards by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices National. **Sheree Dees** received the chairman's circle-gold award and the 15-year legend award. **Chuck Guy, Don Foster, Tim Pope** and **Cheryl Russell** received the president's circle award. **Mike Wiley, Charlene Wiley, Dana**

Rouse, Doug Adams, Louise Manwaring and **Gary Woodward** received the leading edge society award. **Barbara Higgins, Paula Messer, Rosemary Williams, Tammy and Roger Nichols, Tutta Greer Cone, Angela Locklier, Marie Dickinson, Don Bekurs, Bob Cooper** and **David Cooper** received the honor society awards.

*



Ethredge



Jones

Blake Ethredge CPA and **Amanda Jones CPA**, both senior accountants with **Wilkins Miller**, recently earned the Certified in Financial Forensics (CFF) credential by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The credential is granted to qualified CPAs with considerable professional experience in the field.



Johnson



Ankerson

Russell Thompson Butler & Houston LLP accounting and consulting firm announced that three of its accountants were recently appointed to community organizations. **Shelby Johnson CPA** was named to the emerging leaders board of United Way of Southwest Alabama; **Tabitha Ankerson CPA** was selected for the Make-A-Wish Junior Council Advisory Board of Mobile; and **Amy deGruy CPA** was selected by Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson to serve on the audit committee for the city of Mobile.



deGruy

Mobile County Commissioner Merceria Ludgood was



Ludgood

elected to the governing committee of the National Association of Counties (NACo), an organization charged with representing more than 3,000 county governments nationwide. She joins four elected officers, and three regional representatives on the executive governing council that supervises NACo's daily activities. Ludgood is the current president of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama, which represents all of Alabama's 67 counties.

*

Richard D. Inge, founding partner and principal of **Inge & Associates, Inc.** was elected to ServisFirst Bank's Mobile board of directors.



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The Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals appointed Mobile lawyer **Henry Callaway**, of Hand Arendall LLC, as U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of Alabama. He replaces Bankruptcy Judge Margaret A. Mahoney, who has retired.



The **Women's Business Enterprise Council-South** awarded **Patricia A. Vanderpool**, owner of EAP Lifestyle Management LLC, its Champion Award for exceptional support for women's business development and demonstration of consistent quality, competitiveness and reliability.

The **Women's Business Enterprise Council-South** awarded **Patricia A. Vanderpool**, owner of EAP Lifestyle Management LLC, its Champion Award for exceptional support for women's business development and demonstration of consistent quality, competitiveness and reliability.

Chelsea Lipford Wolf of **3 Echoes Productions** received two national Bronze Telly awards for outstanding work in video and film productions for her monthly web show, "Checking In With Chelsea." Wolf's six- to 10-minute series offers information ranging from simple household repairs to innovative Pinterest-style products. It is broadcast on Danny Lipford's website, www.todayshomeowner.com, and at www.checkinginwithchelsea.com.



Merchants Transfer Co. received Orion Energy Systems & Cam-Air's Environmental Stewardship Award for demonstrating a commitment to the environment in the local community and accomplishing outstanding work in environmental stewardship.

Chambers USA 2015 recognized **McDowell Knight Roedder & Sledge LLC** in its 2015 publication as a pre-eminent law firm in the United States for the practice area of general commercial litigation. The publication also named the company's **Michael Knight** and **Brian McCarthy**, as "Leaders in their Field" in the area of commercial litigation.

Campbell, Duke and Campbell law firm was named to the list of Best Law Firms in the 2015 edition of *U.S. News and World Report*. **Robert C. Campbell III** was named to the 2015 Edition of Best Lawyers.

Community News

ExxonMobil donated \$35,000 to the **Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL)**, providing support for graduate student fellowships; the graduate student organization; the Discovery Hall Program, DISL's K-12 and teacher training program; and BayMobile, a mobile coastal marine science program that travels throughout Alabama. ExxonMobil also donated \$43,750 to the DISL's The Estuarium, an aquarium highlighting the ebb and flow of life within Mobile Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. The Dauphin Island Sea Lab is currently constructing a new

technology-centered addition to the Estuarium, and ExxonMobil is the first contributor toward the hands-on exhibits that will be featured in this facility, scheduled to open in late 2015.

U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced two of seven new Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant awards went to Mobile. HUD is awarding \$375,000 to the Mobile Housing Board, which along with the **City of Mobile** and the **Mobile Area Education Foundation**, will use the monies to develop a community-driven revitalization plan for the Three Mile Trace neighborhood and Roger Williams Homes, a 453-unit public housing development. Thomas James Place, also known as Birdville, a 796-unit public housing development, will receive \$457,500 to create an inclusive planning process for the area.

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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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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Call News
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Mobile Bay National Estuary Program

10 years

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Blue Rents Inc.
Mobile Carnival Museum

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