

Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce

OCTOBER 2015

the businessVIEW

Airbus Opens U.S. Manufacturing Facility



Susan L. Taylor

Coming to Mobile Oct. 8

Signature Academies

Now in All MCPSS High Schools



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From the Publisher - Bill Sisson

Trade Critical for Mobile's Continued Growth

As the old saying goes, "Good things come to those who wait." And nothing could be more true as it relates to the official opening of the Airbus U.S. Manufacturing Center on Sept. 14 at Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley. More than a decade of perseverance has become a reality, making the Mobile Bay region truly one of the world's newest and fastest-growing aviation/aerospace clusters in the world.

It's often pointed out there are very few places in the world where large aircraft are assembled. This year, Mobile enters that rarefied arena that puts us on the aviation sector's global stage – one that includes many other prominent aviation companies such as FedEx, VT MAE, Continental Motors, Southern Avionics and their parent company AVIC, Airbus Defense and Space, Segers Aerospace and Signature Flight Support; homegrown companies including Star Aviation, Aerostar; and all of the new



suppliers and service providers that have recently announced Mobile locations: AAA Aerospace USA Inc., AMRO-Aeromark, AKKA, Assystem, ATT Metrology Services, AUSY North America, BE Aerospace/KLX Aerospace Solutions, Comau, Hutchinson, Integrated Airline Services, Inter-Informatics

US, MAAS Aviation, Reel USA Corp., Safran Engineering Services, Safran Messier-Bugatti- Dowty USA, Sonovision USA, UTAS and Vartan Aviation Group.

I believe the best is yet to come, not only in aviation but also in our other business sectors. Mobile's economy continues to evolve, and is growing to provide new opportunities that will serve generations to come.

So yes, "Good things come to those who wait," and I'm convinced our most important work is ahead of us. Congratulations, Mobile, and welcome to your new home, Airbus.

ON THE COVER On Sept. 14, Airbus opened its only manufacturing facility in the U.S. here in Mobile. Pictured on the cover are Airbus employees: Christopher Kantz, Linda Taylor-Bethea, Randy Simentel, Ramona Fikru-Johannes and Daniel Clipper standing in front of the first aircraft in assembly. See story on pgs. 18-19. *Photo courtesy of: Airbus/Tad Denson, Airwind Creative.*

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18-19

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Publisher William B. Sisson
Executive Editor Leigh Perry-Hendon
Managing Editor Jennifer Jenkins
Copy Editor Michelle Irvin

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

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Graphic Design: Wise Design Inc.

Advertising Account Executive: René Eiland
251-431-8635 reiland@mobilechamber.com

BayFest Returning to its Roots

After 20 years of trying to one-up each previous year's lineup, BayFest has a new strategy for 2015: Mobile's hometown music festival is returning to its roots.

How? The organization lowered its three-day ticket price to \$45; is working on a list of musicians to appeal to everyone; and is offering VIP pricing for those who want a more unique experience that includes sitting closer to the stage.

"To me, a festival is experiencing music and going to hear something new," says **Shana Jordan**, the organization's executive director.

In true BayFest format, there will be three main stages featuring national acts: Urban/R&B, Country Rock and Rock, and three stages highlighting local talent.

Among the acts booked are longtime favorites including Shinedown, Johnny Gill, Seether, George Clinton and

Parliament Funkadelic, and Travis Tritt. Newcomers include St. Paul & the Broken Bones, Justin Moore and Chrisette Michele.

BayFest takes place in downtown Mobile on Oct. 2-4. There are 50,000 weekend passes available and a limited number of day passes for \$30 each available at the gate.

Check www.bayfest.com for tickets and the latest schedule. Weekend passes are also available at Circle K outlets.

If You're Going:

- Bring a chair, rain jacket and sunscreen.
- Keep your tickets in one piece.
- Check www.bayfest.com for what's not allowed into the festival area.
- Use the #lovebayfest hashtag in social media posts.



MCPSS Signature Academies Now in Session

Four new signature academies in the Mobile County Public School System, focused on preparing students for various careers as well as college, began operating at the start of the new school year in August.

Students in grades 10 - 12 can participate in the academies aimed at giving students real-world, hands-on experiences that are a part of a specific career theme. The academies are designed to give students college- and career-ready opportunities such as paid and unpaid internships, job shadowing, workplace tours, worksite training, business mentors and more. All 12 MCPSS high schools are now operating with signature academy programs.

The new academies are:

Baker High School – The Academies of Advanced Careers will provide students in Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone an opportunity to engage in scholarly practice of core academic skills. Baker is one of only three schools in Alabama offering this program, and offers two dozen AP classes.



Davidson High School (DHS) students participate in the JubileeBest robotics competition. DHS has an academy focused on engineering pathways.

Davidson High School

– The Engineering Pathways Integrated Curriculum (EPIC) is a specialized math and science program geared to prepare students for engineering, medicine, geological, physical, meteorological, information technology and environmental fields. Students can choose one of four pathways:

- Biomedical engineering
- Computer science
- Engineering
- Global and environmental studies

LeFlore Magnet High School

– The Academy of Law, Arts and Health Sciences is designed to enable students to develop skills in communication as well as critical thinking.

The Academy of Law gives students the skills needed for careers in criminal and civil law and legal research/writing.


The Academy of Arts exposes performing and visual arts and technical skills in graphic arts, television production and commercial photography.

The Academy of Health Science will provide students with the skills necessary for a career in Health Sciences.

Vigor High School – Information Technology is designed to develop IT technicians via three pathways.

- Programming and software development
- Networking
- Interactive media

To learn more about the academies, go to www.mcpss.com.

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Eight to 10 years from now a new I-10 Mobile River Bridge will stand behind the team pictured here responsible for its design. From left to right are: Kendall Kilpatrick, Hatch Mott MacDonald; Pat Hickox, HDR; and Jimmy Shumock with Thompson Engineering.

Meet the Bridge-Design Dream Team

On July 23, **Jimmy Shumock**, CEO of Thompson Engineering, **Pat Hickox**, bridge and structures director of HDR, and **Kendall Kilpatrick**, vice president of Hatch Mott MacDonald, finished their presentation for the design contract on the I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project to the Alabama Department of Transportation and went to lunch together.

"We decided since we were going to find out who won, we would do it together," said Shumock.

The three men formed a unique partnership, Mobile Bay Gateway Partners, 20 months ago, with the goal of being "as local as possible while having the strength and capability to do the project," said Shumock.

"It's like the barriers of our three firms went down, and we started collaborating on this," he added. They brought 11 other companies on board as well.

The news that the Thompson-led team won the project came by text during the post-presentation lunch. The final selection was made by a panel of Mobile-area elected officials and community leaders who listened to the three finalists.

"Thompson Engineering was chosen because the selection panel liked their ideas and felt they were the best fit to design this project," said ALDOT's Mobile Region Engineer **Vince Calametti**.

To keep the project moving, the state agency fast-tracked the contract, allowing Thompson Engineering to start its work immediately. Design work will include decisions on a multitude of details, from the visual appeal of the cable stay bridge to pedestrian access points and lighting that complements Mobile's skyline.

Mobile-based Thompson Engineering, the prime consultant, will take the design lead for Project

West, referring to the Mobile side of the bridge, as well as geotechnical and environmental services.

HDR Engineering is the design lead on the main span and high-level bridge. Founded in 1917 in Omaha, Neb., the firm has two local offices – in Mobile and Daphne.

Hatch Mott MacDonald has the design lead on Project East, referring to the Baldwin County side, as well as surge and wave analysis. The firm's parent companies have roots in Croydon, England, and Mississauga, Canada, as well as local offices in Mobile and Daphne.

The team submitted four designs as part of its proposal. Shumock said the final design may be one of those submitted or something completely different, and will depend on the community, ALDOT's parameters and the final budget. ∞∞

Design Team FAST facts

Primary Team Partners:

- Thompson Engineering
- HDR
- Hatch Mott MacDonald

Additional Partners:

- Neel-Schaffer
- Corven Engineering
- Dan Brown & Associates
- Armeni Consulting Services
- Hand Arendall LLC
- Engineering & Planning Resources
- MIG
- Touchstone Architecture
- Illumination Arts
- RWDI Consulting Engineers
- Hinman Consulting Engineers

Project Area as Currently Stated in Environmental Impact Study: Exit 24

(Broad Street) to East of SR-16 (US-90). Part of the design team's responsibility is to determine the exact footprint.

Bridge Height – minimum 215 feet tall

Navigation Channel – minimum 600 feet wide

Lifespan of Bridge – 100-plus years



Mobile's Mall – Redesigned

A new Belk flagship store, high-profile restaurant chains like P.F. Chang's and Grimaldi's Pizzeria, more food kiosks and a designated fashion corridor are some of the big changes coming to Bel Air Mall, starting with rebranding the 48-year-old property as The Shoppes at Bel Air.

Rouse Properties bought the 1.3-million-square-foot shopping

center last December. Leasing agents are recruiting additional specialty stores, and plan on interior and exterior transformations to give customers more entrances to stores and restaurants. The mall also has an increased security presence.

"It (the investment) shows the ownership is excited about Mobile and the future of our city," says General Manager **Jim Adkins**, who arrived in March.

Changes are scheduled to come rather quickly, says Adkins, and should be complete by the 2016 holiday season.

Belk will relocate to the former Sears space and expand

to 230,000 square feet. As one of the nation's largest family owned and operated department stores, Belk will open its first flagship store on the Central Gulf Coast and will feature additional fashion and premium brands.

Mobile's two current Belk locations will continue to operate until the new store opens in the fall of 2016.

Currently the mall has more than 130 stores and restaurants and is anchored by JC Penney, that went through a major renovation in 2010 to include a Sephora cosmetic shop; Dillard's; Target and Belk.



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RESTORE Act Settled – What it Means for Mobile

By: Ginny Russell, Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, vice president of community and governmental affairs



While the Mobile-Baldwin region has made significant progress to rebuild coastal assets following the worst environmental disaster in our history, there remains significant work to be done to bring the environment and economy back to its full potential.

Established by Congressional legislation, the RESTORE Act is the framework for dedicating 80 percent of Clean Water Act administrative and civil penalties paid by responsible parties after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill for environmental and economic recovery.

The fine money is set aside in a trust fund overseen by the U.S. Treasury Department. Projects and programs funded

through the RESTORE Act will generate investments in economic development, tourism promotion, and science-based natural resource restoration in the Gulf Coast states impacted by the spill – Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

The RESTORE Act designates how each state is to distribute their portion of settlement funds. The 10 members of the Alabama Gulf Coast Recovery Council (AGCRC), chaired by Gov. Robert Bentley, have that responsibility in our state.

The regional Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, frequently referred to as the “Federal Council,” will also handle a portion of Clean Water Act fines for large-scale,

comprehensive ecological restoration of the Gulf of Mexico.

Additionally in July 2015, funds from federal legal action against BP were distributed to the Gulf States after a negotiated settlement was reached by government officials. That agreement set the final Clean Water Act fine amount at \$5.5 billion to be paid out over 18 years.

The Chamber’s position on RESTORE has been consistent; we believe:

- All projects and initiatives funded by the RESTORE Act should provide for long-term environmental restoration and economic recovery needs in our coastal region.

- All approved projects and initiatives should adhere to a sound, scientific framework of analyses, an economic benefit assessment and a method of accountability.

- Projects should improve the prospect of future economic success by prioritizing on-going infrastructure projects for our port, water and sewer systems and transportation.

For more information, visit www.alabamacoastalrestoration.org.

To reach Russell, email grussell@mobilechamber.com or call 251-431-8618.



Coastal Water Act Penalties
(\$5.5 B Agreement in Principle)

20% to Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (\$1.1 B)

Note: All numbers are approximate and have not been finalized.

80% to the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund (\$4.4 B)

1 \$308 M
(AL portion)

2 \$1.32 B
(Total for all states)

3 \$269 M
(AL portion)

4 \$110 M
(Total for all states)

5 \$22 M
(AL portion)

Direct Component

35% equally divided among the five Gulf Coast States for ecosystem restoration, economic development and tourism protection

Developed by Alabama Council and approved by Treasury

Council-selected Restoration Component

30% interest managed by the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council for ecosystem restoration under the Comprehensive Plan

Developed by Federal Council: vote of 5 States and 1 Federal chair

Spill Impact Component

30% divided among the five Gulf Coast States, according to a formula to implement State Expenditure Plans, which require approval by the Council

Developed by Alabama Council and approved by Federal Council

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science Program

2.5% + interest provided to NOAA for a monitoring, observation, science and technology program

Developed by NOAA

Centers of Excellence Research Grants Program

2.5% + interest allocated to the Gulf Coast States for Centers of Excellence

Developed by Alabama Council and approved by Treasury



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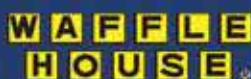
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How ASF Intermodal Keeps On Truckin'

Michael Hayes (left) and Michael Smith (right) started their own trucking company, ASF Intermodal located at 3812 Springhill Ave. in 2011. The business partners decided to start their own company rather than move to Minnesota after their former employer's business was bought and employees were asked to transfer up North.

Minnesota didn't sound appealing to **Michael Smith** and **Michael Hayes**.

They both worked for a trucking company in Birmingham that was bought out by a Minnesota firm. "Neither one of us had any desire to go to Minnesota," said Hayes. "They were trying to wine and dine us in Minnesota in February. It really wasn't pretty. We grew up in the South."

And that's how ASF Intermodal was born.

Smith and Hayes left in 2011 to open ASF, which specializes in intermodal drayage – moving containers off ships and rail cars to distribution centers or end customers and back again. ASF transports containers and cargo, such as electronics, raw materials and lumber.

The company, headquartered in Mobile with Smith as president and Hayes as chief

financial officer, has grown from two terminals in 2011 to 11 throughout the Southeast, Midwest and Texas. It has 80+ employees, as well as contracted drivers and 450 trucks, with locations in Atlanta, Charlotte, Charleston, Chicago, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Memphis, Savannah and Norfolk.

ASF Intermodal is the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce's Small Business of the Month.

Hayes said the company's success can be attributed to a multitude of factors, but one thing in particular has been central to their rapid growth.

"It's really how you treat the drivers," he said. "In transportation, it really doesn't matter what niche you're in – your ability to grow your fleet is directly related to how well you are able to recruit and retain your drivers.

"We don't spend a lot of money on recruiting with ads like a lot of trucking companies do. What we do spend money on is paying referral fees and things like that to drivers who are currently driving for us. We try to do our best to make them happy. If we're able to do that, then they in turn will go out and talk to their friends and colleagues."

Keeping drivers happy is particularly important these days, as Hayes said there is a shortage in the workforce. Intermodal companies have an advantage, he said, in that their drivers typically run shorter routes and aren't away from home as long as over-the-road, or long-haul, truckers.

"The drivers don't want to stay away from home for weeks at a time like they did 15 years ago, 20 years ago," Hayes said. "Back then, it was expected; it

was part of it. As time goes on, generations have changed, and they want to be home every day. Over-the-road drivers are getting replaced in many ways by the rail."

Intermodal, meanwhile, is "the fastest-growing segment right now, and it has been for several years," Hayes said, adding that improvements at the Alabama State Port Authority and other ports, and the widening of the Panama Canal, scheduled for completion early next year, also will help business. "It should continue for the next five or 10 years."

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Why Small Business Sustainability Matters

By: Joan Carroll-Flowers



I first learned about the concept of sustainability from a minority entrepreneur who was consistently being excluded from bidding on green construction projects. After a careful analysis, I discovered a dramatic change not only in the construction industry, but manufacturing, healthcare, information technology and just about every industry in the marketplace. A paradigm shift had taken place during the recent economic crisis, resulting in a "green divide" between large corporations and small businesses, and most of the nation's small business owners never knew it happened, until they were being excluded as suppliers.

Today, sustainability knowledge is crucial for contractors. Here's why: Many builders have started to take action, designing greener buildings to create a lower-carbon construction industry. In fact, no matter what industry your company operates in, a sustainable business model is critical for survival.

Case in point is one of my minority clients who discovered the market had changed. The company had been providing safety products, office and janitorial supplies for more than 16 years. But after attending a Green Build Boot Camp sustainability workshop, he transitioned the company into a significant construction firm specializing in environmental services, infrastructure, logistics and external applications for public and private markets.

Another client is a one-woman-owned small business with a national materials handling operation. She gained knowledge from a sustainability training program and then created an award-winning fleet management tool that helped revenues soar.

Today, businesses of all sizes are faced with a number of megatrends that are powerful drivers of global market change. Challenges like limited natural resources, increased populations, urbanization, changing demographics, pollution of air, soil and watersheds, more environmental regulations and extreme weather are forcing changes to traditional business models and creating new products and dynamic opportunities.

A sustainability program can be very narrow, with a focus on the environment to reduce carbon emissions, energy

consumption, waste and water use, or it can go further to consider newly envisioned support systems, employee training and internal sustainability audits.

To meet supply chain requirements, entrepreneurs need to put a leadership action plan in place that tracks sustainability performance improvements over time. Start small with simple, cost-effective changes to reduce, reuse and recycle. Stakeholders want to know how businesses are helping to solve these problems.

Joan Carroll-Flowers, president of ACF Enterprises LLC, is an award-winning writer, business coach and entrepreneur. She created the Institute for Sustainable Business Education to teach sustainability as a competitive advantage and business strategy.

Our Team is Ready to Build.



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Susan L. Taylor

Returns to Speak at Minority Business Conference

FAST facts

2015 Minority Business Conference

DATE: Thursday, Oct. 8

TIME: 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. – Business
Leadership Forum
10:30 to 11:15 a.m. – Networking
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Awards Luncheon

Location: Arthur R. Outlaw
Mobile Convention Center

Keynote Speaker: Susan L. Taylor,
formerly editor-in-chief of *Essence*
magazine

Cost: \$60 per person/\$600 Table of 10
for Mobile Area Chamber and MBDA
Members/\$70 per person for potential
members/\$700 Table of 10

Registration deadline: Friday, Oct. 2

To register: 251-431-8607,
brembert@mobilechamber.com or
www.mobilechamber.com.

Registration includes the Business
Leadership Forum and the Awards
Luncheon.

PRESENTING SPONSOR



Susan L. Taylor, former editor-in-chief of *Essence* magazine, will headline the Mobile Area Chamber's Minority Business Conference on Thursday, Oct. 8. The luncheon highlights the Chamber's commitment to minority business success and recognizes efforts of local and statewide companies.

In her keynote speech, "Bold, Visionary Leadership: From the Inside Out," Taylor will give tips on how to embrace change and manage it effectively. She will also demonstrate how even the toughest business and management issues can be tackled with enthusiasm, a positive attitude and patience.

Taylor spoke previously at this event to a sell-out crowd in 2003.

"Her entrepreneurial spirit, success with *Essence* and commitment to the African-American community make Taylor a much sought-after speaker. We are happy to welcome her back to present a new topic, sure to inspire our audience," says **Darrell Randle**, the Chamber's vice president of small business development.

A fourth-generation entrepreneur, Taylor has authored the best-seller *In the Spirit, Lessons in Living*.

Since retiring from *Essence*, she works with National CARES Mentoring Movement, one of the fastest-growing mentor-recruitment organizations in the nation. Taylor also launched the *Essence* Music Festival, held annually in New Orleans.

In addition to Taylor's keynote, the Chamber and the Mobile Minority Business

Development Agency (MBDA Business Center) will honor the accomplishments of several companies during the luncheon.

Baheth Research and Development Laboratories and **New Life Housing** will receive an Eagle Award, and the **Alabama Department of Transportation Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Unit** will receive the Rev. Wesley A. James Minority Business Advocate Award from the Chamber.

Minority Business Enterprise Awards, presented by the Mobile. MBDA Business Center, will go to **Dorsey and Dorsey**,

recipient of the Director's Award; and **Bates Enterprises Inc.**, recipient of the High Performing Minority Business of the Year Award. MBDA is a program of the U.S. Department of Commerce, and is operated by the Chamber.

The day kicks off with a Business Leadership Forum,

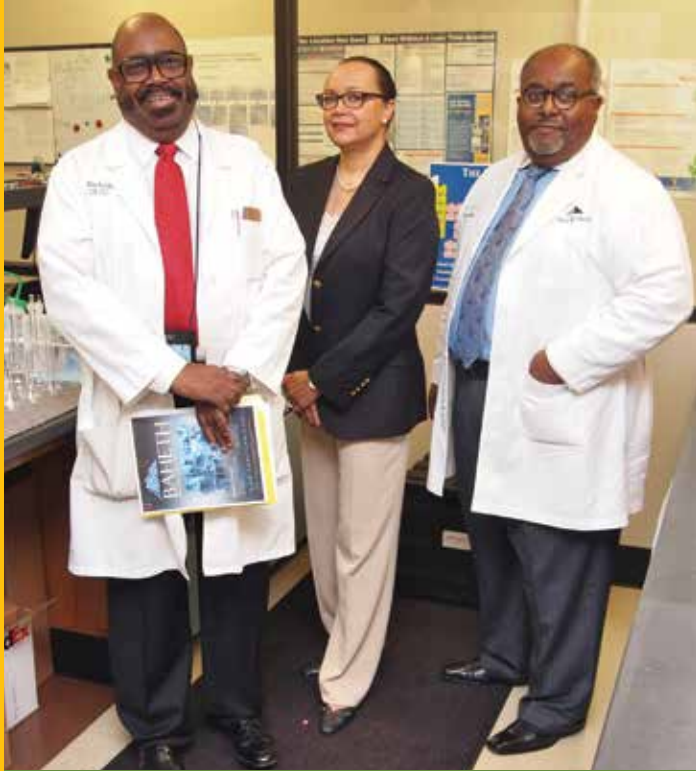
"Longevity Has Its Place: Sustainability for Minority Business Enterprises," at 8:30 a.m., featuring panelists who will address how to manage financial risk and human capital, and connect with ecological and socioeconomic ecosystems to develop sustainable and profitable business models.

National and regional experts include **George Mui**, Minority Business Development Agency; **Sharon Patterson**, Billion Dollar Roundtable; **Dominick Wallace**, Wallace Capital; **Marla Warner**, Dale Carnegie Training by Emerald Coast Leadership Associates; and **Jackie Mustakas**, Robins & Morton.

She will also demonstrate how even the toughest business and management issues can be tackled with enthusiasm, a positive attitude and patience.

2015 Eagle Awards

Presented by the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce



Baheth Research and Development Laboratories

Baheth Research and Development Laboratories scientists, engineers and environmental professionals work to solve environmental challenges for government, industrial and commercial clients throughout the United States. The lab was founded in Baton Rouge by Dr. Allam Baaheth, before its headquarters were moved to Mobile in 1999, after being hired for a city of Mobile project. There are 15 employees.



New Life Housing

New Life Housing works with families and individuals who want to own their home and keep it. The company offers an eight-week financial course and helps them repair their credit, with the goal of qualifying and budgeting for a home. This three-year-old company has five employees.

MBDA Minority Enterprise Awards



Dorsey and Dorsey

Dorsey and Dorsey is a Mobile-based engineering firm serving municipal, state and federal clients throughout the Southeast. Its projects range from airfield design to civil and site engineering services to electrical and electronic systems designs. Started in 1997, the husband and wife team of Larry and Pamela Dorsey, the company has 4 employees.



Bates Enterprises

Bates Enterprises is an industrial recycling company specializing in laundering personal protective equipment. In addition, the company handles inventory control, tracking and repairs. And when items cannot be patched and reused, the remaining components are recycled. This 20-year-old company is based in Childersburg, Ala., and has 65 employees.

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* AirbusAssemblyMobile.com is not affiliated with Airbus.



Top volunteers were recognized at the Chamber's victory celebration ending Chamber Chase sponsored by Mobile Area Association of Realtors and Roberts Brothers. A complete wrap-up of the campaign will be included in the November issue of *The Business View*.

Chamber Chase is an annual resource development campaign with volunteers bringing in new members and selling sponsorships and advertising to benefit the Chamber.

Pictured at left are Linda Faulkner, Evonik Industries and Lisa Owen, Trustmark Bank, longtime campaign volunteers.

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Airbus Laser-Focused on Future Growth

Now that the Airbus U.S. Manufacturing Facility at Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley is officially open, all eyes are now turned to the future. And increasing production and employees is one marker for Airbus's continued expansion here. Nearly 300 employees are now working for Airbus at the new facility.

"No longer are we waiting for an announcement, hoping for a positive outcome, watching the facility come to life. For Airbus, it's time to get to work," said **Bill Sisson**, president and CEO of the Mobile Area Chamber. Sisson, who was part of Team Mobile both with the Chamber and the Mobile Airport Authority, has been involved

in recruiting this project here for the last decade, albeit in different incarnations.

On Sept. 14 Airbus held its official grand opening of the plant which will roll out its first A320 for Jet Blue in 2016.

Housed in a \$600 million facility, the Airbus project has already motivated several new companies to open shop in Mobile, most choosing to co-locate at Mobile Aeroplex, in close proximity to Airbus.

"From design to renovation/construction, we have laid the groundwork for collaborative partnership," said **Roger Wehner**, executive director of the Mobile Airport Authority.

International companies such as Safran Engineering, Messier-Bugatti-Dowty,

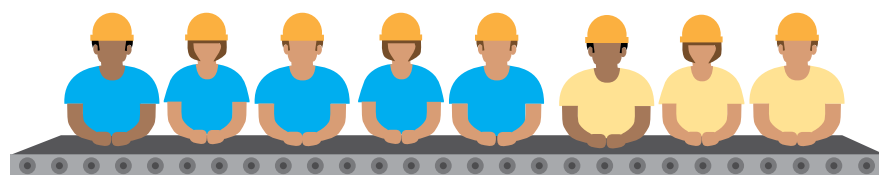
Assystem, Hutchinson and REEL are just a few of the companies who are in the process of opening, or have opened, in conjunction with the Airbus opening.

Dr. Ulrich Weber, outgoing vice president and head of the Airbus Final Assembly Line USA, recently told Chamber board members, "We are 100 percent committed to make this a successful site (assembling aircraft) on time, and on budget."

Weber went on to say that the A320 family of planes is the best-selling line of aircraft for Airbus, and there is currently a backlog of more than 5,000 planes on the books.



About Airbus Employees



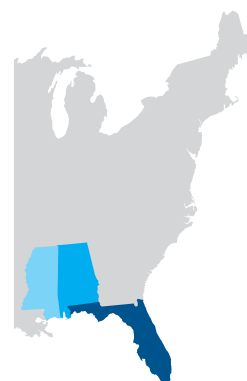
56%

of employees are from the **greater Mobile area**



31%

of employees are **Veterans**



30%

of employees are from other parts of **Alabama, Florida and Mississippi**

Source: As of Jan. 2015, Airbus

2003 - 2015: Mobile Always Focused on the Win

2003

Mobile named a finalist for the Boeing 787 Dreamliner final assembly line.

2004

Mobile's then Brookley Industrial Complex named a finalist for Vought/Alenia project – a 7E7 fuselage development program.



2005

January - EADS to compete for the \$35 billion U.S. Air Force contract.

June - Mobile's Brookley Industrial Complex site of choice to assemble KC-330 Tankers and a site for the Airbus Engineering Center.

2006

January – Airbus Engineering Center located at Brookley breaks ground.

Spring - EADS partners with Northrop Grumman to build KC-30 tankers. The plan was for EADS to assemble A330 aircraft and Northrop to convert A330s into tankers. Northrop to lead the effort to submit a bid to the U.S. Air Force.

2007

Spring – Northrop Grumman submits its bid to the U.S. Air Force.

Fall - Tom Enders, then Airbus CEO, announces the company's plans to assemble A330 freighters in Mobile, should they win the tanker contract.



2008

February – Northrop Grumman & EADS win the bid to build the new generation tankers.

March - Boeing files a protest; gains access to its opponent's offer.

June – U.S. Government Accountability Office finds flaws in the bid evaluation process and reorders the bid.

Airbus Attracts Suppliers

Three years ago, Safran Engineering Services was the first company to announce it would locate an office in Mobile to work with Airbus and hire 50 people. At the 2015 Paris Airshow in June, Hutchinson made the single largest jobs announcement, with news it would hire 100 people. MAAS Aviation announced two projects – first a \$13 million paint shop, followed by a \$39

million twin-bay paint facility. Combined, MAAS will hire 114 employees.

Below is the list to date of companies drawn to the area by business opportunities with the Airbus Final Assembly Line.

“Many of these companies are setting up operations in the U.S. for the first time, and are using Mobile as the gateway to other customers in the country. While the

activity and size of each is initially driven by Airbus, these companies are aggressively looking to do business with other local and national aerospace clients,” says **Jana Stupavsky**, the lead aerospace project manager for the Mobile Area Chamber’s economic development department.

Company	Type of Work	Headquarters
AAA Aerospace USA Inc.	On-site subcontracting services	France
AKKA	Engineering, cabin upgrade services	France
Assystem	Engineering services	France
ATT Metrology Services	Metrology support	U.S.
AUSY North America	Cabin interior and production support	Germany
Comau	Jigs and tools provider, installation	France
Hutchinson**	Thermal acoustic manufacturing/ Repair and overhaul of aircraft parts	France
Inter-Informatics U.S.	Engineering services	Czech Republic
MAAS Aviation	Aircraft painting services	Ireland
Reel USA Corp.	Jigs and tools maintenance	France
Safran Engineering Services	Engineering services; wiring solutions	France
Safran Messier-Bugatti-Dowty USA	Landing gear systems support	France
Sonovision USA	Engineering, technical manuals	France
Vartan Aviation Group	Interior cabin integration	Germany

**FAA Part 145 Repair Facility

How the Money is Spent



66%

of global spending in USA (to build the facility) has been attributed to **Mobile and Alabama suppliers.**

Source: Airbus, As of Jan. 2015

2009

October – Then-called Airbus Military NA opens a new 30,000 square foot maintenance repair and overhaul (MRO) facility at Bates Field in west Mobile.



2010

March - Northrop Grumman announced its withdrawal from the next bid. EADS decides to pursue the bid without a U.S. partner.

Source: Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce

April - EADS submits a bid for the KC-45 tanker, and an ensuing media war about the evaluation process and U.S. versus foreign manufacturing begins.

2011

February - Boeing wins the contract by underpricing its product heavily, and EADS chooses not to protest to avoid further delays for the war fighter.



2012

July – Airbus announces the final assembly of the industry-leading family of A319, A320 and A321 aircraft will open in Mobile.

2013

April – Groundbreaking ceremony held for Airbus Final Assembly Line (FAL) at Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley.

2014

March – Topping out ceremony held on the main assembly facility.



2015

April – Airbus Defense and Space holds its 10 year anniversary celebration at Bates Field.

June – The first components of the Jet Blue A320 arrive in Mobile and are delivered Mardi Gras-style with a parade from the Mobile Container Terminal to the Final Assembly Line (FAL).

September – Grand opening of the FAL takes place.

Chris L. Golden



Company: ExxonMobil Production Co.

Title: Mobile Bay Asset Manager

Hometown: Dublin, Ga.

Education: Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, Auburn University, 1996

First job: Exxon facilities engineer for Gulf of Mexico Operations in New Orleans

Previous experience: Golden has been employed with ExxonMobil since 1996.

Accomplishments: He has spent nine of the last 10 years working abroad, in West Africa (Luanda, Angola), the Middle East (Doha, Qatar) and Asia Pacific (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia). "My experience

working in these various cultures has heightened my appreciation and ability to relate and motivate individuals from various walks of life, regardless of their foundational beliefs," Golden said. "It has also provided opportunities to connect with local communities, most notably organizing and assisting organizations to drill freshwater wells for orphans in West Africa."

Secret to success: "Hard work and staying true to my core values, while recognizing differences in opinion, style and approach in the workplace."

Brief company description: ExxonMobil is the largest publicly-traded oil and gas company in the world.

Trade Mission Held in South Africa

Following the success of the Chamber's spring conference on sub-Saharan Africa, the Chamber completed a multi-sector mission to South Africa. Fifteen people representing 10 companies and organizations participated in the trade mission. The mission included traditional matchmaking appointments, and Trade Winds – Africa, a business development conference featuring an Africa-focused business forum, consisting of regional and industry specific conference sessions, and meetings with U.S. senior government diplomats.

Seminar on Cuba

In August, the Chamber hosted Benjamin Barron, a foreign affairs officer in the Department of State's Office of Economic Sanctions Policy and Implementation, who currently serves as the office's lead on Cuba sanctions. Barron spoke to a group of 80 people on the

Treasury and Commerce departments' recently issued packages of new trade regulations with Cuba. He also shared with attendees the U.S. State Department's insight regarding the strategic process of preparing for opportunities in Cuba.

Chamber Assists Members with Ribbon-Cuttings and Groundbreaking Ceremonies

The Chamber has been assisting members with a number of ribbon-cuttings and grand openings. Companies participating include: Comfort Inn, Costco Wholesale, Dickie's BBQ, FastSigns, Payroll Vault, Allure Nail Spa, Fairfield Inn by Marriott, Easy Money - Dauphin Island Parkway, Ruby's Boutique, Fleet Feet and Easy Money - Airport Boulevard. To learn more about how the Chamber can assist your grand opening, contact **Dawn Rencher** at 251-431-8649 or drencher@mobilechamber.com.

Chamber Association Honors Hallett

In August, former Chamber President Win Hallett was honored with the Life Achievement



Award by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) during the organization's annual conference in Montreal, Canada. Hallett, who retired from the Chamber in 2013, spent countless hours in various volunteer capacities for ACCE.

Rencher Completes Four-Year Program

Dawn Rencher, the Chamber's director of member relations, graduated from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for



Organizational Management. The four-year program provides an immersion in Chamber functions including accounting, ethical business practices, membership development and programming.

Horn Named Senior PR Practitioner



Ashley Horn, the Chamber's director of digital media and design, was named a Senior

Practitioner by the Southern Public Relations Federation. Horn was one of 14 people across Alabama, Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi to receive this designation given to public relations professionals based on a variety of factors including years in the profession, board service and awards won.



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AMBASSADOR of the month



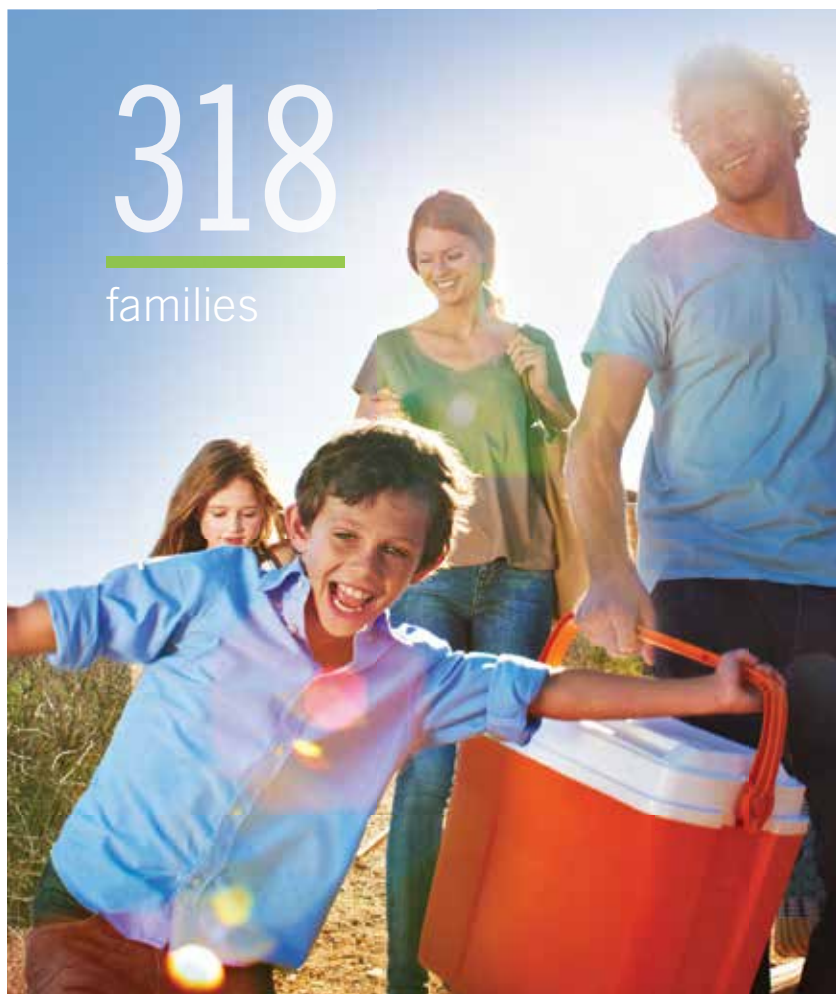
Photo by Jeff Tesney

When **Lane Elmore**, a financial advisor with Edward Jones, joined the Chamber's ambassador program in January, he hit the ground running – volunteering, building relationships and earning the Ambassador of the Month distinction. "The Chamber is a great way for local companies to initiate communication and build relationships that could lead to further business transactions," he said. "As an ambassador, I act as a catalyst to speed-up that communication process and get local companies more involved."

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.

318

families



1 community

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PFG RECEPTION

In late August, the Mobile Area Chamber hosted an event to recognize new industry announcements and company expansions over the last 18 months. Pictured here are representatives of these local companies. Go to www.mobilechamber.com/blog to learn more about the businesses recognized.



Warren Averett Members Phillip Rivers, CPA (Mobile office) and Kevin Leaser, CPA (Foley office)

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BOARD of advisors

Celia Mann Baehr is president and CEO of the Mobile Symphony. She has more than 25 years of experience as a financial advisor and has been a certified financial planner practitioner since 1988. Baehr holds a master's degree in business administration from the University of South Alabama and a bachelor's degree in geology from The University of Alabama. In 2008, she received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Alumni Association of the University of South Alabama. She is past board chair of the Mobile Symphony, past president of the Gulf States Financial Planning Association, a graduate of Leadership Mobile, a past member of the Mobile Area Chamber board of directors and a member of the Mobile Rotary Club.



Doug McDonald, Captain, U.S. Navy (Ret.), is the operations director for General Dynamics (Mission Systems) in Mobile. McDonald received a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Idaho and a master's degree in system management from the University of Southern California. He is president of the South Mobile County Shrine Club and a shriner at Abba Shrine Center. McDonald served for 30 years in the U.S. Navy as a Surface Warfare Officer on eight ships. Upon his Navy retirement, he joined the General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems team, which is responsible for the electronics system integration, activation and testing for the Littoral Combat Ships (LCS) and Joint High-Speed Vessels (JHSV) being built at Austal.



Timothy G. Morris is chairman and CEO of Gulf States Engineering, a multi-discipline engineering consulting firm where he is responsible for project management, business development, civil/structural engineering and project financial analysis/management. He earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Dayton in Ohio, and a master's degree in business administration from Tulane University. Morris is licensed as a professional engineer in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, Texas and Arkansas. He began his career with Martin Marietta Manned Space Systems in New Orleans, and moved to Mobile in 1989 to join Farnell and Associates. Gulf States Engineering is a Partners for Growth Investor.



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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Source: Barron's magazine, February 23, 2015, America's Top 1,200 Financial Advisors list. Advisors considered for the "America's Top 1,200 Financial Advisors list" ranking have a minimum of seven years financial services experience and have been employed at their current firm for at least one year. Quantitative and qualitative measures used to determine the advisor rankings include: client assets, return on assets, client satisfaction/retention, compliance records and community involvement, among others. Barron's does not receive compensation from advisors, participating firms and their affiliates, or the media in exchange for rankings. Barron's is a trademark of Dow Jones & Company, Inc. All rights reserved.

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Willis



Willis of Alabama

Willis of Alabama is located in downtown Mobile in the RSA Tower. Pictured (from left to right) are: John Purdum, Jason Gregory, Brian Brouckaert, Joyce Johnson, Beth Calametti, Anthony O'Connor, Vernon Ewing, Peter Martin, John Mark Church, John Bullock, Greg Wells, Wilson Russ and Pharr Hume. Not pictured are: Jim Dykes and David Webster.

Company officials Paul E. Jason Gregory, managing partner and CEO; John Purdum, senior vice president; David Webster, executive vice president; Brian Brouckaert, senior vice president; John Bullock, executive vice president; Jim Dykes, senior vice president; Pharr Hume, senior vice president; and Vernon Ewing, senior vice president

Years in business: 17

Brief company description: With local roots dating back to 1898 (as WKP Wilson & Son Inc.), Willis is a global insurance broker specializing in property, casualty and employee benefits insurance. Industry areas of expertise include marine, healthcare, construction, aviation, nonprofit, gaming, hospitality, large property and employee benefits consulting. With headquarters in the U.S.

and abroad, Willis employs more than 18,000 and reports annual revenues in excess of \$4 billion. Recently, Willis announced its plans to merge with human resources and actuarial firm Towers Watson. Once complete, the combined company will represent annual revenues in excess of \$8 billion and a combined employee count of approximately 39,000.

Why are you located in Mobile?

"As a global broker, we have a number of locations throughout North America," says Gregory. "But given the local economics and various industries served, the Mobile economy complements well with our areas of expertise as well as our global resources."

Why do you support the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce's Partners for Growth initiative? "I don't think that it is any secret that, if

you want to grow, you have to make wise and prudent investments," says Gregory. "The Chamber has a strong track record of both recruiting and retaining viable businesses to the area. In addition, they have done an excellent job of engaging local businesses to create an environment that encourages and fosters growth. In our minds, we are blessed to have such a strong local advocate and will continue to invest in the Partners for Growth initiative."

What do you see as Mobile's greatest potential? "Without hesitation, I would tell you that it is our people," says Gregory. "Being a global company, I oftentimes have the benefit of peeking into other economies and seeing how they do business. And based on my observations, I sometimes think that we underestimate the ease of doing business in Mobile

and the friendliness of our community. We are surrounded with some really good people who genuinely care about advancing the city. I think that others looking to invest in our area can see this, and have a natural tendency to want themselves and their employees to be part of such an environment."

Length of continuous Chamber membership:

Since 1996



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

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MANDY PARKER JOE TAYLOR STACY CUMMINGS JOHN JEFFRIES
BRIDGET OLLIS PAT BESSONEN SALLIE WILKIE KARAH BALL
LISA WILLIAMS TAMMY SMITH SCOTT PROVINCE MICHAEL KINTZ
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visit events.mobilechamber.com.

4 BUSINESS SUNDAY

The Mobile MBDA Business Center, a program of the Mobile Area Chamber, will host Business Sunday, a national initiative of the Small Business Administration and the Department of Commerce Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. Business Sunday brings technical information and financial resources into the community for people who want to start or grow a business.

When: 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Where: Revelation Missionary Baptist Church
1711 Taylor Lane, Mobile

Cost: Free

Contact: Catherine Thomas at 251-433-2250
or admin@mbdacenter.com

8 2015 MINORITY BUSINESS CONFERENCE

The Mobile Area Chamber will celebrate minority businesses during its annual Minority Business Conference featuring the business leadership forum, networking and awards lunch.

• BUSINESS LEADERSHIP FORUM

A panel of experts will discuss "Longevity Has Its Place: Sustainability for Minority Business Enterprises."

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

(registration and networking at 8 a.m.)

Where: Arthur R. Outlaw Mobile Convention Center

• AWARDS LUNCHEON

The annual Awards Luncheon honors the accomplishments of outstanding local and national minority-owned businesses.

When: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: Arthur R. Outlaw Mobile Convention Center

Speaker: Susan L. Taylor, former editor-in-chief of Essence Magazine

Cost: \$60 Chamber members/MBDA members/\$600 table of 10; and \$70 potential members/\$700 table of 10. Cost includes forum and lunch.

Contact: Brenda Rembert at 251-431-8607 or brembert@mobilechamber.com

Reservation deadline is Friday, Oct. 2. Payment must be received at time of registration. No refunds or cancellations after Oct. 2. See story on pages 14-15.

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Start your day with the Chamber and network with other business professionals, and get a free professional head shot.

When: 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

Where: L.A. Fotographeer, Gallery 450, 450 Dauphin St.

Contact: Alison Unger at 251-431-8618

or aunger@mobilechamber.com

No charge. Reservations are not needed.

Coffee and pastries provided by Royal Cup Coffee.

20-21 AIDT LEADERSHIP SKILLS I COURSE

AIDT Leadership Development training programs introduce team leaders, supervisors and managers to effective leadership responsibilities, communication skills, teamwork and motivation techniques. Course agenda includes leading human resources, leader responsibilities and improving work relationships.

When: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: Chamber, 451 Government St.

Cost: \$50 per person, includes course materials, lunch and snacks

Contact: Emily McGrath at 251-431-8651 or

emcgrath@mobilechamber.com

Reservations required, and class size is limited to 25 people.

20 EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE **Members Only*

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

When: 8 to 9 a.m.

Where: Chamber, 451 Government St.

Speaker: Glenda Snodgrass, president of The Net Effect

Topic: "Cyber Self Defense: The Threats that Surround You"

Contact: Brenda Rembert at 251-431-8607 or

brembert@mobilechamber.com

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

Sponsor:



28 WOMEN'S ROUNDTABLE **Members Only*

A bimonthly forum for Chamber member women business owners and managers.

When: 8 to 9 a.m.

Where: Chamber, 451 Government St.

Speaker: Dr. Erin Saucier and Dr. C. Brooke Lenz

Topic: "Discover the ME in WOMEN"

Contact: Alison Unger at 251-431-8617

or aunger@mobilechamber.com

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

Sponsor:



28 GCTC LUNCH

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

When: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: Mentor Graphics Building at USA Technology Park

Speaker: Brunson White, secretary of information technology for state of Alabama

Topic: "Information Technology in the State of Alabama"

Cost: \$20 for Chamber members/\$25 for potential members and includes lunch

Contact: Emily Jerkins at 251-431-8602

or ejerkins@mobilechamber.com

Reservations required. Cancellations after Oct. 23

will not be reimbursed to cover lunch cost.

Sponsor:



29 BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

When: 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Where: The Grounds, 1035 N. Cody Rd.

Cost: \$5 for members and \$10 for potential members

Contact: Alison Unger at 251-431-8617

or aunger@mobilechamber.com

Reservations are not needed.

Sponsor:



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For more information, festival line-up and general admission tickets, visit www.bayfest.com

Who's New



Hall



Steward



Dault



Wambles

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Cooper & Co. Inc. REALTORS welcomed four new associates: **Heather Hall**, **Madeleine Steward**, **Kim Dault** and **Lisa Wambles**.



Mobile County Commissioner **Jerry Carl** became president of the **Mobile County Commission**. District 1 Commissioner **Merceria Ludgood** moved into the position of vice president.

BIS Technology Group added **Whitney Jones** as its digital marketing specialist. Jones graduated from Auburn University with a bachelor's degree in public relations and a minor in marketing.



Jones



Kidd

Archnique Kidd was named the new supplier diversity manager for the city of Mobile's first Supplier Diversity program. The program is designed to help minority, women and disadvantaged business enterprises overcome challenges in winning city contracts. Kidd earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Mobile.

Verizon Wireless named **Seth Hachmeister** director of business sales for the Houston/Gulf Coast Region. Hachmeister holds a bachelor's degree in marketing from the University of Texas and a master's degree from the University of Houston.

Adrienne Golden is the new executive director for the **Fuse Project**. Golden graduated from The University of Alabama with a bachelor's degree in business management and a minor in studio art.



Golden

Kirsten Sokom CPA was promoted to senior accountant at **Crow Shields Bailey PC** accounting and consulting firm. Sokom



Sokom

graduated from the University of South Alabama with both a bachelor's and master's degree in accounting.



McKenzie



Trent

University of South Alabama (USA) welcomed three new directors to its development department:

Jason McKenzie, associate director of major gifts at USA Mitchell Cancer Institute, **Michon Trent**, associate director of major gifts for USA Hospitals, and **Kim Eblen**, associate director of major gifts for USA Health Sciences.

Eblen

When a company becomes part of the fabric of the towns and cities where it does business, great things happen. Ideas become realities. Enterprises get launched. And people come together.

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Johnson



Hollis



M. Rivers



R. Rivers

Exit Realty Lyon welcomed **Candace Johnson**, **Marsha Hollis** and the mother and daughter team of **Meagan** and **Rai Rivers** to its real estate professionals.



The Shoppes at Bel Air (formerly Bel Air Mall) named **Jim Adkins** general manager. Adkins brings more than 25 years of experience in the shopping center business including positions at leading

high-traffic malls throughout the United States.



The attorneys of **Maynard Cooper & Gale** welcomed **Sujin Kim** to its Mobile office. She will work with the economic development and incentives, international trade and immigrations practices. Kim earned a bachelor's degree in international business from George Washington University and a law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law.



Kim

Business Endeavors

Roberts Brothers Inc. launched a new live "click & chat" feature on its website, allowing clients to speak live with sale associates. For more information visit www.robertsbrothers.com.

Hargrove Engineers + Constructors won the contract to perform engineering, procurement and construction management of a \$100 million expansion project at **Evonik Industries**. The project for a new unit at Evonik is expected to be finished late next summer.



Mobile-based **L&M Welding Supply** was sold to Tech Air, a Connecticut-based distributor of industrial medical, specialty gases and welding supply company owned by CI Capital Partners and Tech Air Management. L&M is the eighth acquisition in the last 12 months, and will expand the company to 30 branches and on-site plant locations in the U.S.



Horizon Shipbuilding Inc. delivered another 80-foot Inland River Towboat, the M/V Michael Akiu # 86, to Florida Marine Transporters Inc. (FMT) of Mandeville, La. This is the third of the three-vessel contract with FMT.

The **Mobile County Commission's** \$3.7 million sewer plant project in St. Elmo-Irvington is designed to give more than 3,000 area residents access to sewer service. It is supported by a grant from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management along with funds provided by the St. Elmo Irvington Water Authority.



Mobile-based **Safety Source Inc.** recently merged with Ritz Safety LLC, headquartered in Dayton, Ohio. Safety Source's two sales and distribution centers will continue to operate under the Safety Source name. The acquisition brings the total number of Ritz Safety sales and distribution centers to eight.


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* Hot air balloon is weather permitting.



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Model. Aimed at improving efficiency and patient care, Covenant will begin implementing the model services Jan. 1, 2016, in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton counties in Florida.

*

Fuse Project was awarded the Project of the Year Award at the AL.com Alabama Young Professionals Summit Award Ceremony. The Young Professionals Award recognizes a person or group that led a specific project that has made a direct impact on their community. To date, Fuse Project has raised a total of \$300,000 in an effort to support numerous causes that promote health, fitness and education.

Additionally, Fuse Project's co-founder and chairman of the board, **Grant Zarzour**, was awarded the Young Professional leader award for his work/volunteer for a nonprofit, faith organization or public sector organization, including governmental entities.

The Alabama Governor's Conference on Tourism recognized the Mobile's **GulfQuest National Maritime Museum** and it was named the 2016 Attraction of the Year. The **Coastal Alabama Partnership** won the Tourism Partnership Award.

*

Brian McCarthy of **McDowell Knight Roedder and Sledge LLC** was recently inducted as a Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, a group of elite trial lawyers representing more than 30 countries. Fellowship in the Academy represents outstanding skills and extensive experience as a trial lawyer, impeccable personal and professional character, integrity and honesty.

*

CTS Inc. was named the number one company to work for (small-to-medium employer category) in the 2015 "Best Companies to Work for in Alabama" rankings. Chamber member companies named

among the 2015 "Best Companies to Work for in Alabama" at the Best Companies to Work for in Alabama awards ceremony include: **Alabama Credit Union, America's First Federal Credit Union, ASF Intermodal Inc., Edward Jones, Hargrove Engineers + Constructors, Jones Walker LLP, Warren Averett LLC and Wilkins Miller.**

Created in 2010 as a project of *Business Alabama* magazine and Best Companies Group, this statewide survey and awards program identifies, recognizes and honors the best places of employment in Alabama, benefiting the state's economy, its workforce and businesses.

*

Mobile Area Water & Sewer System's C.C. Williams Wastewater Treatment Plant earned a Platinum Peak Performance award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies for outstanding compliance with state and federal permit requirements.

Community News

The **Mobile County Public Schools System (MCPSS)** reported that a record number of students earned college credit by taking Advanced Placement (AP) classes and passing AP exams. This year, 1,453 students took 2,715 exams, with 179 named an AP Scholar.

In other news, the MCPSS Class of 2015 earned \$97 million in college scholarships, and students earned a record 11,162 nationally recognized career credentials.

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.

Saty Putcha

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Susan Rak-Blanchard 28 Aug. 2015

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Mobile Area Chamber



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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