

# the **businessVIEW**

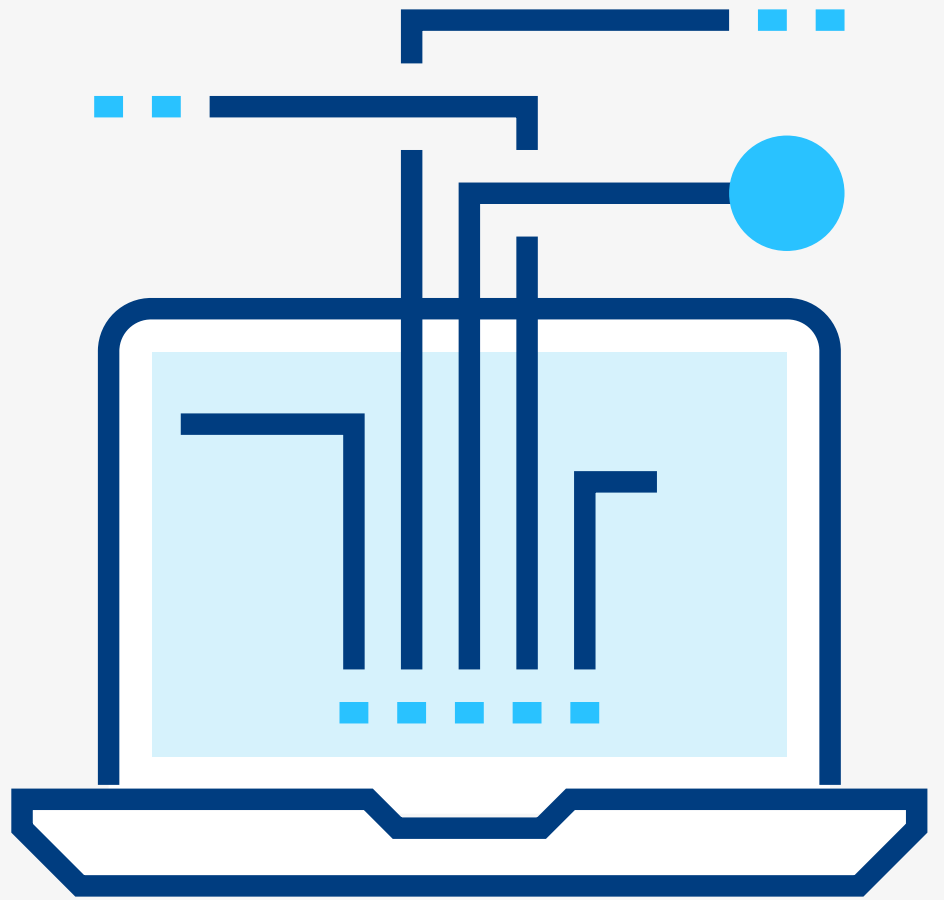


## **Cammie's Old Dutch –**

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**ON THE COVER**

Cammie's Old Dutch has been serving ice cream to several generations for 50 years. Owner Cammie Wayne is pictured at their Old Shell Road location. Learn more about this growing small business on pgs. 14-15.

*Photo by Jeff Tesney.*



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# Continental Aerospace Technologies Continues to Grow

*The first piece of equipment delivered to Continental Aerospace Technologies' new facility was one of three identical ones that will manufacture cylinder barrels for the company's engines. Made by Mazak in Japan, the machine was assembled in the United States.*

While Continental Aerospace Technologies officials are counting down the days until its new facility opens at Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley, several announcements made at the 2019 Sun 'n Fun International Fly-In & Expo this spring promise continued growth at the Mobile-headquartered company.

Entering a new market, Continental developed an engine – the Continental Prime 10-370-DA3A – for a new line of Piper Aircraft training planes. The 180-horsepower engine will be manufactured in Mobile and Continental will provide customer service and tech support. Florida-based Piper noted in a news release that a “growing demand for professionally trained pilots” is fueling the expansion of its product line. The two companies have an 82-year-old partnership.

On the same day the Piper partnership was announced, Continental added a new ignition system kit, Shower of Sparks, to its product line. The technology eliminates recurring mandatory inspections, saving owners time and money.

The company, once known as Continental Motors, also debuted its new global brand and name change to Continental Aerospace Technologies during the show. It is an industry leader in new and rebuilt

FAA-certified piston engines – both gas and diesel – as well as spare parts and components for small propeller-driven airplanes.

In May, the company began moving newly purchased equipment into a new 275,000-square-foot facility currently under construction, which will house manufacturing operations and corporate offices. Officials said the construction timeline is on track for an expected move-in beginning in August. The company will operate in both facilities until the final transition takes place in 2020.



*Continental Aerospace Technologies adds a new ignition system to its list of products.*



*A new partnership with Piper Aircraft for airplanes used by training schools opens a new market for Continental Aerospace Technologies.*



# An Epic Dismantling on the Mobile River



The NOBLE AMOS RUNNER, an ultra-deep water, semi submersible rig retired in 2018, made its way up the Mobile Ship Channel on April 28 to EPIC's Alabama Shipyards. The rig is thought to be the largest U.S. Gulf production rig of record to enter the Port of Mobile, measuring 348 feet by 328 feet and towering 316 feet above the water line.

EPIC is dismantling the rig at its Mobile facility to be recycled into Alabama and other U.S. domestic steel mills for new steel production.

Crescent Towing and Cooper Marine & Timberlands and Seabulk Towing provided tow assistance up the Mobile Ship channel and to EPIC's berth.

"The recycling component of EPIC's operation fits perfectly in Mobile because the company is able to strategically pass along the recycled steel to steel mills in Mobile County," said **Colton Cureton**, project manager of economic development for the Mobile Area Chamber. "It takes very skilled workers to dismantle an oil rig of this size, and this is an excellent testament that proves Mobile has a skilled and experienced work force."

In October 2018, EPIC Cos. announced the purchase of the former BAE Systems Southeast Shipyards, including the U.S. Gulf of Mexico's largest drydock, the ALABAMA, at the Port of Mobile.

# New Workforce Programs Aim to Help Fill Job Openings

Several new workforce initiatives made headlines recently as area companies, colleges and training organizations team up to address the need for skilled employees to fill positions.



## Airbus Offers FlightPath9 Training Class

Airbus introduced its first FlightPath9 class and announced another new hiring program for Mobile area residents with little to no aerospace experience. Rising high school seniors (pictured above) will complete the FlightPath9 program after school and graduate with employment offers at the Airbus Final Assembly Line.

Flight Works Alabama will run the comprehensive nine-month program,

involving certifications, instruction, guest speakers, success coaches and more.

Fast Track, a 12- to 15-week program, will bring individuals with little to no aviation manufacturing experience into the company and give them the skills, knowledge and ability required for an aerospace maintenance career. It will also be step two for FlightPath9 graduates before employment.

## Bishop State Offers Lineman Training for Alabama Power Recruits

Bishop State expanded its education program to offer a lineman training program to prepare participants to work at Alabama Power.

The college renovated a building at its Dauphin Island Parkway campus to include three classrooms, a learning laboratory and an outdoor hands-on learning area where linemen can hone their skills.

The 10-week program is set to begin next year. Once the application process opens this fall, up to 20 students will be accepted.

## Outokumpu Celebrates the First Graduating Class of Bishop State Apprenticeship Program



Outokumpu recently celebrated the first graduating class of its apprenticeship program in conjunction with Bishop State Community College. This two-year program provides on-the-job training

combined with related instruction at Bishop State. Seven area students completed the customized program, and eight students are currently enrolled in the next class.



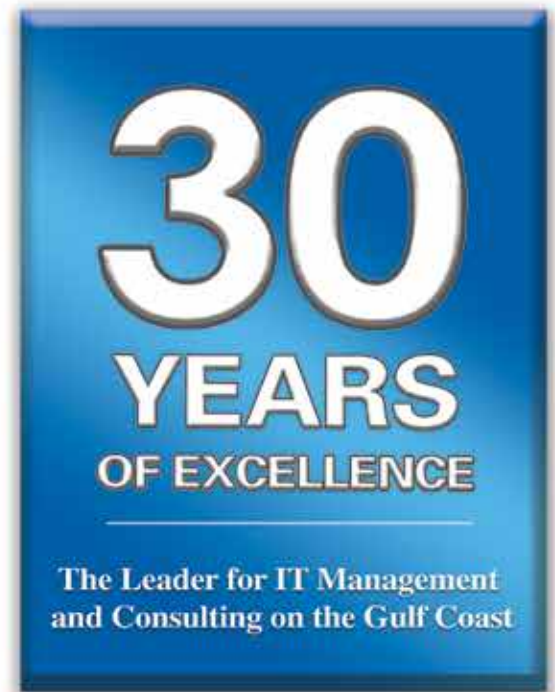
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Spherion Staffing was named the Mobile Area Chamber's Small Business of the Month. Pictured here in front of their Mobile office on Florida Street are from left to right: Aulaydra Moore, receptionist; Autumn Thomas, intern; Lewis Williams, recruiter; Cheryl Williams, president and Monica Oakley, branch manager.

## Spherion Staffing Services Matches People to Jobs

What began seven decades ago as a company founded to supply labor for Wrigley Gum in Chicago is now a nationwide staffing service with more than 150 offices across the country.

Spherion Staffing Services was founded in 1946 as City Car Unloaders, which placed workers in temporary jobs loading and unloading cargo for Wrigley. It has since grown into other industries and expanded across the country, and today serves recruiting and staffing needs ranging from administrative and clerical, customer service and light industrial, to non-clinical healthcare and professional.

The local office in Mobile is owned by **Cheryl Williams**, and she and her team have been serving the workforce needs of businesses in Mobile for 25 years.

"Every day, we have the privilege of matching people to jobs that enable them to live better lives, while providing the skilled resources companies need to operate successfully," Williams says. "People are the heart of our business, and it's very rewarding to play a part in the employment process."

The Mobile office of Spherion Staffing Services is the Mobile Area Chamber's Small Business of the Month.

Along with its staffing services, Spherion shares valuable data with clients through its Emerging Workforce Study, which the company has used to track trends in the U.S. workforce for the past 20 years.

"This study serves as a powerful source of business intelligence for creating

winning workforce strategies and preparing for the future of the workforce," Williams says.

Through the Spherion Community Giveback Program, Williams's business has supported local civic and charitable organizations like the Volunteers of America. It also serves as a co-facilitator for the Mobile County Summer Internship Program, which provides on-the-job experience for local high school and college students.

Williams says that perhaps the most rewarding aspect of her company is the impact it has on the local economy just through the nature of the business.

"By helping individuals find employment opportunities that enable them to make a better living, we are able to positively impact the economic success of

our community," Williams says. "And by recruiting skilled candidates for local employers, we are able to power businesses with the talent they need to operate successfully, which stimulates the growth of our economy."

Want to be featured here? Go to [mobilechamber.com](http://mobilechamber.com) to submit an application, or contact Danette Richards at 251-431-8652 or [drichards@mobilechamber.com](mailto:drichards@mobilechamber.com). There is no cost/fee associated with the Small Business of the Month program.



# An Update on the 2019 Legislative Session and Its Impact on Mobile

By Kellie Hope, Vice President Community & Governmental Affairs, Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce

The 2019 session of the Alabama State Legislature has proven to be an especially active one, as 1,070 bills were introduced. Throughout the session, the Mobile Area Chamber has been on the ground in Montgomery advocating for the Mobile business community on a weekly and often daily basis.

The piece of legislation set to have the biggest impact on the Mobile area and our economy is the Rebuild Alabama Act. Passed in a special session of the legislature, this bill raises the gas tax in Alabama by 10 cents. Signed into law by Gov. Kay Ivey on March 12, it will be implemented incrementally starting on Sept. 1.

Currently set to 18 cents per gallon for gasoline and 19 cents for diesel, the gas tax has remained unchanged since 1992.

After the initial 6-cent increase in September, the tax will increase by 2 cents per gallon on Oct. 1, 2020, then increase by a final 2 cents again one year later. Revenue derived from the Rebuild Alabama Act will facilitate the deepening and widening of the shipping channel into the Port of Mobile, and provide resources to invest in infrastructure improvements statewide.

Gov. Ivey also signed SB 112, to boost tourism in Mobile. This legislation, sponsored by Senators Figures, Sessions and Williams, provides procedures for Class 2 municipalities (City of Mobile) to establish additional business improvement districts for the purpose of promoting tourism and driving economic growth.

The legislature voted overwhelmingly in favor of HB 289, which permanently exempts

economic developers from a requirement to register as lobbyists under the Alabama ethics law. The exemption originally passed during the 2018 session, but with a provision set to expire April 1, 2019. Passage now allows economic developers to maintain the necessary confidentiality required during site selection efforts.

The proposed constitutional amendment to authorize a state lottery ultimately failed to pass after disagreements over paper tickets versus video lottery terminals and over the distribution of revenue between the General Fund and the Education Trust Fund.

The Chamber acted quickly and in concert with our pro-business counterparts across the state to defeat legislation that aimed to repeal Common Core.

The bill did not offer a satisfactory replacement for Common Core's college- and career-ready standards, which are essential to economic and workforce development.

Boosted by a strong economy, the \$7.1 billion Education Trust Fund budget passed and provides a 4% pay raise for education employees; increases to most K-12 programs and increases of at least 6% to the state's four-year public colleges and universities.

The Legislature passed a \$2.1 billion General Fund Budget including increases to the Department of Corrections, the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency and the Department of Mental Health. No funding for Medicaid expansion was included in the budget. A special session later in the year to address prison reform.



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# Recognizing Outstanding Minority-Owned Businesses and Champions: A Call for Entries

The Mobile Area Chamber is opening the application/nomination process for its annual minority business awards. Completed entries for the Eagle Award and Minority Business Advocate Award are due Monday, July 29.

Details and the application can be found on the Chamber's website, [mobilechamber.com/small-business/small-business-awards](http://mobilechamber.com/small-business/small-business-awards) or call 251-431-8652. The awards will be presented at the 2019 Eagle Awards Luncheon on Oct. 16 at the Battle House Hotel. John Hope Bryant, a financial literacy entrepreneur author and businessman, will be the keynote speaker.

## Eagle Award

The Chamber has celebrated local minority businesses for more than 20 years. In the past two decades, the Chamber has presented more than 100 outstanding companies Eagle Awards for their achievements and contributions to the community and economy. Winners have included businesses in the fields of professional services, mechanics, information technology, manufacturers, retail, engineering and construction and many others.

## Criteria for Eagle Award

Companies must be:

- At least 51% owned, operated and controlled by African-Americans, Hispanic/Latinos, American Indians or Asian-Americans;
- A Chamber member in good standing;
- Headquartered in Mobile, Baldwin or Washington counties;

- In operation at least three years;
- Able to exhibit revenue and/or employee growth;
- Financially solid;
- A for-profit company;
- Prepared to show evidence of community service contribution or involvement.

## Rev. Wesley A. James Minority Business Advocate Award

Named for a true champion and dedicated community leader, the Rev. Wesley A. James Minority Business Advocate Award (MBA) honors a minority business advocate committed to ensuring that minority-owned companies have equal access to contacts, capital and contracting and procurement opportunities. This award is given to a company or organization demonstrating diversity and inclusion efforts, and extending support to increase opportunities for the minority-owned business community.

## Criteria for the Minority Business Advocate Award

Companies must be:

- A Chamber member in good standing;
- Committed to diversity and inclusion and expanding opportunities for minority-owned businesses.
- In operation for three complete years (as of Dec. 31, 2018);
- Located in Mobile, Baldwin or Washington counties.

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Photos by Jeff Tesney

It's hard to select just one flavor at Cammie's Old Dutch Ice Cream Shoppe. Cammie Wayne watches as an employee dips a cone for a customer.

## At Cammie's Old Dutch Ice Cream Shoppe, Success Comes in 48 Flavors

In midtown Mobile, at the corner of Old Shell Road and Florida Street, is a popular gathering spot that happens to sell ice cream. Old Dutch Ice Cream Shoppe turns 50 this year, thanks to the vision of two entrepreneurs.

Edwin Widemire first opened the ice cream parlor in 1969. Little did he know that when he hired **Cammie Petrie Wayne** at the age of 16, she would one day continue his legacy and build a stronger one of her own. Now her name has been on the sign as the owner of the business for the past 21 years.

Initially, she only worked there eight months, but she continued to be a customer and brought

her own children to enjoy ice cream at Old Dutch. Then, one day in 1998, she asked Widemire if he was ready to retire. To her surprise, he said he was. They shook hands and, with just enough for a down payment, she went to work.

"I always wanted to own my own business," she says. "I thought it would be a jewelry store, but instead I make ice cream. Mobile has been so good to me, and my customers have been so loyal."

It's not unusual to see Wayne having a conversation with a customer, asking about a wife, husband or

child. "I make an effort to know my customers," she says.

The shop has a vintage feel. The menu features Holland Sodas, Tulip Sundaes, Pennsylvania Dutch milkshakes and malts, dozens of flavors of homemade ice cream and more.

Wayne has faced and conquered many challenges in the past two decades, from a few pessimistic customers who said she "wouldn't make it," to her ice cream supplier going out of business, to a frozen yogurt shop opening across the street.

She survived by determining to "bring something better," she says. Her husband Larry bought her the equipment she needed to start making her own ice cream. Wayne worked all day in the shop, then made ice cream until 2 a.m. She kept up that pace for several years to supply Old Dutch, cater weddings and events, and make half-gallon containers sold in area grocery stores.



The next chapter of Old Dutch history began in 2011, when the Waynes bought a former restaurant building on Halls Mill Road and turned it into a creamery. Larry quit his job of 28 years to take on the operation and deliveries. "It scared me to death," Wayne says. "I had no fear when I was 30, but 20 years later, that's different."

Cammie's Old Dutch ice cream is manufactured at the creamery and delivered to 15 ice cream shops, 19 grocery stores and 10 restaurants in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. Wayne, who calls herself a "vanilla girl," makes more than 48 different flavors of ice cream.

**“ If you're going to own a business, your No. 1 passion has to be work. You have to sell a product you love and can stand behind, and you must give back to the community. ”**

Greer's is one of three grocery store chains carrying Cammie's Old Dutch ice cream. According to **Jan Greer Endfinger**, vice president of marketing and human resources for Greer's, Old Dutch is No. 1 out of the 100 local products they carry. The chain sold 8,868 half-gallons in the last year.

"People like to support local, and we definitely do," said Greer Endfinger.

Wayne's best-selling flavor is Creole Praline. She likes to use her imagination, sometimes creating unexpected flavors



like Parmesan Cheese Grits, which sold out, and Sweet Corn, which bombed. This summer, Wayne is rolling out a new Peach Spice; in the fall, she'll offer Pumpkin Spice; in the winter, she'll make Peppermint and Sugar Cookie. And for Mardi Gras, there's King Cake and Moon Pie.

"If you're going to own a business,"

Wayne advises, "your No. 1 passion has to be work. You have to sell a product you love and can stand behind, and you must give back to the community."

The seemingly unstoppable Wayne has even bigger plans for her little ice cream shop's future. "I don't want to grow too fast, but I'm going national," she says.



Always hands-on, Cammie Wayne stirs in the cookies for her popular Cookies and Cream ice cream sold in her shop, plus 15 others, 19 grocery stores and 10 restaurants in four states.



# Back to Basics: Developing an Effective Security Program

By Glenda Snodgrass

The first installment of this two-part series appearing in the June issue of *The Business View*, looked at two foundational principles for developing an effective information security program: organization and documentation.

Now let's take a look at the final principle necessary to securing a business of any size.

## Control

Without control over its information systems, an organization cannot assure even a basic level of security. But what is "control" in this context? And how does one achieve it?

In addition to organization and documentation, achieving control requires two more things: policies and training.

**TRUTH:** *In the absence of written policies and an employee training program on acceptable computer use, an organization has no control over how employees are actually using company assets.*

Legal liability in the event of a data breach can become even more problematic in the absence of written policies and a training program.

When employers don't have good written policies, and employees don't receive effective training (why these policies are important, and how to develop good security habits), the result is often violations of standard security best practices.

For example:

- Out-of-date software with known vulnerabilities

- Potentially compromising software
- Personal accounts in use on company computers
- Personal assistants, location services, analytics/tracking enabled
- Shadow IT/ clandestine purchases attached to the network
- Cloud document storage outside company control

Each of these examples presents a unique opportunity for cyber criminals to steal your data. For example, many data breach incidents begin with a phishing email that exploits a known vulnerability in a common software.

A computer running that older, unpatched version can easily provide attackers with access to your network.

The situation is even more critical when you do not have valid login credentials for key components of your network, such as firewalls, routers, wireless access points, servers, databases, etc. Without login credentials, you have no control over the configuration or security of these devices. Each of these represents a potential back door to your network.

Without control of your data backup plan, you have no way of recovering your data in the event of a significant event. (Where are backup files stored? Do you have access to that server or service? Do you have account credentials for that server, and decryption keys for the backup files? Do you get

regular reports on backup success/failure? Is anyone actually reading those reports?) Indeed, you don't even know whether it would be possible to recover your data, as you don't know the status of available backups.

**Security products are of course an important part of your information security plan, but they should not represent the entirety of your plan.**

As stated in the first article in this series, too many small- and medium-sized businesses are persuaded that the purchase of "this one product" or "this one managed service" will provide all the security their network

requires. If this were true, large corporations with huge IT budgets would never have data breaches. Ask yourself this: "If it seems too good to be true ..."

Good information security requires

going back to the basics. Regardless of the size of your business, your information security program should have a solid foundation of organization through documentation and control, including good written policies and effective employee training.

*This is the second of a two-part series exploring three foundational principles for developing an effective information security program in your business, regardless of size by Glenda Snodgrass, president and lead consultant at The Net Effect. Snodgrass can be reached at [grs@theneteffect.com](mailto:grs@theneteffect.com).*



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Taken at the 2018 Siemens Automation Summit in Marco Island, Fla., a Prism Systems team built two Industry 4.0, Internet-connected ice cream makers as demos. Pictured from left to right are Tino Hakata, Richie Fortenberry, Ron Knight, Todd Hassel, Steve Zuercher and Keith Jones.

# Prism Systems

**Company officials:** Keith Jones, president and CEO; Alex Lynch, vice president; Ron Knight, engineering manager; Ryan Simm, software manager; and Wendi Lightbourne, controller

**Years in business:** 30

**Brief company description:** Prism Systems is a software/engineering firm focused on software for the industrial, entertainment, transportation and telecom industries. Prism has offices in Los Angeles, Detroit, Orlando, Birmingham and McIntosh, with its corporate headquarters in Mobile. Prism's engineers create the software that controls all types of equipment, including

industrial systems as well as rides in major entertainment parks around the world. The company also has a hardware and software product widely used by the telecommunications industry that has been installed at 30,000 sites around the country.

**Why are you located in Mobile?** "Prism was started in Mobile in 1989 because, at the time, our city was a hotbed for industrial automation," said Jones. "It turns out that was a great decision for us. The talent pool of engineers is strong in Mobile and the cost of living is much lower than most of the cities where we have offices. We have also found that our customers love to visit Mobile. They love the food and entertainment

options as well as the laid back atmosphere."

**Why do you support the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce's Partners for Growth initiative?** "As a Mobile company, we feel it is part of our civic duty to give back where we can," said Jones. "Supporting the growth of our community is a great way to do that because we benefit so directly from any improvements in Mobile."

**What do you see as Mobile's greatest potential?** "Our location and cost of living are a tremendous asset," said Jones. "As we relocate engineers to Los Angeles or even overseas, they soon realize what a direct

impact our low cost of living has on their quality of life."

**Length of continuous Chamber membership:** Since 1999



Partners for Growth (PFG) is the Mobile Area Chamber's long-term economic and community development program. For more information, contact **David Rogers** the Chamber's investor relations manager, at **251-431-8657** or **drogers@mobilechamber.com**.



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# Don Comeaux

**Company:** Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center

**Title:** Executive director

**Hometown:** New Orleans

**Education:** Comeaux earned a bachelor's degree in biology at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, La., and completed two years of botany research and one year of trans-genetic research. He also earned a Louisiana teaching certification in biology, environmental and general science from the University of New Orleans.

**First job:** Prior to his first official job at Baskin Robbins, Comeaux worked for his father in construction and had a grass-cutting job from the age of 12.

**Previous experience:** Comeaux began his professional career as an instructor in middle and high schools in Louisiana. At the Exploreum, he served in several positions including education program specialist, associate director of education and assistant director before being named executive director. Comeaux also served in the Louisiana Air National Guard, where he was a staff sergeant in charge of a fuel system repair crew for F-15 and F-4 fighter jets.

**Accomplishments:** In the early 1990s, Comeaux developed a forensic science program for high schools to connect math and science education with careers. He received the Coroners of Louisiana Educator Award and the American Stars of Teaching Award for this program. He served on the steering committee of the American Academy of Forensic Science Conference at Louisiana State University and graduated from the New Orleans FBI Citizens Academy. He is a member of the Alabama Governor's Advisory Council on Excellence in STEM.

**Secret to success:** "Fill the PITS, avoid the POTHOLES and create PEAK moments! Most importantly, be a lifelong LEARNER," he said.

**Brief company description:** With numerous interactive exhibits, thought-provoking larger-than-life IMAX films and fun, hands-on educational programming, the Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center aspires to increase science literacy among Mobile-area residents and visitors alike.



During the spring, the work of the Mobile Area Chamber took its representatives to many places to spread the message about doing business in Mobile. Here's a snapshot of some of the Chamber's recent efforts.



### Chamber Launches FDI Strategy

Nearly a year in the works, the Chamber's international business development division hosted Partners for Growth investors to present the Chamber's new Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) strategy. The goal is to strengthen Mobile's international ecosystem through FDI attraction and heighten international awareness that Mobile is a top venue for global commerce. The presentation was followed by a reception in celebration of World Trade Month and Mobile's international business community. Alabama's Secretary of Commerce, Greg Canfield, was the keynote speaker. More than 40 people were in attendance.

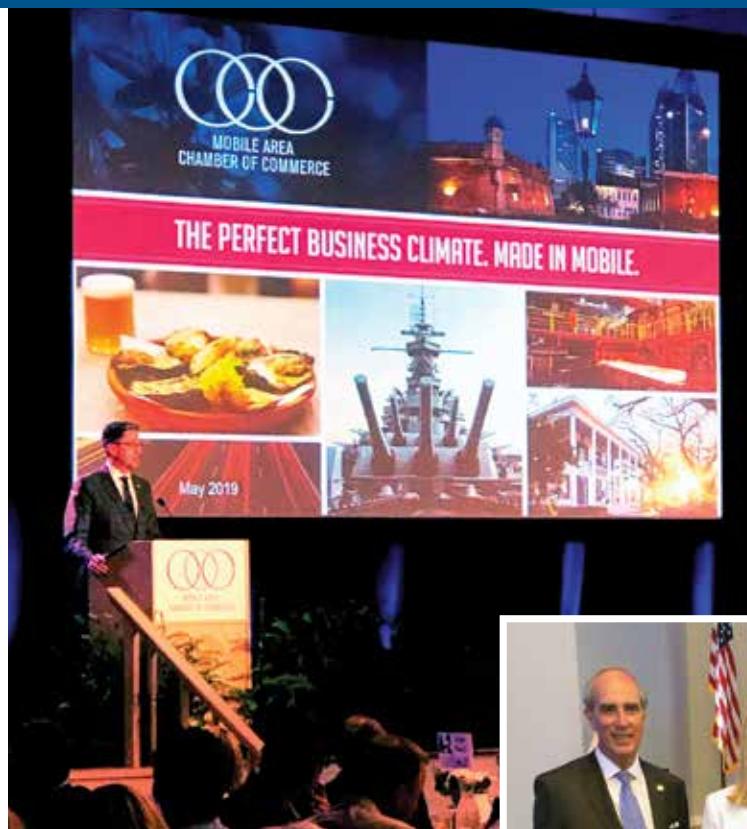
## Regional Business After Hours



*In May, the Mobile Area Chamber and Eastern Shore Chamber partnered to host a regional business after hours at Battleship Memorial Park. More than 300 people attended this fun networking event featuring great food and drinks.*

## State of the City/County Luncheon a Sellout

More than 850 people attended the Chamber's 22<sup>nd</sup> annual State of the City and County Luncheon. During this annual event, Chamber President and CEO Bill Sisson updated the audience on key Chamber initiatives, and was followed by Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson and Mobile County Commission President Connie Hudson presenting the state of the City of Mobile and Mobile County, respectively.



*"The time is now and we need your bold!" was the sentiment given by City of Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson at the Chamber's 22<sup>nd</sup> annual State of the City and County Luncheon. His rallying cry to get people involved in the Mobile community was strong. In addition to the mayor, Mobile County Commission President Connie Hudson touted the county's vision of protecting our land and water resources, the new soccer complex and a new litter campaign, and getting citizens involved with helping our community. The event also featured Chamber President & CEO Bill Sisson and Chamber Chair Daniel Dennis with Roberts Brothers. Pictured from left to right is Stimpson, Hudson, Dennis and Sisson.*



## Business First Hosts Second Meeting



A new Chamber initiative, Business First, is designed to be a blend of business trends training mixed with networking and fun. In May, presenters from The University of Alabama in Huntsville's Center for Management & Economic Research were in attendance and led attendees through an exercise where they broke down possible new markets and opportunities for growth. They also provided an overview of Alabama Technology Network, a program to help small and mid-sized manufacturers and service providers grow through market diversity and expansion.

## Chamber Works on Open House and Health Screening

The Chamber's community and governmental affairs vice president and the military affairs committee worked with Rep. Bradley Byrne's office, the Southwest Mobile Chamber of Commerce and the Veterans Affairs (VA) Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System to organize an open house and health screening event held at the VA's new Mobile Outpatient Clinic on Demetropolis Road. Many local women veterans attended the event commemorating National Women Veteran's Health Week.

## State Governmental Affairs Committee Meets

The Chamber's State Governmental Affairs Committee met regularly during the legislative session for discussions and updates affecting Mobile's economy. Presenters at the May committee meeting included Rep. Barbara Drummond, offering her perspective on legislation introduced in the House and Senate, and Moore Hallmark, executive director of the Southeast Region of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, providing an overview of key, U.S. Chamber federal initiatives and areas of focus, including support for a bipartisan infrastructure package.

## Chamber Interviews for a Mobile County Intern Program

The Chamber's Vice President of Small Business Development Darrell Randle participated as an interviewer for the Mobile County Summer Internship Program. More than 60 student candidates were interviewed for summer career employment with local companies and nonprofits.

## Auburn President Visits Mobile



In April the Chamber hosted a small group of Chamber board members and Auburn University alumni to a lunch in honor of Auburn University President Dr. Steve Leath. He was in town learning more about Mobile's economy and meeting with key business and community leaders. During the lunch meeting, Leath spoke about Auburn's growth trends, investments across the state and its work in partnership with other Alabama colleges and universities.



## Chamber Chase



Chamber Chase, a 16-week program involving volunteers to help sell Chamber memberships, event sponsorships and advertising runs through August. Teams meet weekly for updates and networking. This year's campaign is led by Jennie Campbell with Stewart Lodges at Steelwood.



believe in mobile  
shop local this mother's day



members.mobilechamber.com

The Chamber's communications and marketing team worked with Lamar Advertising on both a Mother's Day and Graduation Shop Local messages. These ran on the company's digital billboards. Also, Mobile Bay Monthly ran the Chamber's Mother's Day Shop Local message.

### Staff Updates Mobile City Council

Several Chamber staffers provided a second quarter update to Mobile City Council members, city clerk and support staff on a variety of Chamber-led projects. These included an economic development overview, new project update, diversity and inclusion efforts, and Innovation PortAL. The city of Mobile contracts annually with the Chamber to provide economic development work.

### Chamber Names New Ambassadors

Whitney Lutley with Cox Media and Sarah McAleer with McAleer's Office Furniture were named new Chamber ambassadors. This group of volunteer members assists the Chamber with a variety of projects, including event registration, member visits and attending ribbon cuttings. To learn more about this group, contact Dawn Rencher at 431-8649 or drencher@mobilechamber.com.

### Member Ribbon Cuttings and Grand Openings

Chamber staff and ambassadors helped cut ribbons and celebrate grand openings at Strayer University, Enterprise Car Sales, Home2 Suites at McGowin Park, BarKing Optical, Salon West Hairdressers, Waterfront Mission Thrift Store, AeroStar, Onin Staffing and Greer's Ace Hardware on Dauphin Island Parkway. For more information, contact Dawn Rencher at 251-431-8649 or drencher@mobilechamber.com.

### Training and a Trade Show

Shelby Glover Zaricor, senior project manager for the Chamber, attended an economic development continuing education course focusing on business retention and expansion, international trade and entrepreneurship in Indianapolis as part of Oklahoma University's Economic Development Institute. Following this, she was at the Aerospace Innovative Technology Summit in Birmingham and had 12 direct business development meetings with potential companies, suppliers, and partners.

### Chamber's Social Media Channels Growing

The Chamber's social media pages remain active, with the staff working to create sharable content and engaging the audience. Efforts remain focused on the Chamber's core values: jobs, advocacy, value and excellence.



Facebook  
7,615 likes and  
8,562 followers



Twitter  
8,975 followers



LinkedIn  
4,899 followers



Instagram  
1,446 followers

## Growth Alliance Task Force

Recently the Chamber's Growth Alliance Task Force, a committee to support minority-owned business needs, held several meetings. Recent topics and presenters were: Ron Davis with Primerica, who focused on the topic of financial business planning; Adriana Clark with the Office of Small Business for the U. S. Department of Transportation, who spoke on small business bonding and training for the Mobile River Bridge project; and Gina Hitchens with GHG Financial Planning, who presented on succession planning for small businesses. Monthly committee meetings over the last quarter averaged 40 attendees per meeting.



### New Board of Advisors Members Named

The Chamber announced several new Board of Advisors members, bringing the number to 248. They are Database Solutions, Hembree Heating & Air Conditioning, MAAS Aviation and Uriah Water. To learn more about this group of influential members, contact Shelly Mattingly at 251-431-8655 or smattingly@mobilechamber.com.

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## BOARD of Advisors



**Connie Hudson** served for nine years as the District 6 representative on the Mobile City Council before her election in 2010 as the District 2 representative on the Mobile County Commission. She is currently the commission president. She has held numerous volunteer positions including president of the Mobile County Council of PTAs, board member and honorary life member of the Alabama PTA, board member for the Mobile Area Education Foundation, chairwoman of

Citizens for Better Education and president of E. R. Dickson Elementary School PTA. Hudson has a bachelor's degree in biological sciences from Troy University. She completed an internship in medical technology at Mobile Infirmary Medical Center where she served as a staff technologist, hematology specialist and pathology instructor for the Mobile Infirmary School of Radiation Therapy Technology. Hudson is also an Academy of Real Estate graduate and received licensure by the Alabama Real Estate Commission. Mobile County is a Partners for Growth investor.

**Thomas "Chris" Curry** is president of the Mobile Airport Authority, responsible for managing the Mobile Downtown Airport, Mobile Regional Airport and the Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley. Curry brings 35-plus years of experience in the industry, serving as an air traffic controller in the U.S. Air Force and working as an airspace and procedure designer for Boeing/Jeppesen Corp. He held executive management positions at three previous airports, most recently Tallahassee International Airport in Tallahassee, Fla., where he led the airport's transition from a regional to an international facility. Curry holds a bachelor's degree in professional aeronautics from Embry Riddle University and an associate's degree from Community College of the Air Force. He is an honorary Tuskegee Airman and serves on Airports Council International as well as the Airport Minority Advisory Council. The Florida Department of Transportation named Curry its 2016 Aviation Professional of the Year. Mobile Airport Authority is a Partners for Growth investor.



**Kel Boisvert** is head of site services for Evonik Boisvert and most recently served as site manager at Evonik's Birmingham Laboratories. He began with Degussa in 1998 and held a series of national and international positions in the company, including three years in Mobile as QUAB site supervisor. Evonik is a Partners for Growth investor.



For more information about the Chamber's board of advisors, contact Shelly Mattingly at 251-431-8655 or [smattingly@mobilechamber.com](mailto:smattingly@mobilechamber.com).



# Small Business of the Year Awards Breakfast

## Thursday, August 22

8 to 9:30 a.m. | Mobile Convention Center

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# Onin Staffing

*Onin Staffing is an industrial and light clerical staffing division of The Onin Group, a Birmingham-based, privately held group of companies whose core business is staffing. The company has a Mobile office located at 3700 Government Blvd., Suite B. Pictured are Morgan Kennedy, sales manager, and Ashley Collins, assistant branch manager.*



# AMBASSADOR

 of the month


As a division account manager for Seabulk Towing, a Seacor Company, **Michelle Ard** manages customer accounts in six ports. She has served in the Mobile Area Chamber's ambassador program for three years and is the Chamber's Ambassador of the Month. "As an ambassador, I have the opportunity to support the Chamber and interact with its members," she says. "It's always exciting to visit new members and go to ribbon cuttings."

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

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Mobile's Newspaper

JULY 2019

For information on Chamber events, visit [events.mobilechamber.com](http://events.mobilechamber.com).**4** CHAMBER CLOSED - INDEPENDENCE DAY**16** 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.

**Speaker:** Daryl Taylor, vice president and general manager, Airbus

**Topic:** "Airbus Final Assembly Line Update"

**Contact:** Brenda Rembert at 251-431-8607

or [brembert@mobilechamber.com](mailto:brembert@mobilechamber.com)

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

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**23-24** AIDT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TRAINING LCSJ

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**When:** 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days

**Where:** Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

**Cost:** \$50 per person for members/\$60 for non-members, includes course materials, lunch and snacks

**Contact:** Cheryl Nicholls at 251-431-8651

or [cnicholls@mobilechamber.com](mailto:cnicholls@mobilechamber.com)

Reservations are required and no cancellations after July 12.

Class size is limited to 25.

**25** BUSINESS AFTER HOURS *\*Members Only;*

**When:** 5:30 to 7 p.m.

**Where:** La Quinta Inn & Suites, 3650 Airport Blvd.

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

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Who's New

Former Mobile Mayor **Mike Dow** is the new executive director at GulfQuest National Maritime Museum. Dow served four terms as mayor from 1989 to 2005.



Dow

**Spring Hill College** announced **Joe Niland** as the new athletic director. Niland joins Spring Hill after 20 years at the University of Mobile, where he was head coach for the men's basketball team. He also served as athletic director for 11 years, overseeing 18 varsity athletics programs.



Archey Whittle

**Briana Archey** and **Erin Whittle** joined **Russell Thompson Butler & Houston**. Archey's new role is staff accountant. A graduate of the University of South Alabama, she earned a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in accounting. Whittle is executive coordinator. She earned a bachelor's degree in communication science and disorders from Harding University in Searcy, Ark.



Darrington **Tiana** Darrington to their Mobile office.

**Julia Myers** is the new senior audit associate at **Warren Averett LLC**. Myers earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Auburn University and is currently working on her CPA license.



Burnett



Craig



Brousseau



Cooper



Robinson



Counselman

The **University of Mobile** board of trustees named history professor and executive dean **Lonnie Burnett PhD** as interim president. He earned a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Mobile. He earned a master's degree in history from the University of South Alabama and a doctorate from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

In other UM news, **Dr. Randy Craig** was promoted to professor of biology; **Barbara Brousseau** was promoted associate professor of French; **Dr. Cassidy Cooper** was promoted to associate professor of sociology; **Dr. Michael Robinson** was promoted to associate professor of history; and **Rachael Counselman** was promoted to assistant professor of English in the College of Arts and Sciences. **Dr. Melissa Thomas** was promoted to associate professor of kinesiology in the School of Health and Sports Science, College of Health Professions.

**Bellator Real Estate & Development** welcomed six new realtors: **Coley Boone**,

**Leslie Ezell, Michele Finney, Anessa Kent, Betsy McDowell and Lindsay Robbins.**

**Vincent E. Calametti** is major projects director for the City of Mobile. Calametti attended the University of South Alabama, where he earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He is a registered professional civil engineer for the Alabama Department of Transportation.



Bloodworth Botop Dylewski

The **Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP)** added **Sherry-Lea Bloodworth Botop** as deputy director of the program and **Katie Dylewski** as project manager. Bloodworth Botop previously served as director of economic and community development for the City of Fairhope. Dylewski graduated from Auburn University with a master's degree in horticulture

Business Endeavors

**Truland Homes**, a locally owned and operated homebuilder in Baldwin County, recently announced its expansion into Florida, followed by the grand opening of its Gulf Coast West Division office in downtown Pensacola.

**The Orthopaedic Group PC** added a new location in Saraland at 880 Industrial Pkwy., Suite H, to serve patients in north Mobile County and the surrounding areas.

**Mississippi Export Railroad** is now C5 certified, which allows the company to expand services to recondition, repair and qualify tank car service equipment.

Well Done

Cancer researcher **Ajay Singh PhD** is one of 10 scientists to receive an Outstanding Achievement Award from the Society of American Asian Scientists in Cancer Research. Singh is a professor of oncologic sciences and head of the Health Disparities in Cancer Research program at University of South Alabama Health Mitchell Cancer Institute. Singh received a doctorate in life science from Devi Ahilya University in India.



Kitchens McGehee



Kintz Carroll

**Wilkins Miller LLC** accounting and advisory firm announced **Drew Kitchens** and **Courtney McGehee** completed and passed the CPA examination. Kitchens earned a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in accounting from the University of South Alabama. McGehee earned a bachelor's degree in business management from the University of Mobile and another bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Mobile.

In other Wilkins Miller news, Gov. Kay Ivey appointed the firm's partner **Michael J. Kintz** to the Alabama State Board of Public Accountancy, which supervises the practice of public accountancy. Another partner, **W. Allen Carroll Jr.** was appointed to the Alabama Securities Commission, designed to protect investors from securities fraud and preserve legitimate capital markets in Alabama.



Chastain



Goodwin



Padgett



Roberts

The University of Mobile's highest faculty and staff honors, the Megginson Awards, were presented at the Henderson annual year-end faculty-staff luncheon. **Brenda Chastain**, assistant professor of education, received the William A. Megginson Teaching Award. **Jenna Goodwin**, director of

production and administration, received the Emma Frances Megginson Service Award. **Dr. Jeremy Padgett**, assistant professor of communication, received the Mitford Ray Megginson Research Award. The Faculty Engagement Award was presented to **Rusty Roberts**, assistant professor of accounting. In addition, **Dr. Troy Henderson**, professor of mathematics, was awarded tenure.

**Dr. Kelly Dorgan** of **Dauphin Island Sea Lab** and the **University of South Alabama** received a CAREER grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The Faculty Early Career Development program created by NSF gives early-career faculty support to advance both their research and educational programs in their department or organization. Dorgan's focus is on marine sediments and the diverse community of marine organisms.

The **American Lung Association** awarded **Sen. Richard Shelby** of Alabama the Lung Health Research Champion Award for his support of funding biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**Burr & Forman LLP** announced 51 of its attorneys were ranked in the 2019 edition of Chambers USA, a directory featuring client-led intelligence on America's leading lawyers for business. **John Kavanagh** and **Kathryn M. Willis** in the firm's Mobile office are included.

*Business Alabama* introduced the first-ever awards for Alabama's safest manufacturers from the Business Council of Alabama. Chamber member company **Austal USA** was one of the three companies recognized. Regional directors for the Alabama Society of

Safety Professionals judged the competition and considered OSHA training, workplace accident prevention and other top safety protocols and concerns.

**Partners for Environmental Progress** recently recognized the contributions of area businesses and organizations. Award winners included the following Chamber members: Alabama Power, BASF Corp., ExxonMobil, Hargrove Engineers + Constructors, Kimberly-Clark, Mobile Bay National Estuary Program and Shell Chemical.

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](mailto:news@mobilechamber.com).

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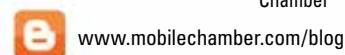
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The Mobile Area Chamber was awarded a five-star rating by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the highest designation given. Of the 6,936 chambers in the U.S., only 203 are accredited, and of those only 103 have achieved five-star distinction. The Mobile Area Chamber has been accredited by the U.S. Chamber since the designation's inception more than 40 years ago.



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