

**Investment
in Mobile
Tops \$262 M**

Chamber Announces
**Manufacturer
and Innovator
of the Year**

**Giving Back
Making an Impact**



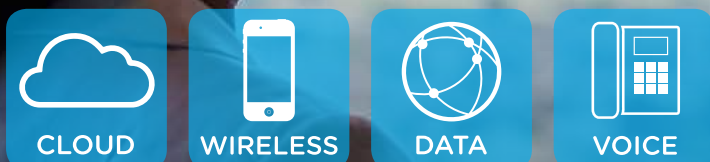
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ON THE COVER

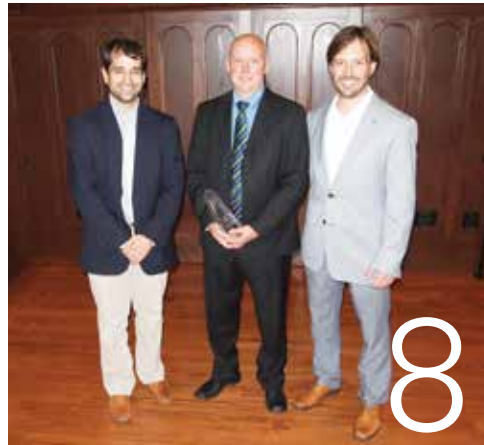
Eleven-year-old Emma Pablo (driver) is the first beneficiary of a new Hargrove Engineers + Constructors initiative to help mobility-limited children like Pablo who has cerebral palsy and needs to learn the skills to run an electric wheelchair. Michelle Jones (standing) was the lead engineer on what became the Hargrove Adaptive Toy project. Jones and a team of Hargrove engineers and designers modified a Barbie Cadillac to Pablo's abilities. Hargrove plans to produce 10 individualized cars next year, customized with head switches, joysticks and push buttons to accommodate individual needs.

Studies show the ability to control one's movement through space has a direct impact on social, cognitive and speech skills, and Pablo's development in just a week is proof the research is accurate.

Hargrove also recently launched harGIVES (Hargrove Innovative Volunteer Engineering Services), a new 501(c)3 volunteer organization providing the means and opportunity to give back to the community utilizing Hargrove teammates' engineering and technical expertise.

Future recipients will be randomly selected. As of Jan. 1, 2017, physical therapists will have the ability submit applications for potential users.

Read the story on page 13. Photo by Jeff Tesney.



- 4 News You Can Use
- 7 BASF Corp. Named Manufacturer of the Year
- 8 Prism Systems Named Innovator of the Year
- 12 Small Business of the Month: Elegant Knights Limo-Party Bus
- 13 Local Businesses Commit to Giving Back
- 17 Meet the Chamber's Governing Board of Directors
- 25 Investor Focus: APM Terminals – Mobile
- 26 Guest Column: Why Going to the Cloud Makes Sense for Your Business
- 27 Chamber@Work
- 28 Ambassador of the Month: Dorothy May
- 29 Calendar
- 31 Member News
- 35 Anniversaries
- 35 New Members



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Round 2 Goes to Mobile

The Mobile Area Chamber and University of South Alabama recently learned that the U.S. Department of Commerce re-designated the region's manufacturing community efforts until 2018. "It demonstrates we are making progress toward our regional goals," says **Laura O'Connor**, Advancing Southwest Alabama.

The U.S. Department of Commerce-led program is designed to accelerate the resurgence of manufacturing in communities nationwide and increase international trade and exports.

"This designation has given us an edge in successfully receiving federal grants such as the recent grant for Innovation

PortAL," says **Bill Sisson**, president and CEO of the Chamber.


The region, comprised of eight southwest Alabama counties, first received the designation in 2014 as one of the first 12 communities in the nation. With it, the region received preferential scoring on a number of economic development grants, resulting in \$20 million coming to the community.

This designation has given us an edge in successfully receiving federal grants such as the recent grant for Innovation PortAL.

Bill Sisson
President and CEO,
Mobile Area
Chamber of Commerce

Other projects funded include a new industrial access road for Atmore's Rivercane Industrial Park; the City of Mobile's Bring Back Broad initiative, acceptance into the ACT Work Ready Communities designation program linking education and workforce development and matching to job availability; research to identify needed resources and gaps in service; and a regional supply chain study as it relates to workforce.

"This re-designation brings national recognition to our ability to successfully collaborate to achieve results," said O'Connor. "Since 2014, the partners of Advancing Southwest Alabama have received more than \$20 million in federal funds. Imagine what we can accomplish with two more years." 

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



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Local Companies Add Jobs and Capital

Sixteen companies have added employees and/or made significant capital investments since July 2015. Also, aerospace companies continue to locate at Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley and four locally-based companies registered impressive growth on the Inc. 5000.

The latest companies entering the Mobile market as a result of the Airbus U.S. Manufacturing Center presence include: Broetje-Automation's M-Technologie, Panasonic Avionics, Recaro Aircraft Seating Co., Thales, Vartan Product Support and Zodiac Aerospace. Airbus delivered its 10th Mobile-manufactured plane in September.

These headlines were reported at the Mobile Area Chamber's new and expanding company event for Partners for Growth (PFG) investors. PFG is the Chamber's economic development program of work to recruit and retain jobs in the Mobile area. The program is funded by the City of Mobile, Mobile County and more than 160 private companies. 

Companies announcing jobs and/or investment from July 2015 to July 2016 included:

- APM Terminals Mobile LLC, 20 jobs, \$9 million capital investment
- Austal, \$16.5 million capital investment
- C Spire, \$3 million capital investment
- Canfor Southern Pine, 20 jobs and U.S. headquarters in Mobile announcement
- Danby Products Inc., 25 jobs
- Dupont Crop Protection, \$8.8 million capital investment
- Evonik, 50 jobs, \$200 million capital investment
- FedEx Ground, 100 jobs and new warehouse & distribution center
- Infirmary Health, 220 employees, \$5.5 million capital investment
- iSam North America Corp., \$1.1 million capital investment
- Prism Systems, 16 jobs, \$877,000 capital investment
- Southern Light, 29 jobs, \$7 million capital investment
- Technip, announced \$31 million capital investment
- The SSI Group, 7 jobs, \$4 million capital investment
- Wells Fargo, 18 jobs, \$3.1 million capital investment
- Worthington Industries, 8 jobs, announced \$4.6 million capital investment.



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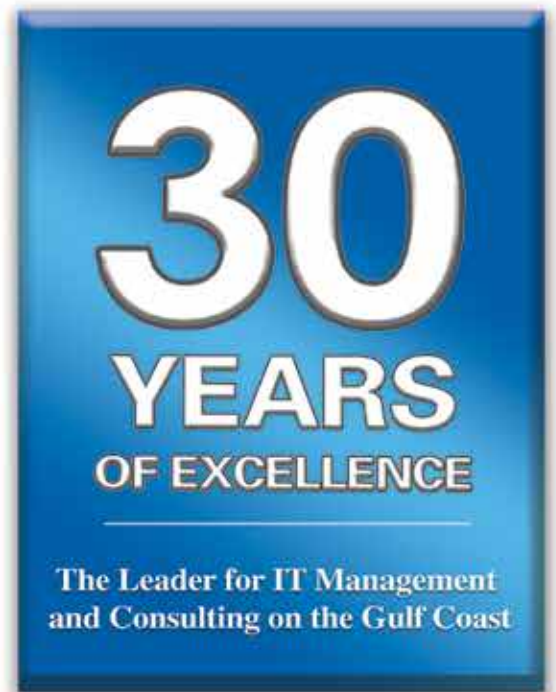
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The Mobile Area Chamber named BASF Corp. its 2016 Manufacturer of the Year. Pictured is the BASF McIntosh management team (from left to right): Mike Wilson, engineering manager; Jason Slinkard, site director; LaShaunda Holly, communications manager, Southeast regional communications Hub; and John Zimmerman, maintenance manager.

Chamber Names BASF Corp. 2016 Manufacturer of the Year

BASF Corp. was named the Mobile Area Chamber's 2016 Manufacturer of the Year at a recent Partners for Growth investor meeting.

The company's McIntosh facility was recognized for maintaining its local employee base, increasing production and significantly investing in the site since BASF acquired Ciba in 2009.

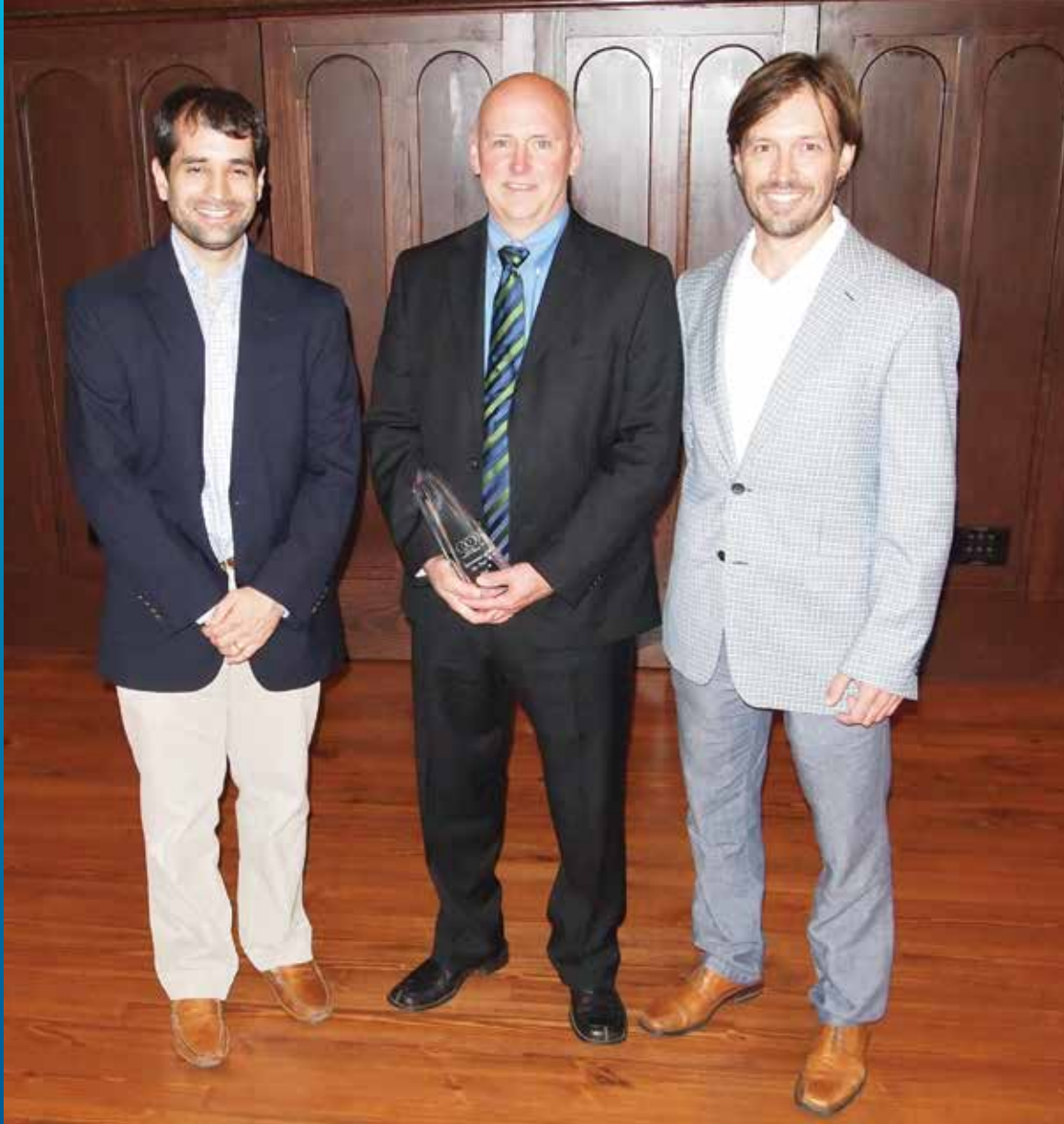
Over the past three years, BASF more than doubled its annual capital spending for infrastructure improvements, expanded capacity and improved equipment reliability. Local managers expect this trend to continue the next three to five years, with advantageous market conditions and higher demand as the driving forces.

"BASF is a cornerstone of our chemical sector, anchoring our base materials corridor that stretches from Washington County to south Mobile County," said **Troy Wayman**, the Chamber's vice president of economic development. "Their commitment to the area, exemplified by their investments in McIntosh and co-location projects with other industry leaders in Theodore, as well as their charitable corporate citizenship, make them an obvious choice for Manufacturer of the Year."

Headquartered in Germany, BASF is one of the world's largest chemical companies. Locally, production units benefit the food and beverage, automobile, furniture and flooring industries.

Employees actively support the community by donating time and support to area nonprofit agencies. The company funds a number of science scholarships at various educational institutions and hosts BASF Kids' Lab, where students are scientists for a day.

The site has been honored with numerous safety and environmental awards, including Manufacture Alabama's Safety Award. Currently there are more than 550 employees at the McIntosh facility.



The Mobile Area Chamber named Mobile-based Prism Systems the 2016 Innovator of the Year at the fall Partners for Growth investors meeting. Pictured are (from left to right) Shaan Wadhwani, senior systems engineer; Keith Jones, president; and Todd Hassel, business development manager.

Chamber Names Prism Systems 2016 Innovator of the Year

The Mobile Area Chamber presented Prism Systems with its 2016 Innovator of the Year award at a recent Partners for Growth investor meeting.

Mobile-based Prism Systems' automation and control programming and software development services help ensure customer products, such as a candy bar, doughnut, soft drink or even a bottle of rum, are produced consistently every time.

In addition to food and beverages, the company's clients include Fortune 500 companies and others located in 41 states and 31 countries, and represent 12 key

industries such as energy, entertainment, government, oil and gas, pulp and paper, education and more.

"Prism Systems is a perfect example of Mobile, Alabama, touching the world. The innovative solutions they provide in multiple business environments across the globe showcase the capabilities and talent our community offers," said **Troy Wayman**, the Chamber's vice president of economic development.

The 27-year-old company has nearly 50 employees, and earlier this year opened a new research and development lab,

generating additional new hires. Prism also has engineering offices in Glendale, Calif.; Birmingham; and a manufacturing assembly facility located in Washington County.

Prism Systems and its employees are active in the local community, participating in the American Cancer Society Chili Cook-Off and hosting an annual Toys for Tots drive.

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Is Your Business Flying Under the Radar? How Do You Get Noticed?

The Mobile Area Chamber values small businesses as the cornerstone of the economy. Recognizing the accomplishments of small business members through the annual Small Business of the Year award, the Small Business of the Month awards and the annual Eagle Awards for outstanding minority-owned businesses is critical to encouraging future growth and entrepreneur excellence, says **Danette Richards**, director of the Chamber's small business development department.

"If you haven't thought about it before, your company's marketing strategy should include

awards and recognition opportunities, because they can raise your company's visibility and provide a validation of your success," she added.

If you haven't thought about it before, your company's marketing strategy should include awards and recognition opportunities, because they can raise your company's visibility and provide a validation of your success.

Danette Richards
director, Mobile Area
Chamber small business
development department

Small Business of the Year Nominations

Three small businesses will be selected as finalist for the Small Business of the Year by an independent committee of Chamber volunteers, and the winner will be revealed at the Chamber's annual Small Business Awards ceremony on March 30, 2017. Community

involvement, growth in employment, number of years in business and overall financial performance are some of the criteria considered. Previous Small Business of the Month and Eagle Award winners should apply. Deadline for applying is Dec. 9.

Small Business of the Month

Kick off 2017 by winning recognition for your business and employees. If selected, your business will be highlighted with a full-page article in the Chamber's magazine, *The Business View*.

So what do past winners think of the honor?

The Business View asked a few of its former winners to offer input on how this award impacted their businesses.

Continued on page 11

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"Without question, the best attribute of winning a company award from the Mobile Area Chamber or other credible institutions is the positive influence on our culture," said **Brian O'Donnell**, president, American WeatherStar, 2015 Mobile Area

Chamber Small Business of the year finalist and a U.S. Chamber of Commerce Blue Ribbon Award winner. "It creates such a wonderful vibe within the team that you simply cannot attain anywhere else."

"After 37 years of serving the Gulf Coast, we still feel the positive benefits of all the publicity, bringing us new business, strengthening our standing as a leader in our field and creating a buzz for McAleer's that is almost immeasurable," said **Melissa McAleer Cross**, president of McAleer's Office Furniture. The company was the 2015 Mobile Area Chamber Small Business of the Year, 2015 Alabama Retailer of the Year (\$1M - \$5M) and received the Business Council of Alabama/University of Alabama 2016 Small Business Game Changer Award.



Fast Facts

What: Small Business of the Year

Deadline: Friday, Dec. 9 at 5 p.m.

Information: Details, instructions and a downloadable application are at www.mobilechamber.com/small-business/small-business-awards/

What: Small Business of the Month Nominations

Deadline: Applications are accepted throughout the year and remain on file for 12 months.

Information: Details, instructions and a downloadable application are at www.mobilechamber.com/small-business/small-business-awards/

What: Eagle Awards

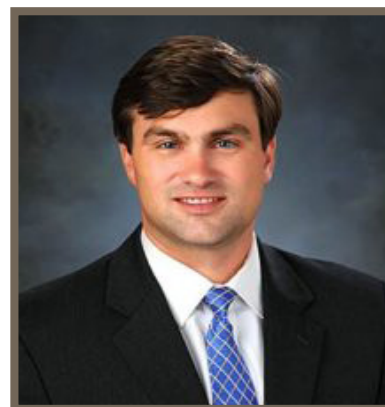
Apply: Applications open June 2017

Deadline: July 2017

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Owner Mary Taylor is pictured inside of one of her two fully equipped limo-party buses.

Elegant Knights Limo-Party Bus knows how to help make a grand entrance

Since 2011, Elegant Knights has specialized in fun and elegant group transportation along the Gulf Coast. Based on Chin Street in Mobile, owner **Mary Taylor** and her staff of three transport passengers to all kinds of events, including weddings, homecoming, bachelor or bachelorette parties, birthdays, concerts, corporate events, church events, reunions and casino trips.

And on Elegant Knights' party buses, half the fun is getting there, thanks to amenities such as stereo systems, televisions, beverage coolers, even disco lights and a dance floor.

"Our buses have everything you need to hold a party," Taylor said, adding that the six feet of standing room and perimeter seating on the buses encourage party-goers to have a good time on the ride. "Instead of just sitting down, forward-facing, passengers can engage, interact and enjoy the atmosphere while riding."

Elegant Knights Limo-Party Bus is the Mobile Area Chamber's Small Business of the Month.

A Chamber member for three years, Taylor says her business has benefited from attending various seminars and networking events. Since opening the business five years

ago, she has expanded her area of operation from Mobile to include parts of Florida, Mississippi and Louisiana.

"Our sales and reservations are steadily increasing," Taylor said, "which is an indication of our continued growth and an improved financial position of the business."

As her business has grown, Taylor and her company have given back to the community through providing back-to-school supplies for needy students. Elegant Knights has also sought to make its services available even to those who thought they might not be able to afford them by partnering

with Global Check Services to create a "Party Now, Pay It Later" option that gives customers up to 12 months to pay.

For more information, go to www.mobilealpartybus.com, or call 251-415-4293.

Want to be featured here?

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

Local Businesses Commit to Giving Back

In a recent poll by Refresh Leadership, a blog for business leaders written by Express Employment Professionals, readers were asked how their companies give back to the community. Just over a quarter of the respondents stated giving through “donations to charitable organizations” as the most popular way, followed equally by “food/blood/clothing drives” and “sponsoring local charitable events.”

“While those responses are important, they might not inspire the buy-in that’s needed to sustain a concerted effort to engage employees

to make a personal positive impact in their community,” said Mobile Area Chamber Chairman **Mark Nix** of Infirmity Health.

In August, Nix spoke with Chamber directors and advisors and repeated his vision and passion for business and industry to lead the charge in taking care of others here in Mobile. And during this meeting, he asked attendees to share with him, and readers of *The Business View*, what their company and employees have committed to do locally.

Below is a sample of what some of our business leaders say are ways their companies support area education and nonprofits. What should you get out of this? Maybe this list will spur some ideas on what you and your employees can do to give back and get involved with making Mobile an even better place to live and grow a business. We’ll continue to share these and other projects on Chamber social media channels throughout the remainder of the year.

How Do You Give Back?

Alabama Power

American Red Cross – Employees participate in a home fires prevention campaign, and home smoke detector installation in Africatown.

Mulherin Home – The company hosts monthly birthday parties for residents, and takes them to Mobile BayBears games.

Craighead Elementary School – Employees participate in the Read Across America program at the school.

AM/NS Calvert

Mobile Area Education Foundation – Funded a science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) education project to prepare North Mobile County youth for the industrial workforce.

Gulf Coast Exploreum & Science Center – Sponsored the “daVinci Machines” exhibit on loan from the Museum of Leonardo daVinci in Florence, Italy.

Mobile BayKeeper – Funded a grant to create a Strategic Watershed Awareness and Monitoring Program designed to educate community members about the importance of a healthy and viable watershed.



AM/NS Calvert

Project Lead The Way – Provided area grants to Chickasaw High School, Chickasaw Middle School, Citronelle High School and Semmes Middle School for implementation of Project Lead The Way STEM curriculums to transform learning experiences for K-12 students and teachers.

AT&T

Mobile Area Education Foundation – Supports the Graduate Ready Initiative and Vital Link 2.0, a four-week/15 hours-per-week paid internship for rising seniors. *Continued on page 14*



Hargrove Engineers+Constructors

AARP – Leads TEK (Technology Education & Knowledge) workshops to empower local residents ages 50 and older to increase their digital literacy and abilities.

AT&T Pioneers Mobile Council – This group of employees and retirees supports back-to-school supplies drives, student mentoring, activities that support veterans and law enforcement, environmental cleanup, Camp Blue Bird volunteers and Isabelle's Wish (In conjunction with The Wish Connection, which grants the wishes of children who have life-threatening or chronically debilitating medical conditions).

Bama Pest Control Inc.

Franklin Primary Health – Supports their annual golf tournament fundraiser.

Sickle Cell Foundation – Supports their bowling tournament fundraiser.

Feeding the Gulf Coast – Sponsors the annual Chef's Challenge.

BancorpSouth

Habitat for Humanity – Teaches monthly financial literacy classes, participates in the Habitat Women's Build, sponsors the Chefs and Hardhats banquet and serves on the board.

Victory Health Partners – Sponsors the banquet, serves on the board as well as the finance and executive committees.

Boy Scouts of America – Employee serves as chairman, support for the inaugural Ride Run Scout 5K and Duathlon, council executive board, council sponsor and national subcommittee.

MCG Business Solutions

University of South Alabama – Provides scholarships.

Mobile County Public Schools – Coordinates book donation.

Brad Sullivan Ministries – Participates in and supports this group's pastors conference.

Elcan & Associates

Habitat for Humanity – Builds homes and makes housing repairs for veterans.

Mobile Police Department – Takes food to all four precincts in the city of Mobile, in partnership with Marco's and Hungry Howie's.

Mitchell Cancer Institute – Employees participate in the hospitals Go Run.

First Community Bank

Ronald McDonald House – Participates in Little Black Dress and prepares and serves meals to residents at the house.

Child Advocacy Center – Various projects and special events to support this agency.

Hancock Bank

USA Children's and Women's Hospital – Supports Local Goodness, a farm-to-table event.

Child Advocacy Center – Participates in the Downtown Cajun Cookoff.

Cabinet Leader for Financial Institutions – Staff members serve on this board.

Hargrove Engineers + Constructors

Boys and Girls Clubs of South Alabama – Company works with kids attending the club on a Hargrove STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) Initiative.

Goodwill Easter Seals – Sponsors and supports the agency's recycling center.

Hargrove Foundation – The company created a foundation in 2012 to support charitable giving by employees.

Horizon Shipbuilding

American Heart Association – Company president was chairman of the heart walk, and employees participated in the event.

Wilmer Hall Children's Home – Mobtown Riders' 4th annual Wheels for Wilmer Hall collects gifts for children in the home.



Bama Pest Control Inc.

St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital – Participates in annual golf tournament.

Long's Human Resource Services

United Way – Supports the annual company campaign, and the company provides a match to employee contributions.

American Cancer Society – Company team participates in Making Strides Walk.

USA Children's and Women's Hospital – Local Goodness, farm-to-table event, sponsor and volunteer.

Page & Jones

Child Advocacy Center – Served as co-chairman of the Jazz Brunch to raise money for the agency.

Drug Education Council – Participates in the agency's annual luncheon and as finance chair.

GulfQuest – Served as chairman on the board of trustees and worked to raise funds to open the facility.

ServisFirst Bank

L'Arche Mobile – Sponsors First Light Marathon.

United Way of Southwest Alabama – Serves on the board of directors and run the committee.

Rotary Club of Mobile – Various projects with this club.

The SSI Group

The Fuse Project – The company supports this organization by hosting a team in the annual Dragon Boat Race and raising money for charity.

The Salvation Army – SSI hosts an Angel Tree at the office for employees and their family members to purchase Christmas gifts for needy families.

Holds other internal fundraisers to help SSI employees and their families, including bake sales, raffles, employee crisis fund, etc.



Elcan and Associates

Trustmark

Junior Achievement – Employees teach financial literacy classes at Fonde Elementary School, taught six kindergarten classes and covered the cost of the classes.

Feeding the Gulf Coast – Matched up to \$1,500 of online giving during Hunger Action Month and provides volunteers to distribute food.

United Way – Provided 15 volunteers for Day of Caring at Penelope House and made a corporate contribution.

University of South Alabama

United Way – The entire campus participates in the annual fund drive.

MLK Day of Service at USA – Annually, USA faculty, staff and students contribute time to a campus project or one they chose on their own.

USA Student-Run Free Medical Clinic – Every Saturday morning, healthcare providers staff 15 Place for anyone who needs medical attention.



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MOBILE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

From taking a stand on legislative issues to supporting Mobile's business community to recruiting new jobs and capital investment, the Mobile Area Chamber's board of directors serves as the organization's governing and policy-making body. The board is comprised of 43 members representing a cross-section of the business community – 33 men and 10 women. Approximately 67 percent of the companies represented on the board have fewer than 101 employees; 12 employ 1-10 individuals; four employ 11-25; eight employ 26-50, six employ 51-100; and 13 employ more than 100. Of those companies represented on the board, eight are listed as minority-owned and 10 are listed as women-owned. On the following pages are profiles of the Chamber's 2017 board members.

* Denotes new Board of Directors

§ Denotes Partners for Growth investors



Elizabeth "Liz" Freeman
Long's Human Resource Services

Chairman of the Board

Freeman is president of Long's Human Resource Services. She is a graduate of Vanderbilt University, where she earned a bachelor's degree. She is a member of the board of directors of United Way of Southwest Alabama and UMS-Wright Preparatory School. She chairs the University of South Alabama Children's and Women's Hospital advisory council. She is a member of the Chamber's board of advisors. §



Glyn Agnew *
AT&T

Agnew is the regional director for the southern division of AT&T Alabama's Legislative and External Affairs organization. He earned a bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University. Agnew serves on the boards of Girls Inc. of Central Alabama, Birmingham-Southern College Edward Lee Norton board of advisors, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and the Birmingham Urban League. He is a member of the Chamber's board of advisors. §



Robert Bender
Travel Leaders Corporate-Mobile

Bender is a consultant with Travel Leaders Corporate-Mobile. Prior to his current position, he was president and CEO of Springdale Travel Inc. He received a bachelor's degree from the University of South Alabama. He is a current member of the Travel Leader's "Leaders Group," the Mobile airport advisory board and downtown Rotary. Bender has served in the past on the American Express Rep Business Travel Services board of advisors and the board of directors of St. Luke's Episcopal School. §




Trevor Boehm *
Gulf Coast Containers LLC

Boehm is the owner of Gulf Coast Containers LLC. In addition, he is pursuing various efforts in commercializing intellectual property, with a typical focus or connection to the energy sector. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering from Georgia Tech. Boehm is active in Dauphin Way United Methodist Church and serves as the Georgia Tech Alumni Network president for the Mobile area.

MACC 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Britton Bonner
Adams & Reese LLP

Bonner first joined Adams and Reese LLP as a law clerk in 1999. He now serves as partner-in-charge of the Mobile office. He received a bachelor's degree from Troy University, a master's degree from The University of Alabama and a juris doctorate from Tulane University. He is past chairman of the Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance and serves on the Coastal Alabama Partnership board. He is a member of the Chamber's board of advisors. 



Robert Bryant
Leaf & Petal Florist & Gift Shop

Bryant is the owner of Leaf & Petal Florist & Gift Shop in Eight Mile. He is a past president of the Eight Mile Lions Club, a former vice president of the Prichard Chamber of Commerce and a longtime member of the Mobile Area Chamber.




Mark Bunting
WKRG-TV

Bunting is vice president/general manager of WKRG-TV. He graduated from Spring Hill College with a bachelor's degree. He has been with WKRG-TV since 2007 and in his present position since 2012. Bunting currently serves on the boards of the Alabama Broadcasters Association, Mobile's Junior Achievement, Distinguished Young Women, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mobile and the executive board of the Mobile Area Boy Scouts. He is also a member of the Chamber's board of advisors. 



Kevin Carey
Trustmark National Bank

Carey is Mobile market president with Trustmark National Bank. He earned a bachelor's degree from The University of Alabama. He has served with the March of Dimes, City of Mobile Swim Association, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, American Heart Association and Senior Bowl Run. Carey is also involved with the St. Ignatius Catholic Church finance council and St. Ignatius School board, and is a Catholic Youth Organization board member. 



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Beverly Cooper
Christian Benevolent Funeral Home

Cooper is executive vice president of Christian Benevolent Funeral Home. She holds two master's degrees from Virginia Commonwealth University. Cooper currently serves as chair of the Mobile County Department of Human Resources board of directors and statewide chair for the Alabama Association of Human Resources board. She previously served as the president of the Mobile Area Education Foundation, president of the Mobile County Bicentennial Commission, and general chair of Mobile United.



Jason Gregory
Willis Towers Watson

Gregory is a managing partner and CEO of Willis Towers Watson. He received a bachelor's degree from The University of Alabama and a master's degree from Spring Hill College. He holds the professional designation of Certified Insurance Counselor, and is a graduate of Leadership Mobile and Leadership Alabama. He is on the board of directors for the YMCA of South Alabama and is a "Big Brother" for Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Alabama. He is also a member of the Chamber's board of advisors. [f](#)



Monty Hamilton *
Rural Sourcing Inc.

Hamilton is CEO of Rural Sourcing Inc. (RSI). He holds a master's in business administration from the Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University and a bachelor's in business administration from Millsaps College. RSI is Hamilton's second entrepreneurial startup venture. He is on the advisory board of The Bond Group and chairs the IAOP's Domestic Sourcing Chapter. Hamilton is also a member of the Chamber's board of advisors.



Terry Harbin
BancorpSouth

Harbin is market president of BancorpSouth. He is a graduate of the University of South Alabama and Abilene Christian University. Harbin has worked in the banking industry for the past 18 years, most recently at Regions Bank and BankTrust. He is chair of the University of Mobile board and serves on the boards of Alabama School of Math and Science and Family Promise. Harbin is a past chair of United Way of Southwest Alabama and also a member of the Chamber's board of advisors. [f](#)



Abe Harper *
Harper Technologies LLC

Harper is president of Harper Technologies LLC. He is a graduate of the Alabama School of Math and Science and attended both Florida A&M University and The University of Alabama. Harper is a member of the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce, the Eastern Shore chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association and City Hope Church.



Joseph "Guy" Helmsing
Hancock Bank

Helmsing is senior vice president and Alabama market president of Hancock Bank. He received a bachelor's degree from The University of Alabama. He is a graduate of Leadership Mobile and currently serves on the board of directors of St. Paul's Episcopal School, the Mobile Carnival Association, The Salvation Army Advisory Board, Village of Spring Hill, President's Cabinet at The University of Alabama, United Way of Southwest Alabama and Mobile Touchdown Club. He is also a member of the Chamber's board of advisors. [f](#)



Mark Hieronymus
Hieronymus CPAs LLC

Hieronymus is owner of Hieronymus CPAs LLC. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of South Alabama (USA) and a master's degree from The University of Alabama (UA). He serves on the board of the American Institute of Federal Taxation. Hieronymus is past president of the USA accounting advisory board and a member of the Estate Planning Council of Mobile, the UA Planned Giving advisory council and Young Life of Mobile.



Charles Hyland Jr.
Mobile Area Water and Sewer System

Hyland is the director of the Mobile Area Water and Sewer System (MAWSS). He has bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of South Alabama. He is a graduate of the American Water Works Association Utility Management Institute. Hyland has worked at MAWSS for 25 years in a variety of positions before becoming director in March 2013. He is also a member of the Chamber's board of advisors. [f](#)

MACC 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Brad Israel
Elcan & Associates Inc.

Israel is director of development at Elcan & Associates Inc. He graduated from Hampton-Sydney College. Israel joined the U.S. Army in 2005, earning numerous military medals and achievements during his nearly 10 years of active duty. Israel serves on the boards of the Child Advocacy Center and Habitat for Humanity. He is involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters, Waterfront Rescue Mission and the Mobile Association of Realtors. He also still serves as a Green Beret with 20th Special Forces Group.



Jennifer Jenkins
JJPR

Jenkins is president of JJPR LLC, a public relations consulting firm. She graduated from The University of Alabama with a bachelor's degree and is accredited in public relations. Jenkins serves on the boards of the Public Relations Council of Alabama and the Southern Public Relations Federation. She is past president of the Junior League of Mobile, served on the Baldwin County Public Schools Community Advisory Task Force and is a Leadership Mobile graduate.



Clarence Johnson Jr.
Bama Pest Control Inc.

Johnson is president of Bama Pest Control Inc. He served in the U.S. Army (Military Police Corps) in Vietnam from 1969-1971. Johnson is a board member of A Servant's Love, youth advisor and minister of Helps at New Life Christian Fellowship, a past winner of the Chamber's Eagle Award and chairman of the Chamber's Growth Alliance Task Force.



Bibb Lamar *
ServisFirst Bank

Lamar is president and CEO of ServisFirst Bank. He is a graduate of the University of Mobile and attended the University of Oklahoma Commercial Lending School and Stonier School of Banking – Rutgers University. He is a graduate of Leadership Mobile and Leadership Alabama. Lamar is the director of Alabama State Banking Department, past president and director of Alabama Bankers Association and a member of the President's Cabinet of The University of Alabama. He is also a member of the Chamber's board of advisors.



Robin Luce
JubileeScape Inc.

Luce is president of JubileeScape Inc., specializing in landscape maintenance of commercial and industrial landscapes. He earned a bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University. He is a member of Rotary Club of Mobile, Youth Lacrosse League board of directors, St. Ignatius Catholic Church, Mobile Botanical Gardens executive committee and the Japanese Gardens of Mobile board of directors. He is also a member of the Chamber's board of advisors.



Janice Malone
Business Resource Design and Print

Malone is owner and president of Business Resource Design and Print. She earned a bachelor's degree from Chapman University in Orange, Calif. She is the former executive director of the South Alabama and Northwest Florida regions of Business Network International. Malone is on the advisory council for the Retired Senior and Volunteers Program. Her company was the Minority Business Development Agency Services Company of the Year in 2008 and the Chamber's Small Business of the Month in July 2012.



Raymond McCaffrey *
Quality Valve Inc.

McCaffrey is president of Quality Valve Inc. He started the company in 1994. McCaffrey is a former board member at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab and a member of the National Board of Pressure Vessels and the Valve Repair Council, a division of the Valve Manufacturers Association. McCaffrey is also a member of the Chamber's board of advisors.



Jenny McCall
WESCO Gas & Welding Supply Inc.

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

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Clint McFerrin
Cintas Corp.

McFerrin is general manager of Cintas Corp. He is a graduate of The University of Alabama. McFerrin worked for Sears Holdings from 2000-2008 in positions from operations manager to general manager. He began his career with Cintas as plant manager/service manager/regional production manager before being named general manager in 2015. McFerrin is a member of Rotary International. He is also a member of the Chamber's board of advisors. 



Henry Morrisette
Hand Arendall LLC

Morrisette is an attorney at Hand Arendall and was named Lawyer of the Year 2013 by Best Lawyers. He received a bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University and a juris doctorate from The University of Alabama. Morrisette serves on the board of the Mobile Arts Council and Government Street Presbyterian Church. He also volunteers his time with the South Alabama Volunteer Lawyers Program. Morrisette is a member of the Chamber's board of advisors. 




Monica Motley *
Alabama School of Math & Science

Motley is president of the Alabama School of Math and Science. She received a bachelor's degree from Alabama State University, a master's degree from the University of South Alabama and a doctorate from Auburn University. She is a graduate of Leadership Alabama and Leadership Mobile. She is active in Rotary International, the U.S. Sports Academy, Mobile Area Education Foundation, Alabama State University Foundation and Jack and Jill of America. She is also a member of the Chamber's board of advisors.



D. Mark Nix
Infirmary Health

Nix is president and CEO of Infirmary Health. He received a bachelor's degree from The University of Alabama. He serves on the board of directors for the Presbyterian Retirement Corp., Mobile Works, Celebrities for Children, United Way of Southwest Alabama, Mobile Area Water and Sewer System and the Boy Scouts of America Mobile Area Chapter. He is the immediate past president of the Chamber's board of directors and also a member of the Chamber's board of advisors. 



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Henry O'Connor *
Jones Walker

O'Connor is a partner at Jones Walker. He received a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College and a juris doctorate degree from the University of Virginia School of Law. He serves on the Mobile Area Education Foundation, Alabama School of Math and Science Foundation and the executive committee of the United Way of Southwest Alabama. O'Connor is a member of the advisory boards of Trustmark National Bank – South Alabama region and Southern Community Capital and is also a member of the Chamber's board of advisors. [S](#)



Stephen Potts
PMT Publishing

Potts is the associate publisher of PMT Publishing and has been with the company since 2004. He is a graduate of the University of Georgia. He is currently on the board of directors of Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Athelstan Club. Potts is a member of the Government Street Presbyterian Church Coffee Club and Rotary Club. He is also a past member of the Child Advocacy Center, Providence Hospital Foundation, Dauphin Way Methodist Meals on Wheels and the Senior Bowl Committee.



Jacquitta Powell-Green
Commonwealth National Bank

Powell-Green is the chair of Commonwealth National Bank. She graduated from Alabama A&M University with a bachelor's degree and holds a master's degree from Spring Hill College. She is a member of the advisory board of Penelope House, serves on the board of directors for the Dearborn YMCA, and is a graduate of Leadership Alabama and Leadership Mobile.



Chris Richards
AM/NS Calvert

Richards is general manager of AM/NS Calvert, also serving on the joint venture's managing board. He served previously with Bethlehem Steel's Lackawanna, N.Y., facility. Richards has a bachelor's degree from the University of Idaho and a master's degree from St. Bonaventure University in St. Bonaventure, N.Y. He is also a member of the Chamber's board of advisors. [S](#)



Maxey Roberts *
University of South Alabama Foundation

Roberts is the managing director of the University of South Alabama Foundation and has served in that capacity since 2003. She served as university attorney for the University of South Alabama from 1974 until 1998. She is a graduate of the University of South Alabama and received a juris doctorate degree from the University of Mississippi. Roberts is active in Dauphin Way United Methodist Church and is also a member of the Chamber's board of advisors.



Mike Rogers
Rogers & Willard Inc.

Rogers is president and co-founder of Rogers & Willard Inc. He is a graduate of Auburn University. Rogers is past chair of the Alabama Contemporary Art Center and has served on the boards of the Alabama Coastal Foundation, Nature Conservancy of Alabama and Alabama Architectural Foundation. He presently serves on the boards of Auburn University College of Architecture, Design and Construction and UMS-Wright Preparatory School. He is also a member of the Chamber's board of advisors.



Scott Rothermel
Performance Contractors Inc.

Rothermel is operations manager, Southeast Division of Performance Contractors Inc. He has been with Performance Contractors for 26 years, and in his present position for the past 16 years. He earned a bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University. Rothermel serves on the board of Partners for Environmental Progress and Associated Builders and Contractors. He is also a member of the Chamber's board of advisors. [S](#)



William B. Sisson
Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce

Sisson is president and CEO of the Mobile Area Chamber. He earned a bachelor's degree from James Madison University in Harrisburg, Va., and a master's degree from The University of Alabama. He is a graduate of Leadership Mobile and Leadership Alabama. Sisson is a board member of the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama and U.S. Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100. He is the current chair of the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama.

MACC 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Jill Stork
Alabama Power

Stork is area manager, Mobile division of Alabama Power Co. She received a bachelor's degree from The University of Alabama and has been employed with Alabama Power since graduation. Stork is on the boards of the Mobile Area Education Foundation, the Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Council, Bishop State Advisory Committee and the Alabama Power Service Organization. 



Vicki Studstill
Hargrove Engineers + Constructors

Studstill is vice president, business development for Hargrove Engineers + Constructors. She has been with Hargrove since 2004, and has held the positions of vice president, human resources and vice president, marketing. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Arkansas and is PHR-certified (professional in human resources). Studstill serves on the board of directors for both the Hargrove Foundation and Shepherd's Place Foundation, is active in Big Brothers Big Sisters and is on the board of advisors for the Alabama Kidney Foundation. 



Daryl Taylor *
Airbus U.S. Manufacturing Facility

Taylor is vice president and general manager of the Airbus U.S. Manufacturing Facility. He joined Airbus in August 2015 from GKN Aerospace, where he was vice president and general manager of two facilities: Precision Machining in Wellington, Kan., and Bandy Aerospace in Burbank, Calif. Taylor has a higher national diploma in aeronautical engineering from Kelsterton College in the United Kingdom and a bachelor's degree in manufacturing technology from Southwestern College in Kansas. He is a member of the Chamber's board of advisors. 



Tony Waldrop *
University of South Alabama

Waldrop is president of the University of South Alabama (USA). He earned a bachelor's degree, master's degree and doctorate from the University of North Carolina. Prior to coming to USA, Waldrop served as the provost at the University of Central Florida and the vice chancellor for research and economic development at the University of North Carolina. He currently serves on the Americans for Medical Progress, Alabama School of Math and Science, Mobile Area Education Foundation and Business Council of Alabama board of directors. He is a member of the Chamber's board of advisors. 



During this magical time of year, full of hope and love, we're reflecting on all the reasons why we're thankful to be a part of your community. We extend tidings of comfort and joy to you and your loved ones this holiday season and look forward to a new year of serving you.


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James "Jay" Watkins
Maynard Cooper & Gale PC

Watkins is a shareholder in the Mobile office of the law firm Maynard Cooper & Gale PC. He is a member of the firm's general corporate, commercial lending, real estate and estate planning practice groups. Watkins earned a bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University and a juris doctorate from The University of Alabama. He is a member of the Mobile Bar and the American Bar Associations. Watkins currently serves on the planning commission of the city of Mobile. He is also a member of the Chamber's board of advisors. 




Roger Wehner
Mobile Airport Authority

Wehner is executive director of the Mobile Airport Authority (MAA). He earned a bachelor's degree from Troy University and a master's degree from The University of Alabama, and is studying for a doctorate at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Before joining MAA, he was vice president of business development at Safran USA. Prior to Safran, he worked for Alabama Power Co. He is also a member of the Chamber's board of advisors. 



Mike Williams *
Outokumpu Americas

Williams is president of Outokumpu Americas. He also serves as a member of Outokumpu's Leadership Team. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburg and is a graduate from Indiana University at Bloomington's executive management program. He is a member of the Chamber's board of advisors. 



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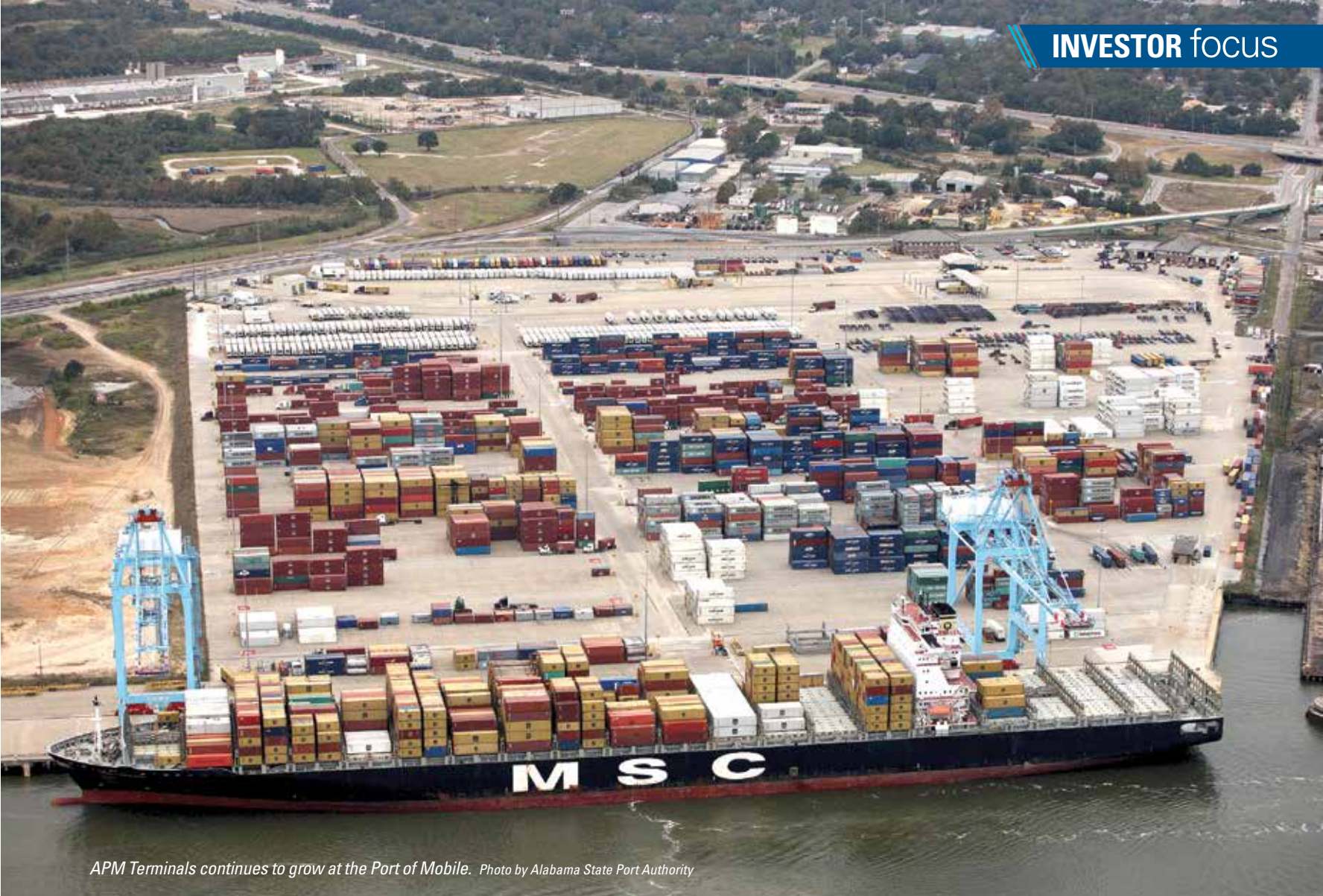


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Left to right: John Erwin, Aaron White, Carla Joyner, Sam Davis Jr., Doug Thomas, Karen Morris, Brandon Armstrong, John Naughton



APM Terminals continues to grow at the Port of Mobile. Photo by Alabama State Port Authority

APM Terminals – Mobile

Local company officials:

Brian Harold, managing director; **Wendy Robertson**, general manager of operations; **Don Jameson**, general manager of maintenance; **Frank Rosenbaum**, director of finance

Years in business:

Since 2008

Brief company description:

APM Terminals operates a global terminal network of 72 operating port and terminal facilities and 140 inland services operations, and provides independent crane engineering services to the global port industry, with a presence in 69 countries on five continents.

Why are you located in Mobile?

"We recognized Mobile's potential as an emerging port for

containerized trade supporting the growing economy in the state of Alabama," said Harold. "There are significant opportunities for trade growth for the Port of Mobile in our tier 1 market, and now with the opening of the intermodal rail facility and the potential for five Class 1 railroad connections, Mobile can support the Southeast and Midwest as well."

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

"We support the PFG initiative because it helps attract investment to Mobile County and it supports the strong economic development efforts to recruit new businesses and support expansion efforts," said Harold. "In addition, it

provides a specific focus on infrastructure in the Mobile area to support the community and, of course, the port. Lastly, we like the attention to diversity, innovation and entrepreneurship."

What do you see as Mobile's greatest potential?

"It's hard not to say our port. The port opens a lot of opportunities for our community. There is a good vision for the future of the port and we are fortunate to have excellent leadership at the Alabama State Port Authority as well as strong support from our local and state leaders," said Harold. "I think we are just scratching the surface of what Mobile has to offer as a container gateway in the country."

Length of continuous Chamber membership:

10 years



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.



Why Going to the Cloud Makes Sense for Your Business

By: Marc Geis, general manager for C Spire in Alabama and Florida

When I was growing up, there was an occasion when my parents scolded me for appearing preoccupied and not paying much attention to my surroundings or their directions. While I can't recall the specifics, I remember them saying I was "acting like you have your head in the clouds."

Today, when it comes to managing the growing and complex data needs, looking to "the cloud" is the way to go. The volume of data created by U.S. companies alone every year is enough to fill 10,000 Libraries of Congress. By the end of 2018, there will be more than 6 billion mobile users and 85 percent of the world's

population connected to some type of communications device.

Why is this important? Because the stakes involving data loss have never been higher. Current research shows that 71 percent of businesses are not fully confident they can recover vital systems and data – a problem that could cost their enterprises \$1.7 trillion in disruption and \$754 billion from actual data loss.

Couple this with the shocking reality that only 5 percent of businesses continuously back up all of their mission-critical data, and it's not difficult to understand why companies worldwide are losing nearly \$1 trillion a year in unplanned

downtime. Even worse, research shows that 90 percent of businesses that experience a disastrous data loss will permanently close within 18 months.

What's the answer? Cloud-based computing that emphasizes business continuity and rapid disaster recovery can mean the difference between survival or shuttering your doors. Whether the cause is a hardware or software failure, power loss, corrupt data, a security breach, a natural disaster or employee sabotage, cloud computing offers tremendous response time and efficiency benefits.

But there is more to cloud computing than just getting your computing resources, storage capacity or application as a service within minutes versus weeks, months, years or never. Here are my five top reasons for considering the cloud:

1 Cost savings. Capital investments and costs for servers and related computing hardware are dramatically reduced or, in many cases, eliminated through cloud services. This helps your IT team focus on key company initiatives versus managing computer resources.

2 Business agility. Being able to deliver results faster, cheaper and with more quality gives your business a competitive edge. Getting the computing resources you need when you need them shortens IT projects, reduces staffing

needs and gets your business to market more quickly – ahead of your competitors.

3 New business models. Innovation initiatives powered by cloud services can help enterprises develop new, innovative business models that can increase value and generate new revenue.

4 Fewer operational issues. Cloud computing allows you to repetitively deploy the same service or topology of services with the same results every time, enabling pre-built server images, application services and definition of entire application landscapes using design patterns.

5 Resource optimization. More efficient projects and fewer operational issues allow your staff to spend more time on activities that benefit your business. Cloud service providers use physical resources more efficiently and reduce energy consumption when compared to traditional IT approaches.

Whether you think your business deserves to be on Cloud 9 or not, cloud computing has arrived, and the enterprise will never be the same.

C Spire is a diversified telecommunications and technology services company and the proud official telecom provider for the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce. Marc Geis, based in Mobile, is the general manager for C Spire in Alabama and Florida.



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*According to a recent study by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)



In October, the Mobile Area Chamber hosted a group of business and community leaders on its annual Leaders Exchange. This year the group traveled to Greenville, S.C., to learn more about what the city has accomplished in the areas of downtown development, diversity and inclusion programs and housing, among other areas. Co-chairs for this year's trip included Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson, Mobile County Commission President Jerry Carl and Chamber Chairman Mark Nix with Infirmity Health.

Procurement Seminar on Federal Policy Changes

The Chamber's small business development department hosted a lunch-and-learn seminar, "The U.S. Government is the Largest Consumer in the World! Tips for Selling to the Government." Art Brown of LeScot Enterprises Inc. and Carol Ann House and Tom Rogers with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) presented the session focusing on proposal writing, SBA certifications and governmental procurement policy changes affecting small business. More than 40 people attended the event.

New Business Openings and Ribbon Cuttings

Chamber staff and ambassadors helped cut ribbons and celebrate grand openings at the following locations: Community Bank, Covenant Care, Hadley Medical Center, The Melting Pot, New Horizons Credit Union, Mobile

Cryotherapy, Nichols Financial Services and Pete's Sign City. For more information on hosting or attending upcoming events, contact Dawn Rencher at 251-431-8649 or drencher@mobilechamber.com.

Chamber Names New Ambassadors

Several Chamber members have been named ambassadors. This group of professionals assists the staff with registration and event seating, makes member visits and supports the overall Chamber mission. New members are: Megan Cole, Hilton Garden Inn Mobile Downtown; Jarred Cook, Konica Minolta Business Solutions USA; Caroline Doyle, New York Life Insurance Co.; and Jessica Turner, WKRG/The CW55. To learn more about this group, and how to join it, contact Dawn Rencher at 251-431-8649 or drencher@mobilechamber.com.

Chamber Leaders Study Greenville, S.C.

In October, the Chamber hosted its annual three-day Leaders Exchange in Greenville, S.C. Sixty-six business and community leaders, along with elected officials, heard from more than 25 Greenville topic leaders in the areas of urban development; training and research for advanced manufacturing; innovation and entrepreneurial centers and successes; parks, trails and sports recreation as an economic engine; neighborhood revitalization through public-private partnerships; and diversity and inclusion business initiatives. Sponsors included Infirmity Health, Gwin's, AM/NS Calvert and Stewart Lodges/Steelwood.

Research Firm Hosts Focus Groups for Chamber

Over the summer, New South Research/Graham & Associates conducted three

focus groups of members and nonmembers to steer future marketing efforts. Results from these sessions are helping the Chamber's communications and marketing team better engage members with the Chamber's small business efforts.

Carolyn Wilson Completed Inaugural "I Am Mobile" Program

Carolyn Wilson, the Chamber's communications and marketing assistant, completed Visit Mobile's "I Am Mobile" tourism ambassador program designed to enhance visitors' experiences while in Mobile. As an ambassador, she will volunteer at conventions, conferences, events and gatherings to provide information and be a resource for visitors.

AMBASSADOR of the month



Certified jeweler **Dorothy May** and owner of The Gathering of Jewels, an online women's apparel and fine-jewelry business, said she has always appreciated the networking opportunities and the camaraderie in the Chamber's ambassador program. She has been an ambassador for the past eight years and is the Chamber's Ambassador of the Month. She has a master's degree in nursing administration from the University of Mobile and a doctorate in Christian psychology from Jacksonville Theological Seminary.

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

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DECEMBER 2016

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

1 MEMBERSHIP 101

Come meet other members and Chamber staff to learn about the many ways to benefit from your membership.

When: 8 to 9 a.m.

Where: Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Contact: Alison Unger at 251-431-8617

or aunger@mobilechamber.com

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

1 CASHMOB

Help support local small businesses by committing to spend \$20 at this festive event. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and cocktails while shopping.

When: 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Where: Big City Toys, 4356A Old Shell Rd.

Cost: Free to attend; commit to spend \$20 at this small business

Contact: Carolyn Wilson at 251-431-8606 or

cwilson@mobilechamber.com

Reservations are required.

7 WOMEN'S ROUNDTABLE **Members Only*

A monthly forum exclusively for women business owners and managers of Chamber-member companies. This month's meeting will be casual networking – start your day with good conversation and make new connections.

When: 8 to 9 a.m.

Where: Corner 251 at The Admiral, 251 Government St.

Contact: Alison Unger at 251-431-8617

or aunger@mobilechamber.com

No charge, but seating is limited. RSVP requested.

Sponsor:



14 COFFEE WITH THE CHAMBER

Start your day with the Chamber and network with other business attendees.

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

Where: Costco Wholesale, McGowin Park

Contact: Alison Unger at 251-431-8617

or aunger@mobilechamber.com

No charge. Reservations are not needed.

Sponsor:



14 GCTC CHRISTMAS LUNCH

A bimonthly lunch hosted by the Gulf Coast Technology Council.

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

Where: Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Topic: Winners of GCTC scholarships will be presented during this lunch.

Cost: \$20 for Chamber members/\$25 for potential members

Contact: Steve Russell at 251-431-8654

or srussell@mobilechamber.com

Reservations required. Cancellations after Dec. 9 not reimbursed to cover lunch cost.

20 EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE **Members Only*

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

When: 8 to 9 a.m.

Where: Chamber, 451 Government St.

Speaker: Bill Sisson, Mobile Area Chamber president and CEO

Topic: An economic development update and discussion of new and ongoing Chamber initiatives

Contact: Brenda Rembert at 251-431-8607 or

brembert@mobilechamber.com

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

Sponsor:



23 & 26 CHAMBER CLOSED
MERRY CHRISTMAS

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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 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.



JANUARY 2017

2 CHAMBER CLOSED - NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY

11 NETWORKING@NOON **Members Only*

Make 40-plus business contacts in 90 minutes over lunch.

When: Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Where: Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Cost: \$10 and must be paid with reservation

Contact: Alison Unger at 251-431-8617
or aunger@mobilechamber.com

Catering:



**One Representative
Per Company**

16 CHAMBER CLOSED - MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY

17 EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE **Members Only*

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

When: 8 to 9 a.m.

Where: Mobile Area Chamber, 451 Government St.

Speaker: Allison Langan Covington MS, LPC,
Bradford Health Services

Topic: "Substance Abuse and the Bottom Line"

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

No charge, but seating is limited. Free parking.

Sponsor:  **BancorpSouth**

26 BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

When: 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Where: Community Bank, 6587 Airport Blvd.

Cost: \$5 for Chamber members/\$10 for potential members

Contact: Alison Unger at 251-431-8617
or aunger@mobilechamber.com

Reservations are not needed.

Sponsor:  **COMMUNITY BANK**



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Who's New



Finizola
He graduated from the University of South Alabama with a bachelor's degree in business and from Auburn University with a master's degree in business administration. He has more than 25 years of experience in information technology.

Mitsubishi Polycrystalline Silicon America Corp.

hired Vincenzo "Enzo" Finizola as IT manager.

He graduated

from the University of South Alabama with a bachelor's degree in business and from Auburn University with a master's degree in business administration. He has more than 25 years of experience in information technology.

*



Godwin



Johnson

The partners of **Russell Thompson Butler & Houston LLP** announced two staff promotions. **Tracy Godwin**

CPA is now senior accountant. Godwin holds degrees in French and English from The University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn., and chemical engineering and accounting degrees from the University of South Alabama.

Shelby H. Johnson CPA was promoted to supervisor. Johnson is a graduate of the University of South Alabama with a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in accounting.

*



Davis



Moyer

Business Information Solutions (BIS) hired **Jasmine Davis** and **Jamie Moyer**. Davis takes a new position of inside sales professional. She worked in the nonprofit and tech support industries prior to

joining BIS. Moyer is the project and purchasing assistant, and has worked in the customer service industry for 16 years.

*



Tea



English

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Cooper & Co. Inc. Realtors welcomed new associates **Boroth Tea** and **Lashona English**. Tea will be working out of the west Mobile office, and English will be located in the north Mobile office.

*

Maynard Cooper & Gale added eight attorneys:

Braxton Thrash joined the firm's ERISA and group insurance litigation. He earned a law degree from The University of Alabama, where he received the Order of the Coif distinction and earned a bachelor's degree

in German from The University of Alabama. Thrash is licensed to practice in Alabama and Mississippi.

Stewart Alvis joined as an associate. He earned a law degree from Cumberland School of Law, and received bachelor's degrees in political science and history from The University of Alabama.

Laura Ezell, Bowman Givhan and **John Juricich** are associates in corporate, securities and tax practice. Ezell earned a law degree from Vanderbilt University Law School, and a bachelor's degree in public policy with a minor in history from Duke University.

Givhan earned a law degree from Georgetown University Law Center, where he also earned a certificate in transnational legal studies and received a bachelor's degree in political science from The University of Alabama.

Juricich received a law degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law,

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and a bachelor's degree in political science from The University of Alabama.

Kendra Key joined the firm's banking and finance practice as an associate. She earned a law degree from Vanderbilt University Law School and graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in interdisciplinary environmental studies from The University of Alabama.

Irene Motles now works in insurance and financial services litigation practice as an associate. Motles holds a law degree from The University of Alabama School of Law and received a bachelor's degree in history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Evan Parrott joined the firm's bankruptcy and restructuring practice as an associate. Parrott earned a law degree and a master's degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law and a bachelor's degree in communication arts from Spring Hill College.

In other news, the firm named **Elizabeth G. "Beth" Beaube** chief administrative officer. Beaube, a firm shareholder and chair of the firm's employee benefits and executive compensation practice, was recognized by The Best Lawyers in America® and Super Lawyers® for her expertise in employee benefits (ERISA) law.

*



Trustmark Bank promoted **David Hagan** to senior vice president. Hagan has 18 years of banking experience. He

earned a master's degree in business administration from the University of Mobile and a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in finance from the University of South Alabama. Hagan is also a graduate of the Alabama Banking School.



Ruzic

Ruzic graduated from The University of the South with a bachelor's degree in political science.

Mobile-based real estate sales and marketing firm **Sam Winter & Co.** hired

John Ruzic as a new agent.



Wilkins Miller LLC accounting and advisory firm promoted **Blake Ethredge** to consultant.

Ethredge graduated from The University of Alabama with a bachelor's degree in commerce and business administration. His certifications include: Certified Valuation Analyst (CVA), Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) and Certified in Financial Forensics (CFF).



Guntharp



Touchton

Roberts Brothers welcomed two new agents: **Sara Guntharp** and **Michelle Touchton**.

*

Burr & Forman LLP added **Emily A. Crow** to the firm's labor and employment practice. Crow received a bachelor's degree in international relations and French and a juris doctorate from The University of Alabama.

Business Endeavors

Florida-based **Advanced Disposal** acquired West Mobile Sanitation. The acquisition includes residential garbage customers who will be served by Advanced Disposal's existing Mobile facility.

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White-Spinner Construction Inc. (WSC) recently won a competitive bid to expand the birth center at Thomas Hospital in Fairhope. The \$4.2 million construction project will increase the size of the hospital's birth center from 18,000 square feet to more than 29,000 square feet. Upon completion, the center will feature seven rooms for labor, delivery and recovery, 15 postpartum rooms and add a second operating room.

*

The **City of Mobile** and **One Mobile** celebrated the opening of the Danielle Juzan Dog Park at Crawford Park, 351 S. Ann St.

*

University of Mobile recently revealed its rebranding effort, introducing the tagline "Higher Education for a Higher Purpose" to describe the 55-year-old Christian university.

*

Two more high-speed Expeditionary Fast Transport ships will be built at **Austal** for the U.S. Navy, thanks to a new,

\$326 million contract added to the company's current 10-vessel contract.

In addition, Austal announced the next Austal-built Littoral Combat Ship will be named the USS Mobile. It will be the fifth ship bearing the city's name, with the last decommissioned in 1994 after active duty in both the Vietnam and Gulf Wars.

Well Done

According to 2017 U.S. *News & World Report* college rankings released in September, **University of Mobile** ranked eighth among Best Regional Liberal Arts Colleges in the South, and No. 3 in Best Regional Colleges in the South for Veterans. The rankings are based on graduation and retention rates, assessment of excellence, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, graduation rate performance and alumni giving, among other factors.



McKenzie



Pointer

Russell Thompson Butler & Houston LLP announced **Katherine H. McKenzie CPA** CVA completed the certification process with the National Association of Certified Valuators and Analysts (NACVA) to earn the Certified Valuation Analyst (CVA) credential. Staff accountant **Micah Pointer CPA** earned a certified public accountant designation. Pointer is a graduate of the University of South Alabama with a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in accounting

*

The American Planning Association (APA) honored City of Mobile Mayor **Sandy Stimpson** with the Distinguished Leadership

Award for an elected public official who has made important contributions and demonstrates positive support for planning in Alabama. Stimpson was selected for his long-range planning efforts that include developing and adopting Mobile's first recent long-range plan, Map for Mobile: Framework for Growth.


*

Allen Hastings, general manager of the **Original Oyster House** in Gulf Shores,



Hastings

won the 2016 Restaurant Manager of the Year Award presented by the Alabama Restaurant and Hospitality Alliance at the 17th Annual Stars of the Industry Awards Dinner in Montgomery. Hastings' excellence in customer service has helped brand the Original Oyster House as one of the top referral restaurants for vacationers.



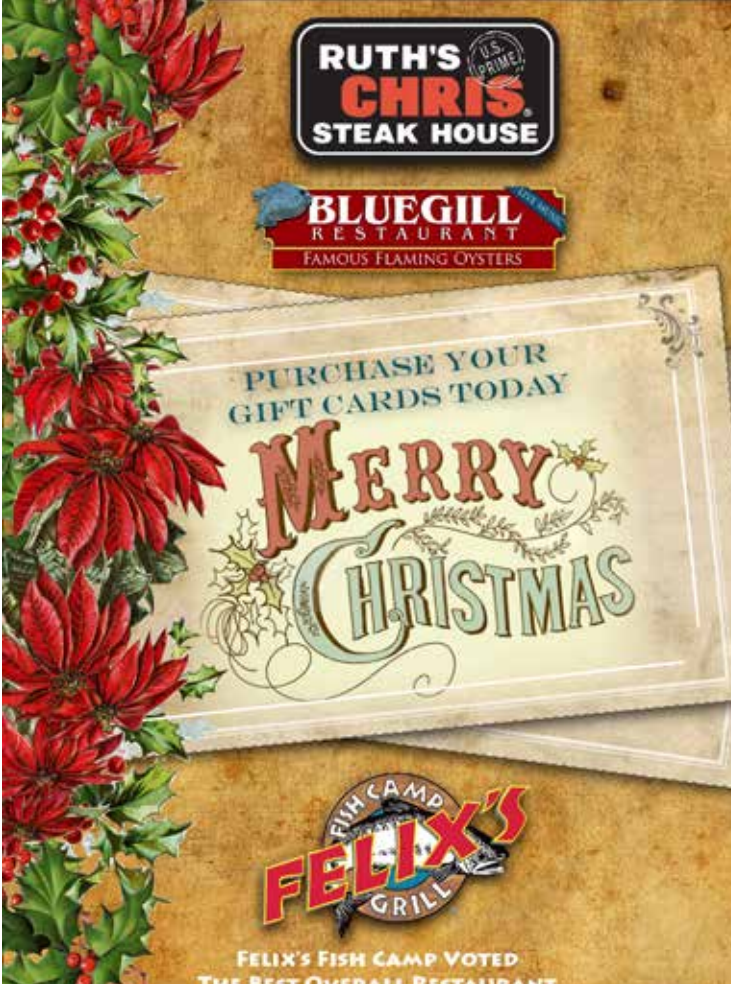
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Landrum honored **H. Britt Landrum Jr.**, CEO of Landrum Human Resources, with the 2016 Michaeline A. Doyle Award for his leadership and outstanding contributions to the PEO industry.



Dr. James Laier was elected chair of the board of Mobile Area Water & Sewer System

Laier (MAWSS), replacing Maynard Odom, who returns to the role of commissioner. Laier is the founder and former CEO of Southern Earth Sciences Inc., a

fellow in the American Society of Civil Engineers and associate professor in the College of Engineering at the University of South Alabama.

In other news, **Barbara Drummond** will serve as vice chair and **Sam Jones** will be secretary-treasurer.



Hargrove Engineers + Constructors tops the list of Alabama's largest engineering firms, according to *Business Alabama's* annual survey, for the second year in a row. The recently released list of top firms is based on total design fees.

Submission deadline for Member News is two months prior to publication. News releases should be one or two brief paragraphs. Photos must be professional headshots, labeled with the person's last name, and must be 300 dpi at full size and saved in an eps, tiff or jpg format. Send your information to news@mobilechamber.com.

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BancorpSouth.....18	Mobile Symphony Orchestra.....32
BBVA Compass Bank.....28	Page & Jones, Inc.....4
C Spire.....2	Providence Hospital.....9
Coast Safe and Lock.....31	Regions Bank.....23
Community Bank.....10	ServisFirst Bank.....21
Cooper Restaurants.....33	State Farm, Makeda Nichols.....34
Domke Market.....28	TekLinks.....16
First Community Bank.....24	Thames Batré Insurance.....11
Hancock Bank.....16	The Maids.....32
Gwin's Commercial Printing.....33	Trustmark National Bank.....5
Interstate Printing & Graphics, Inc. 31	Wilkins Miller.....30
Lagniappe.....34	Wonderland Express.....34

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