

# THE VIEW

JANUARY 2000

MOBILE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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## 2000 Target: Economic Forecast is Good

In a much anticipated year, initial predictions are the local economy will maintain a great deal of its strength during 2000 according to **Dr. Semoon Chang**, director of the Center of Business and Economic Research at the University of South Alabama.

Chang outlined the area's current strengths and trends at his annual address to the Chamber's Executive Forum, comprised of small business owners and managers.

Encouraged by regional partnerships developed during the last two years, Chang illustrated a map highlighting a 150-mile radius from Mobile extending west to New Orleans, north to Montgomery and east to Panama City. He urged the group to expand their business markets from the local metropolitan statistical area (including Mobile and Baldwin counties) of 500,000 to the 5 million people included in the 150-mile circle of influence.

He also challenged them to look at the increased radius of 300 miles that reaches Atlanta and Memphis and would include a market total of 18 million people.

With the economy doing well, Chang still

advised city and county leaders to continue looking at long-term concerns and credited Envision Mobile-Baldwin, the area's strategic plan, with helping the community look ahead at significant issues.

"We cannot expect the success of the 90s to maintain itself without taking specific actions such as addressing education, a trained workforce and over-crowded traffic patterns," agreed **Jim Apple**, the Chamber's vice president of economic development.

Envision taskforces are currently addressing these issues as well as land use planning and zoning, air quality and technology.

Chang dedicated a significant portion of his presentation to the growing sales activity in the county. "For the first time we've seen a clear impact in the city's tax structure because of the development on Schillinger Road," he said. "What we'll be seeing is the county's tax base will increase faster than the city's will."

With the recent rash of commercial development, specifically the new Lowe's, the remodeled K-Mart into a "Big K," Office Max and the Wal-Mart

Super Center, Chang said approximately \$200 million in annual sales has moved outside the city limits. A trend he believes should drive the city to once again work to incorporate new areas.

Among the positive points, he believes Mobile County's employment will rise again this year. "Our job growth is consistent. Every month there are more jobs," said Chang. He pointed out however, that many area new jobs are lower paying. A highly-skilled labor is needed to draw more high-paying jobs, Chang added.

He also noted home sales nearly doubled his prediction for 1999 and anticipates this year's sales will be strong and homes will maintain their value.

One trend observed by Chang is the comparison between job growth and population. Jobs were up 38,000 in Mobile County, while the population increased by only 20,000. Unemployment rates are lower than they have been in over 20 years and many people who weren't working before are working now. Chang also attributes this trend to the growing number of people moving to Baldwin County.



**Dr. Semoon Chang looks over economic charts with the Chamber's Executive Forum, a committee of small business owners and managers.**

## Dianne Irby Elected 2000 Board Chair

For the first time in the Chamber's 163-year history, the board has elected a woman chairman of the board. **Dianne K. Irby**, Irby Strategic Services, will lead the organization through a number of initiatives and programs included in the annual plan of action.

Among the issues the Chamber will be addressing this year are workforce development, trade and both local (Envision Mobile-Baldwin) and regional strategic plans.

"It's clear that if we're going to stay focused on the long-term, economic development must maintain its priority as well. It's the interaction of all of these elements that will move us to the next level," said Irby.

Irby is the co-founder and principal of Irby Strategic Services. She received a bachelor's degree in history and English from Auburn University. Before she and her husband Don started their company, Irby was vice president and general manager of Brown and Root's Mobile engineering office. Her community involvement includes The Salvation Army, Alabama School of Math and Science, Boys Scouts of American and the Mobile Industrial Development Board. In addition, she is also a member of the Mobile Sunrise Rotary Club and the Dean's Council for Auburn's College of Liberal Arts.

Irby follows **John Davis**, president of Mobile Gas, and will officially take the reigns at the Chamber's Annual Meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 18 at the Mobile Civic Center. (See related story on page 2.)

### 1999 - Bridge to the New Millennium

During Davis' year as chairman, it was a year of new directions for the Chamber. To the west, the Chamber coordinated the first Gulf Coast Issues

Conference in Biloxi, where 125 top business executives from Pensacola, Mobile, the Mississippi Gulf Coast, New Orleans and Baton Rouge met to expand their long-range thinking beyond their own boarders. To the north, the Chamber nearly wore out the roads to Montgomery addressing critical business

issues on a state and local level, such as, the Franchise Tax, Tort Reform

and Aviation Training. Covering every direction, the Chamber recruited local businesses owners and managers to join efforts to develop a local Workforce Development program. And spanning both east and west, the Chamber kicked off

the Ground Level Ozone Reduction Initiative and is participating in a regional air quality study.

Behind the scenes, the Chamber assisted several local operations expand their businesses and their employment base, continued working on Envision strategies, the long-range strategic plan for Mobile and Baldwin counties, and conducted a number of seminars to assist small business owners.

Davis has a bachelor's and master's degree in accounting from Louisiana Tech University. He is a certified public accountant and a graduate of the Stanford University Program. The Louisiana native also served as a Captain in the U.S. Air Force from 1965-1970. His many community affiliations include the Volunteers of America, United Cerebral Palsy and the Mobile Area Council of Boys Scouts of America. He is also Chairman of Envision Mobile-Baldwin.

*A more detailed list of 1999 accomplishments achieved under Davis' leadership as well as a question and answer interview with Dianne Irby will appear in the February issue of The View.*



**Dianne K. Irby**



**John Davis**

## What Separates Winners from Losers in Regional Competition

In a recent address to the Chamber, **Dr. Semoon Chang**, director of the Center of Business and Economic Research at the University of South Alabama, focused on eight issues needed for regional competition. While each issue is pertinent to any city, in the following comments Chang explains their relevance to Mobile.

Chang made this presentation at the Chamber's Executive Forum, comprised of small business owners and managers.

- 1 Attraction of Skilled Workers** - "For industries to locate in our area, they demand the availability of skilled workers."
- 2 Growing High-Tech Industry Clusters** - "Currently, Mobile doesn't have any high-tech clusters and they will be very difficult to develop in a short time period. This is where both quality of education and the reputation of local education is critical."
- 3 Competitive Business Costs** - "We have a very high business license fee for instance. We need to look at that. On the other hand, wages in South Alabama are relatively low and that is a plus."
- 4 Expanding Export Markets** - "In order to accomplish this the first thing we must do is gather information on not only the availability of products we can export, but

also, information on potential buyers." Trade missions conducted by the Chamber are current efforts underway to address this need.

- 5 Capture Schillinger Road Effects** - "The community needs to be aware that there is a shift of business from inside the city limits to the Schillinger road area. Because of this, we have reduced city revenue. That also means there needs to be a lot more land planning outside the city limits."

- 6 Global Challenges** - "The globalization of the world has been progressing at full speed. Competition from other countries is here to stay. You can't get away from it. We have to increase our efforts and meet these challenges from other countries."

- 7 Metro Services** - "There are services that could be provided more efficiently together rather than having separate city or county services." Two good examples according to Chang would be metro land use planning and sales tax collections.

- 8 Community Plans** - "The area's strategic plan, Envision Mobile-Baldwin, is definitely a step in the right direction. Chang encouraged officials to constantly re-prioritize issues. He also suggested the idea of working to recruit a World's Fair.

# Chamber Annual Meeting to Launch Mobilennium

## ◆ Event Set for Jan. 18

Throughout Mobile's 300 year history, not many events have generated as much enthusiasm and anticipation as the "Mobilennium," the Chamber's 163rd Annual Meeting.

On Tuesday, Jan. 18, the Chamber will officially launch its premier business event at the Mobile Civic Center. Tickets are selling fast, so act now!

When the doors open at 5:30 p.m., guests will be treated to a champagne reception hosted by Malcolm Pirnie Inc. At 6 p.m., an exciting program begins highlighting the Chamber's accomplishments over the past year, as well as honoring the small business, manufacturer, diplomat and corporate volunteer of the year. Also during the program, the traditional passing of the gavel between outgoing chair John Davis of Mobile Gas Service Corp. to incoming chair Dianne Irby of Irby Strategic Services takes place, followed by the guest speaker Dr. Price Pritchett.

Pritchett, a consultant and nationally recognized speaker, works with dozens of Fortune 500 companies on a regular basis. Specializing in leadership skills, mergers and effective management, Pritchett will provide Chamber members with tips and

tools to become 21st century premier leaders and managers.

After the evening's program, guests can sample a wide-variety of heavy hors d'oeuvres from 13 of the area's finest restaurants and catering firms including Adam's Mark Hotel, Alec Naman Catering, Atlanta Bread Company, Banana Docks, Bienville Club, Copeland's of New Orleans, Everything and More, Lassere's Catering, Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, Sonnier's Fine Dining and The Wilton Caterer.

Sponsors for this year's event are AmSouth Bank, Alabama Power Company, GTE Wireless, Integrity Inc., Isle of Capri Casino, ITC DeltaCom, Long's Human Resource Services, Mobile Gas Service Corp., NBC15-WPML/UPN44-WJTC, The Mitchell Company and

Thompson Engineering.

Tickets for this year's Annual Meeting are \$40 or a table of 10 is \$375. Make plans right away to attend this year's meeting. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 431-8606 or 431-8623.

### 2000 Annual Meeting

**When:** Tuesday, Jan. 18  
Program - 6:00 p.m.  
Reception - 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Mobile Civic Center

**Speaker:** Dr. Price Pritchett  
Sponsored by  
**AM SOUTH**

**Topic:** New Work Habits for the Next Millennium

**Tickets:** \$40/\$375-Table of 10

**More Info:** 431-8606 or 431-8623



Pritchett

# Mobile Area Economy Scores High

The Mobile area economy was again the highest ranked on the Central Gulf Coast and moved up eight slots in the national rankings to no. 38 in an annual study measuring economic strength.

POLICOM Corporation, an independent economics research firm based in Jupiter, Fla., graded the condition of 316 metropolitan statistical areas (MSA) in the United States. The group gave the Mobile area, which includes Baldwin County, a solid "A."

Last year, the area held the no. 46 position and the local economy has been consistently ranked within the Top 50 since the organization started the annual analysis in 1995.

The 1999 list is based on data from 1973 through 1999 and measures 18 economic elements over the 25-year period. Economic indicators, which measure earnings, employment and distress are examined for both annual growth and annual stability to determine economic strength. The elements chosen gauge how the economy has behaved over the last quarter century.

"By including multiple economic factors and considering an extended period of time, economic trends of the areas can be determined," commented William H. Fruth, president of POLICOM. "This is not a 'quality of life' or 'best places to live' study. Nor does it try to identify the latest economic 'hot spot.' The study measures the economic soundness of an area."

"POLICOM's formula rewards the areas which have had the fastest, most consistent growth over an extended period of time," the report reads.

The Austin-San Marcos, Texas MSA jumped three spots to take the no. 1 position in the latest rankings. The Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, NC MSA was ranked first for the last four years. Its drop to third, however, is not statistically significant as the highest five areas are grouped tightly at the top in their scores.

### The Top 10 U.S. Metro Areas

1. Austin-San Marcos, TX
2. Salt Lake City-Ogden, UT
3. Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, NC
4. Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, WA
5. Fort Collins-Loveland, CO
6. Las Vegas, NV-AZ
7. Boulder-Longmont, CO
8. Portland-Vancouver, OR-WA
9. Dallas, TX
10. Wilmington, NC

### Alabama Metro Areas

- Birmingham, AL (33/A)
- Huntsville, AL (94/B+)
- Mobile, AL (38/A)
- Montgomery, AL (86/B+)
- Tuscaloosa, AL (130/B)

### Central Gulf Coast Metro Areas

- Baton Rouge, LA (135/B-)
- New Orleans, LA (116/B)
- Biloxi-Gulfport-Pascagoula, MS (221/C-)
- Pensacola, FL (156/B-)
- Fort Walton Beach, FL (155/B-)
- Panama City, FL (167/C+)

# Going My Way?

## ◆ With needed funds, bus service could expand to county residents.

Bus service is often the only source of transportation for citizens inside the city limits, but it's rarely an option for those living outside the limits in Mobile County. One recent project of Envision Mobile-Baldwin was to determine if county residents would be interested in having some type of bus or van service and, specifically, how they would use it.

Surveys were sent to parents through the public schools, and more than 3,700 were returned. Of the areas not currently served by Mobile Metro Transit, the greatest response came from the southern part of the county.

Respondents said the three most popular uses of buses or vans would be for youth transportation such as to the Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, ball games or other after school activities; travel to and from work; and as a way to get to doctors or other medical appointments.

This information addresses the Envision strategy calling for "regional mass transit that supports community needs and has a dedicated source of funding."

Because of the overwhelming response to the survey, a Transportation Coalition was formed that includes representatives from Mobile Metro Transit,

Mobile Bay Transportation, the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC), Department of Human Resources, Mobile Association for Retarded Citizens, Mobile and Prichard Housing Authorities, and the Tillman's

Corner and Mobile Chambers of Commerce. The group is collaborating on a grant application to the Federal Transportation Administration for improved job access and reverse commuting, where people travel out of the city into the rural areas or to Baldwin County for employment.

"Obviously, funding will be our greatest need if we want to expand our services," said Margie Wilcox of Mobile Bay Transportation who is heading up the coalition. "This is not something that will happen overnight, but we're certainly on the right track. We've determined there is a need and now we're looking for the funds to provide the transportation."

If the money is granted, some expanded service into Mobile County could begin as early as this year. For more information, contact Ginny Russell, the Mobile Chamber's director of community development, at 431-8618.

**"Obviously, funding will be our greatest need if we want to expand our services,"**

**Margie Wilcox  
Mobile Bay Transportation**



Standing: Greg Potter, CPP, President, Susan McEvoy, Production Team Leader, Shelia Adams, Team Leader Asst., Seated: Daphne Bridges, Dir. of Business Development, and Karen Stacey, Receptionist/Payroll Specialist.

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# 2000 – A Pivotal Point

## Area Officials Name No. 1 Community Assets

Very few people have had the opportunity to stand at such a pivotal point in time – the dawn of a new year, a new century and a new millennium. One cannot help but reflect on both the victories and setbacks our area has experienced.

Aside from natural disasters, the closing of Brookley Air Force Base was one major blow that set us back considerably. Today, it is a viable, fully occupied complex with a variety of high-tech and aerospace companies – a testimonial that we can turn-around any challenge. Other accomplishments include the annexation of much of west Mobile when the city grew from 26 sq. miles to 240 sq. miles, the election of local leaders who are aggressively moving our area forward, and the strategic partnerships with our neighbors across the Bay and along the Central Gulf Coast.

Few cities are positioned as favorably as Mobile. Our water front location, matched with an abundance of natural resources and one of the most

extensive transportation systems in the country have made Mobile a city to consider for families and businesses, locally, regionally and internationally.

Job growth, the entrepreneurial explosion of small businesses, the stability of the area economy, and the number of capital investments in the last several years have captured the attention of many organizations and the media.

For 163 years, the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce has served as an advocate for local businesses, large and small. More recently, we have branched out to become more involved with pertinent community and regional issues, such as education, workforce development, transportation, economic development, legislative affairs, trade and the environment. Envision Mobile-Baldwin, the area's long-term strategic plan, has involved hundreds of volunteers from both counties and has encouraged the strong alliance needed to make our

area a fierce competitor in the global arena.

One of the keys to the success we have achieved is the close working relationship we enjoy with the public sector and the strong leadership provided by the private sector.

We are proud of our community's accomplishments, but at the same time realize current methods and goals quickly become passé in this rapidly changing world. The new millennium gives us pause to consider again our role in shaping our region's economy in the 21st Century.

We took this opportunity to invite area mayors and commissioners to reflect along with us. Each of the following have named the top asset on which their community needs to capitalize in the next century. May we all be successful in our endeavors.

Win Hallet  
President  
Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce

"We're on a good track. We're focusing more on our quality of life by addressing environmental issues and investing in arts and culture, sports and entertainment. Strategically, we're planning where we want to be 10 years down the line through the Envision Mobile-Baldwin plan that involves more than 350 community partners. But most importantly, we have the fundamental ability to create partnerships between the public and private sectors. These partnerships are the foundation of our area's stability and are key to future success."

**Mike Dow**  
Mayor  
City of Mobile



"I think maintaining the spirit of cooperation we have here is vital to our future progress in the next century. The strength of our area is that ability to work together – the strong public-private partnerships. It's unparalleled in the state and it is rare anywhere for community partners to address critical issues."

**Sam Jones**  
Commission  
President  
Mobile County  
Commission



"The greatest asset we have in Chickasaw is our people, their support and their desire to see our city continue to be a place of which they can be proud. Economically, I see the continued development of our Port facility and the expansion of industrial support businesses, within our city, to be of major importance."

**Jim Trout**  
Mayor  
City of Chickasaw



"Our City is growing so fast and we need to continue to encourage businesses and industry. With the growth we are seeing a need for more paving, city street cleaning and beautification. We have several facilities for recreation, which include ball diamonds for youth and adult programs, a golf course, tennis courts and a Sr. Citizen Center. We need to keep up with the growth that has suddenly taken a turn towards the northern part of Mobile County."

**Rannel Presnell**  
Mayor  
City of Citronelle



"In Baldwin County the thing that will assure continued growth and development is the spirit of cooperation between the county commission, mayors, councils, school board and the volunteer organizations. When you have the ability to sit down around a table and honestly and candidly discuss needs without having to worry about hurting someone else's family, (and we can do that) you can solve problems."

**Frank Burt**  
Commissioner  
Baldwin  
County  
Commission



"The greatest asset is our citizens and their sense of pride in the community. The town is fortunate to have some very caring and talented individuals who have chosen to call Dauphin Island 'home.' It is this common bond and true sense of team spirit that provides the strength to insure that our island community will prosper."

**Jeff Collier**  
Mayor  
Town of  
Dauphin Island



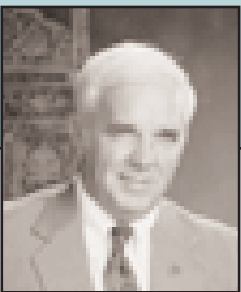
"I think one of the greatest assets the city of Prichard has is its wonderful citizens. I believe if we continue to have their support entering into the year 2000, the city will continue to prosper."

**Jesse Norwood**  
Mayor  
City of Prichard



"The greatest asset we have in Daphne, that I hope we can continue to capitalize on going into the next century, is the willingness of our citizens to work for the betterment of our city. Volunteers that serve on commissions, boards and committees are what make our city such a good place to live, work and play. We are blessed to have an outstanding educational system, recreational activities, and an exceptional quality of life, because of the involvement and civic pride of our citizens and volunteers."

**Harry Brown**  
Mayor  
City of Daphne



"I believe the greatest asset Mobile County needs to continue to capitalize on into the next century is to continue to build on the infrastructure in the city as well as in the county, in order to prepare for future expansion and growth potential."

**Freeman Jockish**  
Commissioner  
Mobile County  
Commission



"The greatest asset the county needs to continue to capitalize on is our infrastructure improvement, utilizing our 'Pay-As-You Go' program, which paves the way for clean, environmentally-friendly economic development."

**Gary Tanner**  
Commissioner  
Mobile County  
Commission



## M.C. Williams Contracting Celebrates Golden Anniversary



Employees gather to celebrate the 50-year anniversary of M.C. Williams Contracting Company.

M.C. "Carl" Williams recently blew out the candles on his cake celebrating his 82nd birthday along with the 50th anniversary of his company, M.C. Williams Contracting Co., a venture he founded a half century ago in Mobile.

As a child, Williams developed his appreciation for the construction industry by watching his own father. After serving in the U. S. Army, Williams went to work at Brookley Field where he applied the knowledge he learned in his youth. "It was there he decided to begin his own construction company," said grandson Chad Williams, office manager for M.C. Williams Co.

Williams, his wife Doris and former co-worker from Brookley, Gene Vance soon built their first office on Moffett Road, next to the family home. "They bought a tractor and began building ponds

and clearing farms and timberland in Clarke and Washington Counties," Chad Williams added.

Williams' company soon began to venture out into other types of land clearing and site work. Today, the company looks back on an impressive list of projects, including several in the Tombigbee River bottoms. More recently, the company has focused on clearing jobs as well as a number of large subdivision site development projects. "We also handle county and state road work," Williams said.

"We are a family owned and operated company. My sister, cousin, aunt and uncle all work for the company," added Williams. "And our success comes from the strong family ties as well as the excellent communication which allows us to grow," he concluded.

## Small Business of the Month The Carter Group LLC



If you're looking for a top-notch, effective leader with a proven track record, December's Small Business of the Month, The Carter Group LLC, can provide you with an ideal candidate.

"The Carter Group is an executive search and management consulting company that has extensive experience in placing senior management and executives in a number of highly specialized industries, covering a broad array of functions," said Vice President Larry Lemke.

Among the many areas of corporate placement provided by the Carter Group are administration, customer service, engineering, finance and accounting, human resources, manufacturing, marketing, sales, information systems and a variety of industry positions.

"There are 11 typical steps in the executive search process," Lemke added. "It begins with a search consultant meeting with the client's interview team to define the position's characteristics and requirements. Among the many steps we submit profiles on qualified candidates to the client for review and approval. Once the client has selected a candidate, we then assist them in developing and brokering an offer to the candidate. The entire process can take up to 16-20 weeks."

Guy Carter, president and founder, began The Carter Group in his home in October 1994. Soon after its inception, Carter needed assistance to run the startup company. Mark Del Vecchio, a friend and former co-worker, joined him as vice president of the company. Shortly afterwards in 1997, Lemke took ranks as the third partner, and another partner, Jack Smith, joined the firm in March 1999.

**L-R: Mark Bidlake, vice president; Larry Lemke, vice president and founder; Guy Carter, president; Mark Del Vecchio, vice president; Jack Smith, vice president**

Mark Bidlake, the fifth and final partner came to the company in August 1999. The Carter Group also has an office in Raleigh, N.C., and will open an office in Chicago this month. The Mobile office is located at 6420 Hillcrest Park Court, Suite A.

Lemke along with Carter, believes one of the company's greatest assets is their team of professionals. "You can have the most impressive product, the newest equipment, the most modern building and the best technology. However, it is the assimilation of the right team of people that will determine success and profitability," Lemke concluded.

### Guidelines for the Small Business of the Month selection:

- ◆ Current chamber member
- ◆ Fewer than 100 employees
- ◆ Apparent solid financial base
- ◆ Considered successful by peers
- ◆ Expanding number of employees
- ◆ Sales growth and/or profit growth
- ◆ Outstanding public service contribution
- ◆ In business a minimum of a year
- ◆ New product line

## Golden Rule Award Nominations Due Feb. 4

As time seems to move faster and faster and everyone has more and more to do, volunteers are even more important to community organizations. J.C. Penny and Volunteer Mobile are continuing their partnership to recognize outstanding area volunteers at the Annual Golden Rule Awards.

A total of six Golden Rule Awards and 10 Merit Awards will be presented in April along with a total of \$8,500 in cash contributions to agencies served by these exceptional citizens. In addition, details will be available about a newly created Youth Award.

Nominations are due by Feb. 4. To get your nomination packet or to find out more information, contact Volunteer Mobile at 433-4456.

## Seminar Speakers Needed

The Chamber's Small Business Development Department is planning its seminar series for the year and is looking for presenters.

Based on a recent survey, small business owners and managers are most interested in the following topics:

- Business Planning
- Employee Recruitment
- Time Management
- Public Speaking
- Marketing a Business
- Finance
- Advertising
- Customer Service
- Stress Management
- Human Resource Management

Last year, approximately 500 members attended a total of 16 seminars. Most programs begin at 11 a.m. and a catered lunch is served.

If you are interested in presenting a workshop from the list of topics requested, or know someone who is, call Walter Underwood at 431-8652.

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# GLORI Recaps 1999 Ozone Statistics

Members of the Ground Level Ozone Reduction Initiative or GLORI reviewed preliminary statistics for ground level ozone in Mobile County and determined Mobile's 1999 fourth highest daily average to be .085 parts per million (ppm) which exceeds new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards. Currently, EPA is calling for averages at or above .085 ppm to be over the maximum standard. The 1999 ozone season began on March 1 and ended on October 31.

Since EPA uses three-year averages to determine if a community will be considered non-attainment for ozone, 1999 figures will be averaged with those from 1998 (.098 ppm) and 1997 (.081 ppm). Though preliminary, it is expected that the three-year average will be near .088 ppm.

Out of the 215 days data was collected in the 1999 ozone season, only four were above the standard compared to nine days above the standard in 1998 - 170 days fell into the "good" range (0 - 0.64 ppm) and 37 days were in the "moderate" range (.065 - .084 ppm), according to EPA's definition.

Ozone is monitored by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM). During ozone season, ADEM considers weather conditions and predicts when ozone could be high, much like rain is predicted. This season, ADEM predicted nine red alert or high ozone days and three actually occurred. The fourth occurred on another day not forecasted as red.

Currently, EPA's new ozone standard is being challenged by the federal courts. If EPA wins its appeal, Mobile could be designated non-attainment next summer. As a cautionary measure, members of GLORI have been working as if the new standard will be implemented.

"We don't want to be caught off guard," said Jodi Swiderek, vice president of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce. "If the new standard is upheld, we want to be ready with our plan. And even if it isn't, we think it's important to continue educating the public on this topic."

Ozone is formed when emissions such as nitrogen oxide (NOX) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) come together during favorable weather conditions. These conditions include hot, sunny days with lower humidity, stagnant air and little wind. The NOX and VOC emissions are caused by industry, power companies, vehicle exhaust, exhaust from small gasoline engines such as boat motors or lawn equipment, and fume emitting products such as paint or dry cleaning fluids.

"Last year we had nine high ozone days. This



Left to Right: Mike Hofto with Saunders Engine, Case Callaway with Mobile Bay Watch and Steve Perry with the Forum outline the results of last year's ozone season.

year we improved with only four days at the level considered unhealthy for sensitive groups," said **Casi Callaway**, executive director of Mobile Bay Watch. "Sensitive groups include children and adults who are active outdoors for long periods and individuals with respiratory diseases such as asthma."

Currently, it is unclear what the major forces are driving ozone formation in the area. In addition, other cities along the Gulf Coast in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana are experiencing the same situation. Because of this, a study is being undertaken by the environmental agencies in each of the four states to determine why ozone is increasing. It is hoped that this Gulf Coast Ozone Study or GCOS will have some preliminary information at the end of the year.

GLORI is a community group formed when Mobile was told it could be placed in non-attainment status for ozone. It is made up of public and private groups including government, industry, small business, Mobile Bay Watch, the Mobile County Health Department, the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce and representatives from Baldwin County.

Its mission during this ozone season was to learn more about ozone, its sources and effects and to help educate the public about the topic. It also served as a liaison with ADEM and EPA. The group plans to increase its public education program next year with assistance from state and federal grants.

### Mobile's Ozone Numbers

1999	.085
1998	.098
1997	.081
1996	.082
1995	.076
1994	.069
Average 1997-1999	.088
Average 1996-1998	.087
Average 1995-1997	.081

# Mobile Businesses Establish Contacts in Brazil and Argentina



The Mobile delegation visited the Port of Santo, about an hour from San Paulo. The Port is in the process of privatizing operations and has already experienced increased productivity.

Striving to assist Mobile area businesses in exploring profitable export markets for local goods and services, the Chamber led its second trade mission last fall to two of Latin America's largest economies - Brazil and Argentina. Latin America is at the pinnacle of opening its economies to foreign investors through large-scale privatization and trade liberalization acts, and now is a critical time for exporters to tap into these opportunities.

Prior to the trip, the Chamber set up meetings for participants through the U.S. Department of Commerce Foreign Commercial Service offices in Buenos Aires, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. Having these appointments ahead of time alleviated much of the headaches companies face when they travel abroad to make contacts on their own. According to **Mike Lee**, Page & Jones, "The doors are opened much faster to established companies when you travel with official groups."

From beginning to end, trade mission delegates were engaged in meetings with local product distributors and other prospective business contacts. The first leg of the trip began in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The delegation participated in more

than 70 business meetings.

**Trey Le Blanc**, Alabama Shipyard, invested in the trip to capitalize on the demands that will soon be placed on the ocean-going transportation infrastructure. According to Le Blanc, "Brazil and Argentina, which are two of Latin America's fastest growing economies with ideal locations on the coast, are a great market for Alabama Shipyard." Le Blanc left the mission with roughly 14 new business contacts.

As a new participant, **Steele Holman**, Armbricht, Jackson, Demouy, Crowe, Holmes and Reeves, said his main objective was to establish relationships with firms in each of the three cities to better serve his Mobile clients. "I had a number of excellent appointments in every city we visited, which will allow us to assist our clients with their Latin American ventures." Holman was impressed with the outcome of the mission and feels his visit will prove to be exceedingly profitable.

The Chamber is already making plans for its next big trip to Spain in May. For more information, contact **Marina Nyman** at 431-8657.

## Ozone Eight Hour Averages Chickasaw Monitoring Station

### No. of Ozone Days in Each Category 1998-99

	Range	1999		1998	
		Days	% of Total	Days	% of Total
Good	0-0.064	174	80.9%	159	81.6%
Moderate	0.065-0.084	37	17.2%	27	13.8%
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	0.085-0.104	4	1.9%	9	4.6%
Unhealthy	0.105-0.124	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Very Unhealthy	0.125 +	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

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# 2000 Executive Committee

In addition to Dianne Irby and John Davis featured on page 1, the following will serve as officers of the Chamber in 2000. \*New Boards Members are featured in green.

## R. Preston Bolt Jr.

### Legal Counsel

**Bolt** is a lawyer with Hand, Arendall LLC and practices primarily in the fields of public finance, securities and commercial transactions. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama and a Juris Doctorate from Vanderbilt University School of Law. Bolt is president of the Mobile Area Education Foundation and past president of the City of Mobile Swim Association.



## Col. William E. Callender

### Vice Chairman Military Affairs

**Callender** is FEMA Services liaison and environmental safety director at the University of South Alabama. He is a retired Army Colonel and holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Alabama and a master's degree from the U.S. Coast Guard Staff College. He is a member of the University Lions Club and the American Society for Health Care Engineers.



## John M. Turner Jr.

### Chairman of the Board-elect/Vice Chair Finance and Operations

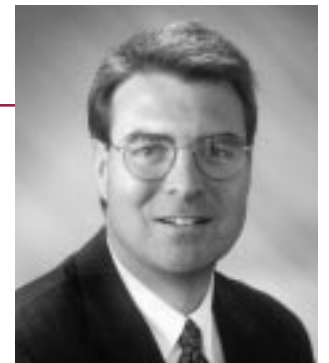
**Turner** is the president of Whitney Bank of Alabama. He received a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Georgia. Turner is active with Leadership Mobile, America's Junior Miss and the Mobile Area Education Foundation.



## Robert L. Chappelle Jr.

### Vice Chairman Small Business Development

**Chappelle** is the regional director for BellSouth in Mobile. A native of Montgomery, Chappelle holds both a bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Alabama. He began his career with BellSouth in Montgomery in 1986. He is a board member of the Better Business Bureau, a member of the Mobile Rotary Club and a class member of Leadership Mobile 1998-99.



## Larry A. Jackson

### Vice Chairman Economic Development

**Jackson** is the registered representative for Principal Financial Group and managing consultant for Gardnyr Michael Capital. He graduated from the University of South Alabama with a bachelor's degree in accounting. Jackson is a charter member of 100 Black Men of Mobile, a board member of Mobile Mental Health and a 1997 graduate of Leadership Mobile.



## Laureen H. Lynn

### Vice Chairman Communications

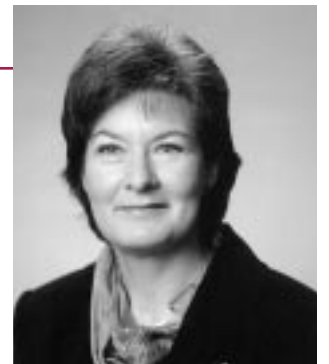
**Lynn** is an account executive and retirement planning specialist for Morgan Stanley Dean Witter Reynolds Inc. She received a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Florida State University and attended IBM graduate school in the Systems Research Institute. Lynn is a member of the Rotary Club and serves on the boards of the Mobile Opera Inc. and the Mobile Opera Guild.



## Cheryl A. Thompson

### Vice Chairman Workforce Development

**Thompson** is vice president of the Mobile division of Alabama Power Co. She received a bachelor's degree from Auburn University and a master's degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Thompson is on the boards of the Salvation Army and the Alabama School of Math and Science Foundation, and is a member of the Rotary Club and Mobile United.



## James K. Lyons

### Vice Chairman Maritime Affairs

**Lyons** was named acting director of the Alabama State Docks by Gov. Don Siegelman on July 1, 1999. Prior to his appointment, he was assistant Docks director for Trade and Development. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama in Political Science and Economics and completed the Executive Development Program at the University of Tennessee.



## Brenda J. Scott

### Vice Chairman Membership

**Scott** is the president and chief executive officer of the Mobile Convention and Visitors Corporation. She is a member of the International Association of Convention & Visitors Bureaus and serves on the boards of the U.S. National Tourism Organization, Martin Luther King Jr. Redevelopment Commission and Alabama's Junior Miss.



## Glenn D. Sigler

### Vice Chairman Trade

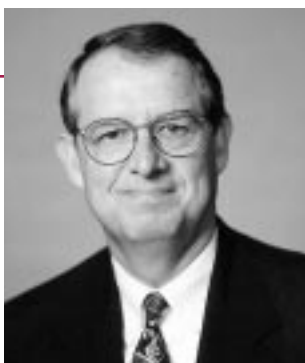
**Sigler** is a vice president in corporate banking at AmSouth Bank in Mobile and has managed its international department since 1985. He received a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of South Alabama and a master's degree in business administration from Auburn University. Sigler has served as president of Alabama's World Trade Organization.



## W. Bill Ainsworth

### Vice Chairman Community Development

**Ainsworth** began his career with Union Planters Bank in 1991 and was named president of the South Alabama division in 1997. He earned a bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University and is a graduate of the Louisiana State University School of Banking. Ainsworth has been actively involved with the Rotary Club of Mobile and Thomas Hospital Foundation.



## Clifton C. Inge Jr.

### Vice Chairman Governmental Affairs

**Inge** is the chief executive officer of IPC Industries Inc. He graduated from the University of Virginia with a bachelor's degree in history and the University of Alabama with a master's degree in marketing. He is a director of the Mobile Touchdown Club, a committee member of the Delchamps Senior Bowl & Charity Run and a board member of Gulf Coast Conservation Association.



## Winthrop M. Hallett III

### President

**Hallett** is president of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce. He is a graduate of Vanderbilt University with a bachelor's degree in economics, and is a 1993 graduate of Leadership Alabama. Hallett is past president of the Rotary Club of Mobile and the Alabama Wildlife Federation, and currently serves on the boards of the Leadership Mobile and the American Chamber of Commerce Executives.



# 2000 Board of Directors

*Members of the Executive Committee also serve on the Board of Directors*

## Peter J. Barber

**Barber** is the general manager of Bay Breeze Enterprises. He earned a bachelor's degree in aeronautical science from Southern Illinois University. Barber served in the U.S. Marine Corp as a fighter pilot in Southeast Asia. He also serves as the president of the Alabama Seafood Association and director of the Alabama Coastal Foundation.



## Larry Batchelor

**Batchelor** is founder and president of Batchelor's Mechanical Contractors. He is president of the Community Foundation of South Alabama, and also serves on the boards of the United Way of Southwest Alabama and the Senior Citizens' Center.



## Lewis E. Beville

**Beville** is vice president and treasurer of Thames Batre' Mattei Beville & Ison. He is a graduate of the University of Alabama where he received a bachelor's degree in finance. Beville is a board member of Colonial Bank – Gulf Coast Region and the Mobile Area Education Foundation.



## Frances B. Coleman

**Coleman** is the editorial page editor for the *Mobile Register*, a position she has held for four years. A native of Alexandria, La., she has a bachelor's degree in communications from Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas. She is a member of the National Conference of Editorial Writers.



## Ambassador J. Gary Cooper

**Cooper** is the chairman of the board and CEO of Commonwealth National Bank. In 1994, President Clinton selected Cooper as the first African-American to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to Jamaica. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a bachelor's degree in finance and completed a program for senior managers in government at Harvard University. Alabama's Troy University awarded him an honorary Doctorate of Law in 1990.



## Kenneth L. Dempsey

**Dempsey** is president of Masland Carpets and a corporate vice president of The Dixie Group. Previously, he was the director of marketing for the Harbinger Company, and he began at Masland as vice president of marketing. Dempsey graduated from the University of Georgia.



## Mayor Michael C. Dow

**Dow** has served as mayor of the City of Mobile since 1989. He earned a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's degree in business administration and accounting from the University of South Alabama. Dow sits on the corporate board of directors for QMS Inc. and actively participates and contributes to the area's economic development efforts to attract investment and jobs to the Mobile area.



## Leigh Smith Faircloth

**Faircloth** is the president-elect of the Junior League of Mobile Inc. She received a bachelor's degree in early education from the University of Alabama. Faircloth is a volunteer at UMS-Wright School and the Mobile County Medical Alliance.



## Vivian Davis Figures

**Figures** is a state senator. She has a bachelor's degree in management science from the University of New Haven, Conn. Figures is a member of the Alabama New South Coalition, Alabama Women's Commission and the State of Alabama Joint Highway Safety Committee.



## Aubury L. Fuller

**Fuller** is the president of Dixie Road Garage Inc. He attended Faulkner State Junior College and Central Texas College. Fuller served in Vietnam in the 101st Airborne Division. He serves on the regional board of Colonial Bank and is a trustee for South Baldwin Regional Medical Corp. and Baldwin County Electric Membership Corp.



## Mike Hashimoto

**Hashimoto** is president and CEO of Mitsubishi Polysilicon America Corp. He received a master's degree in Physics from the Tokoyo Institute of Technology, and a bachelor's degree from Yokohama National University. Hashimoto has worked with Mitsubishi since 1976, and Mobile is his second overseas assignment with the company.



## Patti G. Hill

**Hill** is president and CEO of Colonial Bank, Gulf Coast Region. She is a graduate of Louisiana State University School of Banking of the South, and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Auburn University. Hill serves on the boards of the American Red Cross, America's Junior Miss, the South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce and Thomas Hospital Foundation.



## Sheila S. Hodges

**Hodges** began her real-estate career in 1977 and is the owner and CEO of Meyer Real Estate. In 1983 she became partner of the company and purchased the balance of the organization in 1995.



## Clinton L. Johnson

**Johnson** is president of the Mobile City Council, and pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church. He received a bachelor's degree in government from Alabama A&M University, a bachelor's degree in religion from the University of Mobile, a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling from the University of South Alabama and an honorary doctorate of divinity from the Interdenominational Theological Seminary.



## Warren R. King

**King** is the executive vice president of Regions Bank. He received a bachelor's degree in finance and a master's degree from Louisiana State University Graduate School of Banking. He also attended the National Commercial Lending School at the University of Oklahoma. King is the past president of Family Counseling Center and a member of the Mobile Kiwanis Club.



## Father Gregory F. Lucey

**Fr. Lucey** is the president of Spring Hill College. He holds degrees from St. Louis University in philosophy, education and theology. He has a master's degree in liturgy from the University of Notre Dame and a PhD in educational administration. Fr. Lucey serves as a trustee of Marquette University and Loyola University in New Orleans.



## Louis J. Martinez

**Martinez** has been with Brown & Root since 1991 and is project manager. He earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from West Virginia University and a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University. Martinez is a 26-year army veteran where he was a helicopter pilot and engineer.



## T. Vance McCown

**McCown** is the president of Vance McCown Construction Co. He graduated from Louisiana State University with a bachelor's degree in construction. McCown is past-president of the Associated Builders and Contractors and the Louisiana State University Alumni Association.



## V. Gordon Moulton

**Moulton** joined the University of South Alabama in 1966 and became president in 1998. He holds a bachelor's degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a master's degree in business administration from Emory University. Moulton is a founding member and board member of the Alabama Super Computer Authority, a taskforce member of Envision Mobile-Baldwin and a member of the Governor's Commission on Technology in Education.



## Luis A. Nieves-Aviles

**Nieves** is president and CEO of Gulf Coast Computer Services Inc. He retired from the Air Force as Captain after 26 years of service. His company has been named a Future 30 company, an Eagle Award winner, and in 1996 was voted Small Business of the Year by the Chamber.



### Anna M. Pearson

**Pearson** is the executive director of Associated Builders and Contractors. She holds bachelor's degrees in biology and physical education from Oral Roberts University. She also earned certification in Sports Medicine from the United States Sports Academy and has a master's degree in exercise physiology from the University of South Alabama.



### E. B. Peebles III

**Peebles** is a member of the firm Ambrecht, Jackson, DeMouy, Crowe, Holmes & Reeves LLC. He graduated from Vanderbilt University with a bachelor of arts and earned a Juris Doctorate from the University of Alabama School of Law. Peebles is active with the American, Alabama and Mobile Bar Associations.



### John B. Saint

**Saint** is the president and CEO of The Mitchell Company. He has a bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama and a master's degree from the University of South Alabama. He is a Vietnam veteran, the director of McGill-Toolen Foundation and director of Colonial Bank - Gulf Coast Region.



### Gary G. Tanner

**Tanner** is a member of the Mobile County Commission. He is a graduate of Twentieth Century Business College. Tanner was selected as "Citizen of the Year" for Tillman's Corner in 1980 and "Business Associate of the Year" in 1989 by the American Business Women's Association.



### Barry A. Vittor PhD

**Vittor** is president of Barry A. Vittor & Associates Inc. He earned a doctoral degree in ecology from the University of Oregon. He established his business in 1977. Vittor is a member of the National Estuary Program Management Committee and serves on the board of the Alabama Coastal Foundation.



### Celia A. Wallace

**Wallace** is the CEO and chairman of the board for Southern Medical Health Systems. She became a board certified radiological technologist at the University of Alabama. Wallace serves on the boards of Freedom Foundation of Valley Forge, Historic Preservation Society of Mobile and the Mobile Opera.



### T. Bestor Ward III

**Ward** is chief operating officer of Ward Properties Inc. He has a bachelor's degree in marketing from Auburn University. He is president of the Rotary Club-Downtown, a board member of the Gulf Coast Exploreum/IMAX Theater and a member of the distribution committee of the J.L. Bedsole Foundation.



### A. Scott Waters

**Waters** is vice president of Financial Resources. He has been with the company since 1983. He graduated from the University of South Alabama with a bachelor's degree in business and management studies. Waters is a member of the Mobile Association of Life Underwriters and a past president of the National Association. He also serves on the boards of the Arthritis Foundation and Boy Scouts of America.



### J. Margie Wilcox

**Wilcox** is the president and owner of Mobile Bay Transportation Co. She attended the University of Alabama. Wilcox serves on the board of the Business Council of Alabama and is a member of the Mobile Convention and Visitors Bureau.



### Ralph Wilson

**Wilson** is program director for the 100 Black Men of Greater Mobile's Phoenix Program. He holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education, a master's degree in secondary administration and an AA certificate in administration specialist from Alabama State University. He retired from the Mobile County Public Schools as executive superintendent. Wilson's community involvement includes Big Zion A.M.E. Zion Church where he is chairman of the Board of Trustees and president of the Harmonic Choir.



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# Documenting Mobile's 300 Years

## ◆ New Coffee Table Book in Progress

As part of the Mobile Tricentennial celebration, the Chamber is sponsoring a new hard-back coffee table book that will be a keepsake of Mobile's 300th anniversary.

Published by Community Communications, the book will be released during a special news conference in September 2001 that will outline all of the Tricentennial plans for the following year. The project will feature stunning photographs depicting life in Mobile, including the rich history of the area, the many festivals, the unique architecture and the people who make the area special.

Chamber members will have the opportunity to advertise in the book by purchasing "advertorials" that highlight each company via a one or two-page spread and include a color photograph.

"This book will mark a very special time in Mobile's history and will be the only one of its kind until the next centennial celebration," said Jodi Swiderek, vice president of Communications for the Chamber. "Any company that wants to mark its place in this incredible event can be part of this book. There won't be anything else like it for the celebration and it's sure to be popular."

The last coffee table book was published in 1994 and was distributed through local book stores and the Chamber.

Beginning this month, Loraine (Lori) Nunn York will be offering advertising space. If you are interested, contact Jodi Swiderek at 431-8645 and she will put you in touch with York.

## Business Spotlight of the Month Glendale Minge Florist



If you are looking for a gift for any occasion, then Glendale Minge Florist, this month's Business Spotlight of the Month, is the perfect place to shop. "Our specialties are fresh flowers, flower arrangements, silk arrangements, fruit and gourmet baskets, balloons and plants," said Owner Robert Harris.

"Glendale Minge represents FTD, Teleflora and AFS, just to name a few, which means we can deliver world-wide as well as across the United States and in all zip codes in the Mobile area," Harris added.

In addition to being a member of the Chamber, Glendale Minge is a member of the Society of American Florists and Business Network International. "We have received many awards for our quality of work, creativity and service in the floral industry," he said.

Glendale Minge is celebrating nearly 100 years as a premier flower shop. "This is the oldest flower

**Visit Glendale Minge Florist at 15-A Upham Street.**

shop in Mobile. It was founded in 1902 by the Minge family with a shop in downtown Mobile, and then later merged as Glendale Minge. I bought the shop in October 1998," Harris explained.

"The mission of Glendale Minge is to serve our customers with the very best," he concluded.

### Business Spotlight of the Month:

is selected from a random drawing of business cards collected at the prior month's Business After Hours event.

## Leadership Mobile Class of 2000

The Leadership Mobile Class of 2000 is a group of local individuals who have been identified as community leaders. Throughout the leadership year, which began last October and ends in May, the class will learn about themselves and their community as they participate in seminars focusing on cultural diversity, ethics, public safety, health and human services, education and direction on what makes an effective leader, and how to work with diverse groups of people to obtain a common goal.

The members of the Leadership Class of 2000 are: Walter Aikens; Jo Bonner Jr.; Wince Brandon; Pete Burns; Kathryn Kahalley Carigliano; Tommie Carlisle; Leevones G. Dubose;

Sandra Dunaway; Virginia Elsesser; Leigh Smith Faircloth; Julie Friedman; Debra Hawke; Rudolph Hertz; Dennis Heuer; Gilda Hodges; Dr. Saunders Hupp; Charles Johnson; B.J. Smith Julinot; Charles Lambert; Sharon Lavender; David Little; Joycelyn Burks Love; Michael Marshall; E.W. McKean; Dr. Margaret O'Brien; Edward O'Gwynn; Ray Palmer; Eric Patterson; Patricia J. Ponder; D. Scott Posey; Patricia Rabbeitt; Thomas Rankin; Jerome Shannon; Sheron Thames; Peggy Castile Thrash; Deborah Tillman; David Turner; Leslie Westerberg; Mary Mervin White-Spunner; Greer Wilhelm; Lisa Young; and Jill Chenoweth Zurfluh.

# A Tax Solution – Short & Long Term Plans to Replace Franchise Tax

With input from the business community and backing from approximately 35 business and trade organizations, the legislature approved a short and long-term solution to Alabama's franchise tax dilemma. Last year, the U.S. Supreme Court declared that Alabama could no longer charge out-of-state (foreign) companies more franchise tax than in-state companies. Combined, the tax contributed about \$120 million to the General Fund -- \$10 million from in-state and \$110 million from out-of-state companies. The tax had to be recalibrated to make up the lost revenue without putting a huge burden on Alabama companies.

The short-term solution is a combination of a franchise tax and a shares tax (see related information below). Pending voter approval on March 21, the shares currently at 5 percent will be replaced with an increased corporate income tax of 6.5 percent.

"This was one of the worst financial problems to ever hit our state," said Chamber Vice President of Governmental Affairs Scott Posey. "It was remarkable to see the public and private sectors come together so quickly and agree on a solution. We don't like to see our members having to pay any higher taxes, but we have to admit that the outcome could have been a lot worse."

One thing Posey added was his dismay that Alabama passed up a good opportunity for overall tax reform. "We have one of the most inequitable tax systems in the country. I've always felt that it would take a crisis for us to change our system, and I really thought this franchise tax problem was it, but so far, there has been no serious debate about tax reform in Montgomery."

If you need more information on this subject, contact Scott Posey at 431-8640.

### BRIDGE TAX

(Temporary solution until the corporate income tax increase is approved by voters)

#### Franchise Tax

- ⊛ Franchise tax based on a modified net worth and apportioned based on the income tax apportionment factors. The rate would be graduated based on apportioned federal taxable income.
- ⊛ Net worth would include capital stock, paid-in capital, retained earnings (not less than zero), and a series of additions (debt to related parties in excess of net worth if the related party is not also subject to the Alabama franchise tax) and deductions (investment in other taxpayers doing business in Alabama, investment in industrial development bonds, and pollution control facilities).
- ⊛ Limited liability entities (LLEs) are included for the first time in this tax. An LLE's net worth is based on the total capital accounts of its members/partners.
- ⊛ LLEs, regular corporations and S corporations have an add-back based on officer or member compensation in excess of \$250,000 per officer/member.
- ⊛ Minimum of \$100. Maximum of \$15,000, except for financial institutions, insurance companies and regulated corporations,

which would each have a maximum of \$3 million.

- ⊛ The franchise tax credit for insurance companies would be reduced from 100 percent to 60 percent.

#### Financial Institution Excise Tax (FIET)

- ⊛ Extends FIET to out-of-state financial institutions with no office in the state (credit card companies, etc.).

#### Shares Tax

- ⊛ Extends current domestic corporation shares tax to foreign corporations and becomes an entity-level tax due March 15. The same industries currently exempt from the shares tax retain their exemption, as well as LLEs.
- ⊛ The base is net worth minus inventory, capital stock owned in domestic and foreign corporations doing business in Alabama, and U.S. government obligations (reduced by a formula based on the taxpayer's net worth and long-term debt). No deduction for U.S. government obligations if they are purchased after Nov. 15 and sold before Feb. 15 of the following year.
- ⊛ The rate is \$5.30 per \$1,000 of apportioned net worth, with a \$500,000 cap.
- ⊛ Deductions after apportionment include: pollution control facilities, industrial development bonds, (IDBs) issued before Jan. 1, 2000, reclamation reserves, two special tax deductions enacted in 1998, and the assessed value of Alabama real and tangible personal property.
- ⊛ Repeals the foreign securities registration tax.

### LONG-TERM FIX

(Effective only after voter approval of corporate income tax increase)

#### Franchise Tax

- ⊛ Net worth would be defined as under the Bridge Tax
- ⊛ Adopting the same graduated rate structure as the Bridge Tax (based on apportioned federal taxable income).
- ⊛ Cap would be \$15,000, except for financial institutions and insurance companies. Minimum would be \$100.

#### Corporate Income Tax

- ⊛ Effective Jan. 1, 2001, the rate would increase from 5 percent to 6.5 percent, but the federal income tax deduction would remain in place (effective rate of 4.63 percent).
- ⊛ Piggyback onto federal rules effective Jan. 1, 2001. In other words, a corporation's federal taxable income would be the starting point.
- ⊛ Rate increase would require a constitutional amendment (thus the vote).

#### Financial Institution Excise Tax (FIET)

- ⊛ Raise the rate from 6 percent to 6.5 percent for parity with the corporate rate.

#### Sunset Provisions

- ⊛ The shares tax would be repealed effective for tax years beginning after Dec. 31, 2000, if the constitutional amendment raising corporate income tax passes a public referendum. Due to the shift from a fiscal year to a calendar year, there is a "short period" shares tax for 2001 at one-fourth the 2000 rate. The shares tax due Oct. 1, 1999 would be repealed.
- ⊛ The \$3 million franchise tax cap would be repealed for regulated corporations, and the \$15,000 cap would instead apply if the corporate income tax amendment passes.

### FRANCHISE TAX RATE SCHEDULE

(To be applied to net worth)

Apportioned Federal Taxable Income	Rate
Less than \$1	\$ .25 / \$1,000
\$1 - \$200,000	\$1.00 / \$1,000
\$200,000 - \$500,000	\$1.25 / \$1,000
\$500,000 - \$2.5 million	\$1.50 / \$1,000
\$More than \$2.5 million	\$1.75 / \$1,000

Source: Business Council of Alabama

Source: Business Council of Alabama



**Economic Growth Continues**

Editors of *The Kiplinger Washington Letter* are predicting a 3 percent growth for the economy this year, "only modest slowing" from 3.5 percent in 1999. "Inflation will gain slowly" and is expected to inch up to 3 percent.

Also, the world economy is expected to strengthen. Key parts of Europe (especially Germany and Britain) Asia and Latin America are looking up. "Marked improvement overseas will sustain U.S. growth and bring a record ninth year of expansion."

**Leadership Test**

To find out if you're a true leader, see if you possess these qualities:

- ◆ Leaders start projects by asking, "What has to be done" instead of "What do I need?"
- ◆ Leaders next ask, "What do I have to do to make a real contribution?" The answer best suits the leader's strengths and the needs of the project.
- ◆ Leaders continually ask, "What are my organization's purposes and objectives?" and "What qualifies as acceptable performance and adds to the bottom line?"
- ◆ Leaders don't want clones of themselves as employees. They never ask, "Do I like or dislike this employee?" But they won't tolerate poor performance.
- ◆ Leaders aren't threatened by others who have strengths they lack.

Source: Communications Briefings, Peter Drucker, cited in Forbes ASAP, Forbes Inc., 60 5th Ave., New York, NY 10011.

**Help for Your Sweet Tooth**

If one of your New Year's resolutions involves cutting down on sweets – savor this. The average American eats 152 lbs. of sugar and 25 lbs. of candy each year. According to an article published last summer in *USA Today*, "Candy is the third-largest consumer-food category in the country. With over \$22 billion in sales, candy is topped by soda pop and milk, but ahead of fresh fruit."

**The Next Boom**

By 2009 there will be over 30 million teenagers, according to *The Kiplinger Washington Letter*. Traditionally teenagers are big spenders. As a major market force, retailers are expected to "expand junior areas, offer a hip place to hang out, locate near movie theaters and provide a mix of shopping and entertainment."

**Squeeze More Out of the Clock**

Boost your personal productivity with these suggestions:

- ◆ Rank your tasks by answering these questions: "Of all that I can do, what will add the most value for me and my organization?" "What tasks can only I do that I've done well before?" and "What am I getting paid to do?"
- ◆ Rate the value of tasks by determining what rewards you'll gain for completing them. Then, compare those rewards to the consequences of delaying the tasks.
- ◆ Understand the difference between urgent and important. Urgent tasks usually come from someone else. Examples: a drop-in visitor or a phone call. Important tasks are self-directed and have the greatest value for you.
- ◆ Record what you have to do. Reason: As you write and revise goals, the brain-hand connection makes the fuzzy clear and the elusive concrete.
- ◆ Look for the "limiting step" -- the one obstacle that usually determines how fast you can reach your goals. Once you identify that step, focus all your energy on completing it.

Source: Communications Briefings, Maximum Achievement by Brian Tracy, cited by Philip Michaels, writing in Investor's Business Daily.

**A Note of Thanks**

An article published in the October issue of *Business Alabama* encourages job seekers to take the opportunity to thank the interviewer following interviews. In a recent survey of executives of the nation's 1,000 largest companies conducted by Accountemps, a staffing service for accounting, finance and book-keeping professionals, "76 percent considered a post-interview thank you note valuable when evaluating candidates and only 36 percent of applicants actually followed through with the simple courtesy."

"Ideally, a thank-you note should be sent by regular mail, but e-mail is acceptable if this has been your primary means of communication with the company," said Max Messmer, Accountemps chairman.

**Mobile Making a Name for Itself in the Movies**

Chances are you've read all the hype about the new Michael Mann film *The Insider* starring Al Pacino and Russell Crowe, but did you know that Alabama is the only state in the South that has seen an increase of film production in the past five years? In fact, in 1998, the state generated over \$30 million from blockbuster movie company's films to small independent filmmakers and television movies.

What's the reason for Mobile seeing such an increase in movie making? According to Eva Golson with the Mobile Film Office, it's a combination of the area's ability to double for almost anywhere in the world, and production-friendly communities and local governments. Whatever the reason, Mobile is making big headlines in Hollywood. In September, the Port City was featured, along with the rest of the state in three international production location publications – *Location Update*, *Hollywood Reporter* and *Markee* magazines.

While hundreds of movies and television shows are still being filmed in places like New York and Los Angeles, smaller cities like Mobile are becoming more attractive due to their low production costs and willingness to work with production crews.

Last year, *The Insider* shot several scenes in Mobile and the Biloxi area. The movie, which features Crowe as a former employee of a big tobacco company fired because he refused to disagree that nicotine is addictive and Pacino as a *60 Minutes* producer trying to get 'the story' was released in theaters last fall. A trial scene filmed in Mobile featured local "extras" including Ritchie Hurt, the Chamber's director of research and information, and dozens of area reporters and photographers.



Al Pacino

Brain Etting, co-producer of *Sacrifice*, a feature film starring Michael Madsen told *Location Update* magazine "(Mobile) is amazing. You get support from the entire community." He added the locations in Mobile could work as anything with enough creativity.

So what's next for Mobile? Golson said recently local filmmaker Milton Brown shot his new film *Mi Amigo*, a comedy, in this area and parts of Mississippi. Television production companies have recently shot documentaries in the area, and recently several major filmmakers scouted this area's assets for blockbuster films.

**SCORE Names Holwadel New Chairman**

Heading into its 36th year of operation in the Mobile area, the Services Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), housed at the Chamber, has named E. Douglas Holwadel as its new chairman.



Holwadel

Holwadel, a former president and CEO of Giant Portland & Masonry Cement Company, was most recently co-owner of the Cole Brothers Circus Inc., the largest tented circus operating in the United States presenting 500 performances each year. From 1985-1996, Holwadel was involved with all facets of the circus from operations and sales, to advertising to marketing to finance. His first involvement with Cole Brothers Circus Inc. was in 1982 when he acquired 50 percent interest in stock from Florida State University Foundation.

Since 1964 SCORE has offered confidential consulting to help starting and established businesses overcome problems. Its volunteers are retired men and women who've had successful business and professional careers and are committed to donating their time at no charge to future business owners in the Mobile area. These volunteers' have expertise in retail sales, business services, franchising, manufacturing, building construction, engineering, entertainment and national

sales management.

For an appointment, call the SCORE offices at 431-8614. Representatives are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to Noon at no charge.



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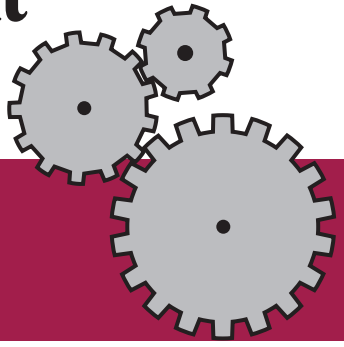
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**Comparative Economic Indicators  
October '99 vs October '98**

<b>Unemployment Rates</b>		<b>4.5% October '99</b>
		<b>4.2% October '98</b>
<b>Business Licenses</b>		<b>202 October '99</b>
		<b>188 October '98</b>
<b>Homes Sold</b>		<b>377 October '99</b>
		<b>397 October '98</b>
<b>Air Passengers From Mobile</b>		<b>30,856 October '99</b>
		<b>31,714 October '98</b>

# The Chamber At Work For You



## In the Zone

The Economic Development Department has completed 50 percent of its efforts needed to expand the Foreign Trade Zone in Mobile and Baldwin counties. This expansion will greatly increase the number of sites available for consideration by firms seeking to locate in Foreign Trade Zones. Efforts are also underway to increase the number of locations included in the Alabama Enterprise Zone program. For more information, contact **Ritchie Hurt**, 431-8654.

## On Common Ground

Over 65 people attended the Chamber's annual "Cultural Diversity in the Workplace" seminar held at Spring Hill Memorial Conference Center last fall. **Lester Brown** spoke at the event sponsored by Spring Hill Memorial Hospital, Equity Technologies, City of Mobile Human Relations Commission, and the Mobile Society for Human Resource Management. Brown returned in December to work with volunteers on the implementation of the Human, Class and Race Relation strategies in the area's strategic plan, Envision Mobile-Baldwin.

## E-Commerce or Bust

The Chamber hosted an intensive half-day seminar helping local companies explore the implementation steps of e-commerce. Among the topics discussed were cost, risk and legal considerations of conducting business on the Internet.

## Injecting Investments

Future entrepreneurs attended a recent Venture Capital Forum. These regular meetings feature local, regional and national speakers who advise entrepreneurs how to solicit third-party investments to either begin or expand a business venture. Recently, **Tarby Bryant**, president of ANASAZI Capital Management of Santa Fe, NM, suggested how Mobile could strengthen venture capital activity in Mobile and highlighted Santa Fe's success over the past decade.

## Joint Efforts

County Commission President **Sam Jones** and the Community Development Partnership's planning committee met with Chamber representatives to develop an agenda for a Partnership meeting held last fall. The subject discussed was land use planning and zoning, which is an Envision/Infrastructure strategy. The Mobile Area Association of Realtors sponsored the event and the Chamber secured **Dr. Keith Ward** as the keynote speaker.

## Award-Winning Efforts

At the annual Public Relations Council Association's conference, the Chamber was presented with two awards. One for its 1999 Membership Directory published with the help of Tom Mason Communications and Interstate Printing, and the second for its 1998 Annual Meeting video produced by WKRG-TV5.

## Trading Education

Last fall, the Chamber began a University Speakers Program on international trade at the University of South Alabama, Springhill College and the University of Mobile. Various business experts will periodically address University students and faculty, sharing their experiences and knowledge on related topics such as finance, logistics, manufacturing and legal issues.

## A Healthy Community

The Chamber sponsored a Red Cross blood drive providing members and downtown business people a convenient location to donate blood. The Visiting Nurses Association also set up a temporary location at the Chamber, giving members and staff access to flu shots.

## For Sale or Lease

Recently, a list of available buildings and sites was updated to assist companies interested in expanding operations in the area. For more information, contact the Chamber's Economic Development Department at 431-8655.

## Growing Green

The Chamber assisted Mobile Bay Watch with a \$250,000 Sustainable Development Challenge Grant proposal submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency. If awarded, the grant would also fund a part-time environmental position housed at the Chamber.

## Docking Information

Chamber staff participated in a meeting on the Alabama State Docks with representatives from the Business Council of Alabama. The mission of the meeting was to familiarize BCA with the Docks and its importance to the state economy.

## Diplomats of the Month

*Editor's note: Since the Chamber does not publish a December issue of The View, two Diplomats are being featured this issue.*

# Karen Cross Blackwell

Karen Cross Blackwell, marketing director for Seascope Furniture, has been selected as Diplomat of the Month. Blackwell has been active in the Diplomat program since her company joined the Chamber in May of 1995.

"My job has allowed me to participate in many Chamber and community activities," she added. "This year, I will be serving as co-chair of the Diplomats."

This is the third time Blackwell has been honored with this distinction. She is also involved in several community organizations including: Mobile Bay Area Apartment Association; Senior Citizens Services; Bayfest; Mobile BayBears; and Senior Bowl committees.

"I have received many benefits from networking through the Chamber. The greatest gift is my new husband and fellow Diplomat, Gary Blackwell," she added.



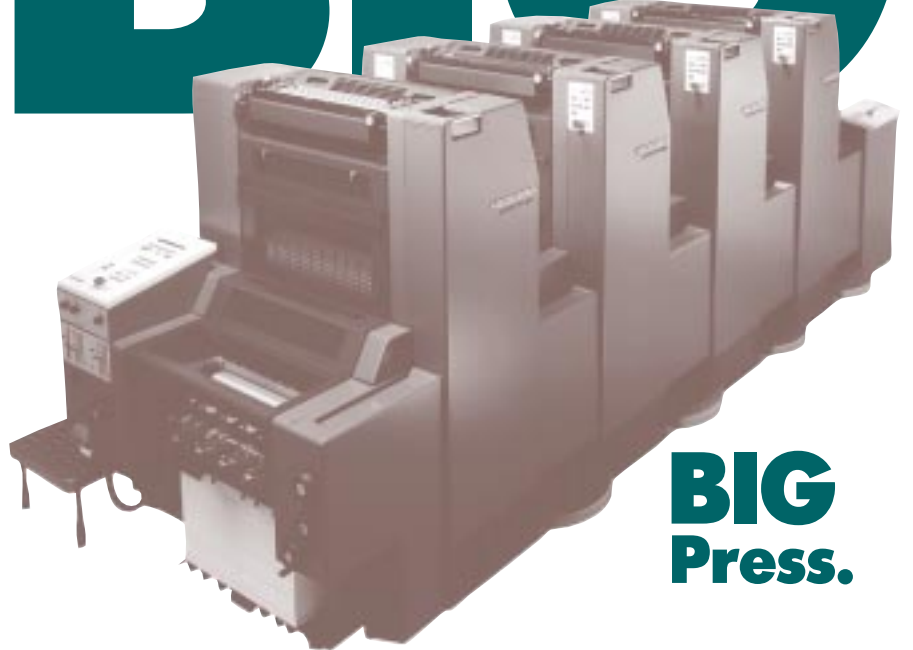
# Jerry Olsen

Jerry Olsen of Jerome C. Olsen CPA, PC, earned the Diplomat of the Month recognition by recruiting a new Chamber member and participating in "Operation Thank You," a specific day designed for Diplomats to deliver information to newly recruited Chamber members.

Olsen has been with the Chamber's Diplomat program for seven years. "These types of networking activities provide me with an opportunity to meet the up-and-coming movers and shakers in the community," Olsen said. "I am also able to answer questions for new members and share information about the benefits I've gotten out of my Chamber membership."

Founded in 1978, Olsen's firm offers a full line of CPA services in Mobile and maintains seven full-time employees.

Olsen is also a co-owner of a computer consulting firm, Digital Cybernetics Inc. in which he provides local software solutions to the manufacturing, distribution, contracting and other industries.




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## Mardi Gras


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# CALENDAR VIEW

## January 18 2000 Annual Meeting: "Moblennium"

**Time:** Doors Open at 5:30 p.m.  
Program begins at 6 p.m.  
**Place:** Mobile Civic Center  
**Cost:** \$40 per ticket/\$375 for a table of 10  
**Call:** Catherine Cleverdon at 431-8606 for tickets

## January 20 Business After Hours

**Time:** 5:30 - 7 p.m.  
**Place:** Gerald Wallace Auditorium Annex Building (behind Springhill Memorial Hospital)  
**Cost:** \$2 for members, \$5 for potential members

## January 21 Export Tools Workshop

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. - Noon  
**Place:** Chamber McGowin Room  
**Cost:** FREE  
**Call:** Sara Graf at 694-0702

## January 25 Net Gain: Stress Management for the New Millennium

**Time:** 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
**Place:** Chamber McGowin Room  
**Cost:** \$15  
**Call:** Brenda Rembert at 431-8607

### COMING IN FEBRUARY

## January 27 Net Gain: Venture Capital Forum

**Time:** 12:30 - 2 p.m.  
**Place:** Ramada Plaza Hotel  
**Cost:** \$15  
**Call:** Brenda Rembert at 431-8607

## February 4 First Friday

**Time:** 7:45 - 8:45 a.m.  
**Place:** Chamber Atrium  
**Cost:** \$2 for members, \$5 for potential members  
**Sponsored by:** ValueComm

## February 8 Morning Marketing Meeting

**Time:** 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.  
**Place:** Chamber McGowin Room  
**Cost:** \$5  
**Call:** Karen Turner at 431-8638  
**Sponsored by:** Professional Sales Consultants

## February 24 Business After Hours

**Time:** 5:30 - 7 p.m.  
**Place:** 851 S. Beltline Hwy. (Atrium of Union Planters Bank Bldg.)  
**Cost:** \$2 for members, \$5 for potential members  
**Sponsored by:** DIGIPH PCS

## January's Business After Hours

Start your new year on the right track by making new business contacts at the Chamber's Business After Hours on Thursday, Jan. 20 from 5:30 - 7 p.m. at the Gerald

Wallace Auditorium behind Springhill Memorial Hospital. This month the networking event is co-sponsored by Springhill Memorial Rehabilitation



Institute and Coastal Neurological Institute. The cost for members to attend is \$2 and

potential members are welcome to attend for \$5. Reservations are not needed.



## Export Tools Workshop

If you are looking to learn more about exporting goods and services, then you must attend the Chamber's half-day Export Tools Workshop on Thursday, Jan. 20 in the Chamber McGowin Room from 8:30 a.m. - Noon. Topics include: "Developing a Marketing Plan," presented by **Brian Davis** with Alabama International Trade Center; "Doing Business in Mexico," presented by **Dr. Stephen Morris** with the University of South Alabama; "Newly Revised Incoterms (trade terms)," presented by **Bobby Satter** with Page and Jones Inc.; and "Banking and Financial Terms," presented by **Glenn Sigler** with AmSouth Bank.

This interactive workshop is **FREE** of charge and open to all Chamber members. Call **Sara Graf** at 694-0702 for reservations.



SMALL BUSINESS NETWORK

## Net Gain: Stress Management for the New Millennium

Now that you've survived the Y2K transition, it's time to focus on ridding yourself of the stress of starting a new year. **Tom Kaczmarczyk**, a nationally certified hypnotherapist, will reveal the most effective techniques

available to reduce stress and improve your overall well-being on Tuesday, Jan. 25 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Chamber McGowin Room. Kaczmarczyk has been featured on *ESPN* and *Good Morning Gulf Coast* along with several local radio programs on his topic "Peak Performance and Stress Management." He will bring along a nutritionalist and a massage therapist to apply his relaxation techniques. The seminar is sponsored by **Telenet USA**.

The cost to attend this seminar is \$15 and includes lunch. Call **Brenda Rembert** at 431-8607 for reservations.



Tom Kaczmarczyk

## Net Gain: Venture Capital Forum

If you're interested in the venture capital process, where private investors fund local start-up companies, then you should attend this meeting of the Venture Capital Forum on Thursday, Jan. 27 from 12:30 - 2 p.m. at the Ramada Plaza Hotel. **Robert L. Foster**, president of Equix Advisory Corporation, an Austin, Texas venture capital company, will describe how an active group of companies in Austin have transformed the city into a high-tech center in the past 10 years.

The cost to attend this seminar is \$15 and includes lunch. Call **Brenda Rembert** at 431-8607 for reservations.

## Envision Progress Tracked At Annual Meeting

A transportation study pointing to citizen interest to extend public transportation into the County, an education initiative highlighting technical careers or a proposal to start a regional leadership program - find out about these and other projects being undertaken through the Envision Mobile-Baldwin regional strategic plan at the program's Annual Meeting on March 1.

The meeting will bring together business, government and organization leaders from the two counties to hear briefings on the progress made by Envision Action Teams in each of the six strategic areas: education, quality of life, infrastructure (transportation, utilities, housing, etc.), economic development, government and community leadership.

The meeting will also feature an update on the area's Progress Indicators - statistics collected on everything from the number of high school drop-outs to crime and infant mortality rates to environmental and economic development data. New statistics will be compared with those collected in 1998 so trends can be determined and progress measured.

Breakfast will be served during the meeting, which will be held at the new Daphne Civic Center. Daphne Mayor **Harry Brown** will serve as host. Sponsors for the event are Mobile Gas, Creanova, AllTel Communications, Prior Energy, Thames, Batre, Maite, Ison and Beville, and Saunders Engine.

Watch for additional details about the Envision Annual Meeting in next month's issue of *The View* or call **Angela Erwin** at 431-8621 for a reservation.

**ENVISION**  
MOBILE - BALDWIN

## ANNIVERSARIES

### 25 YEARS

Walk Haydel

### 15 YEARS

Business Communications Distributing  
First Baptist Church  
Griner Drilling Service  
Shoe Station Inc.

### 10 YEARS

Bon Appetit Caterer  
Chatham Home Planning Inc.  
Coastal Insulation of Alabama  
Commercial Realty Management  
Oliver H. Delchamps Jr.  
Fleamarket Mobile  
Grayson Air Conditioning Inc.  
Hackbarth Delivery Service Inc.  
Handyman's Railroad Salvage  
Sherman International Corporation  
Inchape Shipping Services  
RADM W. H. Stewart  
John M. Warren Inc.  
Whistler Machine Works Inc.

### 5 YEARS

ARI - The Copier People  
Comfort Inn  
Design Display Inc.  
Marine Rigging Inc.  
Mid-South Data Industries Inc.  
Ty Irby Realty & Development  
Southern Ionics Inc.  
Stewart Title Guaranty Co.

**ATTENTION MEMBERS!**

If you know of a company interested in benefitting from Chamber membership, please contact our account executives:

- Tom Lewis at 431-8629/pager: 582-2076
- Melody Lipscomb at 431-8627 pgr: 371-9634

**WHO'S NEW?**

Regions Bank announced several new appointments: **Daisy Jones**, Corporate Sales and Service; **Michele Manry**, **Michael Holland** and **Ernest Ladd**, Commercial Lending; and **Margaret Renfroe**, Professional Services to assistant vice presidents.

Newly appointed assistant vice presidents in the Trust Division are: **Mark Elliot** and **Connie McLean**, Personal Trust; **Craven Morrison**, **Robyn Myers** and **Lea Stokes**, Record Keeping; and **Lee Sledge**, Business Development. Assistant vice presidents in the Retail Division are: **Carolyn Simmons**, Main Office; **Charlie Willcox**, Tillman's Corner; **Nat Johnson**, Eight Mile; **Jo Shannon**, Crichton; and **Patsy Weed**, Hillcrest. Assistant vice presidents in the Administration Division are: **Cindy Spence**, **Renae Batson** and **Chris Thompson** in the General Services Department; and **Joan Knight** in the Branch Automation Division. **Kay Weiss** was named assistant vice president in the Sales and Marketing Division. New vice presidents in the Credit Division are **Mike Garner**, Special Assets and **Debbie Renfroe** from Loan Collections.

**Debra Carney** was promoted to branch manager at the Airport Office, and **Lois Osborne** was promoted to assistant branch manager of the Forest Hill Office.

**Ann McGehee** has joined **Union Planters Bank** as a mortgage loan originator at the Bel-Air office.

**Margie Parker** joined **Senior Citizens Services** as office manager. Most recently she was employed with **Mercy Medical**.

**AmSouth Bank** announced the following personnel changes: **Tony C. White**, assistant vice president and assistant manager at Tillman's Corner was promoted to branch manager of the Oak Plaza Office; **Thomas A. Johnson**, branch assistant at Ambassador Plaza was promoted to branch manager of the Fairhope Office; **Douglas E. Rehm** joined the Business Banking Department as assistant vice president and business banker; and **Amanda M. Brunson** joined the Commercial Lending Department as commercial banking officer and relationship manager.



**Rehm**

**Rich Beauchamp** joined **ERA Marie McConnell Realty** as sales manager. He comes from Northwest Florida and has an extensive marketing and property management background.

**Temploy Inc.** announced recently the addition of **John Sindo** as sales and marketing manager. Sindo was most recently with **Action Labor**.

**Douglas L. Anderson**, **John P. Kavanagh Jr.**, **W. Perry Hall** and **Gabrielle E. Reeves** joined the firm of **Pierce, Ledyard, Latta & Wasden PC**. Anderson, a former assistant district attorney for the state and most recently in private practice, will concentrate his practice in real estate and construction law. Kavanagh practices in the fields of admiralty, maritime law and general litigation. Hall primarily practices in the areas of employment, business defense, governmental liability and employee benefits. Reeves practices in the area of general litigation.

**Lyons, Pipes & Cook** hired **Angela A. Smith** as human resources manager. Previously she was with **Remedy Intelligent Staffing**.



**Jones**

**BellSouth** has hired **Christopher H. Jones** as an account executive for **BellSouth Business**. Previously he was with **Per-Se Technologies** in Atlanta.

**MEMBER NEWS**

**Jason D. Smith** has joined the firm of **Anders, Boyett & Brady PC**. The company has relocated to 3800 Airport Blvd., One Maison Bldg., Suite 203, Mobile, 36608.

**Carrie Cooper** has joined **Mobile Staffing Services** as customer service representative.



**Parks**

**Kathryn J. Parks** was recently appointed executive director of **Prime Health** and **Wanda Brettel** as the company's new chief operating officer. Parks has served in a variety of management positions since 1989, most recently as **Prime Health's** interim executive director. In the newly created position of COO, **Brettel** will oversee day-to-day operations. She has been with the company since 1990 and was the director of Third Party Administrative Services prior to the announcement.



**Brettel**

**NEED TO KNOW**

**Keep Mobile Beautiful** will now accept empty toner cartridges from laser printers, fax machines or photo copiers and six pack rings at the **Metro Mobile recycling Drop-off Center**. The center is located at 1451 Government St. and is open 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday-Saturday. Call 478-3333 for more information.

Until the new museum under construction is complete, the **Museum of Mobile** at 355 Government St. has closed its doors. Other city museum sites are open. The **Southern Market/Old City Hall** is scheduled to open late this year. For more information call 208-7569.

**Bishop State Community College** will help provide training for participants in a program that will provide on-site construction skills as a result of a \$300,000 Youthbuild Implementation Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**Lynn C. Doyle**, president and CEO of **Geotechnical Engineering Testing** was elected Chairman of the Board for the State of Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors recently. There are approximately 12,000 registered professional engineers and land surveyors in the state.

**Mobile Infirmary Medical Center** was named as one of the 1999 Consumer Choice Heart Care Service award winners by the National Research Corporation. This is the first time the organization included top hospitals for specialty care services. Winners were selected by results of a nationally syndicated healthcare study of more than 170,000 households in 48 states and the District of Columbia. Of the 2,500 hospitals rated by consumers, 124 received this distinction.

**Ted Musial**, **Sandy Frost** and **Sonja Fowler**, sales agents with **ERA Marie McConnell Real Estate**, recently completed the Career & Personal Management for the Residential Specialist course conducted by the Realtors National Marketing Institute.

The Mobile **BellSouth** District construction operation won the **BellSouth Quality Award**. Under the leadership of **Willie Washington**, the Mobile District earned the highest score to date in all nine states in the **BellSouth** region.

The **Mobile Museum of Art** received a Silver Award for its fundraising package, "Expanding the Horizons of Art – Education, Collection, Exhibition," in the Annual Southeastern Museums Conference Publication Design Competition. The materials were created by **Sullivan St. Clair Advertising/Public Relations**. The Museum also won a Silver Award for its web site, [www.MobileMuseumOfArt.com](http://www.MobileMuseumOfArt.com).

**BUSINESS ENDEAVORS**

**Sonnier's Fine Dining** is now open for dinner Tuesday – Thursday, 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. and on Friday and Saturday, 5 p.m. – 10 p.m. The restaurant is located at 2351 Airport Blvd., 473-6611.

**Mobile Staffing Services** is expanding to the Fairhope area in order to serve Baldwin County clients and job seekers. The new office will be located at 247 S. Greeno Rd. near Thomas Hospital. Call 433-8686 for more information.

**Patricia A. Wheat**, a licensed professional counselor, relocated her private practice and the offices of **EAP Lifestyle Management**, a company providing employee assistance programs, to 6343 Airport Blvd., Suite D3 in Mobile. Call 344-5863 or 1-800-788-2077 or e-mail [EAPLfsyl@aol.com](mailto:EAPLfsyl@aol.com) for further information.

**Manpower Inc.** introduced its new operating unit, **Manpower Professional**, to meet the growing need for career management and workforce solutions designed for high-end professional staff. The company provides professional staffing solutions in key disciplines. For more information, call 634-1129.

**FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

The **American Cancer Society** has set Saturday, Feb. 5 as the date for its annual Chili Cook-off. Tickets are \$10 and proceeds will fund a variety of services provided by the organization. For more information, call 344-9858.

The **Mobile Convention Center** will host the Saltwater Boat Show of the South by **Gulf Coast Shows** Feb. 17, 18, 19 & 20. Special events include a saltwater seminar series, Coast Guard Air/Sea Rescue, 4,000 gallon "Bass Tub" aquarium, Fishing Simulator and Jet-ski demonstrations. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 6 – 12 years, 5 and under are free. Call 478-7469.

Through April 30, the **Gulf Coast Exploreum** has a new exhibit, "Flight: Where Adventures Take Off." The new IMAX film, "Africa's Elephant Kingdom" will be there through April 5. For more information call 208-6870.

**WELL DONE!**

**Mayer Mitchell**, owner of **Mitchell Brothers** and former chairman and CEO of The Mitchell Company, was elected as a member of the **Alabama Power Board of Directors** recently.

**Thomas Hospital** won four awards from the Public Relations Council of Alabama including: a Medallion Award, the highest award presented, for its Open Heart Services campaign; two Awards of Excellence for a brochure describing services provided by The Harbor, the hospital's center for behavioral medicine, and for the Open Heart Campaign fundraising brochure; and a Certificate of Merit for the Women's Best program membership packet.

**Senior Citizens Services** elected its 1999-2000 board. Officers are: **Yvonne King**, president; **Dr. Roma Hanks**, vice president; **Dr. Harold Collins**, secretary; and **Jim Butler**, treasurer.

**Dr. H. Morgan Ashurst**, Internal Medicine Center at **Springhill Memorial Hospital**, was recently granted the **ASH Specialist in Clinical Hypertension** designation for a 10-year period by the American Society of Hypertension Specialists Program.

*Member News features Chamber member announcements, such as grand openings and relocations, or employee news, such as promotions. All Member News is due by the 5th of the month to appear in the following month's issue. If you have a news item, please send your information to: Member News, The VIEW, MACC, P.O. Box 2187, Mobile, AL 36652-2187, fax to 431-8646 or E-mail to [susan@mobcham.org](mailto:susan@mobcham.org)*



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