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Entrepreneurs of the Year Honored

The Chamber honored outstanding business and entrepreneurial excellence during the 19th annual Entrepreneurs of the Year awards program held May 1 at the Four Points Sheraton. The annual program is designed to spotlight achievements and contributions of area business owners and entrepreneurs to the area's economic vitality and progress.

Janet Moore of Jamison, Money, Farmer & Company, who served as the Chair of the 2007 Entrepreneurs Awards Committee of The Chamber, stated: "Tuscaloosa County is very blessed with exceptional business talent, and each of our honorees this year reflected leadership, high standards of excellence, and the entrepreneurial spirit."



as 2007 Pettus Randall

Awards were presented in four categories: Pettus Randall Entrepreneur of the Year; the Rising Star Award, designed to recognize new, young organizations; Advocate of the Year; and the Lifetime Achievement Award, given to honor long term business leadership and service to Tuscaloosa County and West Alabama.

The 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award honored **Larry Taylor, President & General Manager of Moundville Communications, Inc., Publisher of The Moundville Times, and owner of Miss Melissa's Café**; while the 2007 Advocate of the Year was presented to **Robert N. "Bob" Almon** of Almon & Associates.

Named



Entrepreneurs of the Year were: **Jeff McCool of Jeffco Concrete Contractors, Inc. ; Kevin Henderson of Century Carriers, Inc./SLH Enterprises, LLC; Wilson Moore of Prudential Pritchett-Moore Realty; James Bailey of Bailey's TaeKwonDo Plus; and David DeSantis and William Barkley of Tuscaloosa Toyota.**

The Rising Star awards were presented to: **Lois Kernop, 1 Stop Laundry; Howard Burke, Zaxby's; Dennis Brasfield, Tuscaloosa Plumbing; Toby & Amy Lancaster, Harvest of the Earth Plumbing; and Judson Thomas Two Men & A Truck.**



"We had wonderful participation in this year's program", according to Janet Moore. "The nominations represented a cross-section of area firms and individuals, and recipients certainly reflected the very essence of private enterprise. We are very proud of our honorees and congratulate each for their achievements."

Chamber President Johnnie Aycock also extended congratulations to the 2007 award winners and expressed appreciation to the volunteer-led committee. "Our volunteer task force worked hard and provided dedicated leadership to make this program successful. Their efforts mirror the award winners, all of which display a high level of business expertise, civic responsibility, and a commitment to build a healthy and prosperous community."

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Civic Hall of Fame Inducts 2007 Honorees

Six exceptional citizens were inducted as 2007 honorees of the Tuscaloosa County Civic Hall of Fame, sponsored and coordinated by The Chamber.

The 2007 inductees were: Dr. George H. Denny; Bessie Ford Booth; H. Pettus Randall, III; Ryan deGraffenried, Jr.; Claud A. Morrison; and Reverend E. J. James. The ceremony was held Thursday, April 26th at Noon at the Four Points Sheraton.



This was the 7th annual induction for the Civic Hall of Fame, which is designed to honor exceptional citizens who have made significant, long-term contributions to the overall development of Tuscaloosa County.

The Civic Hall of Fame was born during The Chamber's 100th anniversary year in 2000, and since its inception, 47 citizens have been honored to date. "The basic purpose of the Civic Hall of Fame," according to Jerry Belk, Chairman o

the Civic Hall of Fame Committee, "is to honor 'civic giants', men and women who have made broad, lasting contributions to the overall progress and quality of our community. Our 2007 inductees certainly meet this high standard and reflect the rich history and civic life of Tuscaloosa County."

The Civic Hall of Fame program was held at 12 Noon and included formal presentations about the 2007 honorees.

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Second Tuesday Networking Events

Capstone Village will host the next event tomorrow evening, May 8, from 5-7PM. We'll walk through the facility, mingle in the common areas and on the patio, and dine on hors d'oeuvres prepared by their chef. Two drink tickets per person will given out at the door and a cash bar will also be available. You may park at the recreation center or softball field across the way if the Capstone Village lot is full. See you there!



Our last networking event, on April 10, was well put together by Bill Lunsford Construction and The Tuscaloosa News. The Riverfront was a great location to meet and greet. We had a good turnout despite some bad weather. A large tent and covered gazebo sheltered us well.

The food was fabulous and included

seafood gumbo from New Orleans Bar and Grill, lamb gyros from Ken's Downtown Pizza and Grill, gazpacho from Epiphany and saucy wings from Johnny's Pub and Grub. Local guitar great Keith Williams and band played under the gazebo to a crowd also enjoying the aroma of coffee by Green Mountain Coffee Roasters and Keurig.



Don't miss our 2nd Tuesday Networking events and the opportunity to build on your business relationships as well as create new ones.



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Share in the Member to Member Discount Program

As you know, there are many benefits to being a part of The Chamber. A little known one we'd like to point out now is the Member to Member Discount Program.

You can get nice discounts on a wide range of products and services offered by others in our group such as medical care, cell phone service, marketing services, rental cars, room rentals and much more. We have good participation in the program already but we'd like to expand it to benefit our

members even more. *We'd ideally like to get participation across the board so please consider it!*

If you'd like to share in the Member to Member program, call Lowanda James at 391-0551 or email lowanda@tuscaloosachamber.com and we'll send you a simple form to fill out. [Click here](#) for a list of businesses already participating. These are found on our website, under the Members Information tab, on the left hand side of our homepage.

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Adopt-A-School Needs You

Have you ever wondered about involving your business as an adopter for a public school? This is the perfect time to find out more about that! Most schools have at least one partner. Several schools with only one adopter are in need of a co-adopter to work with their existing partner.

We need you! Why not consider taking an active role as an Adopt-A-School partner? The program is flexible. Each partnership develops its own goals and activities based on the resources of the adopter and the needs of the schools. The possibilities are unlimited!



Whether you prefer an elementary, middle or high school, there is a place for you. Call Loo Whitfield today at 391-0563 or email loo@tuscaloosachamber.com for more info. There's no obligation, nothing to lose, and it could be the beginning of a very rewarding experience for you and your business as well as providing much-needed assistance for a public school in Tuscaloosa!

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Women in Business Council Seeks Nominations

Nominations are still accepted for the first ever Women in Business Council Awards to be given at the annual conference on June 7. Categories include: Bright Future; Defining Woman of the Year; Achievement; Roots and Wings; and Trailblazer. A description of each award along with a nomination form is available online at www.tuscaloosachamber.com. The deadline for submission is May 11. Please nominate someone and encourage your coworkers to do the same! For even more info, contact Stacey Gann at 391-0559 or email stacey@tuscaloosachamber.com.

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Women's Division Membership Party a Success

The Women's Division of The Chamber held its annual Membership Party at the home of Roro Morrow (RoRo) on Apr 26. The ladies had a lovely time chatting and touring the beautiful home. Members brought delicious finger foods to go with wines provided by Spirits Wine Cellars. The Women's Division is headed by Deloris McMullen. It's fundraising projects support many community needs.



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Grand Opening Held for Ol' Colony Clubhouse

A Grand Opening for the new clubhouse at Ol' Colony was held on April 13. Several golfers, PARA Board members and city officials turned out for the celebration on this chilly spring morning. The first-class facility, which has actually been up and running since late December 2006, includes a diner, pro shop and meeting space.



PARA Director Don Kelley welcomed the crowd and introduced a group of kids involved in The First Tee Program, designed to introduce the game of golf to young people. The future golfers then helped to cut the ribbon.

Ol' Colony is considered one of the best public courses in the nation. Mayor Walt Maddox calls it a "quality of life project" that will bring us happy days.

To learn more visit www.tcpara.org.

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Keep Business Buzz Going

The Tuscaloosa News reminds you to announce promotions, awards and achievements in the newspaper's Business Buzz column, and that the Business Calendar is available to announce meetings, workshops, seminars and other events.

Both Business Buzz and Business Calendar run on Sundays inside the Business and Money section. The deadline for submissions is the preceding Wednesday at noon.

Mail submissions to The Tuscaloosa News, P.O. Box 20587, Tuscaloosa, AL,

35402-0587, or e-mail them to michael.james@tuscaloosaneews.com. Fax notices should be sent to 205-722-0187. Calendar events also can be submitted online at www.tuscaloosaneews.com. Photographs for Business Buzz can be mailed or e-mailed in jpeg format. Submissions may be edited for space or content.

For more information, contact Business Editor Michael James at 205-722-0205 or by e-mail at the address listed above.

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Alabama Credit Union and Newk's Partner to Benefit Habitat for Humanity

On A-Day, the Alabama Credit Union and Newk's had more in mind than football. Alabama Credit Union's Community Involvement Committee sold the parking spaces around its main office on Bryant Dr. and Newk's restaurant to many excited Tide fans. When ACU and Newk's heard the rumors of expected record crowds for A-Day, they decided to take advantage of their property's close proximity to the stadium and raise money for the Habitat for Humanity of Tuscaloosa. The opportunity proved to be a huge success when every parking space possible was occupied two hours before the game started. Over \$2,000 was collected and donated to Habitat for Humanity.

ACU has been a supporter of Habitat for Humanity for several years and was excited to learn that Newk's was willing to help in their efforts. Newk's added an extra incentive for those who chose to park in one of the ACU lots by offering a free entrée and drink to those who were willing to pay a premium price for their parking space.

ACU is proud to serve the employees, students, and alumni of The University of Alabama. Actually, persons who live, work, or attend school in Tuscaloosa County are also eligible to join. Its web address is www.alabamacu.com.

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Nucor United Community Park Groundbreaking Held

United Cerebral Palsy of West Alabama, Inc. (UCPWA) broke ground for their new fully accessible park on May 4. The Nucor United Community Park will be located next to the current offices of UCPWA at 1100 UCP Parkway, just off Rice Mine Road/5th Street, in Northport and will feature a rubberized surface and play equipment that will accommodate children of all abilities.



UCPWA named the park after Nucor to recognize their contribution to the community. The company gave a great deal to the project monetarily and is also working with its vendors to provide some of the building materials.

UCPWA Chairman David Kelly and Director Toni Franklin gave thanks to Nucor, Kiwanis, Alabama Power and the City of Northport for their support. A few of these key people then officially broke ground with a bit of help from some of the children involved in UCPWA.

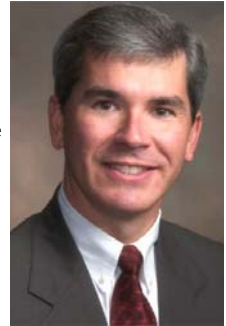
Brick pavers are being sold in two sizes to commemorate a special someone or event. Organizations, clubs, schools and individuals may take advantage of this opportunity to be recognized in the Legacy Walk. For more info, contact Toni Franklin at 345.3031 ext. 11 or visit www.ucpwa.org.

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Thanks Again for the Morrow Room Redo

Ellis Architects, Inc. is a full-service Architecture and Interior Design firm established in Tuscaloosa in 1991. They have a consistent reputation of high quality design, professional service and technical expertise. They make a real commitment to client satisfaction and make the whole process a fun one!

Mike Ellis recently donated his time and talents to the interior design of the Morrow Room. He really created a feeling of order there in a clean, contemporary way. The many groups that gather in the space certainly appreciate the atmosphere and functionality.



You may learn more about Ellis Architects and view featured works online at www.ellisarchitects.com. The office is located at 631 Helen Keller Blvd., Ste 300, in Tuscaloosa.

Any Length Construction Co. did the actual restructuring of some element in the Morrow Room space. Jay Parker is a general contractor that we highly recommend. He can be reached at (205) 361-5986.

Also, **Keller's Wallcovering Inc.** put a fine material on the walls chosen to compliment the room. Anson Keller does a beautiful job and can be reached at (205) 752-3320.

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Catfish One Holds Grand Opening

New member Catfish One held its Grand Opening on April 30. Owners Web and Wendy Evans and their two adorable daughters greeted a group gathered there and treated us all to lightly breaded and fried pickles, catfish, shrimp and chicken. A variety of sauces were offered including a tasty rémoulade. Note: Boiled shrimp are also on the menu!





The plush catfish mascot joined in the ribbon cutting ceremony and the fun atmosphere prompted City Councilman Bob Lundell and our Chamber Chairman Jim Harrison III to clown around even more than usual! See the accompanying photo of "the haircut" involving the big ribbon cutting scissors.

Catfish One is a franchise with over 45 locations in the Southeast, mostly in Mississippi. All others, including the one in Moundville, are drive-ins/walk-ups making the Tuscaloosa location the one and only dine-in restaurant. The Evans have worked really hard to make it sparkle. Stop by and treat yourself to some real southern fare today! The restaurant is located a

501 Hargrove Rd East, in the Markerplace shopping plaza.

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Happy 25th Anniversary, Quality Mazda



Quality Mazda is celebrating their 25th Anniversary! Shown are Verta Barr Meherg, Dealer Principal, and Don Exum, Mazda North America District Sales Manager, presenting Barr with a 25 year award. Quality has been recognized for the past 3 years as a Mazda Gold Cup Dealer, one of the most prestigious honors awarded by Mazda North America. Congrats on these achievements!

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We encourage you to share this edition of Perspectives with your friends and family, to spread the good news about what we do here at The Chamber. We invite you all to become involved!

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