

Leadership Tuscaloosa



The 22nd class of Leadership Tuscaloosa is about halfway through its 2004-2005 journey to learn more about their community and to further hone their leadership skills. The 44 members of the class are:

Row 1 (left to right): Mona Ochoa-Horshok, West Alabama AIDS Outreach; Lauren Carr, Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program; Lynne Morris, Habitat for Humanity; Emily Leiter, Hamner Real Estate; Lynn Shaw, AmSouth Bank; Shanna Hocking, University of Alabama; Pat Gregg, Easter Seals of West Alabama; Carole Johnson, Shelton State Community College; Nancy Newsom, Tree Farming; Michele Boyd, Junior League of Tuscaloosa; Angela Shotts, Tuscaloosa Family Resource Center Chip Shields, AFFLINK, Inc.

Row 2 (left to right): Misty Potter, North River Yacht Club; Debbie Anderson, Tuscaloosa City Schools; Brenda Rickett, Tuscaloosa County Schools; LaJuan Hutchinson, Mercedes-Benz Athletic Club, Sports First Inc.; Byron Waid, Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office; Randy Dixon, Tuscaloosa County Park and Recreation Authority; Michael A. Lavender, Boy Scouts of America; Barbara L. Rice, Alabama Power Company; Carolyn Tubbs, Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama; Karen Thompson, Temporary Emergency Services.

Row 3 (left to right): David Richardson, Steve Richardson & Co. PC; Susan Phillips, University of Alabama; Ryan deGraffenried III, Watson, deGraffenreid, Hardin & Tyra LLP; Barry Lawrence, Northport Medical Center; A. J. Martin, City of Tuscaloosa; Jon McGee, Ray, Oliver and Ward; Gregory J. Bentley, Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church; Byron Abston, Shelton State Community College, Allison Leitner, Tidwell DeWitt LLC.

Row 4 (left to right): Alan Harper, City of Northport; Omah C. Smith Jr., Westside Church of Christ; James L. Ashbaugh, Long Term Hospital of Tuscaloosa; Mike Whitten, Alabama Gas Corporation; James Leitner, Southland National Insurance Corp.; Andy Jones, Rosen, Cook, Sledge, Davis, Shattuck & Oldshue; Michael Spearing, University of Alabama System; Darran Boyd, Buffalo Rock Co.

Not Pictured: Steve Case, Jamison, Money, Farmer & Co. PC; George Franklin, Gulf States Paper Corp.; Shanna Milligan, Children's Hands-On Museum; Hayley Sansing, First Federal Bank; Trent Seibert, The Tuscaloosa News; Marilyn C. White, Tuscaloosa Housing Authority.



Member Profile

CMI Consulting To The Rescue

By Jodi Harrell

From fixing computers to designing web pages, CMI Consulting consists of three University of Alabama graduates who meet virtually any technical need a business might have

CMI develops internet software, computer programming and almost anything else that involves databases.

CMI Consulting's projects are only getting bigger. Chris Harms, one of the computer technicians for CMI, is optimistic about the future.

Some of their new ventures include a master and personal website for local realtors to list their properties, a dining and entertainment guide, and a comprehensive list of restaurants, which is available at towncritic.com.

Harms is aware that there is a lot of competition. However, he feels confident that CMI can handle that competition.

"The customer wants quality, they should demand it," Harms

said. "Someone may allow their nephew who knows computers to do something, but they might not get the full value or productivity that professionals have to offer."

CMI Consulting relies on The Chamber to keep them fresh on people's mind. In turn, The Chamber relies on CMI consulting to keep their website updated. CMI has provided search functions, databases, job postings and news headlines to the website.

CMI has done work for a variety of people. For instance, McGraw Hill, a large textbook company, uses CMI for their computer needs.

"Not many people can do what we do," Harms said. "Not only are we capable of solving certain technical problems, but we are also able to build systems from the ground up."



Chris Harms

Crime Stoppers: Helping to better serve our community

The Tuscaloosa Crime Stoppers program is placing signs around the county to promote usage of the program among citizens. Look for the signs at schools, parks and other locations where traffic is heavy.

The Chamber played a key role in the founding of Tuscaloosa's Crime Stoppers program in 1988. Since that time, tipsters have helped law enforcement agencies seize more than \$2.4 million worth of illegal drugs. The program has paid out nearly \$100,000 in rewards over the years.

Chamber members and their associates are urged to use the Crime Stoppers program for all it's worth.



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Welcome

Introduction to New Members

We want to welcome the following people and organizations into The Chamber. If you know these people and/or do business with them, take time to tell them you're glad they're a part of The Chamber Team.

Alice Wilson Photography & Digital Imaging, Inc.
Alice Wilson
4552 Wilshire Circle
Tuscaloosa, AL 35402
(205)556-7703

Credit Union Service Centers
Karen Leonard
630 15th Street
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401
(205) 345-655.
Credit Unions

George W. Harris, P.C.
Paula McLendon
1004 22nd Avenue
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401
(205) 349-2428
Attorneys

BEWARE Auto Repair Referral Service
Linda F. Anderson
708 23rd Ave. E.
Tuscaloosa, AL 35404
(205) 556-9711
Automobile Services – Body Shop Repairs

Curves
Gretchen Thomas
P.O. Box 71944
Tuscaloosa, AL 35407
(205)349-4555
Fitness Centers

Hopkins Consulting
Darrell W. Hopkins
12 Windsor Dr.
Tuscaloosa, AL 35404
(205) 554-1607
Consultants

Cate Communications, LLC
Douglas W. Cate
3610 Watermelon Rd., Ste. 105
Northport, AL 35473
(205) 247-4000
Telephone Answering Service/Voice Mail/Paging

Curves Gym for Women
Maxine Harris
80 McFarland Blvd., Ste. 1
Northport, AL 35476
(205) 344-9117
Fitness Center

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John D. Shirley
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Non-Profit Resource Center
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3324 Independence Dr., Ste. 100
Birmingham, AL 35209
(205) 879-4712
Non-Profit Organizations

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Adam Booth
5479 Skyland Blvd., E. Ste. 8
Cottondale, AL 35453
(205) 462-1010
Motorcycles & ATV's

The McComb Agency
Michael McComb
1811 Skyland Blvd. East
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405
(205) 556-3550
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West Alabama Hunting and Fishing Trail



Move over, golfers. Make way for the hunters and anglers.

A new and unique economic development effort, the West Alabama Hunting and Fishing Trail will also enhance the nation's awareness of the outdoor recreation possibilities in our area. And The Chamber is heavily involved. In fact, Donny Jones, vice president of technology and operations at The Chamber is serving as chairman of the Trail.

The Chamber, Alabama Power Company, the Tuscaloosa Convention and Visitors Bureau, and local business owners from around West Alabama are cooperating on the Trail project.

"We hope to improve the economic development of West Alabama by increasing the flow of hunters, fishers, and general tourists through the state," Jones said. "We'll do this through our website, www.westalabamahuntingandfishingtrail.com and through other promotional efforts."

Jones said that by having a presence on the internet, hunting and fishing preserves and facilities can increase the number of hunters and anglers who come from outside Alabama, especially from up North. "The more visitors we get, the more revenue and growth for the trail's members, the West Alabama area, and the state as a whole."

Members of trail, he said, include various hunting and fish-



ing outfitters, sporting goods retailers, taxidermists, bed and breakfast facilities, and wildlife viewing facilities.

The Trail's website also provides such information as a calendar of events, the latest hunting and fishing announcements, moon phase information, and recreation that's available in West Alabama. The cost of a membership to the Trail is only \$200 annually, Jones said.

Two area managers for Alabama Power are especially excited about the Trail. Bob Woods and Audrey Vaughn said the Trail "is a great way for our hunting and fishing facilities to promote their businesses throughout the state and nationally. We have already seen an increase in business for some Trail members.

"As the Trail continues to develop, we hope to hear more and more success stories from members whose businesses are growing because of the publicity achieved by the Trail."



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Executive Director

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