



Upcoming Events

- Feb 13
Chamber After Hour
Networking Event
- Feb 21
Franklin Covey Leadership
Seminar
- Feb 22
Board of Directors

(More Events)

Tuscaloosa Souvenirs



T-Town Cooler
\$5.00 Click to purchase

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Chamber Volunteers to present CHOICES Program in six schools

Again this school semester, Chamber volunteers will be going into 8th grade classrooms to present the CHOICES Program, which deals with making timely and wise educational-and life-decisions.



Loo Whitfield, Director of Educational Development and Adopt-A-School for The Chamber, recently taught some first-time volunteers about how to make an effective CHOICES presentation.

Among those, left to right, were Elizabeth Young of BF Goodrich, Alfred Ingram of BF Goodrich, and Charles Smith, Geological Survey of Alabama.

In February, volunteers will go to Tuscaloosa Middle School and Westlawn Middle School. In April, the CHOICES Program will be presented to 8th graders at Davis Emerson Middle School, Lloyd Wood Middle School, and Eastwood Middle School.

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Chamber Ambassadors growing in numbers and busy, busy, busy



Because of a plateful of basic and special programs and activities, The Chamber Ambassadors are adding to their roster and planning a large number of special activities.

Under the leadership of Angie

Askew of Morgan Keegan Company and a group of three Vice Chairs, the Ambassadors are planning 11 major after-hours events (one already held), two before-hours special networking events, and a block party. They're also organizing a special member contact program that will concentrate on members who've been part of The Chamber for five years or less.

All that, and the Ambassadors will continue to fill their role as the official hosts and hostesses at Chamber events, like training seminars and ribbon-cutting ceremonies.



Vice Chairs for 2007 are Lachelle Koon of Sheila's Gift Baskets & Gifts, Special External Events; Lynley Cooper, Community Volunteer, Internal Events (Ambassadors training, but also some external activities), and Jay Welborn of Piggly Wiggly Stores, Member Relations.

Here is the current roster of Ambassadors:

- **Angie Askew, Morgan Keegan Company, Chair**
- **Lachelle Koon of Sheila's Gift Baskets & Gifts, Vice Chair**
- **Lynley Cooper, Community Volunteer, Vice Chair**
- **Jay Welborn, Piggly Wiggly Stores, Vice Chair**
- **Mark Atkins, Nucor Steel Tuscaloosa**
- **Alicia Barrineau, Express Personnel Service**
- **Carla Bailey, Children's Hands-On Museum**
- **Katie Butler, Best Western Park Plaza**
- **Miranda Carlisle, College of Continuing Studies, University of Alabama**
- **Tyson Chism, Verizon Wireless**
- **Patricia Ezell, AFFLINK Corp.**
- **Ella Hood, Country Inn and Suites**
- **Jonathan Hood, Bank of Tuscaloosa**
- **Brad Johnson, Warren Tire & Auto Center**
- **Lance Johnson, Regions Bank**
- **Ginger Johnston, Southern LINC**
- **Skye Kent, WAR Construction**
- **Candy Lowery, Bryant Bank**
- **Ola Mayowa, AFFLINK Corp.**
- **Jennifer Maricle, Verizon Wireless**
- **Jenny Marlowe, First National Bank of Central Alabama**
- **Shannon McBride, Tuscaloosa Assn. of Realtors**
- **Michael McComb, Allstate Insurance**
- **Derek Reeves, Don Wallace CPA**
- **Stephaine Royster, Melody & Company Realty Professional**
- **Julie Smitherman, Coca Cola Enterprises**
- **Kendrick Speight, Wachovia Bank**
- **Jon Stephenson, Shelton State Community College**
- **Raeanna Thomas, Hamner Real Estate**
- **Karen Thompson, Temporary Emergency Services**
- **Donna Vining, First Financial Bank**
- **Jason Ward, Alabama Central Credit Union**

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Chamber brings an exciting opportunity for leaders

Manager, Owners, and Leaders.... We would like to invite you to a special leadership development session on February 21 from 9 a.m. until 12 noon at The Chamber of Commerce. The title of this exclusive session is called: "Leadership: Great Leaders, Great Teams, Great Results." The session will be lead by one of Franklin Covey's top consultants.

A key difference between this new leadership offering and programs of the past is Franklin Covey's unique ability to bring some of the best thought leadership in the world into a cohesive framework.



If you are interested in learning about the same leadership techniques that have launched many firms into the Fortune 500 ranks, then this session is one you will not want to miss. Seating is limited to 25 manager and owners, so please call today.

For only \$39.99, participants will get a clear understanding of how they can lead their team to support immediate customer needs, connect to the broader strategy of the organization, and drive the organization's money-making model.

To register, call The Chamber at 758-7588.

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Councilman Bob Lundell cuts ribbon for a different kind of store

Tuscaloosa City Councilman Bob Lundell and Chamber Chairman Jim Harrison III joined others for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open The Sell It Store on January 26.

Chamber Ambassadors Candy Lowery of Bryant Bank, Alicia Barrineau of Express Personnel Service, and Karen Thompson of Temporary Emergency Services helped at the event.



Mike Blakely and Angela Parrish represented the company; Parrish is the onsite manager.

The Sell It Store is an addition to Premier Self Storage at 6130 Old Greensboro Road. The store sells items on e-bay for customers and charges the customers a commission once the item(s) is sold on e-bay. If the item doesn't sell, the customer can pick it up within 10 days of the close of the on-line auction, rent space and store it at Premier or authorize

Premier to donate it to a charity of your choice.

The store's telephone number is 366-2277.

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DCH gets funding for breast health screening outreach



The DCH Cancer Treatment Center in Tuscaloosa has received a community grant extension to support breast health screenings in West Alabama.

Attendees at the screenings will receive education about how to do a breast self-exam, a clinical breast exam from a health-care professional, and a coupon for a free digital mammogram.

A screening was held January 9, and other screenings are scheduled for March 6, May 7, July 2, September 10, and November 5. A special program for Latina women is set for October 1.

All the screenings will be held at the DCH Cancer Treatment Center.

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Shelton State programs grab honors in national competition

Two Shelton State Community College programs recently were recognized in a national competition coordinated by the National Council of Instructional Administrators (NCIA).

In the organization's 2006 Exemplary Initiatives Competition, Shelton's "Bach to Rock" program was selected as one of two winners in the Responding to Community Needs category. The program was founded by voice instructor Glinda Blackshear in response to a lack of funding for fine arts in the curricula of Alabama's public schools. In partnership with the Tuscaloosa Arts Council, the program introduces elementary school students to various styles of music not normally part of their experience. Helping with the effort are energetic college students who relate well with the youngsters and help them recognize all kinds of music as "cool."

Awarded an Honorable Mention award in the Workforce Development category was Shelton State's pilot program, "Exploring Technology." Technical instructors Jason Moore, James Logan, Kenneth Blackwell, Brett Butler, Lee Tucker, and Ronnie Guy worked with 60 area high school students, giving them an intensive, two-week exposure to technical areas. The students received a hands-on introduction to diverse career possibilities and helped them understand the educational opportunities available to them.

"The recognition of these two programs proves once again the world-class talent and vision of our faculty, as well as their dedication to serving all the students of this area," said Camille Cochrane, Dean of Instruction.

Speaking of growth, Shelton State's rate of growth has moved the college into No. 22 among community colleges in the United States. From the

fall of 2004 to the fall of 2005, the college's enrollment grew by 5.7%--to 5,774 students.

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Bryant Bank plans grand opening event on Thursday, March 1

Bryant Bank, its president, Claude Edwards, and the rest of the staff at the bank are planning a grand opening event on Thursday, March 1.

Chamber members and their associates are invited to drop by the bank, located at 1550 McFarland Blvd. North, any time between 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

The Chamber Ambassadors will assist in the event; they are working with Candy Lowery of Bryant Bank, who just happens to be an Ambassador, also.

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Creative Campus initiative newsletter available on-line

Now available from the Creative Campus Initiative, on line, is the first issue of "Crimson Arts Flash," the organization's newsletter.

The newsletter can be accessed at the Creative Campus home page, www.creativecampus.ua.edu. The publication will contain information on an array of creative activities happening on the UA Campus and in the West Alabama community. The contact is Alexis Clark, 348-6933 or email at aclark@aalan.ua.edu.

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Bama Fanfare continues Feb. 26-27 with "If you give a mouse..."

The Arts and Humanities Council of Tuscaloosa County will present the third production in its 2006-2007 Bama Fanfare educational series February 26-27 with the Theatreworks USA production of "If You Give A Mouse A Cookie & Other Story Books."

Performances will take place at the Bama Theatre and show times are 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. The show lasts about one hour and is suitable for grades pre-K through 4. Tickets are \$4.50 and are available by calling Sandra Wolfe, Arts Council Director of Education, at 758-4994, extension 4.

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Coward, University grad, joins Jamison, Money, Farmer & Co.

Kristen N. Coward, CPA, has joined Jamison, Money, Farmer & Co., P. C. as a fulltime staff accountant in the tax and accounting department. She was previously employed by Deloitte & Touche LLP in Birmingham, after graduating magna cum laude with her Master's in Accountancy from the University of Alabama.

While at the University, Coward was involved in the Student Government Association. She is a native of Mobile.

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Theatre Tuscaloosa's 'Amadeus' opens Feb. 23 at Bean-Brown

Theatre Tuscaloosa's production of "Amadeus" opens Feb. 23 in the Bean-Brown Theatre at Shelton State Community



College.

The show begins at 7:30 p.m. Additional performances at 7:30 p.m. are on Feb. 24, and March 1-3. There will be 2 p.m. matinees on Feb. 25, Feb. 28, and March 4.

Ticket prices are \$17 for adults, \$14 for senior adults, \$10 for students and children. Shelton State students can attend for \$5 with their ID's.

To purchase tickets, call the Theatre Tuscaloosa box office at 391-2277.

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Scale Back Alabama is designed to reduce obesity levels in Alabama

Chamber members are invited to participate in "Scale Back Alabama" in 2007. This is an eight-week weight loss program and could help businesses increase worker productivity, lower health care utilization, and increase the overall job satisfaction level of employees.

DCH Health System is heavily involved in the project. So are the Alabama Hospital Association and the Alabama Department of Public Health.

The Scale Back Alabama campaign timeline and complete materials can be downloaded at www.scalebackalabama.com. Business members who are interested in the program can email William Whatley at wwhatley@alaha.org.

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Chamber, Habitat for Humanity cut ribbon on home for Ajoloko family



A ribbon was cut for the Ajoloko family in December and an open house was held at their home in late January.

The Habitat for Humanity home for the family in Tuscaloosa's eastern area was officially dedicated on December 21, and representatives from a number of church sponsors and others attended the event.

So did Randy Skagen, a member of The Chamber's Board of Directors, and Chamber Ambassadors Lynley Cooper, community volunteer, and Ola Mayowa, AFFLINK Corp. Robert Smith of AmSouth Bank, chair of Habitat's Board of Directors, spoke at the ceremony.

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