



Chamber
Perspectives

Second Quarter, 2002

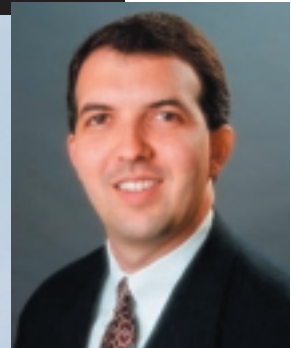
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**Blake A. Madison and David E. Rains
have become Members of the Firm effective January 1, 2002**

Blake A. Madison will continue to provide legal counsel and assistance to businesses in the areas of corporate and commercial law, health care law, industrial development and industrial development bonds, state and local taxation, corporate taxation, and tax litigation. Blake can be reached at 205/633-0246, Fax 205/633-0346, and bmadison@tannerguin.com.



David E. Rains will continue to provide legal counsel and assistance to businesses in the areas of business and civil litigation; workplace law; employment litigation; construction law and litigation; environmental law; libel, slander, and defamation defense; class action defense; alternative dispute resolution; and tax litigation. David also serves as an Adjunct Professor in Trial Advocacy at The University of Alabama School of Law. David can be reached at 205/633-0236, Fax 205/633-0336, and drains@tannerguin.com.



Nick Y. Shimoda has joined the Firm effective March 1, 2002

Nick Y. Shimoda has an LL.M. in Taxation from The University of Alabama School of Law and will practice in the areas of wealth and estate planning and probate, business succession planning, charitable giving, partnership law and limited liability company law. Nick can be reached at 205/633-0257, Fax 205/633-0357, and nshimoda@tannerguin.com.



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Chamber Perspectives

Second Quarter, 2002



The Bama Belle is a reflection of progress on the riverfront.

Chamber Perspectives

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The Chamber of Commerce
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Mission of The Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama

The mission of The Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama is to provide the vision, leadership and catalyst for the advancement of the economic prosperity, business climate and quality of life for the total community.



Tuscaloosa County
CIVIC HALL OF FAME

Inducts Seven New Members

Seven exceptional citizens were honored on Tuesday night, April 9th by being inducted into the Tuscaloosa County Civic Hall of Fame during ceremonies at the Bryant Center.

Sponsored by The Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, this was the second annual induction ceremony for the new Civic Hall of Fame, designed to honor citizens who have made long-term, significant contributions to the development of Tuscaloosa County. Fifteen citizens were inducted during the inaugural program last year.

Honored as members of the second year class included: Mildred Westervelt Warner; J. Oviatt Bowers; Cordell Wynn; Leroy McAbee; James Buford Boone, Jr.; Mary Ann Phelps; and James I. Harrison, Jr.



Born in 1893, **Mildred Westervelt Warner**, led Gulf States Paper Corporation over twenty

years, becoming the only woman CEO of an integrated paper company. During her successful business career, Mrs. Warner was a pioneer in the paper industry, forestry conservation practices, and corporate game management. After her retirement in 1957, Mrs. Warner devoted much of her energy to philanthropy, churches, libraries, educational institutions, and historic preservation. Mrs. Warner died in 1974 at the age of 80.



Born in Tuscaloosa in 1901, **J. Oviatt Bowers** was tireless business, civic and church leader for a long period of time after World War II and until his death in 1966. A successful small business man, Mr. Bowers was the founder and owner of J. Oviatt Bowers Hardware. Mr. Bowers had a lasting and profound impact on a multitude of community initiatives including creation of River Road (now Jack Warner Parkway); parks and recreation, with Bowers Park named in his honor; First Christian Church; the chapel at Druid City Hospital; and a host

of other organizations that he provided leadership for, including the YMCA, the Tuscaloosa Chamber of Commerce, and Tuscaloosa Community Chest, now known at United Way.



Born in Eatonton, Georgia in 1927, **Cordell Wynn** moved to Tuscaloosa in 1982 to assume the Presidency of Stillman College. Dr. Wynn's leadership had a significant impact on the minds and hearts of thousands of young people and is credited for Stillman's growth and outreach as one of the nation's premier private colleges.

He also was honored for his outreach to the entire Tuscaloosa County community and the State of Alabama. He served as a Trustee of The University of Alabama; was the first African American to serve as Chairman of The Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama; served as a member and

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Chairman of the Ethics Commission of the State of Alabama; served as Chairman of the Tuscaloosa Housing Authority; was the first African American to be honored as Tuscaloosa County Citizen of the Year; and served in a variety of other key leadership roles.



Leroy McAbee was born in Centre, Alabama in 1931 and grew up in the Sand Mountain area of Alabama.

A graduate of The University of Alabama, he founded McAbee Construction Company in 1962 and has led the growth of the company to one of the largest industrial contractors in the Southeast. An exceptional business leader, Mr. McAbee has been credited with fostering good working relationships between labor and management as well as leadership in the successful economic development initiatives for the community.

Mr. McAbee has been a long-time active leader in the development of recreation and parks through PARA, riverfront development, the arts, Boy Scouts and a host of other civic and service initiatives. PARA honored him through naming one of the new community centers in his honor; and the Black Warrior Council of the Boys Scouts named their Service Center in his honor. He is a past recipient of the Tuscaloosa Citizen of the Year as well as the Liberty Bell Award from the Tuscaloosa Bar Association.



Born in Tuscaloosa in 1935, James Buford Boone, Jr. has ranked in the top of Tuscaloosa County's most highly effective leaders of the past thirty years, serving in most of the major civic leadership roles. A highly respected newspaper publisher, Mr. Boone returned to Tuscaloosa as Publisher of The Tuscaloosa News in 1968; and in the

(See "Civic" next page)

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("Civic" continued from previous page)

early 1980s, began acquiring newspapers throughout the United States. He is Chairman of Boone Newspapers, which owns and manages newspapers in several states throughout the nation.

Dedicated to the community, Mr. Boone has served in key leadership roles over the past thirty years with a diverse list of organizations including PARA, DCH Foundation, Greater Tuscaloosa Chamber of Commerce, Boys Scouts, YMCA and others. He has been actively involved with The University of Alabama, serving in several key roles, and is a recipient of the prestigious Tutwiler Award and an honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree.



Mary Ann Phelps was born in Birmingham, but has lived in Tuscaloosa since 1956. Married to attorney, Sam Phelps, Ms. Phelps is the model and consummate civic volunteer, serving in a variety of community leadership roles. With an impact on a diverse list of civic initiatives, Ms. Phelps has been a long-time leader of PARA and active advocate of parks and recreation development, with one of PARA's new community centers bearing her name.

Ms. Phelps has made significant contributions over the years to Tuscaloosa's riverfront development, the Boys Scouts, Junior League, The Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama; Tombigbee Council of the Girl Scouts; DCH Foundation; United Way; and a host of other community and charitable causes. Her legacy of volun-

teerism has been honored on many occasions including Tuscaloosa County Citizen of the Year; Tuscaloosa Firefighters Good Samaritan Award; and United Way Volunteer of the Year.



James I. Harrison, Jr., one of Tuscaloosa's most outstanding entrepreneurs, was born in Tuscaloosa in 1932. A graduate in pharmacy from Howard College (now Samford University), Mr. Harrison began his career with his father at the family's drug store, Central Drug in Downtown Tuscaloosa. In 1967, Jimmy Harrison founded Harco Drug and that began the growth and expansion of one of Alabama's America's most remarkable retail operations, resulting in 153 drug stores across the Southeastern United States.

A remarkable business leader. Mr. Harrison served as Chairman of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores and earned the honor as Outstanding Small Drug Chain in America as well as Retailer of the Decade by the Chain Drug Review in 1990. He applied his business skills to a vast number of civic and community initiatives as well including: development of Holy Spirit Church and School; Success By Six educational

program for at-risk children; the Alexis de Tocqueville Society, serving as the first President; University of Alabama; and a multitude of other leadership roles. Mr. Harrison has been honored on many occasion including induction into Alabama's Business Hall of Fame and the Alabama Health Hall of Fame.

"The purpose of the Tuscaloosa County Civic Hall of Fame", according to **Jerry Belk**, 2002 Chairman of the Civic Hall of Fame Planning Committee, "is to honor citizens who have made broad and lasting contributions to the overall progress and quality of our community; and who, by giving of themselves, have contributed to the development of the community we enjoy today."

"By recognizing individual citizens for their excellence and community service", stated Belk, "it is our hope and desire that the Civic Hall of Fame will stimulate an interest in and appreciation of the value of our community's history and heritage while fostering increased civic involvement."

The volunteer planning committee for the 2002 Civic Hall of Fame included: **Jerry Belk, Chairman; Mason Bonner; Josephine Dantzler; Dick Johnson; Farley Poellnitz; Joe Mallisham; Ben Windham; Alan Wood; Pam Penick; Mark Sullivan; Angela Fulmer; Stephen Snow; Phil Maughan; Tommy Todd; Barbara Burgess; Kim Ingram; Johnnie Aycock; and Melissa Wesley.**

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Groundbreaking Held For Tuscaloosa's RiverWalk

After several years of planning and work by public and private sector leaders, ground was broken on April 1st for the first phase of the Tuscaloosa RiverWalk along the banks of the beautiful Black Warrior River. The 3,200 foot riverwalk section is expected to take about 150 days to complete at a cost of approximately \$600,000.00, funded by federal and state grants along with matching funds from the City of Tuscaloosa.

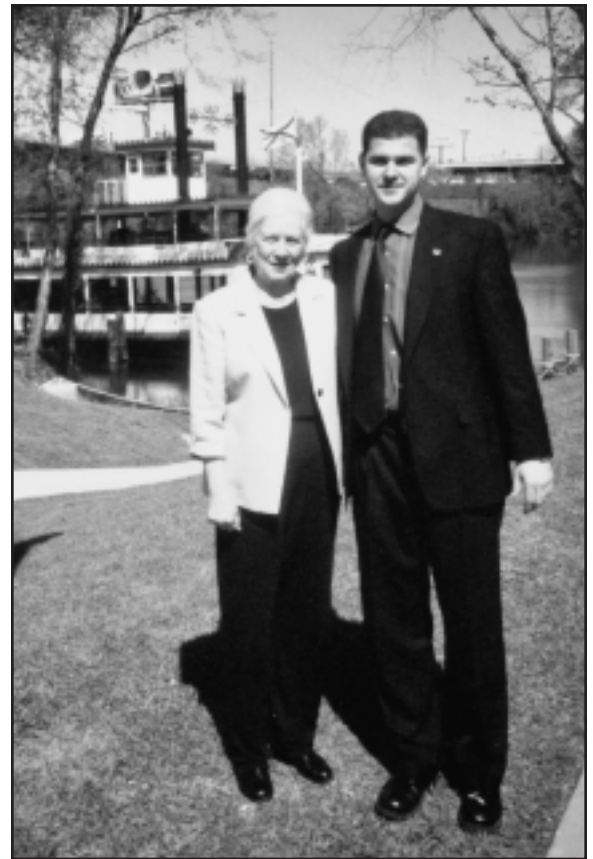
Led by the Tuscaloosa Riverfront Committee, appointed by the Mayor and City Council, and Chaired by **Mary Ann Phelps**, efforts have been underway for about eight years to design, define, and direct a balanced approach to development of Tuscaloosa's riverfront, which will include park, recreation and leisure areas for citizens and visitors, and eventually, commercial development opportunities.

The first phase will include a 12 foot wide "shared use" asphalt pathway for walking and jogging as well as bicycling. The riverwalk will be landscaped and lighted and will include a variety of other amenities such as park benches, barbeque grills,

bike racks, a gazebo and observation areas. Plans are also already underway for the second phase as well as the design of comprehensive riverfront master plan, that will cover over 13 miles along both sides of the Black Warrior River.

Mary Ann Phelps, Chairman of the Riverfront Committee, said, "this is an exciting time for our community as we see this public-private partnership effort to enhance the riverfront becoming a reality. There has been much work by many dedicated citizens over the past several years; and the RiverWalk is a testimony to a cooperative spirit and the determined efforts by our Mayor and City Council, The Chamber, property owners and business leaders."

Downtown business leader, **Gene Poole** emphasized, "With The Tuscaloosa News building under construction on the west end of Warner Parkway and the potential for new office centers in the central business district, an excellent framework is in place for the overall riverfront project. The new RiverWalk will



Mary Ann Phelps and Councilman Lee Garrison have led the Riverfront Committee's successful efforts.

contribute to an accelerated improvement effort along the Black Warrior River as well as for Downtown Tuscaloosa."

"The Chamber has been pleased to play a partnership role with the City of Tuscaloosa and the Riverfront Committee to support an aggressive effort to enhance the riverfront as well as the central business district", said Chamber President **Johnnie Aycock**. "This is indeed a time for common goals and uncommon opportunities for the community and the first phase of the new Riverwalk reflects a determined spirit that is growing. This first phase is only the beginning."

Entrepreneurs of the Year Honored



Pettus Randall honored with Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama honored outstanding business leadership and success during the 14th annual Entrepreneurs of the Year awards luncheon at the Four Points Sheraton on May 9th. Formerly known as the Small Business Persons of the Year, the program is designed to spotlight the achievements and contributions of area businesses and entrepreneurs.

Bill Tate of DeWitt & Dyer, who served as Chair of the Entrepreneurs Awards Committee of The Chamber, emphasized that "Tuscaloosa County is very blessed with exceptional business talent. Every nominee reflected quality, leadership, high standards of excellence, and the entrepreneurial spirit of our community. "

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

The 2002 Lifetime Achievement Award honored **Pettus Randall, III**, Chairman of the Board of Randall Publishing Company. Founded in 1934 by his father, Pettus assumed the role of CEO in 1975 of Randall Publishing. Under his leadership, Randall Publishing has grown into one of the nation's premier publishing enterprises with over \$70 million in annual sales.

A highly creative and diversified organization, Randall has branched out in many areas and among the affiliated companies include: Who's Who Among Students In American Universities and Colleges; The Trucking Media Group; Construction Media Group; Northbrook Publishing; Equipment Data Associates; Randall Trade Shows & Special Events; and the Award Company of America.

Pettus Randall is one of Tuscaloosa's most prominent and involved entrepreneurs, and has provided leadership over the years in a broad array of organizations, fostering positive community relations and civic responsi-

bility. He has been an active leader with Christ Episcopal Church, The Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, Tuscaloosa Boys and Girls Clubs, the Tuscaloosa Association of Retarded Citizens, March of Dimes, Tuscaloosa Veterans Memorial Commission, United Way, the Alexis de Tocqueville Society, and a host of educational initiatives at all levels. He was recently honored as the 2002 Tuscaloosa County Citizen of the Year.

Named as Entrepreneurs of the Year were: **Gary Phillips**, Premier Service Company; **Roger Taylor** and **Curtis Hall**, Hall-Taylor Construction Company; **Leon Kemp**, Northwest Supply Company; **Spencer Burchfield**, Greene Beverage Company; and **Judy and Lee Ann Livingston**, United Roofing Manufacturing Company.

The Rising Star Award was presented to: **Captain Mike Medeiros**, Tuscaloosa Riverboat Company; **Cliff Dorsey**, Tuscaloosa Charter Service; **Vance Rose**, Swim Kids; **Jennifer Hamner** and **Paulette Campbell**, Bow Regards; and **Jeff Gilbert** and **Mark Simpson**, Gilco Contracting.

The 2002 Advocate of the Year honor went to **Ken DeWitt** and **Ray Dyer** of DeWitt & Dyer, a local CPA firm recognized for their consistent advocacy and

(See "Entrepreneur" page 8)

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