

-- CHAIRMAN'S NOTE --

REFLECTING OVER THE PAST YEAR

December is the season to be thankful and giving. In reflecting upon the past year, we have achieved so much. I would like to thank all of you for your contributions and hard work put into the Madison County Business League.

As we wrap up the end of the year and look at all we have accomplished in uniting businesses and elected officials to promote economic development for our county. It gives me such pleasure to serve on the board of such a progressive league for businesses in Madison County.

As you will see in the newsletter, the committees have all been very active in working to promote their areas of entrepreneurship, government relations, membership, education, healthcare & wellness.

Thank you again for your continued support of the Madison County Business League. I hope everyone takes this season and well-deserved break to celebrate past traditions and welcome new ones.

Cheers to another great year and I wish all safe and happy holidays.

Sarah Lofton
Chairman, Madison County Business League



SARAH LOFTON
MCBL CHAIRMAN

-- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTE --

*Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays
to each of you and your staff!
And, have a Prosperous and a Happy New Year! - Jan*

The Madison County Business League has a lot to be thankful for in 2011. We have grown and hosted many exciting, informative and memorable events of all kinds – something for everyone! As we plan for the 2012 spring meetings, it has become clear that we still have many topics to address as we strive to enhance the quality of life for the individuals and businesses of Madison County. After all, isn't that what we are living/working for? Better jobs, homes, schools, infrastructure, technology, recreational and cultural opportunities. In other words, the very best life has to offer!

PLANNED SPRING 2012 EVENTS: (OTHER EVENTS WILL BE ADDED AS THEY PRESENT THEMSELVES)

JAN 18, 2012

"LEAGUE & LEGISLATURE" COFFEE
8:00 TO 9:00 AM
MS STATE CAPITOL

JAN 31 - FEB 1, 2012

WASHINGTON, DC RECEPTION WITH MS
DELEGATION/STAFFERS 6:00 - 7:30 PM
(ET) US CAPITOL "MIKE MANSFIELD"
SENATE ROOM 207

FEBRUARY 15, 2012

"LEAGUE & LEGISLATURE" COFFEE 8:00
- 9:00 AM - MS STATE CAPITOL

FEBRUARY 23, 2012

"SALUTE TO OUR CREATIVE ECONOMY"
RECEPTION 5:00 - 7:00 PM (LOCATION
TBA)

MARCH 21, 2012

"LEAGUE & LEGISLATURE" LUNCHEON
11:30 TO 1:00 PM MS STATE CAPITOL

MARCH 2012

MADISON COUNTY YOUTH LEADERSHIP
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DAY
(DATE TBA)

APRIL 2012

EXCELLENCE IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP II
(TBA)

SPRING 2012 FORUM

MAY 2012 (TBA)

The joint MCEDA/MCBL committees have become very active hosting some of their own small events. If you haven't gotten involved with one of our committees, now is the time!

Thanks for your continued participation, support and enthusiasm as we work together for the betterment of Madison County.

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-- MEMBER SPOTLIGHT --

ST. ANDREW'S OPENS NEW SCIENCE CENTER, AND ART, MUSIC AND BAND STUDIO



St. Andrew's Episcopal School opened the new McRae Science Center as well as the Faulkner Studios for Art and Music on the school's North Campus in Ridgeland.

The McRae Science Center is the centerpiece of St. Andrew's \$6.3 million capital campaign, The Campaign for Science and Art. Designed by Dean & Dean/Associates Architects PA, this state-of-the-art, 31,000 square foot facility includes six well-equipped biology, chemistry, and physics classrooms/labs; three Upper School math classrooms; a 108-seat lecture hall; staging areas for long-term research projects; and gathering areas in which students and faculty can hold brainstorming sessions.

The eco-friendly building incorporates sustainable materials, energy-efficient features, a recycling center, and a greenhouse, and will serve as a real-world lesson in green design and, function. Expansive interior spaces are characterized by clean lines and filled with natural light.

Finishing touches include a striking water feature that incorporates a powerful glass etching of da Vinci's Vitruvian Man and a Foucault's pendulum that continuously demonstrates the rotation of the earth (the pendulum is similar to the one found in the Smithsonian, and one of only 9 such likenesses worldwide).

Expanded facilities also create an opportunity to hire additional teachers and expand the science curriculum itself. In addition to AP chemistry, biochemistry, organic chemistry, and advanced robotics, long-term plans call for courses in nanoscience, climate science, aquatic biology,

marine biology, engineering, and biotechnology. More teachers will allow the faculty more time to mentor students interested in independent research or in participating in prestigious science competitions nationwide. The end result will be a science program that allows students to discover aptitudes and skills they might otherwise have never known they possessed.

The Faulkner Studios for Art and Music allow for expansion of the visual and musical arts programs. New courses are offered, including more classes in traditional painting, drawing, and sculpture, as well as classes in ceramics, photography, and newer artistic fields like digital media and graphic design. Open studio space enables serious art students or faculty members to work on long-term projects in various media. Additional space and new classes allows students to take the courses most appropriate for them; each child has the opportunity to explore his or her unique artistic abilities. The band hall has been completely refurbished and there is now additional breakout space for ensemble and solo practice in choir and band.

The arts are an integral part of a well-rounded education. The re-imagined space is a creative setting that inspires both casual students and serious artists, and offers new opportunities for artistic expression on the St. Andrew's campus.

St. Andrew's Episcopal School is a coeducational, college preparatory day school serving 1200 students on two campuses in Jackson and Ridgeland.

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-- GUEST COLUMN --

MADCAAP ASSISTS THOSE IN NEED

I work for a non-profit called MadCAAP (Madison Countians Allied Against Poverty). Over the last 25 years MadCAAP has served thousands of families living in poverty in Madison County by assisting them with the basic needs of clothing, food, safe housing and education. MadCAAP currently serves over 3000 families who personally face the issues of poverty on a daily basis; however, if one is not personally affected by poverty, it is easy to overlook the issue of poverty.

Allow me to tell you a short story. In Madison County a man and his son were fishing at the reservoir, when they encountered another man fishing in the same area. Once these two engaged in conversation it became apparent that the man and his son would NOT eat that evening unless they caught fish. This generous fisherman provided a meal for the man and his son, told them about MadCAAP's food assistance program and offered to take them to the center the following day. At MadCAAP, this father and son were given box of groceries which contained several "2 for \$1.00" boxes of macaroni and cheese, a last minute addition. Observing the box of food, the older gentleman, his eyes brimming with tears, said, "Look son, tonight we'll have macaroni and cheese for dinner!" I ask you...how often does your gratitude for a meal actually bring tears to your eyes?

As the holidays quickly come and go, we ask that you continue to remember the poor every day throughout the year. MadCAAP provides a box of groceries to 80 families per week regardless of the season. It is almost incomprehensible to those living in the more affluent areas of Madison County to understand that there are thousands of hungry children living in our county. Working in the non-profit industry, particularly those serving the poor, we are keenly aware of the fact that the capacity of the non-profit to serve is nowhere near the demands of the poor for its services.

Today we need families, churches, businesses and individuals to adopt children for the holiday; but we will continue to need these same groups to provide food for the hungry, to assist with providing safe housing for those without heat or air, and thus to make a difference in the community in which they live. To learn more about MadCAAP, please visit our website at www.mad-caap.org



KAREN ROBISON

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY MADISON COUNTY SUPES

The Board of Supervisors adopted a Resolution of Coordination and Cooperation in Matters of Business and Economic Development in Madison County on November 21, 2011. This resolution calls for coordination and cooperation among the Madison County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA), the Madison County

Business League (MCBL), the Madison County Foundation (MCF), all Chambers of Commerce in Madison County, and the municipalities in Madison County, for the continued prosperity and success of our county, particularly in light of the current economic climate in our state and nation.

THE COMPLETE RESOLUTION CAN BE VIEWED ON OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.MADISONCOUNTYBUSINESSLEAGUE.COM

THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT MADISON COUNTY BUSINESS LEAGUE 2012
 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES SURVEY CAN BE VIEWED ON MONDAY,
 DECEMBER 12TH AT WWW.MADISONCOUNTYBUSINESSLEAGUE.COM

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EXCELLENCE IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP: TAKING YOUR SMALL BUSINESS TO THE NEXT LEVEL



PICTURED ARE: DR. Robert Forster, MS Small Business Development Center at Ole Miss, Dean Howard McMillan, Else School of Management at Millsaps (Guest Speaker), and John Brandon, MS Development Authority Entrepreneurship Center (Speaker).



Attending were: (l-r) Madison Central High School US History teacher Mindi Cook, seniors Lee Harbour and Drew Broules, and Jan Collins.

The Madison County Business League Entrepreneurship Committee hosted EXCELLENCE in ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Taking Your Small Business to the Next Level on Tuesday, November 15, 2011. The breakfast meeting was held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Ridgeland. Guest speaker was Howard K. McMillan, dean of

the Else School of Management at Millsaps College. John Brandon, Mississippi Development Authority Entrepreneur Center, partnered with the facilitators to oversee the roundtable discussions. Small business experts leading the roundtable discussions in the fields of law, insurance, banking/finance, IRS, technology

and social media/marketing were: Martin Willoughby, Butler Snow; Tripp Cain, Bryson Insurance; Ralph Reed, First Capital Resource; Mark Craven, Jackson IRS; Tony Jeff and Stacey Gaines, MTA; Lauren McGraw, Gotta Go, and Bryan Carter, think WEBSTORE.

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MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS FOR 2011- 12



Seated (l-r): Buck Covington, WEICHERT REALTORS- the Covington Group, director; Bill Guion, BankPlus, immediate past chairman; Sarah Lofton, Lofton Advertising, chairman; Dick Hutchinson, MCEDA representative; Philip LeRoux, Summers Green & LeRoux, secretary-treasurer

Standing (l-r): Jim Pettis, Wyatt Tarrant & Combs, director; Tim Coursey, MCEDA Executive director; Todd Burwell, G.Todd Burwell, P.A., past chairman; Paul Arrington, St. Dominic Health Services, director; Jan Collins, Business League executive director; Scott Parrish, BancorpSouth, director

Not pictured are: John Almond, Allen & Hoshall, director and Calvin Harris, Warnock & Associates, director

2011 VISIONS AWARD



Levi Strauss & Company was the recipient of the 2011 VISIONS Award. Pictured (l-r) MCEDA Executive Director Tim Coursey, Mark Grovich Levi Strauss, MCBL Executive Director Jan Collins and MCBL Chairman Sarah Lofton.



Retiring Superintendent of Madison County Schools was the recipient of the inaugural 2011 VISIONARY Leadership award. Shown with Mr. Kent are (l-r) MCEDA Executive Director Tim Coursey, Kent, Deputy Supt. of MS Schools Dr. Lynn House and MCBL Executive Director Jan Collins.

MORE PHOTOS CAN BE VIEWED AT
MADISONCOUNTYBUSINESSLEAGUE.COM



CANDIDATE
EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMUNITY
NORTH MADISON COUNTY

Members and officers of the North Madison County Excel By 5 Steering Committee are: Dr. Nancy New, chairman; Dr. Mary Sims Johnson, vice chairman; Karen Robison, secretary; Nicole Kemp; Bobbie Killins; Roylean Payton; Lise Foy; Dr. Pollia Griffin; Ira Murray and Johnnie Mae Hawkins

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE BREAKFAST

The Joint MCEDA/MCBL Government Relations Committee hosted a breakfast on Tuesday, November 15th at the law offices of Butler Snow honoring the Madison County mayors and current and newly elected supervisors. The committee will also host a breakfast for our newly elected Madison County state senators and representatives at the Embassy Suites Hotel on December 9th.

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