

MISSISSIPPI WORLD TRADE CENTER

News



PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL TRADE, INVESTMENT AND TOURISM

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MSWTC Honors Member of Distinction: David Work

David Work, Mayor of the City of Cleveland and Director of the Bolivar County-Rosedale Port Commission was named the 2008 Member of Distinction and presented The Crystal Globe Award at the Mississippi World Trade Center's recent Annual Meeting and International Business Awards Gala at the Country Club of

Jackson. Cited for his lifelong and extensive work in the community; Mayor Work was particularly recognized for his strong role in helping to establish the Mississippi World Trade Center's original membership base and grow it throughout the state.

Joe Waggoner, President of the MSWTC Board of Directors, made the presentation and announced that "Seven years ago David Work was the first official dues-paying member of the MSWTC and has always been one of the organization's strongest advocates." Work's role in facilitating international trade,

maximizing the waterways and promoting intermodal transportation projects was also praised by MSWTC Executive Director Barbara Travis who described Mayor Work as "truly a jewel in Mississippi's economic development crown. He 'gets it' when it comes to understanding the value of a diverse

approach to job creation and retention, and that international trade and transportation are important cogs in those wheels.

Other award recipients were Betsy Bradley, Director of the Mississippi Museum of Art for excellence in the promotion of

Global Arts & Culture; Emad Al-Turk, Co-Founder of the International Museum for Muslim Culture for excellence in International Tourism Attraction; and Dr. Farhang Niroomand, Professor of Economics at the University of Southern Mississippi for Excellence in Trade Education Programs. The Tozzoli International Business Leadership Award was presented to ERGON, Inc.



Mayor David Work is presented with the Crystal Globe MSWTC Member of Distinction Award by MSWTC Board President, Joe Waggoner.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Pg 2 MSWTC Hosts 2008 Young Artists Showcase
- Pg 2 New Export Service for Furniture Makers
- Pg 2 Ex-Im Bank Enhances Financing for Small Business Exporters
- Pg 3 JASMIS at Capital Club
- Pg 3 Belhaven International Students Greet at GALA
- Pg 3 Message from the President
- Pg 4 Photo Gallery

To submit suggestions or story ideas, please call Gina at 601-353-0909.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS SCHEDULE

- 1/TBA Immigration Compliance for Corporate America Seminar Jackson, Tupelo & Gulfport
- 1/10-13 Furniture Mission (Canadian Home Furnishings Market) Toronto, Ontario
- 1/27 Doing Business in the Middle East Jackson, MS
- 2/4 MSWTC Winter Membership Luncheon & Officer Installation Jackson, MS
- 2/6-13 Multi-Sector Mission Vancouver, BC
- 3/18-30 China International Furniture Fair (CIFF) & Interzum Trade Mission Guangzhou, China
- 4/TBA Central America Multi-Industry Expo & Trade Mission Guatemala & Honduras
- 4/21-23 Dubai Wood Show Dubai, UAE

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

WINTER MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON & OFFICER INSTALLATION:

FEBRUARY 4, 2009
Hilton Hotel - Jackson, MS

CALL 601-353-0909 FOR EVENT DETAILS OR GO ONLINE AT WWW.MSWTC.ORG.

SWTC Hosts 2008 Young Artists Showcase

The first annual 2008 Young Artists Showcase competition for high school students was a resounding success. This year's theme was "A Reflection of Global Peace" celebrating our world working together while sharing ideas and cultures. The Showcase provided Mississippi high school students the opportunity to interpret an international theme through a variety of artistic mediums including painting, drawing, pastels, mixed media and computer graphics. Forty-two students from ten schools took part in the competition.

After careful consideration, a team of two judges selected three winning designs and

Mentions. The entries on the interpretation, originality. The winner was Smith, from School who award. The winner was Holly, from school who \$100 award. place winner Mary Ball



Above: Art competition winners Micah Smith (1st place), Ben Holly (2nd place), and Corey Lee (Honorable Mention) from Brandon High School pose with their winning art

Jackson Preparatory School who received a \$50 award.

Those students who received Honorable Mentions are as follows: *Clinton High School* - Mallory Shields, Bogdon Tarnovski, Megan White; *Jackson Preparatory School* - Mims de Greeber, David Russell; *Brandon High School* - Cory Lee; *St. Andrews Episcopal School* - Natalie Payne. The primary goal for this project was to educate Mississippi youth about the importance and value of doing business abroad, to learn about other cultures and to involve their talent in the process. The event was a great success and set the stage for the 2009 Young Artists Showcase next Fall.

seven Honorable judges evaluated basis of theme composition and First place Senior, Micah Brandon High received a \$200 Second place Sophomore, Ben Brandon High received a The Third was Junior, Markow, from

New Export Service for Furniture Makers

The Mississippi Franklin Furniture Institute hosted a November trade education and export seminar for furniture manufacturers and wood producers. The training was coordinated by Bill Martin, Director of the Franklin Furniture Institute, along with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Mississippi Export Assistance Center and MDA's International Trade Office. These entities have combined forces to form an Export Resource Service for domestic furniture manufacturers. This new consortium will serve as a central distribution point for furniture related export opportunities, information, data, resources and statistics.

This seminar was the first joint activity and included presentations from MDA's International Trade Specialists on trade opportunities in Latin America, Canada, Europe, Middle East, Africa and Asia. Also included were presentations on assistance available through the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Mississippi World Trade Center. The keynote address was delivered by Thomas Crump, director of the Furniture Export office for North Carolina's Department of Commerce, International Trade Division.



EX-IM BANK ENHANCES FINANCING FOR SMALL BUSINESS EXPORTERS

The Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank) enhanced several of its trade finance products to help counter the tightening of credit and the lack of liquidity in the export marketplace and to help small business exporters create and maintain export-related jobs. The changes expand access to the Bank's trade finance products making more U.S. exporters, including more small business exporters and lenders, eligible to apply for financing backed by Ex-Im Bank.

Ex-Im Bank will increase access to direct lending and working capital loan guarantees, the latter of which is of critical importance to small and medium-sized exporters and companies providing goods and services destined for export by other U.S. companies. Using existing authority to make direct loans, Ex-Im Bank can work with lenders to structure transactions to adapt to their financial conditions or restrictions. This will be done on a case-by-case basis, focusing on supporting new exports either directly or indirectly. It is intended that the servicing of direct loans will be done by commercial banks. The Bank's Working Capital loan guarantee product, most frequently used by small-business exporters, has various requirements and/or restrictions that will be modified to provide increased liquidity to exporters.

Ex-Im Bank is the official export-credit agency of the United States. The independent, self-sustaining federal agency, now in its 74th year, helps create and maintain U.S. jobs by financing the sale of U.S. exports, primarily emerging markets throughout the world, by providing loan guarantees, export-credit insurance and direct loans. In fiscal year 2007, Ex-Im Bank authorized \$12.6 billion in financing to support an estimated \$16 billion of U.S. exports worldwide. For more information, visit www.exim.gov.

JASMIS at Capital Club

The Japan America Society of Mississippi and the Mississippi Development Authority recently co-hosted a luncheon at the Capital Club entitled "Energy, Economy and the Environment: Challenges and Opportunities for the U.S. - Japan Relationship" on November 18. Speakers from Washington, DC including the Embassy of Japan, Panasonic Corporation, and the National Association of Japan-America Societies addressed attendees on the dynamic issues affecting both energy and economic policy in the two largest economies in the world: the U.S. and Japan. Additional comments from Keidanren - USA, the U.S. branch office of the most influential business organization in Japan--Nippon Keidanren, highlighted how differing opinions on contributors to environmental changes in our world believe the fact that citizens from both countries agree on the basic principle of making our lives and businesses more energy efficient. For more information about the Japan-American Society of Mississippi, visit www.jasmis-us.com.



Speaker: Honorable Kenji Goto; **Middle:** John Henry Jackson; **Right:** Mr. Atsushi Yamakoshi

Belhaven International Students Greet at GALA

Belhaven College international students greet guests attending the 2008 Global Arts & Jazz Gala. Students from countries around the world welcomed guests in their native language. Julien Marion, MDA Intern and student at Belhaven College coordinated the unique reception.



MESSAGE FROM THE



MSWTC Board President
Joe Waggoner

During my years of service on the MSWTC Board of Directors, I have had the unique opportunity to see the growth of this organization from several perspectives, all of which have increased my knowledge and appreciation of what it takes to make it work. From an operational perspective, I have learned that a small number of people can make large things happen by forming strategic alliances and using creativity and teamwork. From a corporate member's perspective, I have learned that there are a number of new international services and resources available through the World Trade Center Association that would be valuable as business tools for my own company to incorporate in its work-plan; and from a leadership perspective, I have further solidified my belief in the strength and power of diversity and the important role it plays in the success of any organization.

2008 has been both interesting and special in many ways. Though challenged by the trickle down of national economic woes, this simultaneously continues to be a year of progress and accomplishment for the Mississippi World Trade Center. By late October, the staff had already commandeered 57 marketing assistance projects and 32 in-house seminars; made 42 public presentations across the state, fielded 127 service requests and referrals, and provided assistance and research for 423 client contacts.

As depicted in this issue, the November Global Arts & Jazz Annual Meeting and Awards Gala honored five members of the business community for their expertise and success in international endeavors as well as provided a major networking event for the overall membership. Shortly thereafter, MSWTC helped in the hosting of members of the Japan America Society of Mississippi and a visit by the Chinese Ambassador and his delegation. These and many other cultural activities were supported and enhanced by the active participation of MSWTC Board members and officers.

Plans for the year ahead are underway and include a formal kick-off of the MS World Trade Center Institute, a 501 C-3 educational non-profit acting as a companion to the MS World Trade Center, a 501 C-6 non-profit business development organization. The primary focus of the MSWTC Institute will be cultural development and educational activities that support a statewide Sister Cities Program.

This has been a very good year, but it's not over yet. As we prepare for the year ahead, my focus continues to be on growing our membership. I call on each of you to use your resources and your influence to help spread the word about the benefits of membership in the Mississippi World Trade Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Waggoner".

Joe Waggoner, President
MSWTC Board of Directors

Photo Gallery



Carol Moore "arrested" for Muscular Dystrophy



Board members at a planning retreat held at the Country Club of Jackson



Kane Ditto featured as keynote speaker at the Summer Luncheon



Valerie Adams, Cindy Saia and Carol Hardwick enjoying the Summer Luncheon



Nate Theison, Belhaven professor and Chere Stegall, local artist, judge the 2008 Young Artists Showcase



Allison Waggoner, Joy Foy and Joe Waggoner chat before Gala program begins



Networking at the Global Arts & Jazz Gala: Cecilia Derrington, Barbara Travis, and Shannon Hood



Guests enjoy the international cuisine and wine at the 2008 Global Arts & Jazz Gala



Gala attendees had the opportunity to have their caricature drawn by cartoonist, Ricky Nobile



Emad Al-Turk receives award for Excellence in International Tourism Attraction



Representatives from USM pose with Dr. Farhang Niroomand, award winner for Excellence in Trade Education Programs



Barton Lampton and Patrick Nation accepted The Tozzoli International Business Leadership Award presented to ERGON, Inc.