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The opinions and views expressed by the contributors to this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions and views of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, its staff or members.
Travel through any of our 46 counties and there is no doubt agribusiness is a significant part of the Palmetto State’s landscape and commerce. South Carolina agribusiness, including agriculture and forestry, represents an economic impact of more than $33 billion per year and creates and supports almost 200,000 jobs in the state. The industry is expected to continue to grow and we must ensure the soil conditions and landscape are ready.

Agribusiness is the single largest industry in South Carolina utilizing the state’s port system, exporting nearly $1.4 billion in agricultural and forest products each year. The port is a vital asset allowing the agribusiness community to expand its market abroad. Moving products efficiently over primary and secondary roadways to the state’s ports is a top economic development concern. The industry is one of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce’s partners in helping find viable solutions to address the state’s $29 billion needs in long term infrastructure.

As I travel the state, I hear all the time about agribusiness companies that have to take a detour of 15 to 20 miles because their trucks cannot cross load restricted bridges. This is wasted time and money for businesses. Furthermore, it stifles job creation. As we look to improve the state’s infrastructure needs, we need to ensure that we are paying attention to our rural communities to spur economic development.

This year, the South Carolina Chamber and our partners, including the Palmetto Agribusiness Council, South Carolina Farm Bureau and South Carolina Forestry Association, released the Road Map to the Future, a comprehensive funding plan for roads and bridges that touches every county in the state.

South Carolina’s agribusiness community knows it is imperative that we have a reliable and safe infrastructure system so that commerce can easily flow throughout the state, and South Carolina took a step forward this year in achieving that. In June, we were pleased to host Governor Nikki Haley at the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce as she signed an infrastructure package that invests nearly $600 million in the state’s roads and bridges. The package is a great first step and will certainly help our state’s agribusiness companies get products from land to market in a timely and efficient manner. We thank Governor Haley and the General Assembly for their leadership on investing in infrastructure.

The South Carolina Chamber serves as the voice of business for the state, and the agribusiness industry is an important part of this voice. As we work to improve the state’s infrastructure, know that we are also working to streamline the environmental process, encourage federal immigration reform and promote South Carolina agriculture through programs such as Certified SC Grown® and Fresh on the Menu.

In this edition of South Carolina Business, we take a closer look at agritourism which shows the heart of the state from the mountains to the sea. With the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, we highlight the need to address immigration reform at the national level. Our centerfold invites you to learn more about Dr. Louis Lynn, of ENVIRO AgScience, who exemplifies agriculture in South Carolina. In addition, state agribusiness leaders respond to growing population concerns.

Agribusiness is recognized as the state’s largest industry and our agriculture and forestry products are used all around the globe. The South Carolina Chamber, in partnership with our allies, wants to create a climate where the industry can grow and have a $50 billion economic impact by 2020.
GE Healthcare breaks ground on $17M helium facility in Florence

GE Healthcare broke ground on a $17 million helium liquefaction facility that will help create 50 jobs for the region. The new, 5,000-square-foot facility, adjacent to GE Healthcare’s existing MR production plant, will use proprietary techniques to capture pure helium gas and compress it into stunningly cold liquid form—which is necessary for MR magnets to function accurately when imaging patients.

“It’s a great day in South Carolina, and today’s groundbreaking is yet another celebration of quality companies deciding to expand their footprint in the Palmetto State,” said Governor Nikki Haley. “We thank GE Healthcare for their confidence in our workforce and economic environment as we look forward to our continuing partnership in the years to come.”

GE Healthcare uses roughly 5.5 million liters of helium a year at its South Carolina production facility and dedicates another six million liters per year to servicing MR systems at hospitals and other sites across the United States. Each MR system needs up to several thousand liters of helium stored in a sealed vacuum system surrounding the magnet.

Increased helium demand and tightening supply have led GE to invest $1 million in boosting helium efficiency—including proprietary conservation technologies and helium recycling and re-use methods.

Select Health honored as one of America’s healthiest companies

Select Health of South Carolina received the Wellness Council of America’s (WELCOA) Gold Well Workplace award for quality and excellence in worksite health promotion and is the only entity in the state to hold a current WELCOA distinction. Select Health’s 2012 wellness initiatives earned the North Charleston-headquartered company recognition as one of America’s 80 healthiest companies.

Forestry Commission releases biomass harvesting guidelines

Foresters with the South Carolina Forestry Commission have developed guidelines which address the emerging practice of harvesting woody biomass for energy. Biomass generates energy. Forest products manufacturers have known this for generations and have produced their own electricity on-site using bark, sawdust and other waste wood. “Woody biomass is a renewable resource that has the potential to supply 12-13 percent of the electricity used in South Carolina,” said Dr. Tim Adams, the Commission’s resource development director.

The new biomass harvesting Best Management Practices (BMPS) are aimed at protecting water quality, plant and animal diversity, soil nutrition/quality and site productivity in and around harvesting operations. These are places where logging residue and other woody materials accumulate.

Wood demand is expected to increase dramatically in coming decades. The global population and wood use per person are both on the rise as emerging markets and improving standards of living worldwide become more common. As the “wood basket” of the world, the southeastern U.S. is well positioned to play a major role.
Chamber members honored at Salute to Small Business event

The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce helped coordinate the annual Salute to Small Business event held at the Columbia Convention Center in May with over 300 small businesses participating. A morning session included a matchmaker event with over 40 federal, state and private procurement officers available to meet with small business owners. This resulted in 1,200+ appointments.

The Small Business Administration Awards luncheon recognized top lenders in the state and the Small Business Person of the Year. Noah Leask from ISHPI, a Chamber member, received the top award and was named the first runner-up in Washington. Two other Chamber members were recognized: Mikee Johnson of Cox Industries received the South Carolina Family Business of the Year award, and Jerry Ellison of JBE Incorporated received runner-up for Small Business Person of the Year.

Now in its tenth year, the Salute to Small Business is a collaborative effort between the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Small Business Administration and the South Carolina Coalition for Small Business and Entrepreneurship. The mission of the annual salute event is to honor the small businesses that drive the Palmetto State’s economy and to connect them with new opportunities for success.

Duke Energy selects Lynn Good to lead company

Duke Energy announced that the board of directors has unanimously elected Lynn Good as its next president and chief executive officer, succeeding Jim Rogers, who will continue to serve as chairman of the board until his retirement on Dec. 31, 2013. Good will also serve as a director on the Duke Energy board. She will assume her new role on July 1.

Good, 54, has served as Duke Energy’s executive vice president and chief financial officer since July 2009. She joined Cinergy, a Duke Energy predecessor company, in 2003 following 20 years working in senior management roles and as a partner for Deloitte & Touche and Arthur Andersen.

Prior to her tenure as Duke Energy’s CFO, Good served as group executive and president of Duke Energy’s Commercial Businesses organization. In this role, she was principally responsible for the Midwest non-regulated generation, Duke Energy International, Duke Energy Renewables, corporate development, and merger and acquisition activities.

“I am deeply honored by the trust the board has placed in me to lead Duke Energy,” said Good. “I have a high degree of confidence in the strength of our company’s leadership and dedicated employees.”

“I will work to ensure Duke Energy is positioned to continue its track record of outstanding customer service and operational and financial excellence,” Good added.
Connecting the state ports and agribusiness

BY PAMELA LACKEY

In the communications business, it is all about connections. Without solid connections, customers are dissatisfied and economic opportunities vanish.

In today’s global marketplace, connections among and between industries are just as essential to overall growth and prosperity.

At first glance, the state ports system and agribusiness appear to move in different economic orbits. Some may think a farmer on his tractor has little in common with a captain of a deep-draft cargo vessel. Yet both are key players and partners in our state’s economic future.

In recent years, we have all celebrated the growth of our state’s high tech and manufacturing industries. We have been proud that “made in South Carolina” is increasingly stamped on complex manufactured goods, including cars, tires and airliners. Yet agriculture, powered by some 26,500 farms across the state remains an essential part of the economy.

Forestry, which delivers more than 44,000 South Carolina jobs, leads the state’s manufacturing industries in terms of jobs and payroll. Each year, we export more than $1 billion worth of timber to overseas markets, often in Asia.

The rapid growth of China’s emerging middle class has created significant potential for U.S. agricultural exports. In the last 20 years, the Chinese middle class has grown from about 4.5 million households to approximately 141 million households. These consumers are demanding higher-quality and more varied food products. Consequently, the United States has seen significant growth in agricultural exports to China — growing from a $2-billion market just 10 years ago to a $19-billion market today — with a focus on commodities such as soybeans and grain. These goods are largely sourced from the Southeast and Midwest regions, creating both an opportunity and a challenge for the South Carolina Ports Authority (SCPA) as we seek to continue playing a key role in international commerce.

Exported goods, particularly bulk agricultural products, are heavier than imports, requiring deep water. Therefore, the need for deeper water to maximize shipping efficiencies grows as agricultural exports grow. The SCPA is working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to deepen the Charleston Harbor to accommodate bigger ship traffic without tidal restrictions. In terms of bulk commodities, this will allow shipping lines to move more boxes at a time to countries like China.

Thanks to the strong support of our Congressional delegation and the General Assembly, this project will ensure that the connections between South Carolina’s ports and agribusiness products with the Asian market remain strong.

Pamela Lackey is the incoming chair of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce. She is a member of the State Ports Authority, chair of the Palmetto Agribusiness Council, and president of AT&T-South Carolina.

Next generation crops and production technology grow agribusiness profitability

BY DEBBIE DALHOUSE

A Clemson University research team led by Stephen Kresovich, Coker Chair of Genetics, is developing genetic solutions to increase production and value for South Carolina’s major crops.

In 2012, South Carolina growers planted 380,000 acres in soybeans, 340,000 acres of cotton and 110,000 acres in peanuts, according to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service.

“The Advanced Plant Technology research and extension programs will focus on soybeans, cotton, peanuts and other crops to identify areas for improved yields and value-added products,” said John Kelly, Clemson University vice president for economic development.

The program will provide a bridge to 21st century agriculture using traditional plant breeding and variety trials combined with modern plant science, such as molecular genetics and biochemistry, to develop new crops and crop-based products, as well as new production and processing methods.

It will complement ongoing plant science research at Clemson’s main campus and at agricultural research and education centers in Florence, Blackville and Charleston.

Jack Shuler, president of the Palmetto Agribusiness Council, said, “Clemson’s Advanced Plant Technology Program is exactly what South Carolina agribusiness needs to be competitive in the future.”

Another group of Clemson scientists are focused on maximizing crop input efficiencies. If crops could talk, farmers would know exactly how much water, fertilizer and other nutrients are needed — in which areas of the field and when.

Precision agriculture allows this “conversation” to take place. Sensors and satellites — including the Global Positioning System (GPS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) — map the fields and identify the sites needing nutrients and water. Then variable rate technology applies site-specific amounts.

The targeted approach increases crop yields and quality, reduces production costs and improves environmental sustainability. Previous Clemson research has saved millions of dollars for South Carolina soybean and cotton growers.

Now the scientists are working to create the “Intelligent Farm,” using patent-pending technology.

It will relay data collected by field sensors through cell towers to Clemson’s high performance computing center and deliver real-time information to growers.

Dramatic benefits are expected. Sensor-based, site-specific application at variable rates can reduce water usage by 15 percent, energy by 25 percent and nitrogen by as much as 47 percent. The research is led by Gene Eidson, director of the Institute for Applied Ecology, and Ahmad Khalilian, a pioneer in precision agriculture research.

Together, the Advanced Plant Technology and Precision Agriculture programs can increase the productivity, efficiency and competitiveness of South Carolina’s agribusiness industry.

Debbie Dalhouse is communications director for economic development and public service & agriculture at Clemson University.
To market, to market

BY REBA HULL CAMPBELL

Farmer’s markets are popping up all over the state supporting the movement to buy local. But farmer’s markets are more part of a trend for the sale of local products.

In days gone by, farmer’s markets were found almost solely along rural roads where local farmers would sell their products from the back of a truck. Today, the idea of a farmer’s market is much more market-driven, and local governments are seeing the economic value of supporting the start-up of markets in their communities.

Not only do farmer’s markets give local vendors the chance to sell their wares directly to the consumer, but the markets also enhance the local tax base, keep dollars in the local economy and give vendors low-risk business opportunities.

South Carolina Department of Agriculture data shows there are more than 120 local farmer’s markets around the state, many of which are operated in partnership with local governments.

The City of Camden partners with the Kershaw County Farmer’s Market (KCFM), an independent 501c3 organization, to operate the Saturday market from April through December. The city secured a state grant in 2007 to fund half the cost of prime land for a Farmer’s Market site, a one-acre grass lot in the heart of downtown. The city funded the remaining land purchase cost. The city cuts the grass and makes general improvements to the property as requested by the KCFM such as a handicap ramp, bike racks and electrical connections.

“If it’s a great partnership,” says Mayor Tony Scully. “While the city made an investment in the physical space, the Kershaw County Farmer’s Market does all the work. They have a manager who is an excellent organizer. Because the market is in the heart of downtown, all the downtown businesses benefit — from the restaurants to the antique stores to the general merchandisers.”

The Town of Mount Pleasant sees similar success from its market that is held in partnership with a local middle school located in the heart of the town. The town partnered with the school to build a pavilion area and install the other necessary infrastructure on the school campus. When not in use by the market, the pavilions provide covered, outdoor classroom space.

Mount Pleasant Mayor Billy Swails says the town’s investment in the physical space and staffing for the market pays off in many ways for the whole community. “Beyond providing a much-needed community gathering space, the market has also shown success in helping local vendors get their products introduced to a larger market.”

Lance Nilsen, owner of Dale’s Lowcountry Cuisine, is a vendor at the Mount Pleasant market in addition to markets in Summerville, Pawleys Island, North Myrtle Beach, Florence and Daniel Island. He says, “We use the farmer’s market to talk with people about our products. We let them sample and let them know where they can purchase our products when not at the markets.”

Reba Hull Campbell is the deputy executive director of the Municipal Association of South Carolina.

The rest of the world matters

BY GLENDA THOMPSON, SPHR

If you are doing business in South Carolina, you have probably met someone in the last few weeks and during the introduction, one of you asked the other, “So, where are you from?”

When I moved to South Carolina in the 1980s to start my career, a lot of eyebrows raised when I told them I was from Ohio. I spent most of my weekends the first couple of years driving back and forth to Ohio because I just didn’t feel like I quite fit in. Gradually, as I got to know the local people and understand their values and the way they grew up, I began to find a lot of common ground. As the years passed and my career progressed, many of my customers and business contacts were from Europe, Mexico, Asia, India and South America.

A lot of who we are comes from the places where we grew up and developed our personalities during our formative years. As we became adults, we solidified our taste in music, politics, religion, lifestyles and friendships. We were influenced by our families, friends, mentors and all the happenings of the world around us. All of this helped us create our own unique set of values that we live by.

As a mother, business owner and HR consultant, it has become a passion of mine to embrace diversity in the workforce. This includes enabling people from all parts of the world doing business here to find common ground, build teams, accomplish objectives and be productive as soon as possible. Businesses need to understand that people are not alike all over the world. Each part of the world brings people with unique attitudes and values especially around four core areas: work, family, religion and government. Ignoring these differences can be very costly to a business, resulting in lost revenues, decreased market share, employee turnover and productivity issues.

Work is a major defining point for most people in the United States. When introducing ourselves, it is expected to include what you do for a living. While work is important in France and other parts of Europe, vacation and time off with family and friends are equally important. Americans often are stressed to take off an entire week, while their counterparts in Australia, England and South America may take a three to four week holiday.

While we may be accustomed to providing a proposal, signing the deal, and moving on, our Japanese counterparts may be very quiet during negotiations and prefer to build a long lasting relationship before moving forward. Titles and status are also important in Asian countries, and you won’t likely see strong public displays of emotion.

Other things to consider are business practices such as punctuality for appointments, business entertaining, titles and forms of address, gestures, gifts and dress. A great book to read for those of you interacting with other cultures is Kiss, Bow, or Shake Hands by Terri Morrison and Wayne Conaway. They have developed a great resource with information on 60 countries including tips on doing business, country background, business practices, protocol and what to know before you go. There are also several good sources on cultural awareness that can be found on the Internet.

In short, being aware of cultural differences can boost your company’s revenues and prevent costly unintentional mistakes. Make sure you are prepared.

Glenda Thompson, SPHR, is a human resource and organizational development consultant with The Norton Group.
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NO. 1 BUSINESS COMMUNITY PRIORITY RECEIVES SIGNIFICANT FUNDING

Infrastructure funding took a front seat throughout the legislative session, with a united business community driving the debate. In January, the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce and 14 allied organizations released the Road Map to the Future, a detailed plan for the General Assembly to begin addressing the state’s infrastructure funding needs through three major improvement areas: interstate expansion ($2.8 billion), bridges (2 billion) and resurfacing ($1.2 billion). The plan included a statewide approach and did not raise a single tax or fee. In April, more than 100 businesses reiterated the importance in a letter to the General Assembly urging significant highway funding investment this year.

The House and Senate each passed infrastructure funding in their respective budgets. Once the conference committee met to work out the differences, the final proposal invested nearly $600 million in roads and bridges. This includes $50 million in recurring funds allocated to the State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) to be bonded for $500 million. The package also includes moving half of the sales tax on automobiles to the Highway Fund on a recurring basis, generating about $41 million annually.

Additionally, $50 million in one time funds will be used for bridge repairs. Based on a study by the Associated General Contractors of America, over 16,000 jobs will be created and major economic thoroughfares will be fixed.

Of the final package, South Carolina Senate Majority Leader Harvey Peeler, said, “We had two goals with infrastructure reform this year – provide dedicated streams of revenue for our roads, and make sure our state was spending on ‘first things first,’ fixing the infrastructure we already have. This plan makes clear to South Carolinians that we’re serious about getting our roads in better shape.”

“I’m extremely pleased. I think it’s a major step in the right direction,” said South Carolina Senate Minority Leader Nikki Setzler. “Our roads are in such terrible shape, and we are so far behind. This won’t come anywhere close to solving the problem, but it will certainly make a dent in the problem.”

Governor Nikki Haley signed H.3360, the highway funding vehicle, at the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce. Governor Haley was joined by Transportation Secretary Robert St. Onge and business community leaders.

“We thank Governor Haley and the General Assembly for their leadership on investing in our roads. This is a great first step, and the South Carolina Chamber will continue to advocate for a comprehensive road funding plan that will spur job creation and put South Carolina at the forefront of economic development,” said Otis Rawl, president and CEO of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce.

This is the first significant funding increase for roads and bridges since 1987, when there were one million fewer residents living in the state.

BUSINESSES WILL SAVE $650 MILLION

The Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW) Integrity bill, which was signed into law this year, will save South Carolina employers nearly $650 million annually. The bill enforces several federal mandates including penalties for employers who fail to adequately respond to DEW’s request for information on unemployment insurance claims where there is a dispute on benefit payments. Had the legislation not passed before October 2013, every South Carolina employer would have lost the entire FUTA credit, resulting in a $420 per employee tax increase.

In related news, the Senate confirmed Governor Nikki Haley’s nomination of Cheryl Stanton to lead DEW. Stanton is a former partner with the Ogletree Deakins law firm and helped lead the South Carolina Chamber’s lawsuit against the overreach of the National Labor Relations Board in federal district court. The Chamber supported her nomination to lead DEW and believes she will bring leadership and balance to rebuild the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund and, more importantly, begin matching unemployed workers with available jobs.

PREPARING OUR WORKFORCE

The General Assembly allocated an additional $26 million for the expansion of 4 year-old kindergarten into an additional 17 high-poverty school districts, on top of the 37 school districts currently operating programs. Public schools will be allocated 65 percent of the funds, and private providers will receive 35 percent. The South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley was joined by Transportation Secretary Robert St. Onge and business community leaders as she signed H.3360, the highway funding vehicle, at the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce.

2013 LEGISLATIVE YEAR-IN-REVIEW

BY DARRELL T. SCOTT
Governor Nikki Haley signed a key priority of the business community, the High Growth Small Business Job Creation Act, known as “angel investments.” The South Carolina Chamber has included the legislation in the Competitiveness Agenda for several years because it is a mechanism for private investors to help start-up companies flourish. The final legislation includes a $5 million cap in tax credits and will sunset in six years. In addition to the South Carolina Chamber, the bill was also supported by the Upstate Chambers Coalition, the Charleston Metro Chamber, SCBIO and the Upstate Carolina Angel Network. The legislation has spurred economic opportunities in the more than 30 states that have already enacted angel investment credits.

Spurring further economic development, the port tax credit was amended in two meaningful ways. First, the credit recognizes a growing trend to enable third party logistics providers (3PLs) to gain access to the credit as an incentive to drive volumes through the South Carolina State Ports Authority. Many third party logistics providers (3PLs) to gain access to the credit as an incentive to drive volumes through the South Carolina State Ports Authority. Many businesses are now using 3PLs in their business models. The credit also removes the $4 million cap on the employee withholdings tax, making the port tax credit much more attractive and enabling the SCSPA to better compete with other ports along the East Coast.

Through the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce’s direct advocacy efforts at the State House and through strong business alliances with other industry trade associations, South Carolina businesses will benefit from more than $1.4 billion in legislative changes designed to make businesses more competitive and profitable.

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<tr>
<th>Unemployment Insurance Tax</th>
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**Total Return on Investment**

$1.4+ billion

**BUSINESS ITEMS LEFT ON THE TABLE**

While both the House and Senate passed versions of a Department of Administration bill, S.22 currently remains stuck in conference committee. The bill is designed to expand executive control over day-to-day operations of state government. The major difference between the House and Senate versions, includes which branch of government will handle state procurement. The Senate version creates a quasi Budget and Control Board, while the House version places that function under the executive branch.

For the second consecutive year, the House passed the Business Freedom to Choose Act, also known as flow control. The legislation prohibits local governments from enacting flow control ordinances and creating government-run monopolies for waste disposal. Currently, there are counties that are limiting private businesses’ ability to shop for the best pricing options for their business. Despite intense negotiations between the business community and local governments, the Senate failed to adopt numerous compromises offered on behalf of the business community.

Additionally, the business community has tried to work with local governments on the dire need to reform the business license fee process, including standardization across municipalities, complexities reduced and a more fair appeals process to be implemented. Thus far, municipalities have been unwilling to offer any such reforms and opposed H.3604, legislation that would have exempted out of state and international manufacturing sales from the business license fee calculation. The Chamber will continue to work with business partners and individual municipalities to find common ground on this key economic development issue.

After the environmental community failed to follow the 2012 compromise on the Pollution Control Act, House Agricultural and Natural Resources Chairman Nelson Hardwick introduced legislation to clarify that no private right of action exists under the Pollution Control Act and that entities cannot sue partners and individual municipalities to find common ground on this key economic development issue.

**MEDICAID EXPANSION DEBATE LOOMS**

There were numerous attempts in the House and Senate to expand Medicaid and accept matching federal dollars. The House and Senate both rejected these efforts, largely along partisan lines. The South Carolina Chamber did not take an official position this legislative session, but created a working group to continue to study other state proposals and reforms across the country. The Chamber is also committed to working with the South Carolina Hospital Association, the South Carolina Medical Association, the insurance industry and the S.C. Department of Health & Human Services to find a Medicaid reform package that will be a viable solution for South Carolina.

The mission of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, as the single, unified voice of business, is to enhance the quality of life for all South Carolinians. The infrastructure funding secured this year, improvement in workforce development opportunities, and millions saved for businesses through government streamlining and tax credits puts us in the right direction.

Darrell T. Scott is vice president of public policy and communications for the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce.
Immigration reform is one of the compelling challenges of our time. If we rise to that challenge, we can ensure that our great country can compete and win in the global race for talent. We can secure the lives and livelihoods of all Americans. And we can reaffirm our proud and honorable legacy as an open and welcoming society.

The time to act is now. Our current system isn’t serving the interests of our economy, businesses, workers or security. America cannot compete and win in a global economy without the world’s best talent, hardest workers or biggest dreamers. Gaps and shortages in our workforce put American jobs at risk – because if companies can’t find all the workers they need here, they will be forced to move the work somewhere else.

Today, we have our best shot yet at fixing our system. A bipartisan group of senators has shown true leadership and courage in forging a bill that has the support and input of business, labor, faith-based organizations, civil rights and ethnic groups and law enforcement.

These leaders have proposed tough, practical measures to secure our borders, while still allowing people and commerce to flow efficiently and lawfully in and out of our country. Their bill includes a thoughtfully designed temporary worker program to allow employers to use immigrant labor when U.S. workers are not readily available. It better ties visas to market demands. It helps ensure that we don’t educate the best foreign talent in the world and then send them home to compete against us. It makes E-Verify a national employee verification system. And it provides a path out of the shadows for the 11 million undocumented immigrants who live in the United States today, provided that they meet some strict conditions.

The Senate bill is only the beginning of what must be an open and transparent debate. We must respect all viewpoints in this important debate, even those that differ from our own. But we should have little patience for those who decide to prey on fear and misunderstanding—or those who place their own short-term political interests above the national interest.

This is a moment that cries out for principled, courageous leadership that puts it all on the line to build a brighter and more hopeful future for our children and grandchildren. We need this leadership on many serious issues—deficits, debt, entitlement reform, education, national security and others. Let’s start with immigration reform.

Let’s show the world that America still has the ability to do great things. It’s about time.

Tom Donohue is president and CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.
Growing South Carolina’s agribusiness economy

Clemson University is growing the state’s agribusiness economy through education, research, extension and regulatory programs that support:

- Agronomic and Horticultural Crops
- Biotechnology
- Community and Economic Development
- Food Safety and Nutrition
- Forestry and Natural Resources
- Livestock Production
- Water Resources

Office of Economic Development
clemson.edu/econdev

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From the left: Ben Skelley, Dell Murdaugh, and Tom Hair
South Carolina has some sensational places to visit for vacation, a weekend getaway or even a quick day trip. From Charleston and Hilton Head to the beautiful mountains of the Upstate, there is no shortage of destinations, and there are many places in between – places that show the heart of South Carolina. You’ll find them off the interstate and down a country road.

Those roads lead to places where a new kind of tourism is taking root. Many farming operations, looking for ways to diversify, are incorporating agritourism into their business models. What is agritourism? The answer is easy, and the examples are abundant.

Agritourism is any activity that brings people to farms, ranches and agricultural areas and helps them connect with agriculture. South Carolina has many u-pick operations. From pumpkins at Cooley Farms in Chesnee to strawberries at Cottle Farms in Columbia, you are sure to find an experience that is fun for the entire family.

When the air starts to turn crisp and the leaves begin changing, there is nothing like a corn maze to welcome fall. Denver Downs Farm added its well-known corn maze a few years ago. The Garrison family saw an opportunity to take advantage of the traffic that passes outside their farm, which is located between Anderson and Clemson. Now, people come from all over the Upstate to make their way through the giant maze.
Agritourism is any activity that brings people to farms, ranches and agricultural areas and helps them connect with agriculture. South Carolina has many u-pick operations including Cooley Farms and McLeod Farms.

Boone Hall Plantation and Gardens in Mt. Pleasant is perhaps one of the better known agritourism destinations. There are also a number of agriculture related festivals that happen every year, like the Pelion Peanut Festival or the Beaufort Shrimp Festival. Other examples of agritourism include the Colonial and Camden Cups and the South Carolina Department of Agriculture’s (SCDA) fall and spring plant and flower festivals at the three state farmers markets.

Finding agritourism destinations will soon be very easy thanks to new road signs. SCDA, the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, and the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) have partnered to create Tourist Oriented Directional Signs or TODS. The first round of TODS should be in place during the spring of 2014. The blue signs will be placed just off of interstates and on rural roads. They will help travelers find agritourism destinations, and in turn they will help agricultural businesses find success in expanding their operations. Agritourism locations and rural tourist businesses will be able to apply for the signs using an application that SCDOT will soon release.

Agribusiness has a $34 billion economic impact in South Carolina, and there is room for growth. As the popularity of agritourism grows, so too will the economic impact of agribusiness. Agriculture touches every South Carolinian, and agritourism is a very effective way to help people make that connection. So when you plan your next getaway, consider traveling down one of South Carolina’s country roads. We think you’ll like what you find!

Kelly Coakley is the public information director for the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.

More than one South Carolina town is gaining a great reputation for its culinary offerings. With world-class chefs, beautiful venues and great locally grown ingredients, what’s not to love?

The desire to eat locally grown, at home and when dining out, is growing across South Carolina. Many South Carolinians look for Certified South Carolina Grown (CSCG) when they shop at grocery stores and farmer’s markets, and they are also frequenting Fresh on the Menu (FOTM) restaurants. The South Carolina Department of Agriculture started the FOTM program back in 2008 as part of CSCG and recently unveiled a new program feature – the Fresh on the Menu app.

SCDA released the free app to the public in early June, and within the first two days, nearly 5,000 people downloaded the app. The app features four main sections. Users can search the restaurant section either by restaurant name, city or zip code. Each restaurant has a description and dish picture. The chefs section offers a bio of participating chefs and the recipes section provides great restaurant recipes that use locally grown ingredients.

The roots section shows the South Carolina farms, produce companies and breweries supplying FOTM restaurants. The app helps consumers make the farm to restaurant table connection and will help open up new market opportunities for growers. That connection is good for agribusiness. The more South Carolinians understand the impact and reach of this industry sector, the stronger agribusiness will become.

The app is available for iPads, iPhones and Androids 4.0 or higher. Download the app by visiting freshonthemenuapp.com.

Kelly Coakley is the public information director for the South Carolina Department of Agriculture.
July~August 2013 Centerfold

DR. LOUIS LYNN
ENVIRO AgScience
A humble servant

When Dr. Louis Lynn returned to South Carolina in 1985, he was known as the PhD with a lawn mower. Having grown up in Lamar, South Carolina, work eventually took Dr. Lynn to St. Louis, Syracuse, Denver and Atlanta before he was able to settle back in his home state.

Born in Bishopville, Lynn grew up on a family farm near Lamar. His father owned a butcher shop in the small town. The farming culture surrounded him, and he was a member of the 4-H club.

Lynn also grew up during trying times as integration was taking place in the South. By the time he went off to college at Clemson University in 1967, Lynn was in the second freshman class to integrate at Clemson. However, Lynn recalled that he planned to attend college just like everyone else did. He even received a scholarship from the South Carolina Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association.

Lynn went to college knowing exactly which subject to major in. He was part of the “flower child” movement and majored in horticulture. Upon realizing he wouldn’t be taking over the family business, his father said, “I want to see you make a living out of this flower child stuff.”

When Lynn graduated from Clemson, he was also commissioned as an Army 2nd Lieutenant. The Vietnam War was winding down, and when he was ready to serve, he was told that they didn’t particularly need any more lieutenants, and he decided to go back to school and get a PhD in horticulture. With a PhD from the University of Maryland, Lynn was recruited to join Eli Lilly in their plant science division in Indianapolis focusing on chemical weed control. Shortly after, Roundup Herbicide was invented, and he was recruited to join Monsanto Agriculture Company, in their fruit and vegetable weed control division.
Dr. Louis Lynn
ENVIRO AgScience

Lynn worked with Monsanto for 15 years while Roundup was maturing, and held management positions in four different states.

STARTING A BUSINESS

After 15 years of being moved to different places, Lynn and his high school sweetheart and now wife with whom he recently celebrated 40 years of marriage, Audrey, decided they wanted to settle in one place, and they moved their family to Columbia.

Having worked for a Fortune 500 company and having a father and grandfather who were both entrepreneurs, Lynn was confident he could succeed in creating his own business. In 1985, Lynn started Ebony AgScience, and he had to quickly learn what it was like to perform every role in a business, including administration and business development.

Ebony AgScience started out as a landscaping business for upscale residences. Lynn was known as the PhD “green guy.” He knew that good customer service and hard work would pay off.

His work in the residential arena eventually led him to add commercial work to his portfolio. Each completed project increased the firm’s reputation and he won a number of high visibility landscaping projects including the USC Colonial Center, the BMW manufacturing plant and many schools in Richland County. In the early 1980s, environmental awareness issues had become popular talking points, and Lynn has been a part of building and landscaping 18 schools in the county.

TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Lynn credits the City of Columbia with helping him take his business to the next level since he was awarded a number of landscaping projects around the city. The city gave him a chance, and Lynn proved that he was up to the task.

As ENVIRO AgScience grew, Lynn made sure he was giving back to the community that allowed him to succeed. ENVIRO has a corporate responsibility reputation that Lynn defines as “paying his civic rent.”

In 1988, the General Assembly elected Lynn to a four year term on the Clemson University Board of Trustees and he has been serving ever since. Lynn loves Clemson, he bleeds orange, and is proud of the fact that he maintains strong ties to the place that educated him.

GETTING RECOGNIZED

In 2012, Lynn was honored with the Ronald H. Brown Leadership - Small Business of the Year Award from the Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C. Inspired by the outstanding leadership of the late U.S. Commerce Secretary Ronald H. Brown, this prestigious award recognizes exceptional leaders who have made great strides in creating diversity in the public or private sector.

Dr. Lynn, with daughters Dr. Krystal Conner (left) and Mrs. Adrienne Lynn (right), accepts an award recognizing ENVIRO AgScience as one of the SC 25 Fastest Growing Companies.
Manchester Farms Quail, the nation’s largest, oldest, and most respected quail processor, is proud to be part of South Carolina agriculture.

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The Adult Activity Center in Hopkins, S.C. was completed in April 2013.

encouraged to get off the stage, instead, he realized he was receiving a standing ovation from the audience.

Lynn believes that the best predictor of future performance is past performance. Knowing that, Lynn’s future is certainly bright!

Jean Cecil Frick is the multimedia manager at the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce and the editor of South Carolina Business.

GET TO KNOW LOUIS LYNN

FAVORITE PLACE IN SOUTH CAROLINA: Clemson
FAVORITE BOOK: The Bible
PROUDEST ACHIEVEMENT: Being honored with the Ronald H. Brown Leadership - Small Business of the Year Award from the Department of Commerce
PEOPLE MIGHT BE SURPRISED TO KNOW: He doesn’t especially like football and attends football games as purely social events
IN HIS SPARE TIME: He reads The Bible and particularly enjoys reading to his grandchildren
WHAT INSPIRES HIM: His parents and coming from a legacy of entrepreneurs

Manchester Farms Quail, the nation’s largest, oldest, and most respected quail processor, is proud to be part of South Carolina agriculture.

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IT’S A MATTER OF TASTE.

Chefs know that local ingredients taste better when they’re in season. As the farm to table movement continues to grow, so does the number of local chefs who prepare their meals using Certified SC Grown ingredients. You’ll recognize these chefs by their use of the Fresh on the Menu distinction in their restaurants.

FOR A LIST OF PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS, VISIT FRESHeONTHeMENuAPP.COM.

A PROGRAM FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.
State agribusiness leaders respond

There are currently 7 billion people in the world, and according to the United Nations, by 2050, the world will have more than 9 billion people who need to be fed and sheltered. How will the state and nation’s agribusiness industry rise to this challenge?

Tom Scott, PhD, dean of the College of Agriculture, Forestry & Life Sciences, Clemson University

The past 50 years have brought about increased productivity of our forest and agricultural land, better stewardship of our natural resources and new plant varieties that are insect and disease-resistant. I am confident we will continue to have the technology, the scientific advancements, the capability and the will to meet the needs and challenges of the future.

Future 21st century farmers and foresters will have professional skills to manage increased productivity that will include business, economic and marketing skills, and they will be prepared to apply the latest scientific advancements to their operations.

On the scientific side, more food and fiber will be grown on marginal lands due to scientific discoveries in biotechnology that will increase the growing season for some crops and will reduce pressure on more crop varieties from insects, disease and drought.

For example, Dr. Hong Luo in the Department of Genetics and Biochemistry is conducting research to genetically adapt plants to deal with drought and salt levels in soils. Dr. Luo’s research focuses on perennial grasses, which include turfgrass, forages and biofuel plants. His research with turfgrass will help the South Carolina golf industry, a $1.7 billion industry providing 35,000 jobs. Dr. Luo is the 2013 recipient of the Godley-Snell Award for Excellence in Agricultural Research, Clemson’s highest agricultural research award.

Providing for a future that includes increased productivity of our agricultural and forest resources, while ensuring a sustainable environment, isn’t a job for farmers and foresters alone. Success will depend on the collaborative efforts of many — educational institutions; industry; small, medium and large-scale businesses; government agencies; non-profit organizations; consumers; and others. Together, we will secure the future for our children, for their children and for many generations to come.

Jack W. Shuler, president of the Palmetto AgriBusiness Council

A agribusiness is ready to rise to the challenge of providing food, clothing and shelter to the world’s growing population. Looking ahead, South Carolina’s agribusiness industry (which includes agriculture and forestry) is developing strategies to increase its contribution to our state’s economy from $34 billion to $50 billion by the year 2020.

Some of these strategies will include ‘Advanced Plant Technology Research’ through Clemson University, which will improve the variety of crops that we grow in order to boost our yields. We are also exploring ways to expand our growing season to provide more local food alternatives, as well as improving our efficiency to eliminate waste between harvest and consumption. One of our initiatives is bringing in food processing facilities to add value to locally grown products. Our state continues to increase its export products worldwide as we identify new overseas markets.

As long as we maintain an environment where agribusiness can prosper, grow and compete successfully in the marketplace of the future, it will continue to provide the essentials of life to the state, nation and world.”

Tom Scott, Ph.D., dean of the College of Agriculture, Forestry & Life Sciences, Clemson University
Economic Sector Remains Largest in State

Gribusiness (including forestry) remains our largest economic sector in South Carolina, contributing about $34 billion to the economy. Yet, harvested cropland is just over a third of what it was at the end of the Second World War.

Tobacco has been largely replaced by ornamental, herbal and pharmaceutical agriculture, as well as specialty products. Poultry now accounts for about 85% of animal agriculture. Our produce has an excellent reputation among wholesalers, with peach production often outstripping that of Georgia and California. Corn, soybeans and peanuts remain important ‘backbone’ crops. In seafood, we have both mariculture and aquaculture industries that hold promise and need to be cultivated.

Still, the nature of farm ownership remains as in decades gone by, family owned with few corporate farms. Here, we see, perhaps both the greatest challenge and opportunity for our state to go ‘back to the future.’ We need to reestablish agricultural communities, places where farming and markets exist as they did generations before.

Add to this a technological base that is ever widening and ever deepening, and it means good things for us as well as our world customers. They are hungry, both for food and the skill to feed themselves. South Carolina has the unique ability to export both.

Senator Danny Verdin represents District 9, which includes southern Greenville and Laurens Counties. He is chairman of the Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee.

Hugh Weathers, South Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture

U.S. farmers and ranchers are already rising to the challenge of meeting the needs of a growing world population, while also making a positive impact on our environment. We are doing more today on the farm with fewer inputs than ever before. This is especially important as we will need to at least double global agriculture productivity over the next 40 years to feed our growing world – while using less land, water and other natural resources.

The Farm Bureau has been involved in a project conducted by the Colorado-based Keystone Center to measure agriculture’s environmental progress. After measuring five key resource indicators, such as land use, soil loss, water use, carbon emissions and energy use, over a 20-year period from 1987 through 2007, the results were dramatic.

During that period, per acre corn production grew by 41 percent. Per bushel land use was reduced by 37 percent. Per bushel soil loss was reduced by nearly 70 percent. Water use dropped by an average of 27 percent per bushel. Greenhouse gas emissions were down 6 percent per acre, or 30 percent per bushel.

Cotton and soybeans showed very similar positive gains in terms of productivity and decreases in their environmental footprints.

Biotechnology plays an important part of this story. Almost 95 percent of cotton, 98 percent of soybeans, and 80 percent of corn planted in the U.S. today are seeds developed through biotechnology.

David Winkles, president of the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation
Since 2007, free membership in the Certified SC program has grown from 60 farmers to more than 1,200 today.

The Certified SC program is dedicated to branding and promoting locally grown agriculture products.

Foods with the Certified SC logo must meet or exceed the U.S. No. 1 quality grade standard.

Certified SC Grown can be found in more than 500 retail locations across South Carolina, including stores like Wal-Mart and Piggly Wiggly.

A second phase of the Certified SC program – “Fresh on the Menu” – showcases restaurants that serve local foods.

More than 300 South Carolina restaurants participate in “Fresh on the Menu,” indicating at least 25 percent of their menu includes Certified SC foods.

The Certified SC Grown label indicates that the product was grown, manufactured and/or processed in South Carolina.

The branding and marketing efforts help revitalize the state’s rural economy with some members crediting the program with a 12 percent increase in annual sales.
So u t h C a r o l i n a B u s i n e s s | July/August 2013

Nothing Fresher. Nothing Finer. Certified South Carolina Broilers are chickens raised for meat, and South Carolina growers raised about 223 million in 2011, generating $697 million in receipts.

South Carolina peaches, the state’s signature fruit, are first available in May and typically stay in season through September. South Carolina is the 2nd largest peach-producing state in the country, normally producing 200 million pounds of fresh peaches each season.

Through the South Carolina Farm to School program, started in 2011, nearly 100 schools and child care centers display Certified SC promotional materials and use at least two South Carolina grown fruits and vegetables monthly.

South Carolina produces about 11 million turkeys each year, ranking 8th nationally in turkey production.

South Carolina fruits and vegetables account for more than $150 million in sales.

The South Carolina poultry industry represents 40 percent of all agriculture in the state and 80 percent of animal agriculture.

The value of the South Carolina peanut crop in 2012 was $120 million.

As of January 1, 2013, South Carolina was home to more than 350,000 head of cattle.

Source: South Carolina Department of Agriculture

350,000

Broilers are chickens raised for meat, and South Carolina growers raised about 223 million in 2011, generating $697 million in receipts.
A modern-day gold rush is underway east of the Mississippi River, and it's bringing a strong – and significant – source of opportunity to one tiny town in South Carolina.

Kershaw, like many of its neighbors in Lancaster County, once thrived thanks to a booming textile industry. But in recent years, it has shared many of the region’s economic hardships, with a tight local budget and jobless rate peaking at 20 percent – nearly twice the state average.

But that started to change a little more than five years ago when Romarco Minerals reopened the Haile (pronounced “hail”) Gold Mine and began investing millions of dollars into the community to complete a proposed, environmentally sensitive project to extract the property's gold reserves. Romarco is currently working to permit the project, which will create hundreds of new jobs and give the local and regional economy a much-needed boost.

Today, however, all that has changed, thanks to the higher price of gold and the development of new, state-of-the-art technology.

BRINGING MODERN MINING TECHNOLOGY TO THE CAROLINA SLATE BELT

The Haile Gold Mine is located at the center of the Carolina Slate Belt, a strip of land that runs from Virginia to Georgia and is believed to contain large, untapped deposits of gold. Its vast potential was first exposed by Benjamin Haile in 1827, when he discovered the site’s first gold.

The site was mined on and off since that early discovery. But by 1990, the mining effort came to a halt when much of the gold that was believed to be on the property became too expensive to recover.

A CLEANER, SAFER APPROACH TO EXTRACTING GOLD

Under the experienced leadership of Romarco, the Haile Gold Mine will utilize a combination of modern and traditional techniques to extract deposits that were once unattainable at the site.

As part of its proposed plan, gold ore will be mined and then processed using a diluted cyanide solution that extracts the precious metal by separating it from the host rock. This technique – which has traditionally been used in heap leach operations – will be conducted differently at the Haile Gold Mine, using secure tanks that are then housed in secondary containment areas. This means that no cyanide will be released into the waters of South Carolina.

“Our state-of-the-art process will be safer, cleaner, and more technologically advanced than other extraction operations,” said Diane Garrett, CEO of Romarco who works out of the company’s Fort Mill, SC headquarters. “And it will be backed by a unique partnership that’s ensuring...”
environmentally sound operations while putting people back to work in Lancaster County.”

Together, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and several other local and state entities, including South Carolina’s Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), Romarco is working to make certain the project minimizes its ecological impact.

The company is completing an environmental impact statement — a process that has already spanned more than a year — to assess the extent to which the proposed project could affect the surrounding environment, including water, air, wildlife, cultural sites and the community.

Only when that statement is complete and all federal and state permits are secured will construction and mining begin at the Haile Gold Mine.

Catherine Templeton, director of South Carolina’s Department of Health and Environmental Control, recently appointed a single point of contact to Romarco to help ensure seamless completion of the state permitting process. “We are committed to protecting the environment for the citizens in the Kershaw area, while working efficiently and responsibly,” said Templeton. “Our goal is to make all permitting decisions in a timely manner to avoid impeding the economic benefits this project brings to the area.”

When mining is underway, the company will back-fill pits and reclaim the property concurrently, a practice that is not required by current regulations. And it will mitigate impacted wetland areas — a project that will cost tens of millions of dollars.

A GOLDEN FUTURE FOR LANCASTER COUNTY — AND THE MINING INDUSTRY

Although it’s too early to know exactly when mining will begin at the Haile Gold Mine, one thing is certain: the people of Lancaster County will benefit from its production.

Since purchasing the mine in 2007, the company has spent more than $300 million in the Kershaw area to build, grow and operate its 11,000-acre land holding and future mining site.

When permitting is complete, as many as 500 area residents will be hired for jobs building the mine and a processing plant. After that, more than 300 workers will be needed to operate the extraction effort, which will occur in phases over a 12-year period.

This multimillion-dollar workforce investment by Romarco — when coupled with the purchase of local goods — will result in estimated regional spending of more than $3 million a month.

On top of that, economic experts predict that for each person employed at the mine, four more jobs will be created in the community, generating an additional $100 million in annual revenue for as long as the mine is in operation.

But Romarco’s investments in the community don’t end there.

The company has also acquired the 120-acre Kershaw Industrial Park and built an 8,300-square-foot mineral lab for analyzing drilling samples. It’s the only assaying lab of its kind east of the Mississippi River, and it will outlive the gold mine and produce revenue for Lancaster County for decades to come.

Romarco Minerals is setting a high standard for mining in the Carolinas. The Haile Gold Mine will drive economic growth to an entirely new level for residents of Lancaster County, while setting new industry standards when it comes to environmental stewardship. And that’s not just creating a golden future for the mining industry. It’s building rich opportunities for local residents alike for many years to come. To learn more visit, hailegoldmine.com and romarco.com.

Jean Cecil Frick is the multimedia manager at the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce and the editor of South Carolina Business.
Nearly 200 human resources professionals, consultants, vendors, employment law attorneys and speakers gathered May 15-17 for the 23rd Annual Human Resources Conference held in Myrtle Beach. Interactive sessions covering health care, diversity, leadership and social media were part of the program. In addition, a new conference app for Chamber events was debuted during the conference.
Healthcare summit held in April

The Transforming Healthcare in South Carolina Summit was held April 18 in Columbia and featured topics on healthcare’s impact on economic development, the payer perspective, the cost of healthcare, the benefits of a healthy workforce and much more. The summit was aimed at educating South Carolina employers on prominent healthcare topics and more than 130 state and nationally recognized industry experts participated.

Mark Fendrick, M.D., director of the Center for Value-Based Insurance Design, University of Michigan, delivers the opening keynote session.

Healthcare summit participants listen to luncheon speakers.

Summit attendees network over lunch.

Robby Kerr, president of Kerr & Company, speaks on healthcare costs and quality drivers for employers.

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- leased farmland
- nurseries
- row crops

**COMMERCIAL**
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Plus, we offer affordable auto, home and life insurance.

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South Carolina Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company · Southern Farm Bureau Casualty Insurance Company · Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company · Jackson, MS · Palmetto Casualty Insurance Company · Palmetto Specialty Insurance Agency, Inc. · South Carolina Farm Bureau Insurance Agency, LLC
LS3P celebrated its 50th anniversary in architecture, interior architecture and planning. On May 1, more than 200 LS3P employees gave back to the community as a part of a “Day of Engagement” to mark the 50th anniversary date. Staff members donated time visiting area schools and hospitals to read a book to over 5,000 young children that was written and illustrated by the creative team at LS3P and inspired by the firm’s founder, Frank Lucas.

Select Health of South Carolina’s “Walking Warriors,” led by its First Choice Bright Start prenatal Medicaid initiative that averages more than 1,000 births each month, rallied in support of the Lowcountry March of Dimes’ March for Babies, raising $2,504 to help prevent premature births, birth defects and infant mortality. Matching funds from Select Health increased the total donation to $5,004. (L-R) Select Health associates Joel Baumgardner, tech support supervisor and “Walking Warriors” team leader, Tammy Richardson, manager of maternal NICU care management, Bright Start, presented their donation to Meredith Goodwin Repik, executive director, March of Dimes.

The Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce announced Coastal Living magazine included Beaufort on its list of “America’s Happiest Seaside Towns.”

Cherry Bekaert LLP announced Timothy P. Cherry has joined the firm as a partner. Based in Cherry Bekaert’s Greenville office, Cherry will assist clients who require guidance with complex tax matters, including mergers, acquisitions, succession planning, strategic planning, tax controversy, executive compensation and estate planning.

Cherry Bekaert LLP announced Mark H. Cooter has joined the firm as a tax partner. Based in Cherry Bekaert’s Greenville office, Cooter will serve as the managing partner of the South Carolina Upstate practice with responsibility for executing the firm’s strategy for serving the growth needs of clients in the state.

Anand Gramopadhye, Clemson University’s associate vice president for workforce development and chairman of the industrial engineering department, has been named dean of the College of Engineering and Science, effective July 1.

Clemson University and Greenville Health System will establish a healthcare research powerhouse that will fuel growth in medical research and breakthroughs, create opportunities for faculty, physicians and students and accelerate the flow of research funding into the Upstate, boosting the region’s economy.

Collins & Lacy, P.C. founding partner, Stan Lacy, received a high honor from the Boy Scouts of America as a 2013 recipient of the Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award, which is presented annually to recognize individuals for their outstanding service to scouting and the community. Specifically, the award honors people who help develop and implement scouting opportunities for youth from rural or low-income urban backgrounds.

For the fifth year in a row, Domtar has been named to the prestigious Fortune 500 list of the top 500 U.S.-registered and operating companies, based on total revenues.

Electric Guard Dog was recently honored for a third time as one of the top 30 electronic security providers in the United States on the prestigious SDM 100 List, as well as named for a second year in a row to the SDM’s Fast 50 America’s Fastest Growing System Integrators.

The Board of Directors of Environmental Express appointed Al Jurgela as the new chief executive officer effective April 22, 2013. Jurgela has worldwide experience in general...
Ryder System, Inc., a leader in transportation and supply chain management solutions, recognized the tradition of driver excellence by presenting its annual “Driver of the Year” award to a resident of Columbia, Wyman Watts. Watts works for Ryder lease customer Lindau Chemicals, Inc. and was recognized by Ryder for his seven years and 3.8 million collision-free miles over his 38-year professional driving career.

Mashburn Construction welcomed Stephen Ham to the company as a project manager. Ham will manage projects in Florence for one year before transferring to Mashburn’s Columbia office.

Dan McCoy has joined Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP in its Myrtle Beach office as an associate, where he practices in litigation.

Nexsen Pruet, a law firm with more than 190 attorneys in eight Carolina offices, has formed NP Strategy. The wholly-owned communications subsidiary is comprised of a veteran group of professionals from media, public policy, public relations and business. Leighton Lord is the NPS managing director.

Intellectual property attorney Tim St.Clair has joined Nexsen Pruet as a member practicing in the firm’s Greenville office. St.Clair is a veteran IP litigator in South Carolina and across the nation.

Governor Nikki Haley nominated Cheryl M. Stanton to serve as executive director of the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (SCDEW). Stanton was formerly a partner with the Oglethorpe Deakins law firm.

Masonite International Corp. held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of a new 200,000 square-foot door manufacturing facility in Denmark. More than a $14 million investment, the next generation, fully automated production line for interior doors helps meet the needs of a changing marketplace. With its premier automation technology, the Masonite facility at Denmark will help Masonite improve product quality and safety while distributing its interior residential door products to the southeast market faster.

Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A. announced Scott Y. Barnes as special counsel in the firm’s Meeting Street office. Barnes is a certified tax specialist and practices in the areas of corporate & business law, mergers & acquisitions and real estate tax planning.

The Lexington Medical Center board of directors is pleased to welcome two new members, Jeffrey Salters and William Shockley. Salters is the chief operating officer of Lexington County School District One, and has experience in the areas of information technology management, strategic planning, education technology and budget forecasting. Shockley is a retired Lexington County District 4 Magistrate who served 22 years on the bench. He has been an active volunteer firefighter since 1974 and served in the United States Army Reserves as a communication specialist.

Life Cycle Engineering, Inc. announced Manuel (Manny) Lovgren has joined the company as senior vice president of the engineering services group, which offers a comprehensive line of engineering and technical services for U.S. and foreign Navies, commercial marine operators and industrial companies throughout the world.
At the annual American Trucking Association (ATA) meeting, the Supply Chain Security and Loss Prevention Council announced that Old Dominion Freight Line, Inc. was the winner of the 2013 Award for Excellence in Security, the second year in a row Old Dominion Freight has received the award.

O’Neal Inc., a Greenville-based integrated design and construction firm, has hired Frank McCormack as business development manager.

Palmetto Health Foundation announced Leah Hyatt Peace has been named public relations coordinator. In her role at Palmetto Health Foundation, Peace will assist with public relations, communications and social media efforts for the Foundation and its fundraising initiatives.

Phillips Staffing, a full-service staffing, payroll management, professional placement and HR consulting firm, has named veteran staffing professional Paula Alexander as the Charleston office branch manager.

Richland Library announced Roberta Bibbins has been selected as the library’s planning and projects manager. Bibbins will help plan, initiate and execute strategic projects and activities that help advance the Midlands.

SC State University’s Board of Trustees appointed Thomas J. Elzey as the 11th president of SC State University. Elzey comes from The Citadel where he served as the executive vice president for finance, administration and operations and senior, non-academic vice president, holding the rank of Brigadier General in the South Carolina Militia.

Security Federal Bank was one of only 18 organizations in the country to receive an FA award for microenterprise lending. SFB received a $1,453,806 FA Award. SFB was one of only six banks in the country out of 22 that applied to receive an award and the only bank from South Carolina to receive an award for microlending.

Sowell Gray Stepp & Laffitte, LLC managing member Cal Watson has been sworn in as president-elect of the South Carolina Bar, a position that will prepare him to lead the 14,000-member organization in 2014.

The Wofford College Board of Trustees elected Dr. Nayef H. Samhat as president of the college. Samhat has served as provost and professor of political science and international studies at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio since 2009. He will succeed the retiring Dr. Benjamin B. Dunlap this summer.
NAME: Cathy Novinger

HOMETOWN: Portsmouth, OH

OCCUPATION: Executive Director of the Palmetto Agribusiness Council

SHE THINKS THE FUTURE OF SOUTH CAROLINA “Is very bright because we are finally having positive discussions surrounding infrastructure. The Port of Charleston deepening and increased highway funding are important to move the state forward. We continue each year to make strides in tort reform. The state is moving in the right direction in many areas.”

AGRIBUSINESS IS VITAL TO THE STATE BECAUSE “It is the backbone to our rural communities, many of which are distressed, and we need to keep them alive.”

SHE’S PASSIONATE ABOUT “As an eight year survivor of ovarian cancer, I want to educate women on the whispering symptoms of ovarian cancer.”

IF SHE COULD GO BACK IN TIME “I would tell women they do not have to dress and act like a man in order to be successful in business.”

HER PROUDEST ACHIEVEMENT “My son who has a Christian medical practice in Cheraw.”

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU “Getting the job done!”

HER SECRET TO SUCCESS FOR WOMEN “The glass ceiling does not exist. Do the job you currently have well before worrying about the next job. Be so good at your job that people want to promote you.”

I AM S.C. BUSINESS “I am proud to live in a state that has given me so many opportunities. Living in a smaller state provides opportunities you may not be able to find elsewhere.”

– Jean Cecil Frick
UPCOMING RECOGNITION & AWARDS

Manufacturer of the Year Awards
Luncheon: August 27
Application Deadline: June 14

Excellence in Workplace Diversity Awards
Luncheon: September 10
Application Deadline: July 12

Best Places to Work in South Carolina
Dinner: October 8

Visit “Events” then “Applications & Recognition” at scchamber.net.

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES
Midlands Membership Reception
August 6, 2013
Riverbanks Zoo, Columbia
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Lowcountry Membership Reception & Grassroots Meeting, August 8, 2013
Cooper River Room, Mt. Pleasant
Grassroots: 3:30 p.m. Reception: 5 p.m.

Pee Dee Membership Reception & Grassroots Meeting, August 13, 2013
Osbornes, Florence
Grassroots: 4 p.m. Reception: 5 p.m.

Upstate Membership Reception & Grassroots Meeting, August 15, 2013
BMW Zentrum, Greer
Grassroots: 3:30 p.m. Reception: 5 p.m.

Business Classic Golf Tournament
September 18, 2013 - Golden Hills, Lexington

AWARDS EVENTS
Manufacturer of the Year Awards Luncheon
August 27, 2013 – The DoubleTree, Columbia
Noon

Excellence in Workplace Diversity Awards
September 10, 2013 – The DoubleTree, Columbia
Noon

Best Places to Work in South Carolina
October 8, 2013 – Embassy Suites, Columbia
5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Reception
6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Awards dinner

ANNUAL MEETING
Annual Summit
November 13-15, 2013
Wild Dunes Resort, Isle of Palms

QUESTIONS & MORE INFORMATION
Contact Alexa.Stillwell@scchamber.net

LEGISLATIVE EVENTS
Business Speaks at the State House
January 22, 2014 - Marriott, Columbia
4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Town Meeting
5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Reception

Washington Night in South Carolina
April 16, 2014 - Marriott, Columbia
4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Town Meeting
6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Reception

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Manufacturers Conference
February 26-28, 2014
Francis Marion Hotel, Charleston

DOWNLOAD THE NEW S.C. CHAMBER EVENTS APP!