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BAMA Board of Directors

- President; Cliff Csulik, Jabil Circuit
- Past President: Steve Meitzen, S.C.M Inc.
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- James Long, Sypris Electronics
- Grant Petersen, Ogletree Deakins, P.A.
- Jeff Perkins, Seal Dynamics
- Dennis Piotrowski, BELAC, LLC.
- Dave Stailey
- Dennis Stotts, Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A.
- Rob Wallace, Environmental Engineering Consultant
- Dru Wilson, USI Insurance Services

Golf Tournament Raises Money for Scholarships!

A beautiful sunny day helped the BAMA scholarship fund raise more money than last year, at the Kelly Murphy Memorial 24th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament on April 13.

More than \$13,000 was raised to benefit local STEM students, summer camps and robotics teams.

Since 1992 almost \$150,000 has been raised and awarded in scholarships for college scholarships; vocational training for hands-on skilled jobs; FLATE summer camps; and robotics teams.

These fundraising efforts prove that BAMA is making a difference in our local economy by investing in manufacturing education will keep jobs and manufacturing growing in Tampa Bay.

The team from Adam's Air & Hydraulics placed first, while Cypress Folding Cart finished in second place.

Golf Chairman, Dave Stailey, wanted to express his heartfelt thanks to everyone who made the day a success. Without all the volunteers we couldn't do it!

Special Thanks to golfers and sponsors from the following:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Adams Air & Hydraulics | • Hooters | • Resource MFG |
| • BELAC | • ISS Mechanical | • Seal Dynamics |
| • Compulink | • Jabil Circuit | • Seko Logistics |
| • ConMed | • Kelly Services.com | • Synovus Bank of Florida |
| • Cypress Folding Cartons | • Kimball Electronics Tampa | • Sypris Electronics |
| • FLATE | • Lewis, Longman & Walker | • Tech Data |
| • Foley & Lardner | • LFA Premier Business Solu. | • Tudi Mechanical Systems |
| • General Dynamics | • LogoHQ Promotional Prod. | • Upstream Financial |
| • H&S Swanson Tools | • MONIN | • USI Insurance Services |
| | • Ogletree Deakins | |



Once again, golfers had a great time enjoying a warm sunny day and raising money for STEM scholarships and education funds.



Welcome new members!

Since January, we've welcomed the following as new manufacturer members:

- Adams Air & Hydraulics, Inc.
- BaseWest
- ConMed Corporation
- Florida Graphic Supply
- H&T Global Circuit/Elreha
- LogoHQ Promotional Products
- Mettler-Toledo Product Inspection Division
- Seaboard Manufacturing, LLC
- Tampa Bay Steel Corporation

Happy Anniversary!

The following members celebrated anniversaries with BAMA during the first quarter of 2015:

16 years: Ven-Tel Plastics

Three Years:

HRP Associates, Inc.
MacDonald Training Center
McCormick Stevenson
Precision Performance
USI Insurance Group

Two Years:

Alliance Workforce
Colliers Internat'l of Tampa Bay
Somatron Corporation
Sypris Electronics
Turner Pest Control

One Year:

Craters & Freighters Tampa
First Citrus Bank
HRP Associates, Inc.
IC Mechanical, Inc.
Leader Tech Inc
MONIN, Inc.
Randstad USA
Timbar Mfg & Display
Tecta Amereica
Wells Fargo Bank

Jim Long might be new to BAMA, but he isn't new to manufacturing. He's been involved in manufacturing for about 35 years in a variety of roles and has had the privilege of working for large and small companies in a variety of industries including aerospace and defense; space; commercial mining; oil and gas; telecommunications; medical; and industrial markets.

Currently the Vice President of both Operations and Electronic Manufacturing Services business for Sypris Electronics in Tampa, he oversees operations for their specialty OEM product business as well as contract manufacturing business.

Prior to joining Sypris five years ago, Jim was based in Shenzhen China for three years and served as Vice President & General Manager of Optical Technology for Sanmina-SCI and prior to that as Vice President & General Manager for JDS Uniphase.

Living in mainland China was a unique experience for Jim and his family. They did not live in an expat community so simple things like buying food, getting around Shenzhen, and trying to communicate was a daily challenge. Being stopped by people in the street so they could take a picture of Jim as a foreigner or wanting to practice their English happened quite often and having responsibility for a large manufacturing facility for a US Technology Company provided many leadership challenges, as well. Jim was one of only two Americans at a facility of 3,500 employees.

Jim explained, "I quickly learned that my leadership

techniques needed to change to be successful. For example, employees providing input or suggestions to management are considered disrespectful – which made team collaboration difficult! Most of the employees lived in company provided dormitories close to the factory which I had to oversee, as well as after-work activities. Some aspects of my job were similar to managing a college campus full of students! The direct labor employees came to our facility from all over China to earn money for themselves and their families. The culture is to work hard with the desire to obtain as many hours of overtime they could each week."

Not only did Jim return from China with a new cultural perspective on leadership, he also returned with a firsthand perspective on how U.S. based manufacturers needed to compete on a global basis. He explained, "Manufacturing cost in Asia is rising rapidly and when we combine well trained workers, good technology and progressive



manufacturing methods, we in the U.S. and the Bay area can be very competitive!"

Jim says he enjoys working again for a smaller U.S. based manufacturing company. "Manufacturing is a very competitive global business and I find it much more rewarding to grow a smaller organization than to maintain a larger one."

Jim also enjoys being a member of BAMA and the fact that BAMA has a broad scope of influence in the Bay area – from supporting the county school STEM programs, providing scholarships, sharing

Jim Long. Continued on page 4



Photo of Jim Long (far left) & Robert Sutton (far right) of Sypris Electronics with some area Veterans on a tour of Sypris as part of T-VETs of Hillsborough County. An activity made in partnership between Florida Trade and Hillsborough County to support Veterans allowing them to learn more about manufacturing opportunities when they return from service.

Thank you BAMA Sponsors

Please remember these generous companies who help BAMA throughout the year with their Annual Corporate Sponsorship.

Clearwater Gas System
www.clearwatergas.com

Environmental Engineering Consultants, Inc.
www.eec-tampabay.com

Innovative Service Solutions
www.innovativeservicesolutions.com

Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A.
www.llw-law.com

PDR Certified Public Accountants
www.pdr-cpa.com

Limelight Video Productions

To find out more about how your company can be a sponsor of BAMA, please visit our website:
www.bama-fl.org/sponsors

Member Spotlight: GT Precision Manufacturing

When Stanley bought out Black and Decker and moved the operations to Kentucky, Tom Gaffney and Greg Herschell decided they wanted to be business owners instead of working for someone else again. That's why they started GT Precision Manufacturing, Inc., two years ago.

Tom worked with sheet metal and they saw a need for a niche market making custom items. They found an opportunity for a custom machine shop, making everything from prototypes to production runs across a variety of industries. For a year they looked to buy a manufacturing plant and found a place located on Columbus Drive in Tampa. They currently have four employees but have a goal over the next 10 years to grow substantially.



Aluminum boat built by GT Precision Manufacturing

Most of their business comes from word of mouth but they have gotten customers from Google and BAMA. Some of their more interesting projects have included a 26-foot aluminum boat, which was later sent out for customization; and a chair needed for the Special Olympics competitor.

Specializing in precision sheet metal fabrication from concept design through finished product, they do:

- Punch Press
- Press Brake
- CNC Mill
- Lathe
- Welding

Their goals are to obtain more government contracts; to treat each customer like they are their first and only customer; and to grow substantially... one customer at a time.

Tom and Greg can be reached at service@gtprecisionmfg.com. To find out more please visit, www.gtprecisionmfg.com/



Robotics Summer Camps

Florida Advanced Technology Education Center (FLATE) robotics summer camps for middle and high school students is a five-day hands-on camp with grade appropriate professional instruction with in-camp support from FLATE.

Find more information here:
www.bama-fl.org/robotics

Tampa Bay's Top 100 Workplaces

Congratulations to several BAMA member companies listed in the *Tampa Bay Times* list of **Tampa Bay's Top 100 Workplaces**. Those that made the list for small companies are:

13. **Monin Gourmet Flavorings:** One of two manufacturers to make the list.
17. **Bouchard Insurance**
23. **Gregory, Sharer & Stuart:** One of the Elite 14 Top Workplaces that make the list every year.
27. **DITEK Corp**
37. **Tampa Bay Steel Corp:** The second of two manufacturers to make the list. (Both members of BAMA.)
48. **CBIZ**

Manufacturing Focus Groups

BAMA and UTBMA are partnering with Career Source Florida and the Center for American Manufacturing Excellence in conducting state-wide focus groups. The objective is to obtain YOUR candid input on the challenges and issues facing regional manufacturing in developing a world-class workforce.

The focus groups will be June 23 & 25. Contact becky@bama-fl.org if you'd like to participate.

BAMA Member Awards

The BAMA Member Development Committee recently announced its second year of the Member Award program that recognizes members and volunteers who embody the mission of BAMA as nominated by their peers. The nominations will be collected over several weeks and a special committee assigned by the president will finalize and select one member from each of five categories. The awards will be presented to the recipients during BAMA's event on June 18.

The five categories are:

- Distinguished Service Award
- Honorary Life Member
- Member of the Year
- Emerging Leader
- Associate of the year

Nominations to be completed by BAMA Members only.

The link can be found here:

<http://tinyurl.com/BAMASurvey2015>

Manufacturing Job Openings?

Send them via email to becky@bama-fl.org

Florida TRADE Manufacturing Forum

The MAF Center for Advanced Manufacturing Excellence, Inc., the TRADE Consortium, and the Florida Sterling Council are hosting a Florida TRADE STEM Manufacturing Forum at the JW Marriott Orlando Grande Lakes Hotel on Thurs., June 4, from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The purpose is to bring manufacturers, educators and interested parties together to exchange valuable information for mutual benefit on training, educating and employing a skilled manufacturing workforce.

The event features women in manufacturing, including a panel on "The Manufacturing Experience: A Woman's Perspective" moderated by Rep. Kathleen Peters. Here is the link to register for the forum:

<http://tinyurl.com/STEMforum>

Jim Long, continued from page 2

best practices, and networking with other members that share a passion about manufacturing.

Jim is very passionate about manufacturing and his belief is that manufacturing is critically important to the economic success of our region, state, and country. "BAMA is an organization that shares this belief, has done so for a long time, and is an organization that I wanted to get involved with. I would encourage anyone who shares a passion to help enable the success of area manufacturers to join BAMA!"



[@bamafla](https://twitter.com/bamafla)

SAVE THE DATE: Annual Awards & Scholarship Dinner**June 18**

Plan on attending our Annual Awards and Scholarship Dinner where you can speak to local science fair winners; view a robotics demonstration from Middleton High School students; speak with our scholarship awardees; and hear local government officials speak about the future of manufacturing and industry in Tampa Bay. Register online: www.bama-fl.org/event-1813180



One of last year's winners, Colton Copple, displays his prize winning science fair entry.

Collaborative Labs Celebrates 10 Years

In April, Collaborative Labs hosted the BAMA meeting on the Corrupt Foreign Practices Act.

As Collaborative Labs celebrates its 10-Year Anniversary and Grand Reopening of the most innovative meeting space in our region, CL invites BAMA Members and member companies to bring their next team/board meeting to its space at no charge during the months of May and June. Collaborative Labs is located at The St. Pete College EpiCenter, 13805 - 58th St. N., Clearwater 33760.

In addition to the latest in innovative meeting space, Collaborative Labs designs and facilitates highly engaging, accelerated engagements such as process improvement and creative problem solving with actionable business results in less than six hours.

If you have questions about the labs, please call Terrie Elliott at 727-341-3139 for more information or to schedule a VIP tour of their state-of-the-art facilities.

www.collaborativelabs.com

Have news to share?

Email: Becky Burton at becky@bama-fl.org



www.bama-fl.org