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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CHAMBER CELEBRATES BUSINESS' ROLE IN THE MAKING OF OUR #1 CITY**

**GAINESVILLE, Fla.--** The Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce will “Celebrate Business’ Role in the Making of Our #1 City” at its Annual Meeting Dinner held at the Hilton University of Florida Hotel & Conference Center on Jan. 10, 2008, at 6 p.m.

Nearly 500 business representatives in the area will attend this memorable event as Michael Walsh, (M M Parrish Construction Co.), 2007 Chamber Chairman, passes the gavel to Kinnon Thomas, (The Thomas Sound Group, Inc.), 2008 Chamber Chairman.

In honor of Walsh and his contributions to the Chamber, the theme of construction will be reflected throughout the evening. Entertainment will be provided by Carmen Ciricillo, comedian with Contractors Educational Services, and suggested attire includes flannel, denim, hard hat and safety goggles.

Awards to be given include Volunteer of the Year, J. Wayne Reitz/CEO Leadership Award, Legacy Award and Chairman’s Award.

The Chamber will also unveil its newly constructed Web site, which includes several new interactive features:

- ? “Around the Water Cooler” daily updates on emerging trends and your source for networking ice breakers;
- ? RSS feed to receive breaking news that impacts local business;
- ? New Chamber e-Journal distributed weekly with announcements, a new members list and a rotating featured story from the Chamber, CEO, GTEC or FloridaWorks;
- ? Online event registration in the Members Only section that allows you to register and pay in advance, manage membership information and access exclusive content;
- ? Electronic advertising for increased marketing opportunities at any size budget;
- ? Enhanced member directory that allows you to update your information as often as you like and take advantage of additional listing options for greater visibility.

The Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce is a membership organization of more than 1,400

members, representing 75,000 employees — more than 50 percent of the workforce of Alachua County. It has served as the voice of business in Gainesville/Alachua County since 1924.