



## 2004 Board of Directors

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**Jake Giardina**  
*Vice Chairman*

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*Secretary and Treasurer*

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*Executive Committee Member*

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**Dr. Shannon Gonsoulin**

**Tommy Landry**

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**Roy Pontiff**

**Larry Richard**

**Fran Thibodeaux**

**Arthur Verret**

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**Michael J. Tarantino**  
*Executive Director*

**Evelyn Ducote**  
*Executive Assistant*

**Anne Dugas**  
*Small Business Advisor*

**Natalie Barrileaux**  
*Small Business Assistant*

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## Click Your Way to IDF!



The IDF is excited to announce the recent launch of its new website, **www.iberiabiz.org**, designed to provide its visitors with information about our foundation, our community and its economic potential.

The fresh, newly revamped website is the "go to" location for economic and trend indicators and contains links to additional online resources. The site is also an excellent resource for site selectors and those looking for information about business opportunities in our area. We're off to a great start. "Iberiabiz.org is helping us reach a larger regional and national audience and we're seeing a lot of positive response," said Executive Director Mike Tarantino. The new website was unveiled at the August 2004 Board of Directors meeting, and at the September meeting Mike reported that the site received in excess of

141,000 hits, with over 1,000 unique visitors finding the site for the first time.

Emerging small businesses will benefit greatly as well, with links to resources and listings of upcoming seminars and workshops. "Small businesses encompass over 90% of Iberia's business base and **Iberiabiz.org** is the perfect resource for getting vital information out to help successful businesses grow and prosper." said Anne Dugas, IDF Small Business Advisor.

We encourage you to visit the new site for statistics and information that will help your business' bottom line.

## Giardina Slated As 2005 Chairman Of The Board



Jacob A. Giardina, Jr.  
2005 IDF Chairman

At its November meeting, the IDF Board of Directors named Jacob A. Giardina, Jr. as its new Chairman of the

Board for 2005. Jake, who served as 2004 Vice - Chairman, will officially "take the gavel" in January, succeeding Kyle Viator, IDF's 2004 Chairman.

Mr. Giardina assumes the

Chairman's seat as the General Manager of Honiron Corporation, one of the world's leading sugar process equipment manufacturing companies and a growing oilfield manufacturer. Jake has been involved in the Agricultural and Financial world for 14 years. He is a graduate of Louisiana State University and of the AB Freeman School of Business at Tulane University.

"I am looking forward to serving as this year's IDF Chairperson and to working with the Board of Directors to continue to promote economic development, to attract new businesses and to guide policies that will assist existing

businesses as they work to grow and prosper," says Giardina. "I believe that 2005 holds much opportunity as we continue to strengthen IDF's role as the primary facilitator of economic development in Iberia Parish and its communities." Giardina added, "As our business base broadens and diversifies and as the number of jobs created increases, Iberia will continue to see greater economic stability and growth. IDF will continue to increase its visibility, especially through its recent website enhancement and new committee structure, and we'll continue to reach out to growing businesses and work to improve our business climate."



Louisiana Department of Economic Development holds monthly tax incentive and workforce development workshops at the Louisiana State Employees Retirement Systems Building Hearing Room, 8401 United Plaza Blvd., 4th Floor in Baton Rouge. The meetings are from 8:30 am to 11:30 am. For more information, call (225) 342-9218. Workshops during the first six months of 2005 will be conducted on:

- January 26, 2005
- February 23, 2005
- March 23, 2005
- April 27, 2005
- May 25, 2005
- June 22, 2005

## IDF Welcomes New Intern



### Natalie Barrilleaux

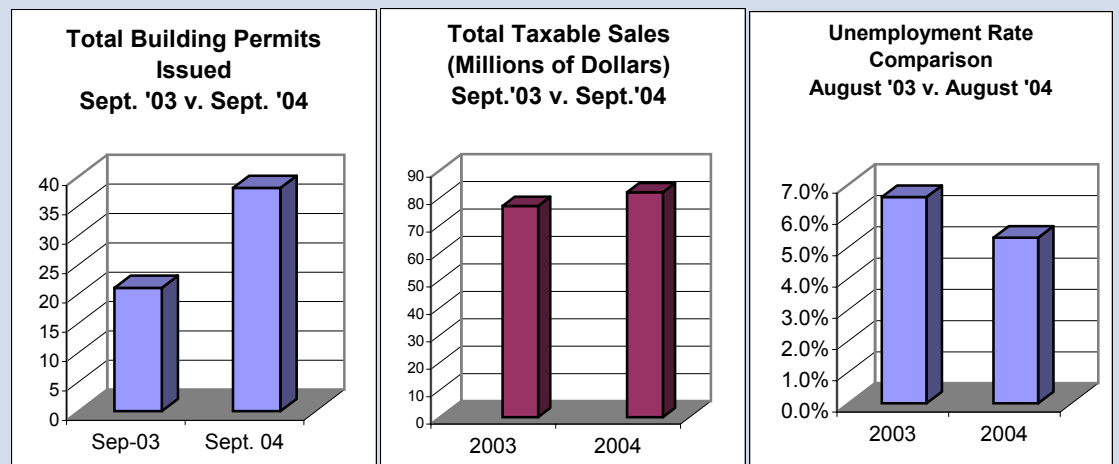
Natalie is a recent graduate of LSU, with a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing. Natalie comes to us through the Acadiana Works Work Experience program, and is currently attending ULL's MBA Program. Find out more about any of the programs that the IDF offers by calling Natalie at (337) 367-0834.

# Iberia And IDF Are On The Move

One of the many functions of the IDF is to compile the economic indicators for our area. Our initiatives have a direct effect on the economy. The economic indicators can also be found on our website, [www.iberiabiz.org](http://www.iberiabiz.org).

Iberia's economy has been on an upward trend in 2004. As the nation's economic figures have ebbed and flowed, Iberia's numbers continue to stay strong, as we continue to diversify our economy.

While the oil and gas industry as a whole has seen its ups and downs, this year other indicators like those below show promise for 2005.



## Small Business Offers Weekly Q&A

Are you interested in starting a small business or have you been involved in small business operations for a year or less? Anne Dugas and the IDF Small Business Division have just the workshop for you. The weekly Question and Answer session highlights how you can obtain licenses and permits, seek sources of funding and write a business plan. This session is offered on Thursday's at noon in

the Louisiana Works building, located at 124 E. Main Street in New Iberia. In conjunction with this session, we also offer a Computerized Cash Flow Training Workshop. This monthly free training program is designed for individuals interested in learning how to utilize a computerized Cash Flow model to help create a business plan, determine expansion needs, or work a monthly budget. Check out our complete

list of classes and workshops on [www.iberiabiz.org](http://www.iberiabiz.org)

### Did you know that small businesses:

- Create 3 out of every 4 new jobs and generate a majority of American innovations?
- Represent more than 99% of all employers?

## Interstate Logos and Signs



Have you ever found yourself driving down the highway

looking for "Gas, Food Lodging or Attractions" on the blue interstate signs? These helpful signs are provided by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development through the LOGO Sign Program. Businesses that provide key services to the motoring public can lease available space on blue background signs at selected interchanges on Interstate routes. Contact Wanda Boudreaux with the Louisiana DOTD at (337) 262-6119 to find out how you can display your brand symbol, trademark or name on a sign today.

## From The Director



From a new committee structure and increased membership development to an improving unemployment rate and new business projects, 2004 has been a very productive year for both IDF and Iberia as a whole. We're focused on positioning Iberia as THE place to live, work, visit and do business. Too often overlooked, there are many good things happening right now in our community and right here at IDF.

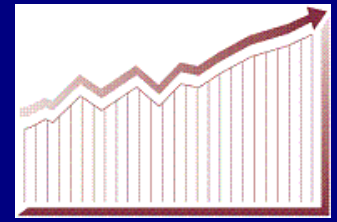
As 2004 began, so did our new committee structure, featuring a renewed focus on Membership Development, Infrastructure Development, Community Development and Business Advisory. The new structure allowed us to gather vital information from our membership on the issues that affect our ability to help businesses grow and prosper. Whether it be revisiting Iberia's Infrastructure Master Plan, determining ways to provide more value for IDF members, discussing "quality of life" issues to keep those who work here living here as well, or whether it be business owners coming together to discuss common issues and obstacles and provide venues to help local businesses do business with each other, our committees have made a difference.

Our membership rolls continue to grow as business and individuals alike learn of their vital importance

to IDF's efforts to fulfill its mission of helping to develop our economy.

Our overall economic outlook continues to look strong as we continue to look for ways to diversify our economic base. Our workforce remains stable and our workers have shown that they are second to none. Our school system continues to improve and remains at the cutting edge of education, training our students to take the new jobs that await. Our public officials continue to work tirelessly to improve communication and to move the community forward.

This all adds up to great promise for 2005 and beyond. I look forward to visiting with all of you to continue to gain important input to keep the good news coming!



Boudreaux, Henderson & Co., LLP

## ACCOUNTING TIPS

### Warning Signs an Employee may be Committing Fraud:

- They never take a vacation
- They consistently seem to live beyond their means
- They are secretive or possessive about their work and won't let other see it

### How to Improve Internal Control in your Organization:

- Do not sign blank checks
- Do not allow 1 person to prepare checks, keep the books, and reconcile bank statements
- The owner should receive checks & statements directly from the bank (be sure to look at signatures on checks.)
- Whatever segregation of duties you have, change it for a month, at least once per year
- Educate employees on risks and warning signs of fraud
- Screen personnel before hiring them
- Don't assume anything. Don't be afraid to ask questions.

For more information contact:

**Fran Henderson, CPA**

**Boudreaux, Henderson & Co., LLP**

Business & Personal Consultants

(337) 365-7900

Or

[Fran@boudreauxhenderson.com](mailto:Fran@boudreauxhenderson.com)

## IDF Partner Profile



*IDF Note: This section entitled IDF Partner Profile endeavors to showcase for our readers all of the resources that are available through the various agencies and groups the IDF works with on a daily*

*basis. We work with many diverse groups and a new Partner will be profiled in each future issue. We're certain that by learning more about our Partners you'll know more about the resources and services available for your business.*

**The South Louisiana Community College New Iberia** campus is located at the Acadiana Regional Airport. The college has been open since the summer of 1998, and has a current enrollment of over 800 students. SLCC attracts students from throughout an eight parish area, offering affordable, high-quality academic, vocational and technical programs to improve the quality of life for residents of South Louisiana. Through the leadership of its Chancellor, Dr. Jan Brobst and her dedicated faculty and staff, SLCC is increasing its growth and prominence in the area. The summer of 2003 semester saw a 45% increase in enrollment over the previous summer, following an incredible 23% enrollment increase recorded for spring 2003.

SLCC is on the cutting edge and breaking into High Definition, and working to ensure that students are ready for the rapidly changing film and audio production industries. The college currently offers film/video production, final cut pro editing, HD cinematography/shake compositing, live sound engineering and HD audio production courses. The department has produced a short film, "Sac-au-lait", and is expecting more in the future. Plans are in the works for the construction of a 5,000 sq. ft. high-definition digital video movie production facility. "The film industry in New Orleans is creating demand for new movie production facilities. There are not enough facilities in New Orleans to accommodate all the work," said Lonnie Kaufman, Louisiana Department of Economic Development's entertainment cluster director. The movie industry is utilizing more high-definition video equipment, and SLCC in New Iberia could serve as an outlet for these companies.

A high-definition facility in New Iberia would diversify our economy and attract business to the area. The IDF is working with SLCC, LDED and others to facilitate this project to create quality job training opportunities, and we appreciate our strong connections to all of our partners as we work together to increase economic opportunities.



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**We're On The Web!**  
Visit us at: [www.iberiabiz.org](http://www.iberiabiz.org)

## Business Advisory Committee Holds First Networking Lunch

**Join us for**  
**The IDF Business Advisory Committee**  
**Business**  
**Networking Luncheon!**

**Make new contacts!**  
**Learn about new products!**  
**Get to know**  
**your business**  
**neighbors!**



The IDF Business Advisory Committee recently held its first Business Networking Luncheon on November 9, 2004 at the Holiday Inn in New Iberia. The event was held to give local small businesses an opportunity to network with other small businesses and their purchasing agents.

The event was a resounding success and exceeded our expectations. Over 70

people representing small businesses throughout Iberia turned out.

M. Larry Richard of LR&A Traffic Control Construction Materials Company said "The IDF Networking Lunch gave me the opportunity to introduce myself and my

business to others that I may not have otherwise been able to reach. I am glad to have participated and will surely not miss the next one."

If you want to learn how to participate in the next Networking Lunch, or if you want to find out how to join the Business Advisory Committee, please call the IDF offices at (337) 367-0834.

The IDF would like to welcome the most recent members of "Team Iberia"!

**Acadiana Inspections and Consulting**  
**All Creatures Animal Hospital**  
**Conner's Express Mart**  
**Fastenal**  
**Food-n-Fun**  
**New Heights Gym**  
**Royal Security Solutions**  
**Network USA**

For a complete member list visit our website at

[www.iberiabiz.org](http://www.iberiabiz.org)

**When doing business**  
  
**Think Iberia First!**