Retailer of the Year is all about pets, but has never sold one

All Pets Considered places emphasis on community involvement, support

erida wore something special to celebrate.

She's always smartly dressed, but on the day after All Pets Considered was named GMA Retailer of the Year, she showed up at work sporting pearls.

The single strand choker accented her lacy skirt and contrasted nicely with her silky smooth coat.

Merida is a red dachshund. Her human, Alison Schwartz, is manager at All Pets Considered. Schwartz wore jeans that day, as she often does.

Merida stayed close by her human's side as she circulated through the store's nearly 12,000 square feet at the corner of Battleground Avenue and Cone Boulevard.

When Merida isn't helping her human keep an eye on things, she relaxes in a cozy bed underneath



Kristine Godfrey, owner of All Pets Considered, and Alison Schwartz, store manager, who holds Merida the dachshund.

Schwartz's desk. Merida, a rescue dog who worked her way into Schwartz's heart, doesn't say much, but her calm demeanor speaks volumes.

It's good to have a human associated with All Pets Considered.

On the other side of the store, Brandy – a golden retriever/poodle mix – stood patiently on a grooming table as she got a spa treat-



Groomer Ramie Burgess gives Minnie, a Yorkie mix, a nail

ment from groomer Heather Watkins. Hair, nails, the whole package. What female doesn't like to be pampered?

Meanwhile, customers came in to pick up things such as all-natural pet foods (mostly for dogs and cats) and shop the pet-related fare ranging from door mats to apparel (for animals, not people).

Schwartz and store owner Kristine Godfrey, who opened the store 23 years ago in its first location in Lawndale Shopping Center, know many of their customers by name and their pets.

"We are 99.9 percent dog and cat oriented," says Godfrey. "We have a tiny little bit of bird food."

"We specialize in premium, natural nutrition," Schwartz says.

There's kibble in cans, freeze-dried pet food, dehydrated, and raw fare as well. Different foods for different tastes, needs, and diets, she explains.

"Just as people are becoming more aware of their own health, they're becoming aware of the benefits of feeding their pets a less-processed diet," Schwartz says.

All Pets Considered enhances its reputation through its support of many animal welfare and community activities.

The store is involved with several rescue and foster pet organizations, which find homes for animals in need. It typically donates

Continues on page 2

INSIDE TRENDS



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Trends is a publication of the Guilford Merchants Association.



And the winner is...

Karen Dosier of PIP Triad (right) reacts when her name is drawn to win the \$50 door prize at the April Workplace Workshop. Coworker Leslie Council shares her joy. Details on the next Workplace Workshop are on page 7.





Retailer Continued from page 1

more than 200 gift baskets each year to community groups of all kinds for fund-raisers and special events.

"It doesn't have to be a pet-related event," Schwartz says. It has a community room that stays busy with special events, such as adoption fairs and educational seminars. On the day Merida wore pearls, it was set up as a studio for a day of pet portraiture.



Tote bags with a pet theme.

The GMA Retailer of the Year Award was presented May 5 at the annual Small Business Awards luncheon and sponsored by the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce.

All Pets Considered employs about 30 people, with about half of those working full-time. Many

staff members are approaching a decade of service.

The one thing a customer won't find at All Pets Considered is an animal for sale.

"We are very adoption friendly. We, of course, don't sell animals. Never have," says Godfrey, owner of two rescue dogs and three ferrets.

Schwartz has been involved in dachshund rescue efforts for 16 years, a passion that introduced her to All Pets Considered and, more recently, to a dachshund with a thing for pearls.

All Pets Considered 2614 Battleground Ave. Greensboro, N.C. 27408 (336) 540-1400



Gallery features N.C. art

April and Andy McAfee (center), owners of The Art Shop, cut the ribbon at the May 7 grand opening of the new gallery of N.C. Fine Art &

Gifts. With them are Janelle Di Lizio, gallery manager, and Christopher Taylor, production manager. The Art Shop was founded in 1899.

Join your GMA friends at the ballpark June 14

It's GMA Night at the Grasshoppers

G MA's annual pre-game picnic and baseball game with the Greensboro Grasshoppers is June 14.

The catered picnic begins at 5:30 p.m. in GMA's employee parking lot at the corner of Eugene and Bellmeade streets. The picnic will be catered by Culinary Visions Catering.

From there, it's a short walk across the street to NewBridge Bank Park and the 7 p.m. Grasshoppers game with the Asheville Tourists.

Tickets are \$12 per person.

All employees of GMA member companies, family members and friends are



Members relax, socialize and network at the pre-game picnic.



eligible to attend the picnic and game. Just reserve your tickets by June 9.



Hot dogs with all the trimmings are a staple at GMA's annual baseball picnic.

Purchase tickets by calling Lisa Daas at 336-378-6350.

TIGMA T R E N D S

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Operations/Special Events Coordinator

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225 Commerce Place, Greensboro, N.C. 27401 www.mygma.org

The Guilford Merchants Association is a nonprofit organization founded in 1906. The Association's goal is to assist its members and the business community at large to grow and prosper.



Sharing marketing insights

GMA member Jessica Byerly, an authority on social media, recently discussed how to better use video for Internet marketing. She spoke to a packed house in GMA's newly remodeled Community Room as part of GMA's Digital Market-

ing Institute. The series, open to all employees of GMA member companies, is a free member benefit. Upcoming Digital Marketing Institute events are May 25, July 27, and August 3. Details are on page 6.

Web search criteria are changing – it's time to listen to Google

BY ADRIENNE CREGAR JANDLER

R ead Google's press releases regarding its search algorithm updates and you'll quickly learn that search engines are paying more atten-

tion to things like content currency, searcher intent,



engage- Jandler

ment, and link authority.

These factors come up repeatedly when evaluating the different ways that search rankings are now being calculated.

Amidst these are an even bigger message that Google is trying to get

across...and one that marketers often do not recognize

Listening to Google is a good idea, and not just because it can send you thousands of visits each day. The engineers who run the search engine are also at the forefront of new technology and behavioral research. They can see data and trends the rest of us can't.

Here are a few things they keep telling us.

Google wants what searchers want

Google has gained its status as the web's most-visited portal because it recognizes real-life individuals are on the hunt for content that is unique, specific, informative, and up-to-date. They want search results that are

SUCCESS

personalized to their own needs and preferences.

Knowing that search users have these preferences, Google is prioritizing them in its search results. That way, it can keep people coming back, instead of using a different search engine and losing out on viewer-ship and ad revenue.

Google hates what searchers hate

If each algorithm update is about giving searchers what they want, it is also about giving users less of what they hate. And we all know what searchers hate: web pages that load slowly, broken links, scraped content, and information that's irrelevant or out-of-date.

Google is starting to tweak its formulas in ways that punish websites with these problems, or ignore them altogether.

Searchers hate *any* result that provides them with a low-quality experience.

Anything that makes your website less usable or visitor-friendly is going to hurt your search engine rankings, as well.

Looking back won't get you ahead

Despite Google's advice and common sense, lots of business owners and marketers are desperately clinging to ideas that used to work but don't any longer.

Rather than update their

tactics to adjust to the times, they are doubling down on keyword stuffing, link farming, and copied content, making things worse for themselves in the process.

It's time to listen to Google.

If you want your website to stand out – with search engine spiders or with actual customers – you need fresh, relevant content, current technology and none of the old SEO tricks that now harm your credibility.

Adrienne Cregar Jandler is president of Atlantic Webworks.
336-855-8572
www.atlanticwebworks.

Career paths may change, but relationships built through GMA last

hen GMA staged its version of an "Amazing Race" scavenger hunt last fall, volunteer Pennie Shiflett Melton was assigned to the Greensboro Science Center. As teams deciphered clues and traveled to the Science Center to check it off their lists, Melton was on hand to represent GMA and handle the frenzied contestants.

At GMA networking events, Melton often can be found wearing a necklace of LED lights around her neck and handing out stickers for the get-acquainted game. She's also a member of the RACERS, GMA's membership development group.

Melton, who has been involved with many organizations over 20 years, says volunteering is one way to give back. And while volunteering, she's also networking for the future.

"Over the years, I have discovered the importance of networking," says Melton, director of sales for Best Western Windsor Suites and Best



Pennie Shiflett Melton, director of sales at Best Western Plus.

Western Plus Airport hotels.

"Networking," she says, "is not an instant reward. But it has a huge payoff in the long run."

For example: Individuals who Melton met more than 20 years ago, when she was a teenager working in a different industry, are still part of her business network today. Those connections remained strong through GMA.

"I've been in sales and marketing in this area for about 25 years," she

explains. Her first sales positions were with her mother's company, EMSI, which coordinated physical examinations for health insurance companies. She later worked in real estate until the economic downturn, then moved to the hospitality industry.

Her responsibilities as director of sales include booking contracts with businesses that need hotel ac-

commodations on an ongoing basis. This guarantees that business a specific rate, even if rooms are needed during a holiday weekend or an event such as the High Point Market or an ACC basketball tournament. Melton also books the hotels' meeting space, which often is used for events that are best held off-site and by companies that don't have adequate conference facilities.

Melton got reconnected to GMA about four years ago at the invita-

tion of GMA member Wayne Ford, who suggested she attend a meeting of one of GMA's three formal networking groups.

Melton ended up joining a different networking group, the GURUs, because its meeting time better suited her schedule.

"That's what got me involved, got me volunteering, and really seeing the benefit of what GMA is doing for our economy – which is priceless," Melton says.

Connections made through her networking group are her secondhighest revenue source for her hotels, she says, after Google searches.

SPOTLIGHT

And, she emphasizes, networking contacts continue to generate business over the long term.

"They are generally lifelong clients," she says. "It's not a one-time thing. It's a relationship you build forever. That's where being involved in GMA is so important. Because if you just pop in one time, every now and then, you're forgotten."

Pennie Shiflett Melton Best Western Plus 336-662-7520

Members pool talents, have fun producing marketing video

he camera rolled as the pizza slice tumbled onto the red sofa cushion, capturing the disaster in slow motion. But the impact site just wasn't icky enough to suit Sara MacSween, a member of the creative team making the video as well as the owner of the sofa.

So she hustled into her kitchen, found some red sauce, and slathered a pizza slice for the next take. "It looked extra messy," says MacSween, owner of The Marketing Boutique.

Director and videographer Bill Entwistle, owner of Video Machine Productions, called "Action!" once more. This time, the juicy slice landed with a genuine splat for a perfect take.

The next step, also recorded on camera, was the clean up.

Rich Reid, president of All Star Chem-Dry, put his expertise and equipment to work. The sofa cushion soon looked good as new, thanks to All Star's unique fabric cleaning technology.

The scene is one of many that MacSween and Entwistle created for a marketing video for All Star Chem-Dry's website.

The process of creating a web-



site marketing video often can be daunting for an independent small business. Simply researching creative resources and interviewing prospective service providers can be a grueling task.

But Reid was fortunate. He found the creative professionals he needed through his GMA relationships. "We absolutely would not have been able to pull it off without the GMA connections," he says.

Moreover, Reid says, "I had a blast doing it. My employees had a blast doing it. We had a lot of fun."

Reid, Entwistle, and MacSween all belong to GMA's Competitive Advantage Networking (CAN) group. Reid contracted with MacSween, another longtime member of the group, to review his marketing plan.

He mentioned to her that he and Entwistle had been discussing a video for some time.

MacSween's reaction, Reid recalls, was instantaneous. "She was like, "Why haven't you already done it?"

The video, approximately four minutes in length, explains All Star



From left: Rich Reid of All Star Chem-Dry, Bill Entwistle of Video Machine Productions, and Sara MacSween of The Marketing Boutique.

Chem-Dry's unique processing for cleaning fabrics and carpets with minimal water use.

Josh Seibert of Sandler Training, a longtime All Star customer, offers a testimonial in the video.

Murray, the MacSween family's dog, also makes an appearance. Lovable as they are, pets sometimes make messes that require a professional cleaning service.

MacSween, who wrote the video script, also is assisting All Star Chem-Dry with social media marketing as well as "media across all the channels."

"It was a fun project to work on," she says of the video.

The entire experience was new to Reid, who praises the video and his

GMA colleagues.

"I'm extremely pleased with it," he says of the final product. "I'm not good at marketing. That's why I needed Sara and Bill's help. They are really topnotch individuals. They're going to help me grow my business."

All Star Chem-Dry (336) 299-2844 www.triadcarpetcare.com

The Marketing Boutique (888) 603-2211 themarketingboutique.com

Video Machine Productions (336) 207-0091 www.machineprod.com



What technology innovation has had a significant impact on your business?

"Business and personal online banking has had the biggest impact on the banking industry. Clients can transact business after traditional



banking hours, and this increases cash flow as well as allows for real time information after the bank is closed." Jackie Cameron

First Citizens Bank

"Document scanning gives us the ability to save paper file storage space as well as obtain signatures quickly from customers without be-



ing face to face. Really compliments the online direction our agency is moving in."

> Tom Needham Tom Needham Insurance

"Definitely the smartphone. I can do most of my business on the road." Lisa Musko Unique Office Solutions



fly easy.

easy baggage claim • easy parking easy check-in easy drive • easy connections • easy screening flyfrompti.com



General Manager Tim Bauguess with some of R.H. Barringer's craft beer products.

Success on tap since 1933: R.H. Barringer delivers liquid refreshment to Piedmont

im Bauguess was a college student when he got his first job with R.H. Barringer. He was a helper on a delivery truck, replenishing Anheuser-Busch products sold by retailers throughout the Greensboro area. After graduation, he went to work there full-time.

Today he's still with R.H. Barringer Distributing Co., serving as general manager since 2007.

The company, founded in Greensboro in 1933, became an Anheuser-Busch distributor in 1935 at the end of Prohibition.

R.H. Barringer had around 270 SKUs (stock keeping units), or individual products, when Bauguess went to work full time in 1986. Now the company has more than 1,200 SKUs, more than 415 employees, and distributes a wide range of non-alcoholic beverages as well as many brands of beer. The company also owns American Premium Beverage, which distributes wine.

The business founded by Robert Barringer remains a family-owned company. "The family's still involved, third generation," Bauguess says. "Mr. Barringer's grandsons, Mark and Rick Craig, are continuing to build on our success."

GMA records show that R.H. Barringer has been a member since 1984.

In addition to the Greens-

MEMBER

boro headquarters, the company has distribution centers in Winston-Salem, Burlington, and the Davidson County community of Linwood.

Bauguess says the company's acquisition of American Premium Beverage in 2007, which distributed several beer brands in addition to wines, was R.H. Barringer's first expansion outside of Anheuser-Busch brands.

That move set up the company to capitalize on the surging popularity of imported and craft beers. Addi-

R.H. Barringer to distribute their beers, Bauguess says.

"We represent over 120 suppliers of beer brands," he says. "We've come a long way."

Among its non-alcoholic brands are V-8 Juice products packaged for purchase at convenience stores, Calypso Lemonade products, and Sparkling Ice brand products.

The company has a long tradition of being active in its hometown.

"We try to stay involved in the community," Bauguess explains. "We all grew up here. Our kids go to school here. We want to give back and be involved."



tional territories and brands were added with the 2011 purchase of Silver Eagle Distributing of Linwood.

Silver Eagle was an Anheuser-Busch distributor that also distributed other beer brands, and R.H. Barringer was able to add some of those franchises as well.

Bauguess is responsible for three locations serving 22 counties in the central and northern Piedmont.

About 15 North Carolina craft breweries contract with

R.H. Barringer is a regular sponsor of GMA networking events, such as After Work Networks.

Bauguess says that as a result of the company's expansion into craft beers and wine, his palate has expanded. Depending on the occasion, he may choose an I.P.A. or a pinot noir, his favorite wine. But on a hot summer day at the beach, he remains true to his roots.

"I like a Bud Light," he says.





Name: David Cooil

Age: 23

Hometown: BurlingtonResidence: GreensboroEducation: UNC Chape

UNC Chapel Hill B.A., Business and History

Business: Strategic Partners, LLC

Position: Senior Partner

Duties: I interact with clients, getting

them to think about the things they necessarily don't want to, or just haven't. For individuals, it's retirement and college planning. For business owners, it's how do you exit your business one day. What are the tax implications? What are the implications for your family? Are there estate implications? Those sorts of

questions.

On GMA: I was looking for ways to meet

people. I think networking is one of the most under-utilized ways to meet people for business relationships, but also just to have a good time. I think GMA is one of the best groups for networking. I love the Noontime Networks.

Those are always fun.

Goals: I see myself being here for a

while. We've got a great group of people here. Professionally, I'm happy where I am, and I plan to

stay here.

Personal: I love sports; anything outdoors.

Soccer, golf, tennis, basketball. Sailing. Anytime I can get out there and enjoy that, I will.

We say thanks to law enforcement officers during National Police Week

a s this issue of Trends reaches GMA members, our community will have just concluded another observance of National Police Week.

President John F. Kennedy

designated May 15 as National Police Officers Memorial Day in 1962 and the week in which it falls as National Police Week.



Prince

National Police
Week remembers those officers
who lost their lives in the line of

duty and pays tribute to all officers who serve our community.

Over the decades, 10 Greensboro police officers have died in the line of duty.

They are among the 21 Guilford County officers who sacrificed their lives in service to the community.

Since 1991, GMA and the Greensboro Police Department have partnered to observe National Police Week.

The week's activities celebrate the city's police force and acknowledge the service and heroic deeds that law enforcement officers perform daily.

Among the events are a Joint Law Enforcement Memorial Service; a Memorial 5K Run through downtown Greensboro; and a golf tournament that benefits the Special Olympics.

Another highlight of the week is the Police & Citizens Appreciation Dinner and Awards Ceremony. Officers are awarded commendation bars, medals of valor, lifesaving medals, and superior service bars.

Citizens and businesses that

have been instrumental in crime prevention efforts also are celebrated.

GMA understands the importance of recognizing and celebrating our local law enforcement departments and officers, and we are proud of our longtime partnership with the Greensboro Police Department.



G. Mark Prince
President & CEO

NOONTIME NETWORK

Wingate by Wyndham Hotel / High Point

April 8, 2016



Peter Sentner of Time Warner Cable Business Class; Michael Wilson, Mutual of Omaha; Nichol Walters, Jani-King of the Triad.



Franklin Stowe, Mutual of Omaha; Justin Haller, Fitness Together.



GMA volunteer Mel Schlesinger of The Benefit Bridge wears a necklace of flashing lights (left); guest Sally Leight of Leight & Co.



Frank Zhong, Fitness Together; Brenden Bass, Mass Mutual Carolinas; Blair Meadows, Fitness Together.

Sharpen your online marketing skills with GMA's free seminars

elling the world about your business has never been easier, thanks to the Internet and social media.

And everything is virtually free, right?

Wrong.

Effective social media marketing involves targeted ad buys. Kristen Daukas of Atlantic Webworks will share her insights on creating a viable social media presence for your business at GMA's May 25 Digital Marketing Institute.

The program begins with lunch and networking at 11:15 a.m. and concludes at 1 p.m. Admission is free for all employees of GMA member companies.

Daukas will discuss Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

Other topics in the series include a two-part session on digital marketing law, presented by attorneys with Brooks Pierce on July 27 and August 3.

The September 28 program will focus on content marketing, presented by Adrienne Cregar Jandler of Atlantic Webworks.

The series will conclude November 16 with a topic to be announced later.

For more information, call GMA at 336-378-6350.



June 9 Workplace Workshop



Terry Watson on Professional Development



'Why Be Normal?' with Terry Watson

Thursday, June 9 Embassy Suites Hotel 204 Centreport Drive

7:30 a.m. refreshments 8–10 a.m. seminar

Free for all employees of GMA member companies!

Registration deadline: June 7

Call 378-6350 or register online at www.mygma.org

Please let us know if you need additional services for employees with disabilities.



Speaker Nancy Friedman, The Telephone Doctor®, hams it up with a member of the audience.



Scenes from





Lorraine Klietsch of North State; Monica Lee, Caring Hands Home Health; Veronica Covert, City of Greensboro.



Beverly Gray and Teresa Love of VF Jeanswear.



Al Lineberry, former GMA chairman, of Hanes Lineberry Funeral Home, and speaker Nancy Friedman.

FirstPoint Management Resources earns industry accreditation

irstPoint Management Resources, an affiliated company of GMA, has been accredited by a global organization of association management companies.

AMC Institute has awarded accreditation to only 82 association management companies (AMC) out of more than 500 such organizations worldwide. AMCs specialize in managing associations and not-for-profit organizations, providing leadership and professional management services through experienced staff, best practices, and shared resources.

Accreditation demonstrates FirstPoint
Management Resources'
commitment and ability to
deliver the highest level of
professional management
services to association and
not-for-profit clients.

"We applaud FirstPoint on this significant achievement," said Greg Schultz, chair of AMC Institute.
"AMCI accreditation requires that association management firms demonstrate adherence to operational and ethical best practices. Accreditation distinguishes FirstPoint's ongoing commitment to leadership in association management."

The AMC Institute ac-

creditation process reviews measurable performance practices, including contracts and service delivery; employee recruitment, training and professional development; and financial management and internal controls, among others.

Once accredited, AMCs must earn re-accreditation every four years, demonstrating to an independent outside auditor that they continue to meet the standard.

FirstPoint President & CEO G. Mark Prince applauded the many staff members involved in the accreditation process.

"This accreditation recognizes FirstPoint's commitment to quality and client service," he said. "I want to thank the many FirstPoint employees who contributed their time and talents to helping us achieve this milestone."

"At FirstPoint our clients come first," said FirstPoint Management Resources General Manager Ellen Gioielli.

"We continually strive to provide our clients with outstanding customer service," she said. "These accreditation requirements have reshaped our daily operations, ensuring consistent performance."

Beach Music Blast series opens on June 2

he Fantastic Shakers, a band based in Lincolnton and celebrating 35 years of performing beach music, kick off Bill Black's Beach Music Blast on June 2.

The show and party begin at 6 p.m. on Commerce Place in downtown Greensboro. Bill Black's Beach Music Blast benefits the

Children's Home Society of North Carolina.

Tickets are \$7 per person and available at the gate. Other Beach Music Blast dates and bands are:

- June 9 / Too Much Sylvia
- June 16 / Special Occasion
- June 23 / Sleeping Booty
- June 30 / The Embers



The Embers return to the Beach Music Blast on June 30.



Working with a broad range of clients, from start-up organizations to those focused on succession and estate planning, we take a holistic approach to planning. Helping organizations and individuals realize the best outcomes from the opportunities and challenges before them is our passion and our privilege.

- Wade Pack, Managing Partner



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Deep Roots I Solid Core I Wide Reach

Established in 1947, Bernard Robinson and Company, L.L.P. is the largest Triad-based CPA firm. With offices in Greensboro, Raleigh, and Winston-Salem, we provide accounting, tax, audit, and consulting services for families and privately owned businesses, high net worth individuals, and not-for-profit organizations.



