

Nifast Corporation Opens in Rome

Nifast Corporation announces the opening of their new facility in Rome, Georgia. Nifast will initially employ 5 people while leasing 10,000 square feet of space directly across from *Neaton Rome* in Berry Corporate Center. The company supplies small parts, e.g. nuts, bolts, spacers, etc to *Suzuki Manufacturing of America Corporation (S-MAC)*, also located across Technology Parkway from Nifast's facility.

Nifast Corp and S-MAC already have a good relationship. At S-MAC's 2005 Annual Partnership Conference, Nifast won the Gold Medal award as the top supplier for the year. Out of this new facility, Nifast plans to expand its reach to be able to supply parts to other area manufacturers. **Masaru Anzai**, manager of the new facility, said, "We are very excited to begin work in our new home and expand our presence to serve additional companies."

Nifast Corporation is now the sixth Japanese company to locate a facility in Floyd County and the third in Berry Corporate Center, joining S-MAC and Neaton Rome. **Motoo Murakami**, President of S-MAC, reinforced Nifast's decision to locate in Rome. "We have a very good relationship with Nifast and hope to continue to grow with them in the years to come, now that we are neighbors."

Mayor Ronnie Wallace (LR'87) spoke of the multiplier effect that large companies can create in a community. "The city is pleased that Berry Corporate Center, a partnership between the City and Berry College, continues to be a strategic and sought after area for investments of this kind. Manufacturers, suppliers and corporate offices are the very types of commerce that have been envisioned for this development. Investments like this, not only in

terms of building and equipment and inventory but also in terms of job creation, continue to add to the wealth base of this community and shows the inter-national community that Rome means business." **Chairman of the County Commission John Mayes (LR'84)** agreed and said, "It is always good news when we have existing manufacturers expand locally, and now we have the added bonus of the attraction of a new company."

Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Willis Potts said that this announcement maintains the momentum created by the manufacturing announcements over the past 5 years. "This continues to reinforce all of the emphasis and effort that has been placed on recruiting international investment. There are now 14 international manufacturers here, and we look forward to watching that number continue to grow." ■

Chamber Plans Trip to Washington, DC



Approximately 30 representatives of the Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce will be flying to Washington, DC to meet with our elected officials and professional staff April 25th through the 27th.

The Governmental Affairs Committee has determined the issues of interest that affect the quality of life and economic welfare of the Greater Rome community. On Wednesday, April 26th, the participants will attend a luncheon during which guest speakers will discuss current affairs in Washington, DC. That evening a reception is to be held at the Southern Company Washington Headquarters for the elected officials and their staff.

If you would like to attend, please contact **Debbie Gunnells** at dgunnells@romega.com.

Also, don't forget to check out photographs from previous trips to Washington on www.romega.com. ■

GREIA Golf & Tennis Tournament Sponsorship Opportunity

The annual Greater Rome Existing Industry Association (GREIA) Golf & Tennis Tournament has been scheduled for **Wednesday, May 3rd, 2006 at Stonebridge Golf Course. Opportunities are available to sponsor a hole for the tournament. For \$250.00 you will receive a position for one person from your company to play in the tournament, a hole marked with your company name and an invitation to the dinner at the end of the day. To sponsor a hole or for more information, please contact Diane Tracy at 706-291-7663 or dtracy@romega.com.**