

Business

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2003

Mother-daughter team captures business award

Chamber of Commerce honors local firms, individuals

By **MARIA ZATE**
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Where there's a name, there's a logo. That belief has translated into a successful business for the dynamic mother-daughter team of Juanita Vega and Seana-Marie Sesma, also known as the "PR girls."

Co-owners of Ace-Ana Promotions in Santa Barbara, Ms. Vega and Ms. Sesma earned the Small Business Award at the Santa Barbara Region Chamber of Commerce 97th annual dinner held Thursday evening.

More than 200 people attended the black-tie optional event at the Biltmore's Coral Casino to present awards and to install the chamber's 2003 board of directors.

The mother-daughter team of Ace-Ana started the business in 1998 by selling marketing items such as pens, mugs and magnets boasting company names and logos. Soon they branched into designing logos and orchestrating corporate events. Today, Ace-Ana is a full-service advertising and promotional services company.

Ace-Ana clients include local companies such as

Cox Communications, Commission Junction, El Capitan Canyon, Select Personnel and NetLojix.

Ms. Sesma and Ms. Vega joined the Santa Barbara Region Chamber of Commerce shortly after opening their doors, and they credit the chamber for a big part of their success.

"We knew the chamber did a lot for business and it was great for networking," Ms. Sesma explained. "But another big part of membership is the opportunity to serve on business councils and other community organizations."

The chamber recognized several other business executives and organizations.

Rep. Lois Capps, D-Santa Barbara, presented Tom Parker of the Hutton Foundation with the chamber's Albert Julius Boeseke Founders award.

"He has given his life to giving back to his community," Ms. Capps said in her introduction of Mr. Parker. "He's a shining example of what makes this community so very proud."

The Albert Julius Boeseke award is in recognition

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Steve Cushman, left, the chamber's executive director, shares a laugh with Tom Parker of the Hutton Foundation. Mr. Parker was the winner of the chamber's Albert Julius Boeseke Founders Award.

New board officers selected

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of sustained, generous contributions that represent the true spirit of the chamber. It was presented for the first time in 2002 to John Indrieri, general manager of the Four Seasons Biltmore.

John Davies, owner of Davies Communications in Santa Barbara, won the Volunteer of the Year award.

Mark Dispenza received the chamber's Ambassador of the Year award.

Cox Communication took home the Member of the Year award and the Santa Barbara Museum of Art received the Hispanic Business Council Business of the Year award.

The chamber's 2003 board of directors officers are: Vicky MacGregor of Wood Glen Hall Inc., president;

Mike Pfau of Reicker, Clough, Pfau & Pyle, immediate past-president; Steve Engles of Engles Communications, treasurer and president-elect for 2004; and Chad Stevens, owner of Chad's Restaurant, vice president. Steve Cushman, executive director of the chamber, also serves on the board.

Corporate-table sponsors of the chamber event included Cox Communications, Montecito Bank & Trust, Business First National Bank, Verizon, Santa Barbara Bank & Trust, Cottage Health Systems, Chumash Casino, Four Seasons Biltmore, Graham Chevrolet and Hatch & Parent.

Platinum sponsors for the chamber's Business Resource Center were Rod Eson of Venoco and Eloy Ortega of Business First National Bank.

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