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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NOVEMBER LEARNING LUNCH AT THE HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE WILL FEATURE DIRECTOR OF THE BELLINGRATH HOME AND COLUMNIST FOR MOBILE BAY MONTHLY, MR. TOM MCGEHEE

The History Museum of Mobile's Learning Lunch Program is on Wednesday, November 9 at 12pm and will feature Director of the Bellingrath Home, and Columnist for Mobile Bay Monthly Magazine, Mr. Tom McGehee. He will discuss *The Steamboat Era in Alabama*.

For over a century Alabamians relied on steamboats to carry them – and their merchandise – on the Alabama and Tombigbee rivers. At one point they numbered over 200 and in style ran from modest to a number of very elegant and well-equipped vessels. Despite all the trappings, these vessels have been called “floating tinderboxes” and the list of disasters is rather extensive. Tom McGehee will look at this fascinating time in Alabama and Mobile's history.

Since 1994, Tom McGehee has served as the Director of the Bellingrath Home, overseeing the collections and archives housed in the 15 room mansion. He currently serves on the boards of the Friends of the Alabama Governor's Mansion, the Friends of Magnolia Cemetery, the Historic Mobile Preservation Society, the Historic Restoration Society (Cotton Hall), the Rotary Club of Mobile and the Rotary Children's Foundation. He has written about Mobile's history with an emphasis on its architectural losses for more than 35 years and has been a regular columnist for Mobile Bay Magazine with his “Ask McGehee” series for over 15 years. For the past 6 years he has appeared weekly each Thursday on NBC 15's Gulf Coast Today with a segment of “Lost Mobile.”

The History Museum of Mobile invites the general public to attend the free Learning Lunch lecture series. Guests are encouraged to bring their lunch and enjoy a presentation on an historical or cultural topic. For more information on Learning Lunch, contact Jennifer Theeck, Curator of Education, at (251) 301-0270 or by email at theeckj@historymuseumofmobile.com.

HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE: The History Museum of Mobile is where Mobile's story begins. Over 118,000 objects weave together the rich, diverse, and often turbulent histories of Mobile and the surrounding area, from the prehistoric past to the present. Located in the heart of downtown, the History Museum is in the Old City Hall - Southern Market building at 111 South Royal Street. For more information, please visit: www.historymuseumofmobile.com

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