

Contact: Tim
Grabrovaz
Baumgartens
Phone: (404) 874-7675
Fax: (404) 881-1442

144 Otley Drive
Atlanta, GA 30324 USA
www.baumgartens.com



PRESS RELEASE

BAUMGARTENS SELECTED AS WINNER FOR THE 2015 GEORGIA SMALL FAMILY BUSINESS- OF-THE-YEAR AWARD

Baumgartens Recognized as Outstanding Georgia Family Business

ATLANTA (AUGUST 31, 2015) – Known for brands such as [Plastiklips®](#), [Plastibands®](#), and [SICURIX®](#) the leading brand in ID badging and technology, and eco-conscious brands like [QI® Bamboo](#), and [Conserve®](#), Baumgartens, a woman-owned business, has been selected as a winner for this year's Georgia Family Business of the Year Award for the small business category. The award, given by The Cox Family Enterprise Center, part of Kennesaw State University's Coles College of Business, is dedicated to recognizing outstanding family firms that promote family involvement in the business, innovative business practices or strategies, contributions to the community and business success.

Baumgartens will be honored at the 24th anniversary Georgia Family Business of the Year Awards dinner. Sponsored by Brookwood Associates, J. Smith Lanier & Co., Windham Brannon, and UBS, the celebration will be held November 5th, 2015 at the Embassy Suites Atlanta – Centennial Olympic Park.

Founded in 1987, the Cox Family Enterprise Center's mission is to connect people, ideas, and knowledge in order to create a dynamic community to transform family businesses for their long-term success, anywhere, anytime. The center is the first university-based centers of its kind in the United States, and today one of the most innovative. It began the Georgia Family Business of the Year competition in 1991.

“Family businesses are not only the heart, mind and soul of our communities,” said Gaia Marchisio, executive director of the Cox Family Enterprise Center. “They have a longer-term perspective and an intergenerational approach by nature. That makes them the ideal champion for fostering sustainability in their businesses, their communities and the environment in general. Being aware of such a responsibility allows them to play a crucial role not only in our economy, but also in our society at large. In this respect, Baumgartens exhibits a level of deep consciousness and desire to have a positive

impact on multiple stakeholders. We are grateful to have this living and inspiring model so close to us. The CFEC is honored to be able to celebrate them as the winner in the small family business category."

Baumgartens was started back in Austria in the 1800s, four generations ago. Today, Jean Baumgarten, president and chair-of-the-board, leads the company. Jean is the wife of Hans Baumgarten, the current treasurer and son of company founder Fred Baumgarten. Their son, David, is executive vice president. Baumgartens employs 18 people as well as over 40 reps around the country. Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, Baumgartens began by importing high quality German pencil sharpeners. More than 60 years later, the award winning company has experienced unprecedented recognition from peers by introducing innovative products to the national market.

"Some years back we declared that our team is here to develop new, unique products that make a difference for people," said David Baumgarten, vice president. "Georgia became our families' home and safe haven from the devastation after WWII. Recognition for such a special hometown award that acknowledges our contribution to our state over the years is only equal at best to what Georgia and our customers have provided to all of us over many generations."

About Baumgartens

Baumgartens is a woman-owned family business supplying unique, innovative products to the school, home, office and janitorial/sanitation market that make a difference to thousands of retailers and wholesalers across the U.S.A. Baumgartens successful environmental program, business paradigms, flexible programs and award-winning customer service are unrivaled in the office supply industry. The company supports American Forests® Global ReLeaf initiative, planting thousands of trees and offsetting hundreds of thousands of pounds of harmful greenhouse gasses. It aims to be 100 percent carbon neutral by 2020. For more information, visit our website at www.baumgartens.com.

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