Recently the University of Southern Mississippi’s Center for Logistics, Trade and Transportation held a “Logistics, Trade, and Transportation Symposium.” This year’s theme was titled “Southeastern Opportunities and Challenges.” The symposium’s goal is to exchange ideas amongst students and industry experts on opportunities and challenges facing Southeast businesses involved in international commerce and logistics.

Many local companies volunteered their participation in the symposium, including Marisol International. Pam Berry from Marisol Memphis, along with Russ Clark from Austal in Mobile, AL, participated on a panel covering Foreign Trade Zones, moderated by Bruce Frallic (Executive Director, Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport, and led by Greg Jones (Vice President of the Foreign Trade Zone Corporation). Other topics covered included Agent/Distributor Agreements, Duty Deferral Opportunities, Trucking Challenges and Issues, MAP-21, Working with Foreign Suppliers/Buyers, Intermodal Freight / Freight Transportation Updates in the Southeast, Marine Challenges and Opportunities, and Warehouse/Distribution Information.

The symposium was held from February 26-27th, 2014 at the Gulfport, MS campus. Located on campus is the Friendship Oak, which is over 500 years old, and has survived many hurricanes. The legend behind the tree is that those who stand under its branches will remain friends forever. More information about the University of Southern Mississippi’s Center for Logistics, Trade, and Transportation is available at: http://www.usm.edu/logistics-trade-transportation/about-cltt