



a
new
era in
governance



the **column**

summer 2012

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the **column**
summer 2012
volume XXXI No. 1



*The Cupola
of the Library
as seen from
the window
of the Carter
Gymnasium.*



from RUSSIA with love.

a recent graduate, a long journey and family pride.

At the May 11th Honors and Awards Convocation at Athens State University, many proud parents were in the audience. Most travelled miles to attend this annual event to see their sons or daughters receive accolades from what would soon become their alma mater.

None, however, travelled as far or were as proud as the family of Taya Shadrina, an Accounting major and recipient of the award for the highest scholastic average in the College of Business. Shadrina, originally from Russia, hosted her mother, father and aunt who flew 13,000 miles just to be in the audience that night and to see her march at Athens State's commencement the next day.

When Shadrina's family arrived for her commencement weekend, they hadn't seen her in 6 years as it was very difficult for them to get visas from Russia to the United States. But they did make it, exhausted from the journey but happy to see Shadrina finally and experience the graduation ceremony.

"They had a great time! I introduced them to different types of cuisines," added Shadrina. "We went sightseeing in Huntsville. After the graduation ceremonies we went to Panama City Beach to enjoy the white sand and clear turquoise water. We visited Disney World in Orlando. It was a great month-long trip for them."

Shadrina grew up in Khavarovsk, the large capital of the Russian far eastern region and it took her a little while to adjust to mostly rural Alabama. "I enjoy it very much here now. It is very beautiful, peaceful and friendly. It is also a great place to raise children."

Before leaving Russia, Shadrina was studying to be an interpreter with a major in English and a minor in Japanese. When she arrived to the United States and enrolled at Calhoun Community College, she came to a conclusion that any major she chose would improve her interpreting skills because she would have daily interactions in English. "That is why I decided not to continue studying Interpreting," stated Shadrina. "At first, I wasn't sure whether I should pick accounting or not. I knew I was good at math and possessed analytical thinking skills. I decided to give it a try and if it wouldn't work I was going to change my major. Gradually I started to like Accounting. I decided to stick to this major and did not regret it."

For Shadrina, the toughest part of studying in the United States was overcoming the language barrier. Her very first semester at Calhoun she took a full load of classes - a bad decision as she was not yet fluent in English. But she worked very hard that summer and made all A's.

"I had no idea that I would ever be able to come to the United States," said Shadrina. "The idea of going to the U.S. and, moreover, of enrolling in college here seemed so impossible. But I made it and graduated from Calhoun with an associate degree in accounting. I heard great reviews about Athens State, so I decided to

continue my studies at Athens State which has been a great decision."

Shadrina continues, "I have to say that Professor Hemingway is a gifted teacher. I have spent much time with her in the classroom, at the Accounting Club meetings, and traveling. She devoted so much time to college and to students; her energy in the classroom was so catching. It made accounting more exciting."

Athens State Associate Professor of Accounting Linda Hemingway responds, "It never ceases to amaze me how Taya was able to be so successful while studying in a foreign country in a foreign language. She possesses great academic prowess but her real talent is being able to lead and motivate others to achieve."

Athens State has in recent history had an increase in students from other countries. "Currently we have approximately 26 international students from 6 foreign countries within our student body," states Athens State's Vice President for Enrollment & Student Support Services Jim Hutto. "This is up significantly over the past few years and it is a trend we welcome. As Athens State prepares graduates for a global workforce, we strive to give them a diverse atmosphere in which to learn about different cultures. What better way than to have them exposed to international colleagues at the student level."



Taya (second from left) with her family, Mother Nadezhda, Aunt Tatiana, Father Fedor.

Room & Board

Governor Robert Bentley recently signed a bill into law which will create a Board of Trustees to govern Athens State University. Athens State has been under the purview of the Alabama Community College System and the State Board of Education since 1975. This change of oversight will be effective on October 1, 2012.

“This change in governance will give us the opportunity to more effectively follow our mission as a university,” stated Athens State President Bob Glenn. “We will still maintain a close connection with Alabama’s community colleges, but now we will be afforded the freedom to progress under policies and procedures that more closely relate to our baccalaureate institution.”

Athens State administrators have named a committee charged with nominating Board of Trustees candidates. Their findings are to be presented to the Governor on September 1. Bentley will then make the final decision and the Board of Trustees will become effective October 1.

“It has been 37 years since Athens State has had an autonomous board,” states Glenn. “This group will be a true working board. One of the first tasks of the new Board will be to fine the master plan originally developed by the Vision 2020 Task Force.”

Glenn continues, “We are looking to all areas of the Athens State community from which to draw a pool of candidates for the board. Civic leaders, alumni, friends of the University, educators, all certainly will have something to bring to the table to create a diverse and capable group to steward Athens State.”

Athens State is unique in that it is one of five remaining upper-level collegiate institutions in the United States. The University offers coursework at the junior and senior level and awards bachelor’s degrees from three colleges - Arts and Sciences, Business, and Education.

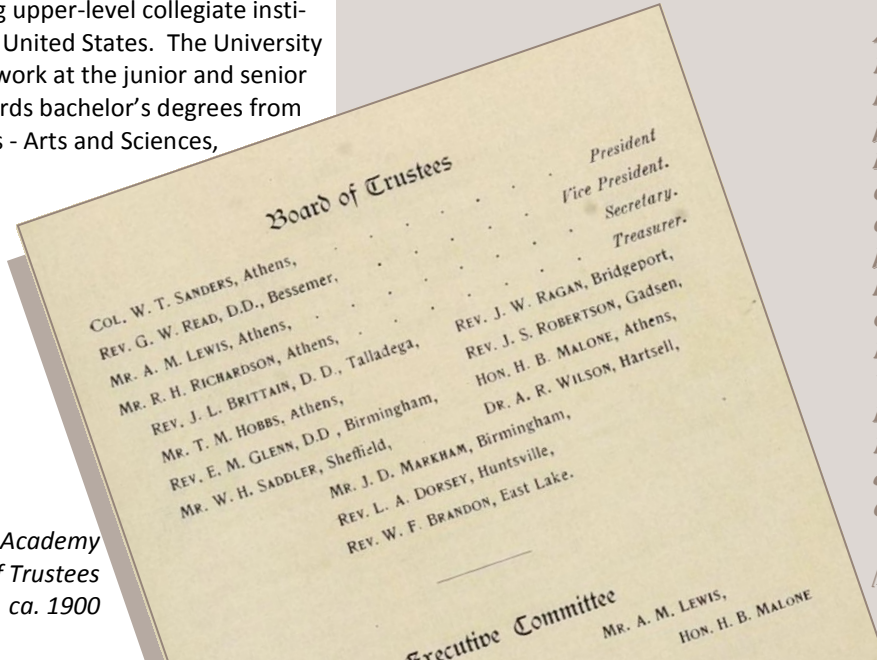


Alabama Acts of 1822

Joshua L. Martin, trustees of the Athens Female Academy, and their successors in office appointed or elected, or to be appointed or elected according to the rules and regulations of said academy, shall be, and they are hereby, incorporated as a body politic and corporate, in deed, and in law, by the name and style of The Trustees of the Athens Female Academy.

And be it further enacted, That the said corporation, by their name aforesaid, shall have perpetual succession of officers and members, to be appointed or elected in such manner, and according to such form, as may be prescribed by the rules and regulations made for the government of the said corporation, and that they may have a common seal, with power to alter and make new, the said rules and regulations and the said common seal, as often as they shall deem expedient.

[Approved, Dec. 9, 1822.]



Athens Female Academy
Board of Trustees
ca. 1900

The Anniversary of the Saving of the College

**One staunch headmistress,
One strong college edifice,
One very infamous letter,
One hundred fifty years ago.**

2012 marks the 150th Anniversary of the "Saving of the College" by Madame Childs in 1862. Homecoming Weekend activities held May 4 and 5 centered around this historic event by offering lectures, a reception, Union troops camped in front of Founders Hall, a reenactment, and a luncheon honoring the Class of 1962.

Madame Childs was president for eleven years (1858-1869) before, during and after the Civil War. She has been given credit for preventing any harm to the Institute and its occupants by Union troops during the sack and occupation of Athens, for maintaining its activities comparatively undisturbed, and for providing the townspeople with an occasional haven. The first mention of the legend dates to 1919 when Almeda (Allie) Cook at the age of 76 wrote a letter to the local paper about the "grand, good woman" that produced a "letter from Abraham Lincoln" to Colonel Turchin. Turchin then posted guards at all entries to protect the school. Athens State remains to this day the oldest institution in the state in continuous service to students.

"The legend of Madame Childs and a very important piece of paper is particularly well known regionally, if not nationally," states Director of Alumni Affairs Trish Dillullo. "This sesquicentennial event was the perfect time to bring all those who love Athens State's bountiful history together to honor her and to come back to campus and rekindle their own personal memories."

Local lore states that in 1862 Madame Jane Hamilton Childs, the headmistress from a prominent Virginia family,

was charged to oversee the now Athens State University. At the height of the Civil War, Union Army Colonel John B. Turchin and his troops rode into Athens after suffering an ambush just north of the Tennessee line. When they reached the campus of the then girls' college, the Colonel ordered his men to halt and rest their horses.

The headmistress bravely met Turchin at the door of Founders Hall as he demanded that the structure be evacuated so it could be burned to the ground. Childs didn't say a word but produced a letter and handed it to him. Turchin read the letter once, drew himself to attention, saluted, and rejoined his troops ordering them to guard the campus during the entire siege of Athens. Legend has it that Childs, through her Virginia connections, had handed Turchin a letter signed by President Abraham Lincoln instructing that the school be saved at any cost.



Jane Hamilton Childs

Madam Childs throughout the entire War Between the States, during the almost constant occupation of Athens by Federal Soldiers, was able to operate the school without the slightest molestation. The property was never damaged nor the privacy of the inmates intruded upon. A skirmish was fought between the Federals and the Confederates only a short distance from the college campus. The students from the upper windows of the building could see the troops advancing and retreating.

*from History of Athens College
by Mary Norman Moore*

The Alumni Association is continuing this theme through their Annual Fund drive for 2012 by asking our supporters to use this 150th Anniversary to carry on the tradition of "Saving the College". This can be done by donating \$150 in honor of Madame Childs. Our goal is to reach at least 150 donors at \$150 by December 31, 2012.

of the Year!

Dustin Bowman, an education major at Athens State University, was named Big Brother of the Year for the state of Alabama. Bowman, a Hartselle native, was nominated along with his Little Brother Sawyer McCormick by the Morgan County chapter of Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

"To me, being named 'Big Brother of the Year' means I can represent a great mentoring organization in my local community as well as the state," states Bowman. "It is an honor and privilege to be given this award!"

Bowman became involved with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program in 2009 and was matched with McCormick in early 2010. The program had an influence in his career path as he was originally a biology major and planned on attending Pharmacy School. Upon his involvement with the organization, he changed his major to elementary education.

"I have always wanted to teach but never followed through with it until becoming involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters," remarked Bowman. "I wanted to make a bigger difference in the life of a child outside the classroom."

Bowman also found inspiration from his wife who is a Certified Elementary Educator. He graduated in May after doing his field service at Julian Harris Elementary School in Decatur.

"Dustin was an exemplary ASU elementary major intern," states Jill Cook, Athens State's Certification Officer. "He is not only an outstanding classroom teacher, but has taken on several additional responsibilities within his school placement."

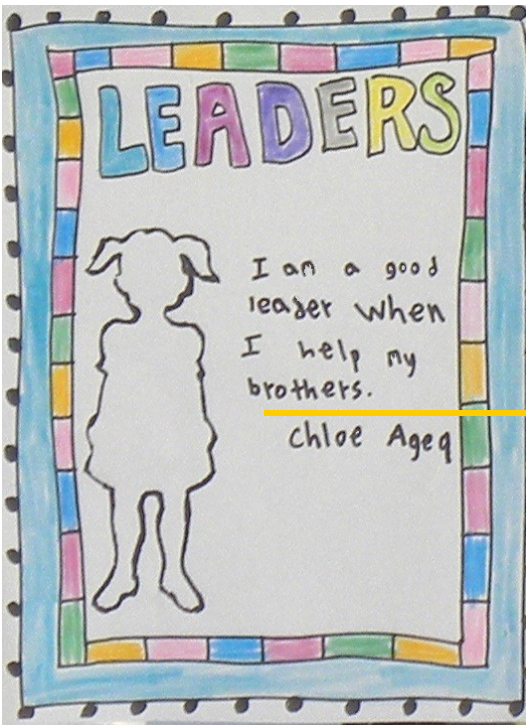


During his practice teaching, Bowman planned and organized a grade level field trip, is volunteering with Julian Harris' spirit night at Chick-Fil-A, and helped to re-paint the school parking lot. He also worked with the Student Council Team and has started a "Math Intervention" group.

Big Brother of the Year for the state of Alabama includes having lunch with Governor Bentley and being recognized for being a positive role model in the life of a child.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is a non-profit mentoring organization that matches children (ages 5-15) with an adult volunteer. Most of the children in our program come from single parent homes and are in need of additional attention, time and support.

Helping Our Children Find The Leader In Themselves



Athens State University's Regional In-Service Center hosted the FranklinCovey "The Leader in Me" Symposium on February 2 and 3, 2012. The sold out symposium was held on the Athens State University campus.

"The symposium sold out early," states Charlotte Feigley, Assistant Director of the Regional Inservice Center. "I believe the symposium's content and the increased popularity of the leadership process as a necessary teaching tool worked together to make this a major draw for educators from around the Southeast."

Feigley continues, "This had a campus-wide presence. Break-out sessions were held in most instructional buildings spaces and we were excited to showcase Athens State as well as serve as the host for this informative symposium."

Keynote speakers and special guests included FranklinCovey Senior Vice President Sean Covey, Education Consultant, Lonnie Moore, Educator and founder of the Freedom Writers Foundation Erin Gruwell, Principal & Education Leadership Consultant Muriel Summers, and Alabama State Department of Education Assistant Superintendent, Sherrill Parris.

Activities included thought-provoking keynote addresses, interactive breakout sessions, professional learning networking opportunities, and paradigm-shifting school visits to select elementary and middle schools implementing the Leader in Me process in Lawrence, Limestone and Morgan counties.

The Leader in Me is a whole-school transformation model that acts like the operating system of a computer — it improves performance of all the other programs within a school. Based on *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, *The Leader in Me* produces transformational results such as higher academic achievement, fewer discipline problems, and increased engagement among teachers and parents. Better yet, *The Leader in Me* equips students with the self-confidence and skills they need to thrive in the 21st century economy.



2012 Alumni Awards Recipients



Alumni Association members. Left to Right: Chad Easterling- President, Betty Ruth-Oliver- President Elect, Tony Smith, Donna Hood, Ann Entrekin, Deborah Schaus, Kent Bevil, Lisa Payne, Louise Steele, Jackie Wolfe, Robin Clem, Vicki Stevenson, Ann Greer, Janice Owen, Jim Miner, George Williams, Lance Davis, Janet Smith, Travis Schrimsher

Athens State University hosted its 104th Annual Alumni Awards Banquet on March 3. The event honored its Distinguished Alumnus of the Year and was held in the University's newly renovated Sandridge Center Ballroom .

This year's banquet highlighted the 150th anniversary of the saving of the college from Union destruction by the then head-mistress of the institution, Madame Jane Hamilton Childs.

Award recipients at this year's banquet were above left to right:

Outstanding Alumnus in Education
Ann Katheryn Entrekin

Deweese & Jim Beasley Appreciation Award
Berval and Sandra Bennett

Outstanding Alumnus in Arts & Science
Representative Todd Greeson

Distinguished Alumnus of the Year
Julius Edward "Chuck" Meriwether

Outstanding Commitment to Teaching
Dr. Mark Durm

Outstanding Alumnus in Business
Sharon Denise Zirbel

Dedicated Support Staff Award
Teresa Suit

We are seeking award nominations for the 2013 banquet set for March 2. Please watch our website, www.athens.edu/alumni for information.

Alumni Association supports student scholarships

With the arrival of summer came the time for the Athens State University Alumni Golf Classic. The Classic was held on May 17 at the Canebrake Golf Club with a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m.

The winning team consisted of Rhett Lambert, Wes Smith, Daniel Creel and Whitney Ford of Lambert Record Center.

The Golf Classic is an annual event open to any interested golfers - not just those who are alumni of Athens State.

The month following the Golf Classic, the Alumni Association held its annual Bridge Benefit on June 20.

High Score went to Paula Cox with Ann Gordon as 2nd High Score. The two events raised over \$12,000 for student scholarships sponsored by the Alumni Association.



A School for the 21st Century

Athens State University and the Huntsville City School System will enter into an agreement designed to provide a quality educational experience for public school students. The agreement will link Huntsville City School teachers and Athens State University Professors and College of Education field service students in the creation of a 21st Century Research Innovation School at the present site of Chapman Middle School.

The agreement was signed by Athens State President Bob Glenn, Huntsville City Schools Superintendent Dr. Casey Wardynski, and Athens State College of Education Dean Debra Baird.

The premise of a 21st Century Research Innovation School is to develop an institution that allows children to learn through the development and research of their own critical questions while developing leadership skills that will nurture inquiry-based learning throughout their careers as students.

"In some of our lower performing schools, it is a constant challenge holding the student's interest," states Baird. "By allowing children to follow their interests through guided topics, as well as meeting the prescribed objectives and goals set forth by the system, schools are then able to foster and nurture effective learning."

Research Schools, like the one proposed at Chapman, will follow basic processes to include: professional learning communities; implementation of emerging technologies; the applications of Alabama Math, Science and Technology Initiatives as well as Alabama Science in Motion programs; use of the Leader In Me / Franklin Covey programs; and mentoring projects to include both teachers and parents.

The Huntsville City School system will provide the facilities, principal and faculty for the school while Athens State University will serve as a collaborative partner in the process of staff selection, scheduling, curriculum, and day-to-day management of the school incorporating 21st Century technology and innovative themes.

"We are proud to join with the Huntsville City School system in the development of this innovative move," states Athens State Provost Ronald R. Cromwell. "This will make great strides in the development of critical thinkers within underserved areas who will be able to benefit from such leadership."

Huntsville City School and Athens State University educators plan to collaborate over the summer on the project with the newly integrated Research School planned to open at Chapman Middle with the commencement of the fall 2012 semester.

Minor Options for Education Majors

Athens State University will introduce a minor option in Educational Technology for all university students. Coursework for the minor will begin with the commencement of the fall 2012 academic year.

The recently approved coursework will provide students with theoretical grounding and practical experience using technology to improve teaching and learning in real-world situations.

“Learning how to use technology to improve teaching and learning has become strategically important across all domains of education and training,” states Dr. Wendy Cowan, Philosophical Foundations and Technology Chair for Athens State’s College of Education. “Students who complete the Minor in Educational Technology will potentially possess an advantage when seeking employment in educational settings such as K-12 schools, or in industries that value the employee’s ability to apply learning principles to create effective learning environments.”

Upon completion, students should be able to use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively, including at a distance, to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others.

Coursework developed for the fall 2012 semester includes Teaching Strategies for the Digital Age.

For more information about the program, email Wendy.Cowan@athens.edu or Christopher.Inman@athens.edu.



Alabama Center for the Arts

Progress is underway at the Alabama Center for the Arts, a collaborative program between Athens State, Calhoun Community College, the City of Decatur, Morgan County, and the Decatur Downtown Redevelopment Authority. The Center is scheduled to open in the fall of 2012 and will have a preliminary focus on fine arts with plans for expansion into music, theater and dance in the future.

Athens State Students ASSIST Others

Athens State recently held their annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon sponsored by the University Staff Senate. The luncheon honors the hard work and commitment provided to the institution by their non-faculty employees. Invitees were asked to bring a canned food item or make a monetary donation to support the ASSIST Student United Way Club’s food drive. The campus United Way organization, Athens State Students Involved In Social Togetherness (ASSIST), has worked on numerous projects with local agencies such as CASA and the Limestone County Churches

Involved food bank. The group is sponsored on campus by Professor of Psychology Dr. Mark Durm.

At the luncheon Athens State’s Maintenance Superintendent Dwight Lovell received the John “Booty” Murray Staff Appreciation Award. The yearly award includes a monetary prize given to an employee who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to the University. Lovell very generously donated his award money to the ASSIST food drive helping the student group to achieve one of their most successful campaigns.





Adult Degree Program: Experience and Knowledge Count

Athens State University has announced the development of an Adult Degree Program (ADP) which has been approved for implementation with the beginning of the Spring Semester, 2013. This program will offer baccalaureate degrees designed for working adults age 25 and over who have at least 5 years of fulltime work experience. The program targets students who have not yet completed a college degree and need the opportunity to complete their educational goals.

“Laura Lynn Kerner, Associate Professor in the College of Business, will serve as the Director of the ADP and will coordinate recruitment, marketing, and retention of adult degree seeking students,” states Athens State Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Ronald R. Cromwell.

“Professor Kerner will work closely with the Center for Lifelong Learning and ensure that adult/non-traditional students receive appropriate assistance from all student service providers and faculty, to ease the program transition of these students and allow educational goals to be achieved.”

The ADP program will target adults who started college and stopped as well as other adults, who have approximately 41 hours of college credit but did not continue. In the ADP students may obtain college credit via testing, challenge exams and/or submission of documentation of prior learning experience. This would include work-based credit related to the particular degree program being pursued. Students will be required to take at least 33 credits of courses at Athens State University. The program will meet the needs of students who desire a quality accredited program with the flexibility to meet their individual needs, and is designed for the student to take courses either online or in the classroom and benefit from Athens State’s experienced faculty.

Degrees will include a Bachelor of Science in Liberal Studies, Management of Technology, and Education with a concentration in Career/ Technical Education (non-teacher certificate track). Graduates will be prepared to perform productively and professionally in current positions, to assume higher levels of responsibility in career fields, or to further their education in graduate programs if desired.

“We are in the planning stages for what I believe will be a very popular program,” states Kerner. “As the logistics and the details become more firm, we will certainly make more information available to those who may be interested in pursuing a degree through this method. Now that the program has been approved, we can focus on the fine points and work to develop the best possible plan to benefit our students.”

Athens State University provides a quality education for students with the lowest tuition in the state, and now is offering a flexible degree program for students who need to complete their baccalaureate degree, and yet continue to meet work or other life obligations.

Arrested Development

The damage sustained by the Limestone Correctional Facility’s training facility during the early 2012 storms prompted a need for training space for correctional officers and staff members. Athens State University is providing a classroom for the estimated 15 to 20 Alabama Department of Corrections’ employees in Waters Hall on their Athens campus.

“We are pleased to have a classroom available for these officers,” states Athens State Provost Ronald R. Cromwell. “We certainly sympathize with their situation and offer the full services of the University to help them through their time of rebuilding.”

Department of Corrections employees are sharing the space from mid-March until August 1. Athens State offered a classroom in the newly renovated sciences building to give ample time for the state to make permanent arrangements.

No inmates have been involved in the training session or were brought to the Athens State campus.



Correction Officers in front of Waters Hall



Get ready for fall.....

There are a world of things to do that are more fun than raking leaves. Athens State University's Center for Lifelong Learning can keep you on your toes ... whether it's discussing a good book, sharpening your brain or working on your dance moves.

Visit athens.edu/CLL for classes and to register. 256-233-8260. 121 S. Marion Street in Athens.



Athens State University
Center *for*
Lifelong Learning
<http://www.athens.edu/CLL>

Student Advertising group established

Athens State University in collaboration with American Advertising Federation-North Alabama has created a student AAF chapter at Athens State University. This is the first time a student AAF club has been on the Athens State campus. Membership is open to any student with an interest in marketing, advertising, art and graphic design. Students will have the opportunity to network with future colleagues in these areas and scholarships are available to student members. Members can compete for Student ADDY Awards, a unique national awards program where student work is judged.



The Athens State club recently elected officers - Alex Coronado, President, Powell, AL; Jake Worthington, Treasurer, Athens, AL; Leonard Morris, Public Relations, Decatur, AL. Athens State Faculty Advisers are Professor Laura Lynn Kerner and Dr. Jim Kerner.

AAF-Athens State plans to offer students the opportunity to mix with different professionals from north Alabama and the chance to attend a larger monthly meeting at the AAF-NA chapter in Huntsville. Future plans include, raising money to send members to conferences across the country where they will have access to national leaders in the fields of marketing, advertising and graphic design. This is truly an exciting opportunity for students at Athens State.

AAF offers many resources to students in the advertising world. AAF has over 40,000 business professional members around the country and over 2,000 student members. It offers scholarship programs, awards, conferences, and limitless networking. Students will participate in monthly meetings in which local business men/women will present presentations about different aspects of marketing.



She's a Grand Old flag!

Athens State University hosted its annual Flag Day Ceremony sponsored by the Athens State Alumni Association on Thursday, June 14 at noon in the Sandridge Student Center Ballroom.

This year's program was moderated by Athens Mayor and Vietnam Veteran Ronnie Marks.

Music for the event was provided by the Athens State University Community Band under the director of Dan Havelly. The singing group Threefold also performed. The trio members are John Barnette, Brian Oaks, and John Carwile.

Ronald Pettus displayed some of his collection of flags from the Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II and other flag items of interest.

"Each year our Flag Day Celebration emphasizes just what the stars and stripes means to each of us," says Lisa Payne chairperson of the Flag Day Committee "Mayor Marks planned a special tribute that included all segments of the Athens population, each with an inspiring patriotic story."

Athens State is True Blue

Athens State University joined Autism Speaks in celebrating World Autism Awareness Day on April 2. As part of a world-wide movement, Autism Speaks asked that monuments and buildings of note "Light It Up Blue" to help shine a light on autism. Athens State participated by lighting their historic Founders Hall for that one night.

"We had spotlights in place that lit Founders Hall nightly and we acquired blue theatrical film to cover the lights to wash the building in a blue tone," states Director of Public Relations Guy McClure. "To my knowledge, the front of Founders had never been illuminated in a color so we were anxious to see how it looked. We invited the public to take a walk or drive by on the night of April 2nd to check it out and it was beautiful."

Light It Up Blue, in its third year, is a unique global initiative to help raise awareness about the growing public health concern that is autism. Iconic landmarks around the world joined Light It Up Blue to show their support. In the past, such landmarks as the Empire State Building, Niagara Falls, The Sydney Opera House, and Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro were lit in blue to support autism awareness.



Another SUCCESS Story!

Alums at the Helm

Sarah McAbee Assistant Vice President

Athens State University's Director of Student Financial Services, Sarah McAbee has been appointed Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management .

McAbee, an Athens State alumnus, served as the Director of Student Financial Services at Athens State for the past 22 years.

Prior to her work at Athens State, McAbee worked with the State Examiners of Public Accounts as an Accounts Examiner auditing colleges and universities in the North Alabama District.

As the Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management, McAbee will provide leadership and oversight for the development, implementation, and management of activities and systems related to academic records, student registration, University retention programs, and administration of Title IV programs.

Ronnie Knox Director of Development

Ronnie Knox has been hired as the Director of Development for the Office of Advancement. Knox, a 1983 graduate of Athens State, has most recently been employed as an executive sales specialist for Astrazeneca Pharmaceuticals.

"We are pleased to have someone with Ronnie's background on our team," states Vice President for University Advancement Rick Mould. "Having an alumnus as our chief development officer certainly brings an invaluable familiarity of Athens State to the position. We have identified many initiatives and projects within our master plan and we feel Ronnie is the best choice to present those to both his fellow alumni and to the many friends of the University."



Knox

McAbee

In the Spring of 2008 eight boys in a middle school in Winston County had been deemed as-risk of dropping out of school and were considered too disruptive to be in a regular classroom. Alton Wilson, an ASU education major, a teacher at the school was asked to take these students and work with them. Dr. Debra Baird, Dean of the College of Education, and wife of Mr. Wilson contacted Laura Lynn Kerner, Professor of Marketing and asked her to bring her *My SUCCESS Manual* materials and start the program at the school. Through the remainder of the school year Mr. Wilson, using the materials worked with these 8 boys. In the Spring of 2012 four of the eight boys graduated from high school. Two had obtained scholarships to continue their education. Four of the students had moved to other schools and one graduated from Lynn High and one from Addison High and the other two had moved out of the system but were also reported to have graduated. Truly a SUCCESS story.

When Joann May, Assistant Principle from Athens Middle School requested ASU education students to mentor at-risk middle school students for her SUCCESS program, Dean Baird recommended that the student use Professor Kerner's *My SUCCESS Manual* as the basis for their program. The SUCCESS Program, a mentoring program for at-risk middle school students, has

been chosen as one of the "Best Practices" by the Southern Regional Education Board. The article about the program is featured in their fifth newsletter highlighting best practices presented at the 2011 High Schools That Work (HSTW) Staff Development Conference.

The Annual HSTW Staff Development Conference draws more than 5,000 teachers, principals, district leaders, and educational experts to address current issues in high schools and middle grades. The conference focuses on education and best practices being implemented in schools across the *High Schools that Work, Making Middle Grades Work and Technology Centers that Work* networks.

Above: Athens Middle School teacher Alton Wilson and four of the eight high school graduates from the SUCCESS program.

Honoring our Athletic Past

When Athens State discontinued its sport program in 2003, it was a tough decision for the administration to make. There are many alumni and community members who have fond memories of athletic events both on campus and traveling matches. The University was fearful that without a link to the Athens State Bears, those fond memories would fade.

To combat that fear and to honor those who played and coached, the Athens State University Archives is compiling sports memorabilia with plans to open a sports display room in the lobby of the Carter Gymnasium.

"We've been working on this collection of sports memorabilia for a quite a while," said Athens State archivist Sara Love. "Since the sports program was discontinued we've tried to gather as much as we can."

As a grand opening for the display room, Athens State is hosting an Athletic Homecoming Reception. The early evening event is planned for Saturday, August 25 and is open to any former athletes. Former athletes are also encouraged to donate or loan articles of interest for the display room.

"We are taking donations now," Love said. "The archives are accepting sports memorabilia from any year. We would love to have anything from uniforms to balls to shoes to whatever. We've already heard some really interesting stories and had some nice collections donated."

The August 25 reception will honor former coaches Oba Belcher and Harold Murrell. The reception is being sponsored by the Athens State University Foundation led by Vice President for University Advancement Rick Mould.

"We are proud to be honoring the memory of these two outstanding coaches," Mould said. "We hope all of the players who served during their tenure will attend and share in the fellowship that comes with all team sports."

If you would like more information about the reception, or are interested in donating items to the collection, please call 256-216-6671.



The 1963 Bears with Coach Belcher, Dean Bathurst and Athens Mayor Stewart upon their victorious return from the NAIA District Basketball Championship in Kansas City after defeating Huntingdon College.



The 1973 Women's Tennis Team



The 1997-1998 Basketball Team



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www.athens.edu/fiddlers

