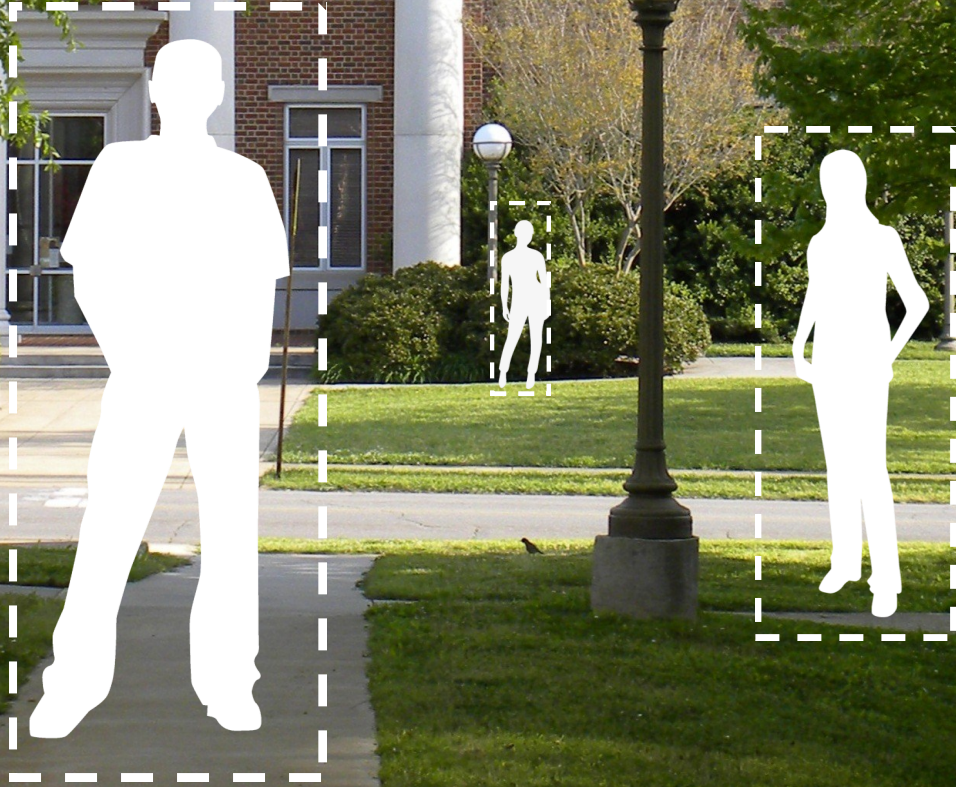


who are we?



the **column**

summer 2013

Who are we? Defining Athens State University.

Who are we? It is an introspective question that one might ask when on a quest of self-discovery. It is also a question an institution must ask when defining itself in a constantly changing environment. In the 191-year history of Athens State University we have been many things to many constituents, but whether that is an alma mater, a community resource, or an educational touchstone, we each have a personal connection to Athens State that is uniquely ours.

The first step in defining ourselves is to do just that – establish a definition. Athens State is an upper-division, two-year educational institution, one of only a handful of such schools in the world. The problem is there is no word or phrase that adequately paints a mental picture of what this means. The other problem is that this causes our colleagues, constituents, and even our neighbors to not clearly understand our purpose.

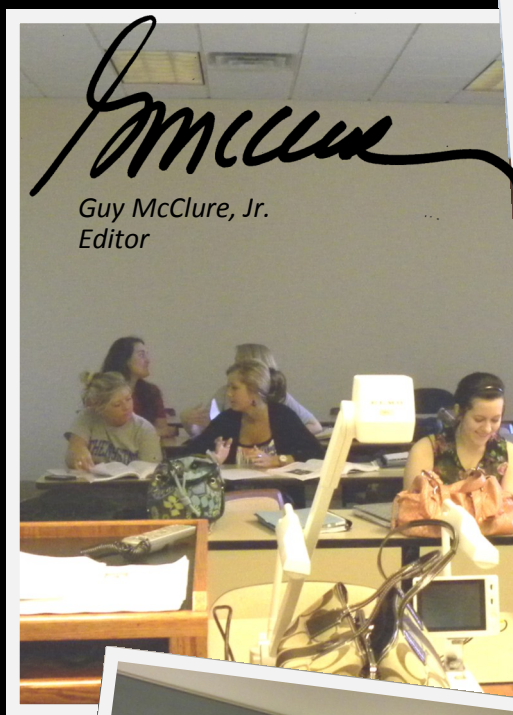
Let's start with who we are not. We are not a Community College; we are not a traditional four-year institution; we do not offer first or second year coursework; and we do not fit into most people's preconceived idea of what a baccalaureate granting institution should be.

Establishing who we are not makes it easier to explain who we are. We are a university; we offer a curriculum that is at the junior and senior level; our student body is totally comprised of students who matriculated from other institutions after completing their freshman and sophomore level coursework; and we are focused on doing whatever we can to assist those students in achieving their bachelor's degree.

We realize that by being such a unique collegiate institution, we have had to be forward-thinking as to what programs and courses of study are marketable to our potential students and the hiring industries they will

serve. Our history of flexibility toward student career needs demonstrates that the rule of supply and demand is alive and well in our mission, our curriculum, and our goals.

Athens State President Bob Glenn best describes what we do as taking students from where they are to where they want to be. I also might add that we are not an ending point on a map, we are the journey. We are not a finish line, but the race. We are the sum of many parts, and together we are whatever you need us to be.





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College of Business graduate Jake Worthington gives a thumbs up as he marches to his commencement ceremony.

Student Profiles: Richard Baize, Ivan Taylor, and Paul Hunter



Richard Baize matriculated to Athens State University after completing an associate's degree in Electronic Technology from Vincennes University in his home state of Indiana and after finishing up a few prerequisites from Northwest-Shoals Community College. His choice to pursue a bachelor's degree in Computer Science was an easy one to make.

"My degree is in computer science with a networking option, a field of study I thought would complement my electronics degree," states Baize. "I enjoy the challenge of putting, what I call, the puzzle together. I have a natural apt for troubleshooting, and finding resolutions to the problems found."

Baize grew up in Edwardsport, a small town in Southern Indiana. After high school and completing his coursework at Vincennes University he took a job with the nearby Sony Corporation in Terre Haute. There he met and married his wife, Anne. In 2006 the couple decided to move to be closer to her family. In 2010, he decided to continue his studies with a goal of receiving a bachelor's degree. Baize currently takes classes online and in classroom.

"My plan is to graduate December 2013," continues Baize. "At Athens State, I find it most beneficial that each class builds on the previous one, providing a thorough understanding."



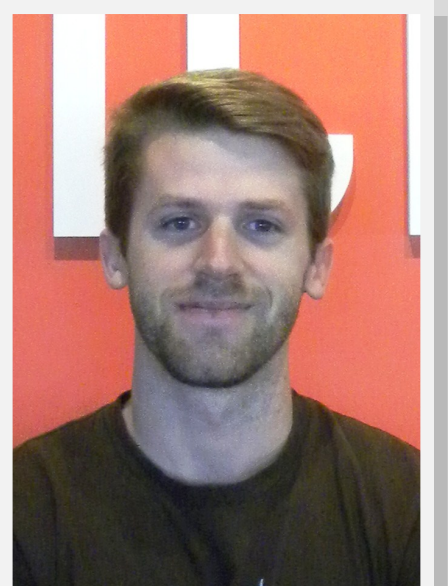
North Carolina native Ivan Taylor moved to the area after 10 years in Germany. Her husband fell in love with north Alabama after being stationed in Huntsville for military training in 2007. When he was offered a position at Redstone Arsenal, Ivan and her family moved to Madison. It was at this time when she became determined to get her degree.

"At this point I met a couple of people who were completing their degrees through Athens State," remembered Taylor. "They boasted of the small class sizes, the diverse degree programs and how the instructors knew each students' names."

Taylor is pursuing a Psychology major with a minor in Biology. She plans to graduate in the summer of 2013. Her favorite classes are Social Psychology and Immunology.

She remarks, "Social Psychology because it gives a great value to societal behavior and how cultural experiences lead to their form of thought and my second favorite class - Immunology - because of its focus on the importance of our immune system and the constant daily fight to keep us free of disease and pathogens."

Taylor plans on working in clinical research with a concentration on assisting soldiers, family members, as well as military retirees diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.



Athens State junior Paul Hunter was born in Phoenix, Arizona but moved to Huntsville with his family at age 10. After sampling different colleges in the area he decided that Athens State would be the school name on his diploma when he receives his bachelor's degree, hopefully in May of 2014.

Hunter chose Athens State due to the recommendation of his sister, Erin, who received her degree in 2008.

"I chose Health Science as my major with a Healthcare Management minor," stated Hunter. "I've always been interested in going to school to study anything in the medical field. At some point I plan to go back to school for nursing once I've worked and traveled for a while."

Hunter has particularly enjoyed taking Introduction to Epidemiology this semester. He has been reading a lot lately on the subject of viral epidemics and this course appealed to his interest in the subject. He recommends that anyone interested in Epidemiology see the 2011 movie Contagion as it explores the seriousness of a pandemic scare.

Immediately after graduation Hunter plans to move to Brooklyn, New York. He, his girlfriend Brianna, and another good friend have been working and saving nonstop in preparation for the big move.

Athens State Student Honored by National Library Publication

Athens State University student Laura Poe was recently named the 2013 Paralibrarian of the Year by *Library Journal*.

Poe is majoring in English with a minor in Drama. When not in the classroom, she serves as the volunteer coordinator for the Athens Limestone Public Library.

"I wear many different hats at the Athens Limestone Public Library," states Poe. "My duties range from the simple responsibility of making sure that each staff member and volunteer get a birthday card all the way to organizing our wonderful volunteers."

Library Journal is a national publication that is for all libraries, whether they be academic, public, or private. The journal focuses on informing librarians and paralibrarians, such as Poe. Paralibrarians are library staffers without, or who have not yet been awarded a Masters in Library Information Science.

The March issue of *Library Journal* featured Poe on its cover and honored her with a \$1,500 cash prize. The Paralibrarian of the Year award goes to one support staff member nationally and places special emphasis on the efforts of the winner to further the role of paralibrarians in the library profession.

"Three of the women I work with wrote letters nominating me," states Poe. "The judges liked what they had to say about me and I was chosen. I have no idea of how many people were entered into this; however it was open to paralibrarians across the United States. Last year the winner was from Florida and the year before was from Texas."

Although her first career aspiration was to be Wonder Woman, Poe always loved books. Some of her early memories were visiting her local library as a child to experience Storytime. To her it was magical, and those first experiences planted a seed that has grown into a love of anything library related.

"My favorite part of working at the library is helping my patrons," continues Poe. "Just the other day I had a father come in and thank me for introducing the Rick Riordan series of books to his son. The books have boosted his AR

points at school. It is the little things that make all I do worthwhile."

Poe's choice of an English major seemed to go hand in hand with her love for reading. Although, she admits, she wasn't sold on the Drama Minor. Now that she teaches and gives lectures, she is using what she has learned from Athens State's drama curriculum more than she ever imagined. In fact, her newly found love for drama landed her a lead role in the Athenian Players' production of Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*. Poe played Amanda Wingfield, the matriarch of Williams' trademark dysfunctional families.

But in real life, Poe's greatest role is of the matriarch of her own "functional" family. She is a wife and a mother to three children age seven to sixteen. They make their home in western Limestone County.

Poe elaborates, "My life is like a three ring circus. In ring number one we have my job, 40 hours a week with lots to do. In ring number three we have school, I am taking four classes and am performing in a play. And in the center ring I have my family."



Laura Poe, right, as Amanda in *The Glass Menagerie*

Professor Develops Program for Musical Youth

Athens State University Assistant Professor of Elementary Education Mary Harris recently developed a program with the Decatur Youth Symphony which integrates leadership and mentoring skills for symphony members and elementary music students.

In February, Harris conducted a half day workshop that integrated Steven Covey's Seven Habits program that enhances leadership and mentoring in advance of the symphony's Each One, Teach One program.

Each One, Teach One involves students from the chamber ensemble working weekly with the Decatur City School's Apollo students – third graders from the system's first year violin program. Each mentoring session paired more accomplished students with younger students.

mentoring process, but the habits have positively impacted the students' personal lives."

Harris hopes to begin to collect data about the participants' perceptions of the program. This data should lead to research publications as well as be helpful for the DYS's fund raising.

Harris worked with Athens State's Assistant Professor of Education Chris Inman to develop a method of communicating the successes and addressing questions outside the mentoring sessions. Inman created a social arena that is both useful and safe for the participants. His expertise greatly enhanced the communications with the symphony students.

"When first approached about serving as an educational advisor to this group, I was wary given my lack of musical expertise," continued Harris. "However, I am grateful for this opportunity and feel as though my offer of educational advice has advanced the Decatur Youth Symphony mission."



"Working closely with the Decatur Youth Symphony's Executive Director Sharon Landis I've witnessed both of these groups flourish in their music and personal interactions," stated Harris. "We've discovered that not only is the marriage of the seven habits an effective approach for the



A Gift Artfully Given

Mrs. France Wideman of Birmingham recently donated 22 bronze western-themed sculptures to Athens State University in memory of her late husband Dr. Gilder Wideman. The sculptures, known as the Wideman Collection, include works by artists John Solomon Sandridge and Marshall Mitchell, as well as 11 reproductions of works by Frederic Remington.

The debut exhibit for the sculpture was held at the Alabama Center for the Arts on Second Avenue in Decatur early in 2013. After the initial showing, the sculptures were made part of Athens State's permanent collection and will be available for exhibition at other venues.

Dr. Wideman was a noted obstetrician and gynecologist, a civic leader and veteran.



Instructional Design Program Offered

At the beginning of the 2012/2013 academic year, Athens State University added an option to the Career and Technical Education major in the College of Education that prepares students to work as instructional designers and trainers. The Option in Technical Education: Instructional Design addresses a need for bachelor-degreed instructional designers in schools, community colleges, business and industry.

"The individuals looking for these types of jobs will not require a Class B teaching certification," states Christopher Inman, Assistant Professor of Instructional Technology. "They will, however, require knowledge of how students learn as well as how technology can be utilized to facilitate learning. The advent of widely available technological possibilities in the teaching cycle has caused a void in the number of skilled instructional designers who understand curriculum, instructional technique and how to design online and technology-based coursework at all levels. This option is in an answer to this need."

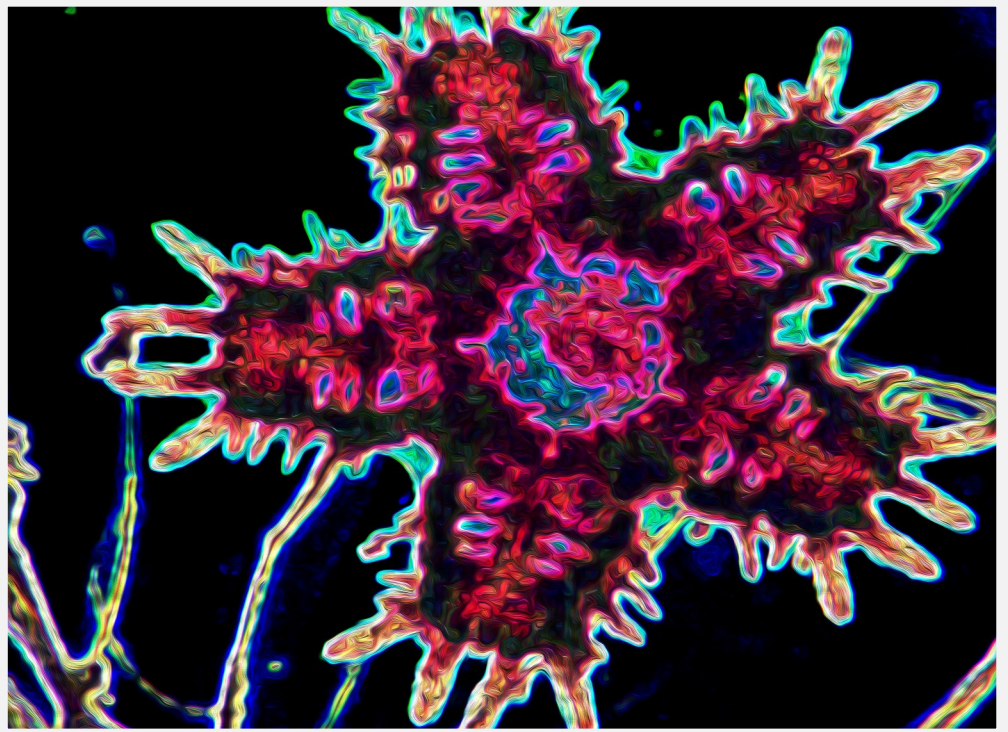
Instructional Designers engage students or employees in the learning process, encourage their participation, and address specific learning needs. The program at Athens State will advance the student's knowledge of instructional design and learning theories and provide practical application experience in designing, delivering, and evaluating training. Further career options in instructional design include: training consultant, technologist trainer, corporate trainer, and program designer.

Unique Interdisciplinary Class Marries Biology with Digital Photography

Athens State University's interdisciplinary course Digital Microphotography and Image Analysis hosted a morning reception for student artwork in April on the first floor of Waters Hall on the main campus of Athens State University. The interdisciplinary course was taught by professors George Williams, Pamela Keller and Gail Bergeron.

Large, colorful and detailed photographs were on display from students who are majoring in art or biology. This course was designed to enable the student to produce works of scientific specimens in digital photography through the use of various photomicrographic techniques. They included ordinary light, phase contrast, electron microscopy, and digital image analysis. The students' final projects are a creative effort.

The course was unique in its team-taught approach. The instructors originated the course and recently delivered a paper on its success at the Alabama Academy of Science meeting in Birmingham.



Alumni Association Honors Graduates and Friends at Reception

Athens State University's Alumni Association held its 105th Annual Awards Reception and Ceremony on Friday, March 1, 2013. The evening was designated to honor alumni, faculty, staff, or members of the community for their support to the university.

Mr. Anthony Clifton received a Distinguished Alumnus Award. He is a resident of Sylvania, Alabama and earned his B.S. in Public Health and Safety from Athens State University in 2011. He is currently serving as the Emergency Management Agency Director for Dekalb County.

Dr. Kenneth Dunivant received a Distinguished Alumnus Award. He currently resides in Tuscaloosa, Alabama and earned his B.S. in Behavioral Science from Athens College in 1975. He has served the United Methodist Church since 1973 as well as several United Methodist District and Conference committees and teams.

Mr. Robert Ford received a Distinguished Alumnus Award. He is from Arab, Alabama and earned his B.A. in Political Science from Athens College in 1971.

He earned his Juris Doctor in 1974 from the University of Alabama and spent 35 years trying civil and criminal cases.

Dr. Amanda Branscombe received the Commitment to Teaching Award. She is an Associate Professor at Athens State University and holds a dual appointment in Secondary English Education and Early Childhood Education. She currently resides in Athens and received her B.S. in 1969, her M.Ed. in Educational Leadership in 1980, and an Ed.D. in Education in 1991 from Auburn University.

Mr. Steve Clark received the Distinguished Support Staff Award. He is from Killen, Alabama and has been Associate Director, Academic Support and Instructional Systems at Athens State University since 1994. He holds two B.S. degrees from the University of North Alabama, Business Management in 1987 and Computer Information Systems in 1990.

Classic Catering- Paulette Young is the recipient of the Deweese and Jim Beasley Alumnus Appreciation Award. She is from Toney, Alabama and earned her B.A. in Psychology in 1981 from Athens College and came to manage the campus cafeteria in 1996. She retired in April of this year after 17 years of service.

Below: Dunivant, Young, Branscombe, Clifton, Ford and Clark



“Getting to know old friends all over again”



Homecoming 2013

Mark Robbins Photography



The weekend called for a little rain but that didn't dampen anyone's spirits. Friday morning May 3 started with a coffee in the new Learning Commons of the Library. It was the perfect backdrop to mingle and peruse the archived memorabilia "from the day".

Dr. Murphree, Dr. Slate, Dr. Laubenthal, Dr. Caudle and Dr. Hayes were on hand to start the reminiscing that eventually moved to Waters Hall N202. Waters Hall was completely renovated in 2010 and has state of the art classroom space for the current student body. However, our previous student body also enjoyed the location and listening to their former professors in a classroom again. After the sessions with former professors the group moved to lunch in the Bear Cage- one of the few areas still remaining on campus that hasn't changed much. The Homecoming Committee dressed up the room with Greek banners, yearbooks and article clippings. Sara Love, Athens State Archivist, finished up the afternoon's activities with a campus tour and visit to the Sports Museum.

Friday evening was capped off with cocktails and dinner at Joe Wheeler coordinated by Geezerfest III. There was no stopping the mingling, sharing of old stories and libations as the former classmates finished off the evening and retired to their cabins. No one can report on the activities after they left the River Room.

"This was our third Geezerfest reunion and many of us have now gotten to know our old friends all over again,"

stated a Geezerfest Coordinator. "These reunions have become something we look forward to attending. We're a dangerous bunch. The reality is that the talk among the guys has changed. Instead of talking about the girls, we shared our favorite recipes."

The University had commencement ceremonies in the morning and afternoon on Saturday and then turned the campus over to another "Yankee Invasion". As the Class of 2013 was starting a new chapter in their lives, a former group of graduates was about to turn the pages back on their chapter.

A chartered bus shuttled most of the attendees to the campus from Joe Wheeler for the Pig Roast in the Ballroom. A few transplants and locals filtered in as well. Everyone remembered the events they had attended in that very same space years ago- smiles were seen and lies were told. The Homecoming Committee and Geezerfest coordinators pulled off a collaborative event and created wonderful new memories for all that attended.



Athletic Homecoming

Last year the University held an Athletic Homecoming honoring basketball Coaches Oba Belcher and Harold Murrell. This year the University will focus on the women's sports programs.

Do you still communicate with your teammates? If so, help us spread the word and ask them to update their contact information with the Office of Alumni Affairs if they are not receiving communications from the University. Our Archives department is also receiving donations, or loans, on memorabilia items relating to our women's sports programs. Call the Office of Alumni Affairs at 256-233-8185 or email alumni@athens.edu with questions.



Young Alumni Advisory Council Established

Abigail Rizzardi, Class of 2003, is heading the efforts to engage our younger graduates. Abigail is the advisor for the new Young Alumni Advisory Council (YAAC) and a member of the Alumni Board of Directors. The council members are Laura Allen, Class of 2008; Stephen Davis, Class of 2010; Heath Daws, Class of 2011; Jeremy Harbin, Class of 2007; Scott McCormick, Class of 2005; and Mildred Ploss, Class of 2013.

YAAC's mission is to advise the Alumni Association and University on programs and services for young alums and transitioning/current students; create and sustain meaningful connections with graduates and transitioning/current students; emphasize the importance of supporting your Alma Mater with time, expertise, connections and philanthropy; engage graduates with the Alumni and University calendar of events while involving volunteers in those events; encourage contact information, career and milestone updates; collaborate for career networking, continued education opportunities and easing student to graduate transitions; solicit and involve new Alumni memberships; suggest and contribute to The Columns and Enewsletter; and serve as unofficial recruiters and convey the mission of Athens State University.

YAAC will serve as the voice for our graduates of the last 20 years. Visit their website at www.athens.edu/alumni/yaac/ for additional information or call 256-233-8185 to find out more.



Rizzardi



Allen



Davis



Daws



Harbin



McCormick



Ploss



Elizabeth Robison
Class of 2012

"Athens offers the feel of a small town college, with personable instructors. Every faculty member I have come into contact with has exhibited what I would consider the "Athens State Spirit", they have been kind, diligent in their work, quickly offering assistance when needed, full of energy, encouraging and supportive. They embody an essence of excellence, I would love to carry on this legacy throughout my academic career and on into every aspect of life."

Alumni Association News

The Alumni Association held 29 sponsored events and participated in another 19 non-sponsored events for 2012-2013. In addition, over \$39,000 has been donated and/or pledged to the University since 2010 for the Beaty-Mason home, College of Arts and Sciences- Waters Hall, College of Business- Sanders Hall, College of Education - McCain Hall, Sandridge Student Center and Library Learning Commons.

The largest impact made by the Alumni Association has been on scholarships- 82 students were awarded funding through the Alumni Association since 2008 totaling over \$107,000 in assistance.

All Alumni Association programming, scholarships **and donations come from the proceeds** for events, donations to the Alumni Association and membership dues. We need your help to continue our efforts. Joining the Alumni Association benefits the University, our community and the lives of our students. To consider becoming a member and sign up for the monthly e-newsletter visit athens.edu/alumni.

Athens State Phi Theta Kappa chapter honored at International Convention

The Athens State University Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Alumni Association recently received the “Most Outstanding University-Based Alumni Association Award” at the International Phi Theta Kappa Convention in San Jose, California. Each year at this convention one alumni association is recognized in both Regional and University-Based Associations, with one also receiving the Alumni Award of Merit.

This is the second time in the last three years that the Athens State chapter has received the award. In 2011, the chapter also received the Alumni Award of Merit.

“It was undoubtedly the exceptional level of business planning and student engagement that resulted in this terrific accomplishment by the Athens State Phi Theta Kappa Alumni officers and members,” states chapter advisor Dr. Kim LaFevor. “As the primary mission of Phi Theta Kappa recognizes and encourages scholarship among two-year college students, the aim is to provide robust opportunities for the development of leadership and service, for an intellectual climate for exchange of ideas and ideals, for lively fellowship for scholars, and for stimulation of interest in continuing academic excellence.”

To receive the Outstanding Association classification, the top chapter must demonstrate exceptional contributions to Phi Theta Kappa at an International, Regional, University, and Community Level with specific focus

on service, fellowship, leadership, and scholarship of all competing entries.

This past year, the Athens State chapter selected 10 primary objectives, 33 associated initiatives, and conducted 11 fundraisers to support the implementation of these strategic society projects that resulted in the winning entry.

LaFevor continues, “Using these ideals as our central aim, the work done by our Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Association has proven to be successful on all counts.”

Athens State University’s Phi Theta Kappa officer team includes Hannah Kilpatrick, President; Ruby Sayki-Addo, VP of Membership, Lillie Parker, VP of Fellowship and Service, and Joanne Pearson, VP of Leadership.



*Left to right:
Ruby Sayki-Addo,
Hannah Kilpatrick,
Professor Kim LaFevor.*

Athens State Business Course Assists Local United Way Disaster Project

Students in Athens State University’s System Design Management course have partnered with the United Way of Athens-Limestone County to produce a database system to support volunteer management during crisis situations.

“I feel this interesting class project has the potential to be a great asset to the community in times of emergency,” states Dr. Lisa Rich, professor of the systems class. “We divided the class into four teams so we had four different programs to present to the United Way. They chose the one that they felt best fit their needs.”

The student teams developed a system of tracking, placing and organizing volunteers who would report to a Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) in the event of a disaster. The VRC would then mobilize the volunteers to areas where they

are needed throughout the county.

Rich continued, “This was great training for the students to have hands-on interaction with a client. It is invaluable to learn how to listen to customer needs and then create programs that fit them.”

The Disaster Volunteer Management program was funded by a grant from Boeing. This allowed for the placement of Susie Brookshire as the project coordinator. She evaluated each of the four

programs and was available to the students during the creation process for guidance or to answer any questions.

The United Way has been actively involved with disaster management efforts in the past and has been tasked to continue with the planning and preparedness efforts for the future.



*Left to right:
Susie Brookshire,
Katie Preston,
Chad Smith,
Regina Gibson,
Professor Lisa Rich,
President Bob Glenn.*

Announcing Athena's Web: The College of Education's Online Journal

Athens State University's College of Arts and Sciences has developed an online journal dedicated to publishing works by its students. The journal, Athena's Web, is now available at www.athens.edu/athenasweb.

Students within the College of Arts and Sciences, including secondary education majors, are encouraged to submit academic and creative work to the editors for consideration. The journal will publish three times a year.

The journal was developed by Faculty Editor Dr. Bebe Shaw, Senior Student Editor Travis Sharp, and Assistant Student Editor A. Scott Michael.

"This is a great collaborative effort between our faculty and students," stated College Dean Ron Fritze. "The journal will showcase outstanding work from our students making it available to an unlimited audience. I applaud Dr. Shaw, Travis and Scott on taking an idea, implementing it

and creating a unique web presence for student creativity."

The journal's name derives from the Greek myth of Athena and Arachne in which the goddess Athena challenges the weaver Arachne to a weaving contest. Jealous of Arachne's talents, Athena turned her into a spider. Further, Athena was the patron goddess of the Greek city of Athens. "Web" refers to both the weaving contest, the spider, and the fact that Athena's Web is an online journal.

The Athena's Web developers will sponsor a cover design contest annually. The contest is tailored for art and graphic design students, but all arts and sciences students can enter the contest.

The website offers an area for fiction reading, guidelines for submission of materials, information on the cover design contest, and an archive. Athena's Web officially went live on the internet in May 2013.



Professor Melissa Werner Speaks at United Nations about Trauma Therapy

Dr. Melissa Werner, Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education at Athens State University and candidate in the Child Analyst program at the C. G. Jung Institute, Kusnacht, Switzerland was invited to speak on the "Role of Families in Sand and Play Therapies in Refugee and Vulnerable Communities."

Werner spoke to the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Committee on the Family in New York on January 24. The NGO organization provides information and advocacy for family issues to the UN system. The invitation was based on recognition of Dr. Werner's work as an early childhood educator and child analyst.

"Sand and play therapies allow the child control of the process," states Werner. "The child uses miniatures in sand or drawing on paper to express or process trauma or create another world where the trauma does not exist. Play offers a process of mental assimilation to a child while it provides joy and an increase in vitality."

Werner continues, "The images used by the child in the sand or on paper are symbols which can transcend mental opposites or blockages. The therapist acts as witness to the child's act of creation. Having to verbally tell the story of what happened, even if the child has the linguistic ability, can re-traumatize the child."

Following Werner's presentation she was asked to attend a working group meeting on the situation of children in migration and refugee camps in Jordan.

Werner discussed her experiences to the Athens State community in a lecture held in February.



Athens State College of Business Students Tour the Steelcase Facility

The Department of Logistics, Acquisition, and Enterprise Systems Management at Athens State University, along with the administration of Steelcase, have joined forces to provide a glimpse into the workings of the company's largest manufacturing facility located in Athens, Alabama. A group of students from the Athens State College of Business, along with administrators and professors, toured the Steelcase plant on March 25.

"Students were very interested in touring the manufacturing and distribution center of Steelcase," said Athens State Adjunct Professor Susan Calhoun. "They saw first-hand the process from the receiving raw materials to the distribution of a finished product."

In addition, students gained access to The Nerve Center – otherwise known as Communication Central. They discussed the operations of the center with Steelcase Plant Manager Doug Batdorff. Batdorff

explained that the nerve center at Steelcase served as a center for communication and accountability. Batdorff also explained that each area of the production process has up to the minute analysis of productivity and profitability.

Approximately 20 students attended the tour. The majority of the students were from classes that focused on the logistics and managerial concentrations in the College of Business at Athens State.

Batdorff took the time to discuss with the students that Steelcase looks for management candidates trained in problem solving and critical thinking. Students learned that the manufacturer looks for employees who recognize a problem, understand the root cause of it, and present

a solution with the least disruption to productivity.

The representatives from Steelcase who served as tour guides included Human Resources Manager Larry Burchfield, Lean/Quality Team member Don Byford, and FDC Shift Lead Wes Allen. Athens State's Director of Development Ronnie Knox, Assistant Director of Development Pam Jarrett, and Adjunct Professor Susan Calhoun accompanied the students.

"Athens State and Steelcase have had a wonderful working relationship for years," said Knox. "Their commitment to serving the community in which they do business, and championing the educational development of local students is a great asset to our area."

Weekly Writer's Group

Athens State University's Writing Center has organized a gathering for those who have ever wanted to start a blog, write an award-winning novel, or simply learn how to get their writing published.

The Athens State University Weekly Writer's Group meets weekly and began in April to discuss any writing projects members are working on. The group is open to the public.

This Weekly Writing Group supports the mission of Athens State University to recognize diversity and nurture the discovery and application of knowledge. It also strives to prepare students for professional careers, graduate school, lifelong learning, and enrichment, and it offers programs of continuing education and community services that provide a variety of cultural and professional opportunities.

If you're interested in joining this group, please contact Dr. Tony Ricks for date and time information. Ricks can be reached by phone, 256-216-6670 or by email, tony.ricks@athens.edu. Depending on the needs of the group, dates and times may change.



Pam Jarrett has been hired by Athens

Jarrett Joins Athens State Development Effort

State University as the Assistant Director of Development for the Office of Advancement. Before joining Athens State's development team, Jarrett served as a Consultant for Creative Consulting, LLC where she specialized in assisting educational and governmental agencies with fundraising.

"We look forward to having Pam work with us," states Vice President for University Advancement Rick Mould. "As the University enters into a comprehensive campaign, her skills will position us to have experienced personnel needed to meet our goals."

Jarrett also held previous positions with Arbonne International and Allstate Telecommunications.



Pam Jarrett

Alumni Spotlight: Vanessa Austin '94 Writes About Personal Experiences

Vanessa Jackson Austin was born in Gadsden, Alabama but has been living in the Huntsville area for approximately 29 years. During her childhood, she wrote poetry and made arts and crafts, not knowing it would enhance her life today. Although she does not have a degree in art, she has a passion for arts and writing and has taught herself most of all she creates.

Austin was the youngest of six children and understood the importance of a college education because her mother reminded her during her senior year in high school. "Don't think you are not going to college," her mother said, so that is exactly what she did. Her parents encouraged and motivated her to obtain her college degrees which included a Bachelor of Science in Marketing with a minor in Management in 1982 from Jacksonville State University, a Bachelor of Science in Accounting in 1994 from Athens State University, and a Master of Business Education in 2002 from Alabama A&M University.

"Even though I was heavily challenged, with God's help, I managed to stay focused on my Accounting courses with Cost Accounting being her favorite," states Austin. "Cost Accounting involves labor, overhead, and cost of material, which helps her even now with my small business – CABBIT Designs, in which I create handcrafted greeting cards and sell my published books."

Without a doubt, Austin endured a lot of studying for her accounting coursework at Athens State, but with Mr. Bill Whitley being her favorite instructor, she enjoyed her courses due to his humorous yet interesting way to keep his students focused on their course of study.

Austin loves colors and it shows in her handcrafted items. As a two-time cancer survivor, being an art lover helps her in a variety of ways. Her writings and handcrafting items are therapeutic and it relaxes her and helps her to drift away into her own world.

Austin has published three books – Live On, Refreshments for the Heart, and Cries in the Wind. Cries in the Wind was published in April 2012 as a non-fiction

inspirational book that chronicles the breast cancer journey she encountered in 2009. It is written from a poem/prayer that she wrote in August 2009, two months after having her surgery and was written to comfort, uplift, and give hope to cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers. Her first two books, Live On and Refreshments for the Heart are inspirational poem & quote books.

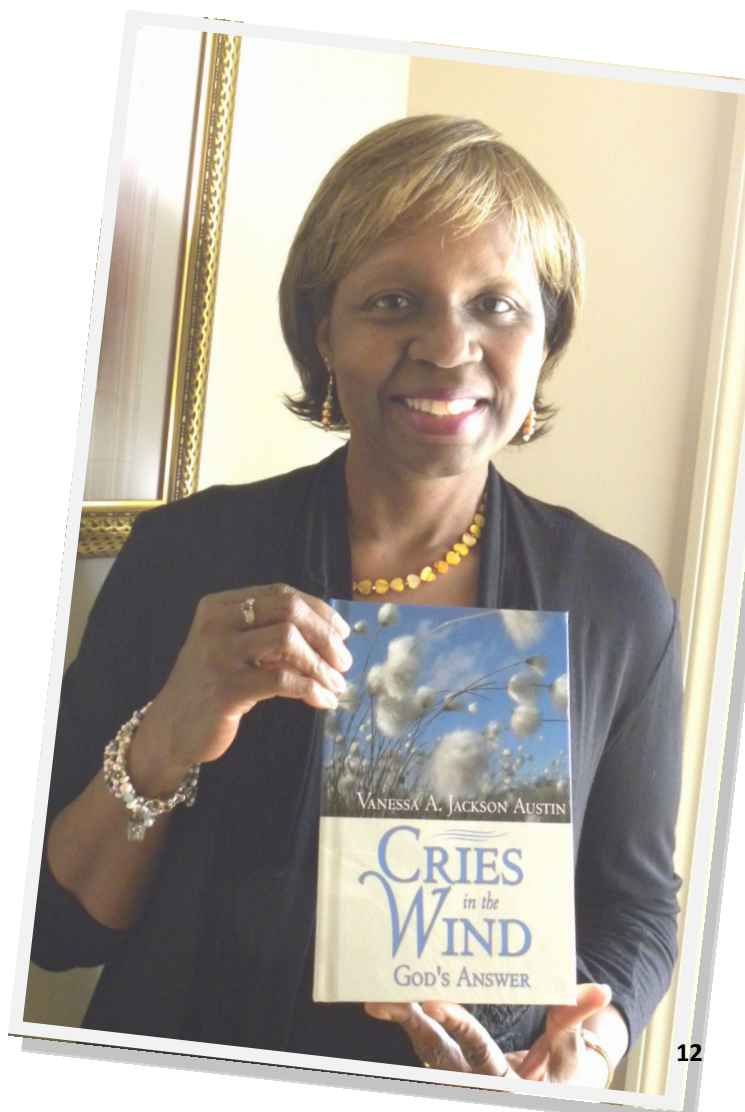
This past year was extremely challenging due to the fact that while Vanessa was publishing Cries in the Wind, she was diagnosed with yet another type of cancer. Even though this caused a delay in Cries in the Wind being published, updating and revising her new book helped her to come to grips with her medical situation.

"From time to time I travel to Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville for my doctor appointments and medical tests," states Austin. "But I do not mind because following God's direction for my life is healing me from head to toe, and traveling to Nashville is enjoyable and relaxing. Since I have started back on chemotherapy treatments, it is teaching me that in order to overcome cancer I must change my 'style of life' to include my attitude, eating healthy foods, along with staying positive and enjoying the goodness of life, as well as praying, meditating, and reading/obeying God's Holy Word."

Austin continues, "God is a Healer, because I have been in remission before and am looking forward to being Cancer Free, again. This time for a life-time." She is very fond of the scripture in Psalms 46:1, "God is our refuge & strength, a helper who is always found in times of trouble."

Cries in the Wind was recently accepted to be sold at LifeWay Christian Stores, and it can be ordered through the internet at Barnes & Noble, Amazon, Books-a-Million, and at WestBow Press Publishing Company. Excerpts from "Cries in the Wind" are also available at the above internet sites.

Austin's upcoming events are listed on her website www.cabbitdesigns.net. She continues to have book signings and has upcoming radio shows about Cries in the Wind. Her genre is writing inspirational books and she is excited about the writings of two more books this year.



22nd Annual Alumni Association Golf Classic Deemed a Success

The 22nd Annual Athens State University Alumni Golf Classic on May 16 was a success. "This was our best year ever," stated Trish Di Lullo, Alumni Director. "Our 1:00 pm flight was sold-out with 103 golfers, and we had a record number of sponsors."

"A special thank-you goes to Jerry Evans and Greenbrier Restaurant for donating lunch, Pepsi of Decatur for

donating the beverages, McClary Ford for covering the hole-in-one prize, \$1,000,000 shoot-out, putting contest and Closest to the Pin prizes, Health-Source of Athens for their prize donation and to the Golf Committee and volunteers for pulling it all together," continued Di Lullo.

First place went to Mark Yarbrough, Ben Yarbrough, Terry McDonald and

Brian Askew; second Place was David Hyman, Scott Weaver, Joe Haney and Barry Manning; and third place was Larry Sharp, David Williams, Robert Burton and Jeff Wilson.

All proceeds raised go directly to scholarships for the upcoming academic year. Based on early estimates, nine students should receive funding from the 2013 tournament.



Ireland Trip Planned

The Alumni Association is sponsoring a trip to Ireland on November 7-15. Join the first family of Athens State, Dr. and Mrs. Glenn, on this trip that is open to anyone – not just Athens State alumni. It will introduce you to another side of the Emerald Isle.

Included in the price of the 9 day trip are round trip airfare from Huntsville, hotel transfers and 11 meals (7 breakfasts and 4 dinners). Rates range from \$3,169 for triple occupancy accommodations to \$3,449 per person for single occupancy. For more information about the trip, please call the Office of Alumni Affairs at 256-233-8185 .

Commencement for Spring 2013

Athens State University's spring graduation exercises were held in the Carter Physical Education Gymnasium on Saturday, May 4 with three separate ceremonies.

The College of Arts and Sciences commenced first with Jon Prusmack addressing the attendees. Prusmack started DHS Technologies in 1986 and is a professional artist. Prusmack played rugby for 15 years and wrote the first American Coaching Book on Rugby titled Rugby: A Guide for Players, Coaches and Spectators.

At noon, the College of Business presented diplomas to their graduates with Joe H. Ritch serving as the college's keynote speaker. Ritch serves as a member of the legal team at Sirote

and Permutt, Ritch is well-known throughout the region for his high profile work as Chairman of the Tennessee Valley BRAC Committee and its efforts on behalf of Redstone Arsenal.

Lastly, the College of Education's graduation ceremony was held with Representative Jay Love serving as the keynote speaker. Love represents Alabama's 74th District. He chairs the Ways and Means Education committee which oversees K-12 and higher education appropriations, and taxes and education/benefits for state educators. He also serves on the Montgomery County Legislation.

Approximately 300 students marched, encompassing the graduating classes for the three colleges.



Bank of America Executive Speaks at Athens State University

Athens State University hosted Jay Livingston, Senior Vice President of Global Marketing at Bank of America, at a lecture on March 14th in the ballroom of the Sandridge Student Center. This lecture was offered free to the public through its sponsorship by the Livingston Concert Lecture Series.

Livingston, originally from Knoxville but now residing in New York, has been associated with Bank of America for eighteen years. He has held senior roles in almost every functional area of marketing including product management, advertising, e:commerce and retail marketing. He has also led the introduction of the Bank of America brand in many markets across the country after large acquisitions. Livingston currently leads Bank of America's efforts to localize many of its nationwide marketing and philanthropic activities.

Livingston spoke on his connection to the Athens area and gave an overview of his background and career path. He also touched upon the current financial crisis and the future of banking as well as a

discussion on start-up projects he was involved in developing.

"Jay's topics were sage advice for our students in the College of Business," states Rick Mould, Vice President for Advancement. "In fact, his suggestions for advancing in one's career had a broad, interdisciplinary message for all of our students as well as for the community."

Livingston has many family connections to Athens as he is the great-grandson of Amos and Mamie Christopher.

Before the event Livingston remarked, "I'm excited to come back to Athens, a place where I have a lot of family and spent a lot of time growing up. Despite living in the middle of New York City, a small southern town always feels like home."

Jay Livingston
Senior Vice President
of Global Marketing
Bank of America

Thursday, March 14th
7:00 p.m.
The Ballroom
Sandridge Student Center

Presented by the
**Livingston Concert
Lecture series**

Free and open to the public

**ATHENS STATE
UNIVERSITY**

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For more information call 256-233-8296.

Beaty Mason Progress

Renovations to the Beaty Mason home are coming right along with Phase I nearing completion.

Phase I included the stabilization of the foundation and storm drainage; back porch repair; utilities; tree removal, grading, and landscaping; roof and gable; and architectural and engineering fees.

Phase II will include external renovations including the removal of coating material; re-pointing the masonry, and painting.

Phase III will pave the way for the interior renovations and new construction additions.

Athens State University is strongly committed to education and the President's home offers a historic venue for tours, arts and cultural events, meetings, and educational programs.



Your Alma Mater Calling

The Office of Annual Giving will conduct the Annual Phonathon from September-November 2013. Athens State students will call alums, friends and family of the University to raise money for areas with the most need. Annual Fund donations will count toward the Capital Campaign goal of \$2.5 million.

Please consider a gift to the University on an annual basis and take a few moments to speak to our callers. Any questions regarding the Phonathon can be directed to 256-233-8185.



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