

*The*

# COLUMN

ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY

*Home*  
IS WHERE THE

COL  MNS  
ARE

HOMECOMING 2017

*Honoring Our Tradition for 195 Years*

SUMMER 2017



# CONTENTS

**04**  
*195 Years of Tradition*  
A Timeline of Our History

**06**  
*Eight Receive Honors*  
Alumni Awards Event

**07**  
*Alabama Center for the Arts*  
The Region's Premier Art Center & Degree Program

**07**  
*Lyons HR Learning Partner Agreement*  
The First of Many New Beginnings

**08**  
*Homecoming 2017*  
"Home is Where the Columns Are"

**10**  
*Celebrating Athenian Success*  
Cathy Dickens

**12**  
*Annual Golf Classic*  
Over \$30,000 Raised for Scholarships

**12**  
*Alumni Adventures*  
Upcoming Trips to Italy and Iceland

**14**  
*Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention*  
Mark Kuykendall, Bobby Hicks & Asheville Bluegrass  
Dailey & Vincent

**4**



Soon to be celebrating  
**200 YEARS!**  
1822 - 2022

**8**

*Home*  
IS WHERE THE  
**COLUMNS ARE**

**HOMECOMING 2017**  
*Honoring Our Tradition for 195 Years*

**10**

*Celebrating*  
**ATHENIAN SUCCESS**

AN INTERVIEW WITH  
BOARD CHAIR  
CATHY DICKENS



**14**



TENNESSEE VALLEY OLD TIME  
**FIDDLERS CONVENTION**  
Featuring  
**Dailey & Vincent**

## A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT GLENN



*Dear alumni and friends of  
Athens State University:*

The 2016 - 2017 academic year has flown by. It has been a good year, and as you will see from the various articles in this publication, a productive one.

As I was preparing for commencement this spring, I donned my regalia, a part of which is the chain of office for the President. The chain consists of the seal of the institution and a series of links, each of which bears the name of a previous president of this great institution. The weight of the chain is symbolic of the weight of the president's responsibilities, while the names of previous presidents are meant to remind me that I am building upon a foundation laid by those who have served before me. This year I was particularly struck by this symbolism as I stopped to remember one of our former presidents, Sidney Sandridge, who passed away just two days before commencement. Dr. Sandridge was a true "southern gentleman" and a strong administrator; we were fortunate to have him at the helm during a difficult time for the institution. I hope you will join me in honoring his memory.

Honoring the work of the many exceptional men and women whose labors made this institution what it is today will become increasingly important as we approach our Bicentennial Celebration in the year 2022. I hope you will mark your calendar now to be with us for the celebration. Between now and then, we will be very busy here on campus making preparations. I have commissioned Dr. Robert Burkhardt and Sara Love to immediately begin working on an update of *The History of Athens State College 1821-1994* that was authored by Dr. Elva McLin in the early nineties. And, I would encourage you to share your special stories about the institution so that they can be preserved in the archives. Feel free to send your stories to the University, Attention Sara Love at 300 North Beaty Street, Athens, Alabama 35611. Or, you may call Sara Love directly at 256-216-6671 or toll-free at 800-522-0272 and arrange a time to have your stories recorded.

While you are marking your calendar for the Bicentennial Celebration in 2022, be sure you mark the date of August 4, 2017. This is the date of our upcoming Homecoming celebration here on campus, which will begin at 6:00 p.m. on the green in front of Founders Hall. Join us for food, fun, and fellowship. This year's Homecoming will honor the Class of 1967. At the commencement ceremonies scheduled for August 5, the Class of 1967 will march with the Class of 2017 and will receive special certificates, commemorating their joining the 50 Year Club. I hope you will make plans to join us for this special occasion.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert "Bob" Glenn  
President

An endowed foundation scholarship has been established in memory of Dr. Sidney E. Sandridge. To make a donation, please visit [athens.edu/giving](http://athens.edu/giving).



## OUR VISION

Athens State University will be the premier destination for transfer students seeking the highest quality education and cutting-edge delivery at the most affordable cost. As the upper division university in Alabama, building on a tradition that began in 1822, Athens State University will be the catalyst for positive change in the lives of its students.

## OUR MISSION

The University advances the best interests of its students and the State of Alabama through teaching, service, research, and other creative activities to empower students to make valuable contributions in their professional, civic, educational, and economic endeavors. Through innovative communication and course delivery for high-quality undergraduate and select graduate programs, Athens State University provides a supporting environment for each student, demonstrating the importance of the diverse and interdependent nature of our state and society. Athens State University changes the face of Alabama by changing the lives of its students.

## CONTACT US

Online: [athens.edu](http://athens.edu)

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(800) 522-0272

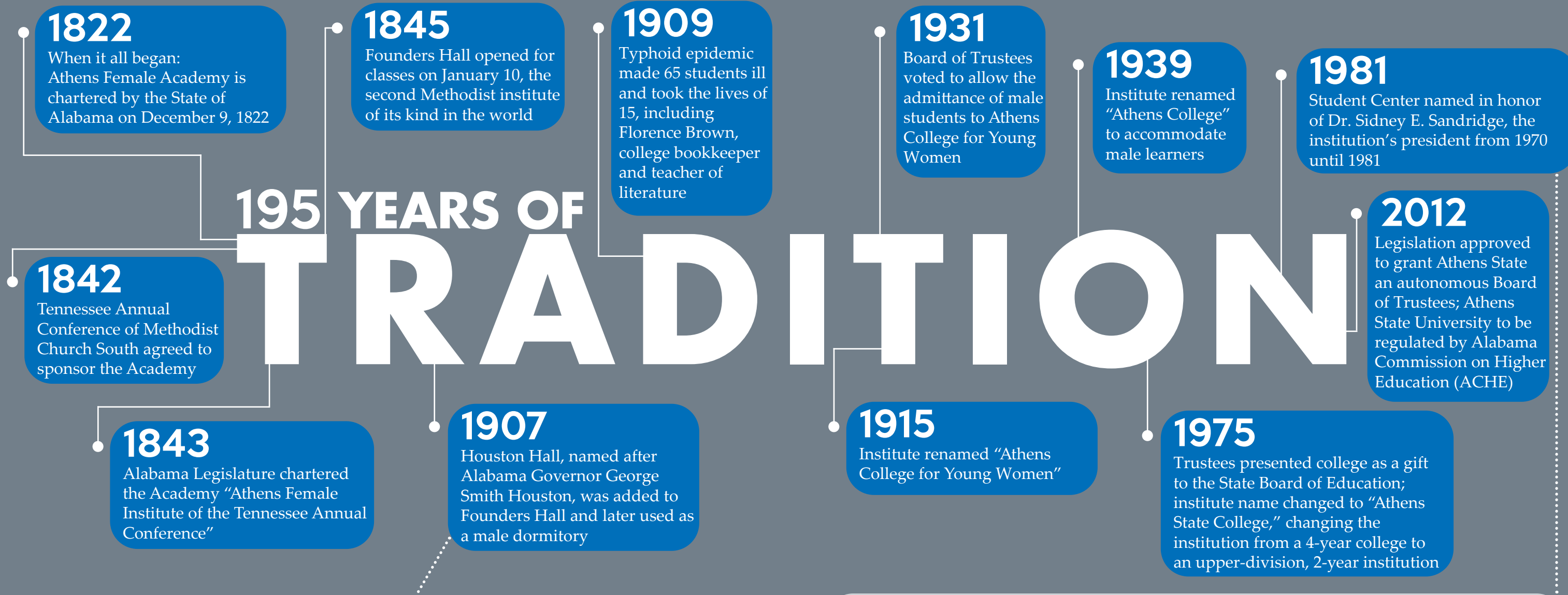
Email: [info@athens.edu](mailto:info@athens.edu)

Mail: 300 N. Beaty Street  
Athens, Alabama 35611

## CONNECT WITH US



We want to connect with you, too! We'll be reaching out to connect with all alumni beginning in August during our annual Phonathon!



**1822**  
When it all began: Athens Female Academy is chartered by the State of Alabama on December 9, 1822

**1845**  
Founders Hall opened for classes on January 10, the second Methodist institute of its kind in the world

**1909**  
Typhoid epidemic made 65 students ill and took the lives of 15, including Florence Brown, college bookkeeper and teacher of literature

**1931**  
Board of Trustees voted to allow the admittance of male students to Athens College for Young Women

**1939**  
Institute renamed "Athens College" to accommodate male learners

**1981**  
Student Center named in honor of Dr. Sidney E. Sandridge, the institution's president from 1970 until 1981

**1842**  
Tennessee Annual Conference of Methodist Church South agreed to sponsor the Academy

**1843**  
Alabama Legislature chartered the Academy "Athens Female Institute of the Tennessee Annual Conference"

**1907**  
Houston Hall, named after Alabama Governor George Smith Houston, was added to Founders Hall and later used as a male dormitory

**1915**  
Institute renamed "Athens College for Young Women"

**1975**  
Trustees presented college as a gift to the State Board of Education; institute name changed to "Athens State College," changing the institution from a 4-year college to an upper-division, 2-year institution

**2012**  
Legislation approved to grant Athens State an autonomous Board of Trustees; Athens State University to be regulated by Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE)

**HOUSTON HALL DEMOLITION NEARING COMPLETION**

The demolition of Houston Hall, built in 1907, is nearing completion. Removal of the space is expected to be completed in summer 2017. In its place, a new 5,000-7,000-square-foot facility is being planned that would house Information Technology, technical services, and a faculty recording studio.

**REMEMBERING DR. SIDNEY E. SANDRIDGE  
FORMER ATHENS STATE PRESIDENT**

On May 4, 2017, Athens State lost a cherished member of its university family, Dr. Sidney Sandridge, who served as President from 1970 until 1981. Dr. Sandridge was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, friend, and servant of the Lord.

Most of Dr. Sandridge's career was spent in higher education. These endeavors include teaching at Ferrum Jr. College and becoming the President of Southern Seminary Jr. College in his native Virginia. In 1970, Dr. Sandridge was named the President of Athens College where he worked diligently to get the college incorporated into the state educational system. Upon his retirement in 1981, Athens State honored Dr. Sandridge by naming the student union building after him.

Over the course of his life, Dr. Sandridge achieved many honors, but he was more than a college president and more than the awards he received. He was the kindest man you would ever meet. He was one of the greatest inspirational speakers you would ever hear. He lit up the room when he walked in, always singing or telling friendly jokes. He was the ultimate storyteller and drew children to him like a magnet.

Dr. Sandridge's accomplishments and devotion to Athens State University will long be remembered and appreciated. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him, and his legacy will continue to be celebrated throughout time.

-Ford's Chapel United Methodist Church Celebration Service



Soon to be celebrating  
**200 YEARS!**  
1822 - 2022

Planning is underway for the Athens State University Bicentennial Event in 2022! Stay tuned for ways you can be involved and help celebrate this momentous milestone!





Pictured left to right: Mr. Nathan X. Rodriguez, Mr. Richard J. Morris, Mr. Kristopher Reisz, Mr. Dale W. Strong, Dr. Betty Dean Newman, Dr. Katie Cole Kinney, Senator Arthur W. Orr, and Mr. Charles Seifried

## EIGHT RECEIVE HONORS DURING ALUMNI AWARDS EVENT

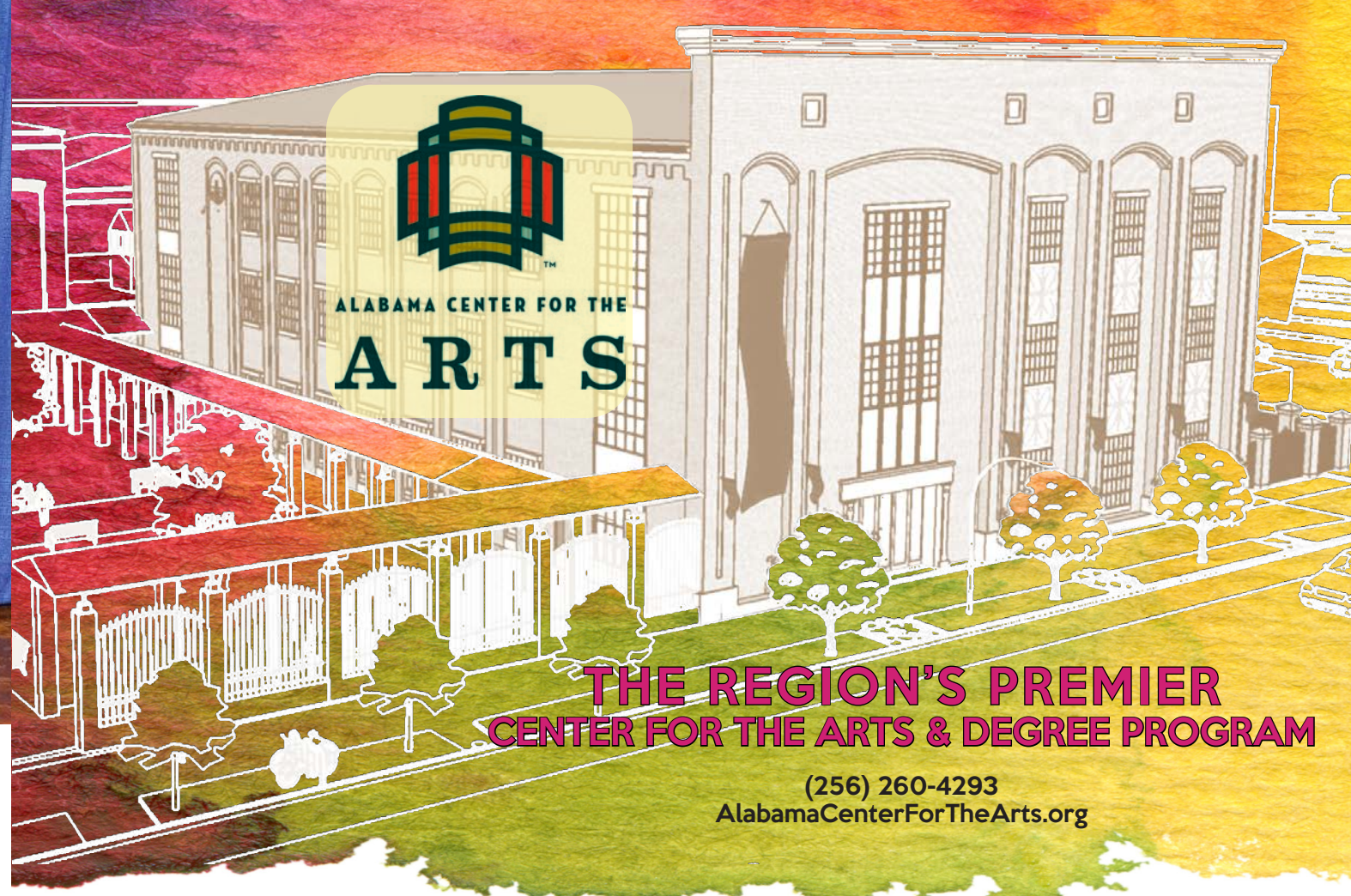
The Athens State University Foundation, in conjunction with the University Alumni Association, hosted a Scholarship Reception and Alumni Awards ceremony on April 8, 2017, in Carter Gymnasium.

New scholarships and endowments were announced at the event, with remarks by Ms. Judy Houghteling, donor of the Glasgow Presidential Scholarship. Additionally, the Athens State University Alumni Association recognized outstanding members of the Athens State community who have made significant contributions to the University, their companies, community, and society as a whole.

### Congratulations to this year's honorees:

Outstanding Recent Graduate Award.....	Mr. Nathan X. Rodriguez
Alumnus Loyalty Award.....	Mr. Richard J. Morris
Outstanding Alumnus Achievement in Arts and Sciences Award.....	Mr. Kristopher Reisz
Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award.....	Mr. Dale W. Strong
Deweese and Jim Beasley Appreciation Award.....	Dr. Betty Dean Newman
Outstanding Alumna Achievement in Education Award.....	Dr. Katie Cole Kinney
Dr. Angeline Nazaretian Distinguished Service Award.....	Senator Arthur W. Orr
Outstanding Alumnus Achievement in Business Award.....	Mr. Charles Seifried

For honoree biographies, please visit [athens.edu/campus-news](http://athens.edu/campus-news)



## THE REGION'S PREMIER CENTER FOR THE ARTS & DEGREE PROGRAM

(256) 260-4293  
AlabamaCenterForTheArts.org

Offering art-related courses leading to Associate of Science and Bachelor of Arts degrees, The Center for the Arts is also a venue for cultural events and activities. It enhances an appreciation of art and promotes opportunities for creative expression for the residents throughout the region. Housed in an approximately 90,000-square-foot facility, this venue is located at 133 Second Avenue in downtown Decatur. The project continues a long-standing collaborative academic effort between Calhoun Community College and Athens State University, along with the City of Decatur and Morgan County.

## ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY & LYONS HR CREATE LEARNING PARTNER AGREEMENT



Pictured left to right: Dr. Bob Glenn, Athens State President; Paula Watkins, Lyons HR Senior Vice President; Bill Lyons, Lyons HR Chairman; Dr. Joe Delap, Athens State Provost; and Dr. Kim LaFavor, Athens State Dean, College of Business

Athens State University and Lyons HR recently held a ceremony to celebrate a learning partner agreement to benefit thousands of employees from more than 500 work sites across the Southeastern United States.

The learning partnership is designed to assist Lyons HR employees and immediate family members in achieving their educational goals in career-appropriate disciplines through online and traditional classroom settings. Lyons HR provides comprehensive human resource solutions for small and medium-sized businesses through a variety of services, including payroll and tax administration, employee benefits, consulting, regulatory compliance, risk management, staffing, and recruiting.

With access to more than 50 undergraduate programs and degree options and three graduate programs at a reduced tuition rate, employees will be able to obtain the knowledge and skills needed to advance their careers and reach personal and professional goals. "Together, Athens State University and Lyons HR are meeting the relevant workforce readiness needs of employers in the state of Alabama and beyond," said Dr. Bob Glenn, President of Athens State University. "This partnership is another way we are enabling learners to go from where they currently are to where they want to be, for their future, their careers, and their families."





*Home*  
IS WHERE THE  
**COLUMNS**  
ARE

# HOMECOMING 2017

*Honoring Our Tradition for 195 Years*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4 | 6 PM  
Homecoming Dinner & Concert

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5 | 9 AM  
Summer Commencement

=====*Founders Green*=====

ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY

**SPECIAL GUESTS**  
The Class of 1967  
*Celebrating 50 Years!*







# Celebrating ATHENIAN SUCCESS

## AN INTERVIEW WITH BOARD CHAIR CATHY DICKENS

While achieving a degree is a major accomplishment, “It’s not an individual accomplishment, because you can’t achieve it without a lot of other people supporting you,” says Cathy Dickens, Athens State University alum and current Board of Trustees Chair. With a lot of love and support from her family, Cathy was able to achieve something no one else in her family had ever been able to – a college degree.

Cathy’s story began as she fell in love and decided to put her relationship ahead of her dreams to pursue a higher education. Instead of going away to college, she took a few business courses locally and attained a clerical job with the federal government in 1977. After her husband, Winston, lost his job during an economic recession, Cathy had to quit school and work full time.

Despite the change, Cathy was able to progress through the clerical field and receive government contracting training as a procurement technician. This training allowed her to advance in her contracting career and become a contract specialist and contracting officer for the Space and Missile Command.

In the early 1980’s, Cathy’s boss told her that even though she was a great contract professional, she had peaked in her career and needed to get a college degree before she could explore her leadership talents in a managerial position. By this time, Cathy was a busy mother of two sweet little boys. However, advancing her career was something that was very important to her, and with full support from her husband, she began researching several local schools to continue her education.

In her search for a school to meet her needs, one in particular stood out. “Athens State had a lot of night and weekend classes, and they were student friendly for a person that was a mom and had a full time job.” Athens State took time to review the courses she had already taken as well as her government training and contract classes that had prepared her for a successful career. Cathy made the decision to attend Athens State and began classes in 1987.

Cathy loved the culture at Athens State. According to her, “The major thing that sets Athens State apart is the extreme focus on the student. Athens State not only offers flexibility, but the instructors, professors, the entire staff at Athens is very focused on making sure that the education continues to be at the highest quality while understanding the needs of each individual student. It’s a much more personal experience for students than many other colleges.” In recounting her time at Athens State, Cathy continued, “You not only were gaining knowledge from your professor, but from the people that you were meeting. Education expands your horizons. It’s not only that you gain skills for your job, but you meet people, you hear about things that you would not otherwise be exposed to. All of that has really made a difference in my life.”

Despite her demanding job and busy family life, Cathy graduated from Athens State University in 1993 with a 4.0 GPA and a degree in Business Administration. According to Cathy, the encouragement she received from her professors and classmates was priceless and contributed to her academic success. After her time at Athens State, Cathy went on to complete her Master’s Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Contracting and Acquisition.

As a result of the degrees Cathy obtained, she has been able to take her career to the next level. While working with the Aviation and Missile Command, she was selected into the Senior Executive Service (SES), the highest level federal employees can achieve in their careers. Upon attaining her SES status, Cathy went on to be the Executive Director for Contracting at the Space and Missile Command and also served in that role for the Army Contracting Command-Redstone. Then she was selected to be the first female deputy to the Commander of the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command.

During her time as a deputy, Dr. Glenn, President of Athens State, asked Cathy if she was interested in joining the University’s newly founded Board of Trustees. Despite her busy schedule, she was determined to make the position work: “This is important to me because I would not be here today if it were not for my education at Athens State. I was honored to be asked to serve on the Board.”

Cathy’s journey to success did not come without obstacles to overcome; she is completely deaf in one ear. Although she lost her hearing as a baby, Cathy did not officially receive the diagnosis until her first grade teacher noticed that she was straining to hear in class. As a result of her hearing loss, Cathy faced a severe speech

impediment as a child and needed speech therapy to correct it. Cathy’s mother was determined to get her daughter the help she needed and made arrangements to leave work early once a week to take her to therapy. This continued until Cathy was nine years old. This experience made her more tenacious because she knew how much her parents had to sacrifice in order to help her overcome that challenge in her life. This experience instilled in her an overachiever mindset, striving to never let her parents down, and doing everything she could to be the best at anything she attempted.

Upon reflecting on her story, Cathy stated, “These are opportunities I would not have had if I had not taken the advice of that supervisor and come back to school to finish my degree. I am very appreciative to Athens State University for providing me with a quality education and for being flexible enough that a young mom could actually complete her degree and still do the things she needed to do with a family and job. It really made a difference in my life.”

“ Education expands your horizons. It’s not only that you gain skills for your job, but you meet people, you hear about things that you would not otherwise be exposed to. All of that has really made a difference in my life. ”

The decision to continue her education had a ripple effect on others in her life, as both of her sons followed in her footsteps and attained their degrees from Athens State. Her older son initially went away to college, but he then returned home to finish his degree at Athens State and help care for his grandmother after the passing of his grandfather. Cathy’s younger son began pursuing his education but soon decided to take a break and reflect on what he wanted to do with his life. This period of reflection turned out to be a blessing in disguise, as he got to spend quality time with his family before his father was diagnosed with cancer and later passed away. When the time was right, he decided to go back to school, and he knew Athens State was the perfect solution for him. He graduated in 2016 with a degree in Logistics.

Cathy shared some advice to all the degree-seekers out there: “You have to think about all the opportunities that your degree is going to open up for you. Almost everything we do now in almost every job, a degree is a necessity. It’s step one to even walk in the door today. But even if you have a job and you have a lot of experience, that degree is going to allow you to go to the next level. It’s also going to expand your horizons. It’s going to make you think differently. It’s going to offer a broader view of everything about what you do. I think you should go and get your education not only to grow in your career but to grow as an individual.”

In addition to her role on the Board of Trustees, Cathy is currently the Vice President of COLSA Corporation, a global defense contractor that provides technical, engineering, and information services to the Army, Navy, Air Force, and NASA.



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## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN GLOBAL LOGISTICS & SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

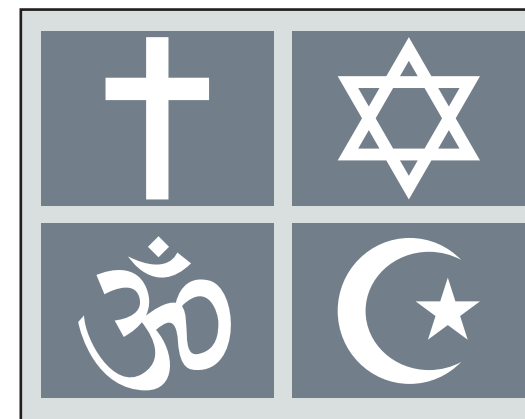
- Designed for professionals looking to advance into senior-level positions
- Logistics core and one of two specialty tracks: Logistics Information Systems or Management



## MASTER OF EDUCATION IN CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION\*

- Develop professional leadership skills in education and business and understand the adult learner
- Choose from one of three program options: Curriculum and Instruction, Leadership, or Instructional Technology

\*Pending approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges



## MASTER OF ARTS IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

- Gain a broad, non-denominational perspective on the study of religion that will encompass major religious traditions across the world
- Religious Studies core with Thesis Track or Non-Thesis Track; choose from a variety of focus areas (Biblical Studies and History of Religions)

LEARN MORE: [ATHENS.EDU/MASTERS](http://ATHENS.EDU/MASTERS)



## ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC RAISES OVER \$30,000 FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

The Athens State University Alumni Association hosted the 26th Annual Golf Classic scholarship fundraiser on Thursday, May 18, 2017, at Canebrake Club in Athens. The previous generosity of golfers, donors, and volunteers created scholarship awards to eight students for 2016-17 ranging from \$1,500-\$4,000 annually. Proceeds from this year are expected to increase the number of scholarships awarded for 2017-18 with more than \$30,000 in proceeds. The impact of these scholarships can be seen in the

current recipients who were interviewed recently by the Golf Classic Chair, Mark McCarter. Megan stated that her "parents have taken in two foster children, so when this scholarship came, it was a godsend." Another, Stiliyana, said the scholarship helped her "support herself while sending money home to Bulgaria." She attends Athens State to take classes at her speed while working 60-plus hours per week at her job.

### PRIZES WERE AWARDED FOR:

- 1st Place Championship Flight** - Sanders Woodroof, Tyler Dorning, Stewart Whitt, and John Deemer  
**1st Place First Flight** - Jay Vasser, Steve Turner, David Martin, and Barry Devine

## JOIN US FOR "ALUMNI ADVENTURES"

### ITALY

Venice, Florence & Rome  
 March 17 - March 24, 2018

Starting at \$3,349 (double occupancy)

History, culture, art, and romance are waiting in Italy's greatest cities! Featuring attractions and landmarks such as: St. Mark's Square, Academy Gallery (Michelangelo's David), Colosseum, Vatican City, Vatican Museums, and St. Peter's Basilica. Dine in true Italian style with wine included at every dinner. This trip has a little of everything for everyone!

### ICELAND

Magical Northern Lights  
 October 13 - October 19, 2018

Starting at \$3,599 (double occupancy)

The "land of fire and ice" is a place of many wonders, including the rare opportunity to see the aurora borealis! Featuring attractions and landmarks such as: "Golden Circle," Thingvellir National Park, Gullfoss Waterfall, Eyjafjallajökull Volcano, Skogar Folk Museum, Jökulsárlón glacial lagoon, and Blue Lagoon.

*"The Alumni Association trip to Italy in 2014 was amazing!*

*It gave me the opportunity to go and see where my family came from.*

*Definitely the trip of a lifetime!"*

-Abigail Rizzardi Owen, Class of 2003

Please visit [athens.edu/alumni/travel](http://athens.edu/alumni/travel) for more information.



51<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL

TENNESSEE VALLEY OLD TIME



FIDDLERS CONVENTION.

Mark your calendar!

OCTOBER 5

through

OCTOBER 7

Founded in 1966, the Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention will once again bring hundreds of contestants along with a number of "shade tree" players to the historic grounds of Athens State University in Athens, Alabama. The convention, which is where the Alabama

State Fiddler Champion is crowned each year, brings approximately 15,000 entertainers and guests to Athens to enjoy good music, food, and arts and crafts. For more information about the convention, please contact Terry Stepp at 256-233-8241 or Terry.Stepp@athens.edu.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2017

MARK KUYKENDALL, BOBBY HICKS & ASHEVILLE BLUEGRASS



ALABAMA FARMERS COOPERATIVE MAIN STAGE | 7:00 PM



THIS CONCERT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.



Bluegrass veterans Mark Kuykendall and Bobby Hicks, along with their band Asheville Bluegrass, will perform on Thursday, October 5, 2017, on the Alabama Farmers Cooperative Main Stage in front of historic Founders Hall on the Athens State University campus.

Mark Kuykendall began his professional career as a nine-year-old playing and recording with Raymond Fairchild. He went on to stints with both Bill Monroe and Jimmy Martin prior to taking a 15-year break from the music industry.

Bobby Hicks is also a veteran of the music business, playing fiddle for more than 50 years on the road with a number of bluegrass greats, including Jesse McReynolds and the Virginia Boys, Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder, Earl Scruggs, and Bill Monroe and his Bluegrass Boys.



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2017

DAILEY & VINCENT



ALABAMA FARMERS COOPERATIVE MAIN STAGE | 4:00 PM & 6:00 PM



Formed in 2007, Dailey & Vincent are multi-Grammy nominees who have been named International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) "Entertainers of the Year" on three occasions.

Prior to joining forces, Jamie Dailey was lead vocalist and guitarist for Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver for over 10 years. He is a four-time IBMA "Vocalist of the Year" Award winner. Darrin Vincent, a five-time Grammy Award winner, was voted Bluegrass Bass Player of the Year for four consecutive years

(2009-2012). Vincent played for over 10 years with the renowned Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder.

Dubbed by CMT as "The Rock Stars of Bluegrass," Dailey & Vincent were inducted into the Grand Ole Opry on March 11, 2017. The duo will play two shows on Friday, October 6, 2017, to kick-off the 51st annual Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention. For more information about Dailey & Vincent, visit [daileyandvincent.com](http://daileyandvincent.com).

VISIT US ONLINE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS YEAR'S CONVENTION:

TVOTFC.ORG

This project is made possible in part by a grant from the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area.





300 N. Beatty Street | Athens, Alabama 35611

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# HOMECOMING 2017

*Honoring Our Tradition for 195 Years*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4 | SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

*Founders Green*