

THE

COLUMN

ATHENS STATE
UNIVERSITY

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SUMMER 2021



PAVING

THE WAY

PG.8

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.

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CONNECT WITH US



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT WAY

Investing in an Athens State University Education

Currently there is a debate raging about the value of higher education. While the statistical evidence shows that on average a baccalaureate degree leads to approximately an additional million dollars of lifetime income over what a high school diploma would generate, some say that in certain cases non-degree credentials and experience can produce a better return on investment. A related concern is that student debt levels and default rates are too high due to excessive borrowing and an inability to pay off loans.

Athens State University recognizes that its students and alumni wish to see a return on their investment. Over the past few years we have been listening to regional employers and advisory groups, analyzing labor market data and the competitive landscape, and gaining permission from the Alabama Commission on Higher Education to offer more programs. The result has been the approval and introduction of new programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels. An article in this edition of "The Column" discusses new programs beginning in the Fall.

Another development has been to encourage students to complete occupation-recognized credentials in their field. In some cases, they have been embedded in the curriculum. Degrees and credentials should not be seen as alternatives, but complementary. Imagine the advantage a graduate has whose resume shows a degree and a recognized certification!

The faculty have embarked on a five-year plan to increase the availability of relevant learning experiences that have been found to enhance the competencies of students and prepare them better for career advancement. Internships and their equivalents are common for education, business, and health students, but we are broadening their coverage. In some fields, research experiences are key to success when looking for a job. For those who wish to work in multicultural environments, study abroad experiences are being reintroduced after the pandemic. Service learning — whereby students engage in service and apply their classroom learning — is being promoted through the Bonner Leader Program. Articles on study abroad and the Bonner Program can be found in this edition.

Athens State remains the best value university in the state, with tuition rates at around 70 percent of the average. In addition to federal grants and loans, we are increasing our institutional financial aid to students with acute need. As later articles show, we are also giving scholarships to certain Honors Program and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) students.

The good news is that our efforts are paying off. Data from the Alabama Commission on Higher Education show that our graduates earn more than those from other universities. Our graduates also have a relatively low loan default rate, indicating they are able to pay off their debt.

The bottom line is that our students should see an investment in an Athens State degree as being well worth it. And, for our alumni readers, the value of your degrees continue to rise as we develop and enhance our university. Think of it like an asset, continuing to increase in value and pay dividends.

We hope to see many of you at Homecoming and celebrate your successful careers!

Philip K. Way



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ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY NAMES

Dr. Catherine Wehlburg

AS PROVOST/VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Athens State University is pleased to announce that Dr. Catherine Wehlburg has joined the University as Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs. She was selected after a nearly year-long nationwide search led by Greenwood/Asher and Associates LLC which included virtual interviews and on-campus forums with faculty, staff, and students.

Dr. Wehlburg received her B.S. in Psychology and her M.Ed. and Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Florida. She has over three decades of experience in higher education and has served in several different roles including tenured full professor, department chair, associate dean, dean, and associate provost. She most recently served as Senior Fellow at the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), and, prior to that, served as Founding Dean for the School of Sciences, Mathematics, and Education and Professor of Psychology at Marymount University.

She is known nationally for her scholarly and practical administrative work in teaching and learning and the assessment of learning outcomes. She has been recognized for her work in student learning outcomes assessment by being elected president of the Association for the Assessment of Learning in Higher Education (AALHE) and has received their Outstanding Achievement Award. She is currently Editor-in-Chief for the New Directions for Teaching and Learning (NDTL) series.

Dr. Wehlburg has also served on many accreditation committees for The Southern



Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and chaired several of these committees focusing on substantive change visits and off-site evaluations. In addition, she has led faculty and professional development as Texas Christian University's Director of the Koehler Center for Teaching Excellence and has created frameworks for meaningful assessment and accreditation work in higher education. In each of these roles, she has focused on mission, student learning, and strategic decision making.

"Dr. Wehlburg is unique in that she understands the faculty and the administrative sides of a university," said Athens State University President, Dr. Philip Way. "I believe she will elevate the stature of Athens State and be an excellent fit with our mission which emphasizes teaching and learning."

"I am honored and thrilled to become part of the Athens State community," Dr. Wehlburg stated. "I am impressed by the vision and mission of Athens State as it celebrates 200 years of educational excellence. I look forward to collaborating with President Way and the many talented and passionate people who are part of this extraordinary institution. As we enter into a new era of possibilities in the 21st century, we have much to celebrate and many opportunities to provide continued educational and economic mobility to our students, their families, and our communities."

Dr. Wehlburg began her duties on June 1.

New Programs

STARTING IN FALL 2021

Athens State is excited to announce that the following new programs have been approved by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) and will be coming to the University for the Fall 2021 semester.

Graduate Programs

M.S. in Strategic Human Resource Management - This program is intended to offer a strategic focus on human capital management strategy and employee relations. Students will gain valuable insight into the views of labor, management, government and academics, as well as learn to be advocates and neutrals to inform business decision-making.

Students completing the program will acquire the knowledge and skills to lead complex and diverse organizations of all sizes by using comprehensive knowledge and applied competencies of human resources, risk management, human capital strategy, and employee relations to build cultural competence and drive effective performance management. A concentration option is required for the program, each of which is aligned with a highly-marketable industry credential. These include Diversity and Inclusion Management, Talent Development, and People Analytics.

M.S. in Strategic Healthcare Management & Administration - This innovative program provides an educational opportunity at the

graduate level to equip healthcare leaders with the necessary knowledge and skills to strategically lead various types of healthcare organizations.

Insurance companies, hospitals, long-term care facilities, public health agencies, outpatient facilities, doctors' offices, and many other employment settings require college-educated professionals with a solid foundation in business, an in-depth understanding of the healthcare industry and its impact on public health and the economy, and an ability to strategically lead for organizational success and sustainability.

This program also prepares students for admission to doctoral programs related to healthcare leadership.

Undergraduate Programs

B.S. in Nursing (RN to BSN) - This program is designed for registered nurses (RNs) who have successfully completed an accredited diploma or Associate's Degree in Nursing (ADN) program and are already licensed to practice as an RN in their home state. In addition to baccalaureate-level nursing content, the program will include content in healthcare management and leadership designed to support RNs in advancing their careers in nursing.

BFA in Art - The Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Art degree is for

students who are serious about pursuing careers as artists or art professionals. The BFA in Studio Art is a pre-professional degree leading to the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) or directly to a career in the visual arts.

A BFA degree is suitable for students who wish to attend graduate school in art (earn an MFA), work professionally as an artist, teach art at a college or university, or work in a variety of arts-related professional fields such as commercial arts, arts entrepreneurship and community development, arts organizations, or non-profits.

Coursework for this new degree program will be housed at the Alabama Center for the Arts in Decatur, a state-of-the-art facility that is shared with Calhoun Community College. The top-quality technology, equipment, and space at the Alabama Center for the Arts provides an ideal environment for faculty to deliver instruction for this program in a traditional classroom studio setting with limited online courses.

"We are excited to implement these new curriculums at Athens State," said Jackie Smith, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs.

"They will expand our availability of workforce ready programs to take our students to the next level."

SUCCESS STORY:

MING P.

MATHEMATICS, '21

"I love math, and solving puzzles is something I have really enjoyed since I was little. My high school ESOL teacher, Mr. Lee, is one of the reasons I wanted to become a teacher. I moved to Virginia from Taiwan when I was 17. Mr. Lee was a wonderful teacher and mentor to me. He greatly impacted my life, helped me understand different perspectives, and expanded my view towards the world, especially for me with English as my second language. He taught me the importance of reading and writing, to not feel afraid to ask questions, and to put myself outside of my comfort zone.

Today, I love to read and write. I am not afraid to ask questions and I am always trying to learn and to appreciate things around me. Mr. Lee is my inspiration to be a teacher and also inspired many of my values and principles towards my life, especially in learning and teaching. He helped me become a good student, teacher, and human

being, and I cannot wait to tell Mr. Lee soon that I am a teacher just like he once was.

I did not think about going to college right after high school because I had a decent job with good income. However, becoming a teacher has been on my mind since high school. It was not until I was pregnant with my son, Kato, a few years ago that I realized I wanted to go back to school. I wanted to pursue higher education and be able to set an example for my son that it is important to learn.

I started to take some basic college classes in Virginia while I was working, but then I took a break when I had to move around with my husband who was in the Army. My husband and I decided to stay in the Huntsville area after he got out of the military, and that is when I decided to finish my Associate Degree at Calhoun.

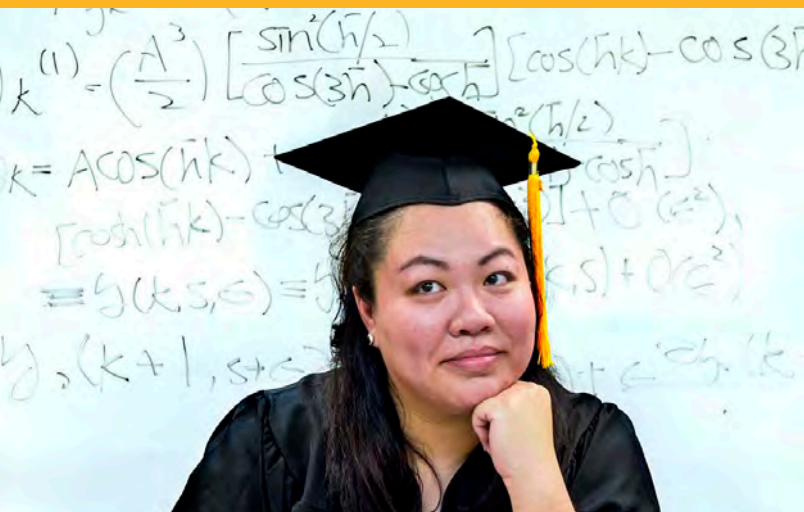


Photo courtesy of "The Decatur Daily"



ATHENS.EDU/SUCCESS-STORIES

When I was ready to transfer, the first thing that caught my eye was that Athens State was built in 1822 for women who became the inspiration for others. Then, I did some research and found out the class size is smaller than other universities, which was ideal for me as I thought I would learn the best in smaller sized classes. Finally, during Transfer Day in 2018, I met Dr. Newland in the math department and right away I knew I would enjoy being a part of Athens State.

Truthfully and sincerely, Athens State has wonderful mathematics and education programs. My son was a couple of months old when I transferred from Calhoun to Athens State. There were some hiccups in the beginning because my son was so small and my husband was also pursuing his education at Athens State. The math and education department of the school really worked with me and my family – a lot of thanks for Dr. Hester and Ms. Debbie Wilson! I love Dr. Newland, Dr. Glaze, and Dr. Merritt. They helped me so much and always answered my millions of questions in class or out of the class. I did not take any breaks for the past two years because Athens State was always encouraging me, pushing me, and helping me to move forward. I truly appreciated it.



Earlier this year, Dr. Glaze told me about this opportunity to apply for the Alabama Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ACTM) scholarship. I was very excited because Dr. Glaze received the same scholarship exactly 20 years ago. It was an honor to be asked by her, taught by her, and I am so blessed that I also received the scholarship she received 20 years later.

I am proud of my accomplishments, but I feel more thankful to all the people in my life that helped shape me to be who I am. My dad passed away 15 years ago, and I wish he could see the accomplishments I worked very hard for. I appreciate everything my mother, husband, and mother-in-law have done for me. I just feel like I have such a great support system from my home to Athens State over these past few years – thank you very much."

Ming is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Math & Computer Science Club, and the Alabama Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Soon she will be sharing her love of math with her

students and showing them how fun and easy math can be. She hopes that in a few years she will be able to help other prospective teachers become awesome teachers – just like Mr. Lee did for her.



PAVING THE WAY PAVER CAMPAIGN

Athens State University has changed lives, shaped our community, and positively impacted our region. Through the "Paving the Way" initiative, you can leave a lasting impression on the place that has left its mark on so many. Founders Hall, the iconic hallmark of Athens State's campus, is the perfect backdrop to memorialize such a legacy.

Sidewalks surrounding Founders Hall will soon be replaced with brick pavers, providing a unique opportunity to be a part of both Athens State's history and future. Individuals, as well as groups and corporations, may purchase a commemorative brick paver that will be engraved with a personalized message.

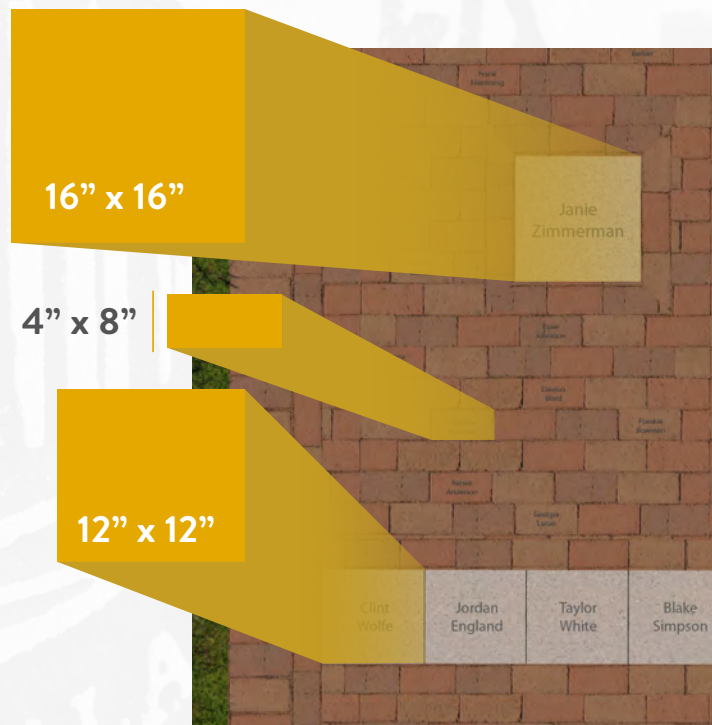
The Paver Campaign is a joint project between Athens State University, the Alumni Association, and Office of University Advancement. Approximately 10% of all proceeds will be used to defray expenses associated with the campaign while the balance of the funds will benefit the Alumni Association directly, with 80% funding endowed scholarships and the remaining 20% going to the Alumni Association unrestricted account for future initiatives that directly benefit Athens State University.

Pavers are on sale now at www.athens.edu/pavers. The bricks are first-come, first-served. Honor someone or something important in your life through this special opportunity!

Limited availability for larger sizes.

SIZE OPTIONS:

- **4" x 8" STANDARD BRICK - \$200**
Material: Clay brick
Lines per brick: Up to 3
Characters per line: 18
Size font: 5/8"
- **12" x 12" MEDIUM BRICK - \$1,000**
Material: Granite
Lines per brick: Up to 9
Characters per line: 23
Size font: 5/8" - 1"
- **16" x 16" LARGE BRICK - \$2,000**
Material: Granite
Lines per brick: Up to 12
Characters per line: 28
Size font: 5/8" - 1"





FRIDAY,
JULY 30

RSVP NOW:
[ATHENS.EDU/
HOMECOMING](https://athens.edu/homecoming)

The "Roaring 20s" Homecoming celebration gives alumni, faculty, staff, and friends a chance to reconnect and celebrate #AthensForever!

All alumni, students, faculty, staff, friends, and members of the Athens State community are invited to join Athens State University for our annual HOMECOMING CELEBRATION as we recognize and celebrate our alumni. This year's event begins on Friday, July 30 at 6:00 PM with a plated dinner and live music. You may purchase your tickets online at athens.edu/homecoming, by email at advancement@athens.edu, or by phone at 256-233-8185.

Homecoming weekend will continue on Saturday, July 31 as we honor the Athens College Classes of 1970 and 1971, who will be celebrating the 50th year of their commencement, alongside our current summer graduates. They will cross the stage in full regalia to receive special recognition prior to the awarding of diplomas for the Class of 2021.

We ask that members of the Classes of 1970 and 1971 contact us if they would like to participate in the graduation ceremony on Saturday, July 31. Please contact the Office of University Advancement at 256-233-8185 or email advancement@athens.edu to RSVP.

THE ROARING 20S
HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

A Respite from Chaos in a Changing World

MUSINGS FROM CARL SIVERSTEN (CLASS OF '70)

by Carol Chamberlain

Since its inception as a Female Academy in 1822, Athens State University has chameleonized itself over time to accommodate winds of change and serve the most students. But for Carl Siversten and his buddies, one special era, Athens College 1966-1970, was their time, and let's just say, they had the time of their lives.

A college counselor at Carl's Rutherford, New Jersey high school first introduced him to Athens College. He was looking around for a college experience in New Jersey or another Northeast state for "students not necessarily top of the class" when he heard about Athens College.

"Hey, why not?" he said to his parents.

The Siverstens decided to take a chance with Athens College. They packed up the family car and drove to Alabama, a place none of them had been before. After settling in on the third floor of Sanders Hall, Carl waved goodbye out the window to his parents as their sedan faded out of sight toward the highway. Carl

thought, "Now what?"

Carl knew no one, until he met a guy in the dorm who broke his ankle during a rival high school football game up North. For a quick taste of home, Carl ventured to Sherer's on East Hobbs Street and ordered his New Jersey favorite, coffee and a hard roll. Homesickness intensified as the Sherer's server presented a stale hamburger bun as the closest thing they had to a hard roll.

"I knew I wasn't in New Jersey anymore," Carl remembers.

But to Carl's pleasant surprise, there were many students from the North descending upon Athens College. They too were among the scores of high school seniors shopping for a college that wasn't impossible to get into, a fun college life that led to a degree, and importantly, a vehicle to delay getting drafted into the military. When they all arrived on campus, they found each other, and together they learned the local ways.

The melding of the sleepy college town with its new demographic meant unfamiliar accents and

colloquialisms like "Y'all" even snuck into the students' own lexicon as they got to know the locals. Unlike the rest of the country that was embroiled in civil rights, the Cold War, the space race, and especially the rancor over the Vietnam War, Carl says college life in Athens was "carefree," and early on Carl decided Athens was truly "Pleasantville."

Carl belonged to the ATO fraternity, and when the parties, intramural games, and Greek Life activities were over they immersed themselves into the community in many ways. One event that was always fun was Greek Weekend. All the fraternities and sororities joined together for a weekend of competition. Chariot races, Friday night skits, and Sunday night songfests made for a full weekend of fun. Carl and his fraternity brothers and sorority sisters engaged in community service projects alongside their local neighbors while occasionally taking "social trips" to Florida. "Our community service work created a nice back and forth among the town and the students."

Carl says that during his stint

at Athens College, "Athens was jumping." There were well-attended basketball games in the gymnasium, dances in the student union, and concerts at the McCandless Auditorium. A large population lived in on-campus housing, Greek life was proliferating, and commuters were in abundance too.

"So much going on," says Carl. "There must have been hundreds of people schlepping through the cafeteria and the student union on any given day. It was hard to find a booth."

In the last half of the 60s, some Athens College students had a penchant for sidestepping the local prohibition laws and often found themselves detained for a spell behind bars.

"The locals looked after us," Carl said. "Bartenders in Tennessee (notably from Rainey's, a gas station converted into a bar) would call ahead and tell campus administrators we were on our way home."

One of those bigwigs answering the calls from Rainey's was the dean of student personnel at the time, Dr. Bert Hayes, a favorite on campus.

"Dr. Hayes came to one of our Geezerfests in 2010," Carl remembers (Geezerfest is a reunion event Carl attends regularly). "He still remembered everybody!"

Scholastically, Athens College was also experiencing somewhat of a renaissance at the time. According to the 1970 edition of the Athens College yearbook COLUMNS, new courses and majors, and even new teaching techniques like applying education to surrounding life, were

being employed. For instance, as the fledgling aerospace industry was intensifying, a gateway to Redstone Arsenal was established. The growing college scene included a flurry of building on campus, including an addition to the library and a new women's dormitory complex. But Carl remembers interaction with instructors, professors, faculty, and staff was more like a "huge high school" than a highfalutin university.

A case in point according to Carl is the beloved Dr. Angeline Nazaretian, who dedicated 42 years to the Athens State campus as Chair of the Physical Education Department beginning in 1958 and later as Director of Alumni Affairs. "Angie saw the best in all of us," remembers Carl. "She is a true legend and was quite a feisty fireplug."

Dr. Nazaretian lived in a cottage on the southwest corner of campus, and from her perch on the porch, she called out to newcomers by name, ensuring they all felt welcomed and cared about. "After a Geezerfest visit with Miss N, she told us, 'There is a new jail in town, so y'all will be going to an unfamiliar place.'"

Carl went on to graduate from Athens College with a degree in Physical Education, entered the Army, and honorably served his country. He spent his career as a dedicated public servant in the fields of education, public health, and planning and zoning in the suburbs of Washington DC. He says the foundation of his good life and many adventures stems from the education and social growth he



experienced at Athens College.

And, he says he was just one of many. According to his assessment of the "at least 75 friends" he kept in contact with, his class produced a steady stream of success stories, including prominent teachers, coaches, principals, business owners and even federal agents and prosecutors.

Come Homecoming Weekend time July 30, Carl will be in Athens yet again to reconnect, share the stories, and continue "the bond that can't be broken."

"Athens State has always had the ability to renew, refresh, and see the future. That's why it is thriving today in a completely different spectrum than when I was there, but accomplishing the same mission," Carl said by phone from his home in Myrtle Beach, SC. "By and large, an Athens State experience opens doors and leads to a great life."



YOU'RE IN GOOD PAWS

Hebrew the Bear Connects & Engages with Students through New Texting Tool

A new artificial intelligence program, operating under the persona of Athens State's mascot Hebrew the Bear, has allowed the University to text back and forth with students over the past year to help them feel engaged and provide support during one of the most unusual times in the institution's history. On average, students receive around 6-8 text messages a month from Hebrew. If the student responds, Hebrew and the student will continue to engage.

The EdSights texting tool was implemented to enhance the Athens State student experience and allows Athens State's Enrollment team to check in with students in a friendly, school-related way. The chatbot collects non-cognitive data from students about their college experience and can identify if a student is experiencing some sort of struggle in their personal life. While there is a library of prepared responses for frequently asked questions, some messages require a genuine, human response. In these cases, Athens State Success Coach, Tricia Oleyte, steps in to provide assistance. She monitors the program's dashboard for situations where a student needs support beyond what the chatbot can provide and coordinates with Athens State's team of success coaches to determine who can provide the best support. She can also organize student support from another office such as the Office of Financial Aid if necessary.

"Overall, technology advances such as the chatbot have been very helpful to pinpoint specific students who need an intervention that otherwise would go unknown," noted Derrek Smith, Senior Director of Student Success and co-director of the university's U.S. Department of Education's Title III Grant. Smith added, "In addition to providing a fun way to connect with the university in the student's preferred communication mode, the chatbot is effective because of the university's highly-skilled team of six success coaches who do a

fantastic job with the human element to connect, engage, and troubleshoot students' academic, life matters, and financial situations."

With a goal of helping students feel connected, stay engaged, and identify when there may need to be human intervention, topics of conversation with Hebrew have included:

- asking students to rate their experience at Athens State
- checking in to see how balancing work and school is going and sharing helpful resources with students who are struggling
- gauging students' commitment to persist and how they feel about returning to Athens State next term
- checking in with students about their overall health and wellness and connecting them to helpful resources based on their specific needs

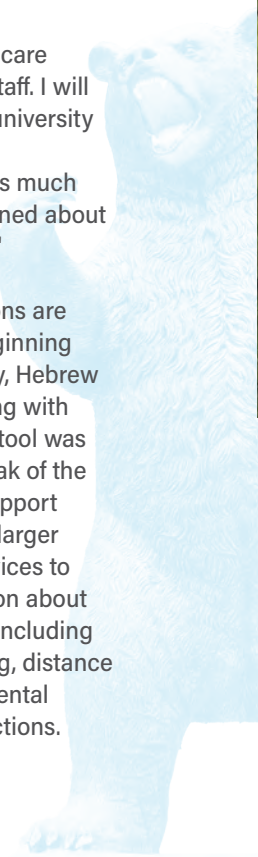
"Our EdSights AI-Powered Chatbot, lovingly referred to as 'Hebrew,' has proven not only to be a powerful tool to instantly communicate planned and ad-hoc messaging to our students, but has also provided some amazing additional benefits for our student population," said Helen Crider. "Through Hebrew, our students have been provided with a 'voice' that, in turn, provides us with meaningful data on their feelings and experiences throughout the semester. Also, we have seen some really wonderful feedback from students that shows a sense of community and school spirit - ranging everywhere from the creation of 'Hebrew's Spotify Playlist,' suggested positive feedback to share

with their 'fellow bears,' and even a student's hand-drawn rendering of Hebrew."

There are over 3,600 degree-seeking students who have opted in to the Hebrew the Bear texting program, and several have shared with Hebrew their appreciation for the university checking in on them, particularly during the pandemic:

- "I was blown away by the genuine care shown by several faculty/staff members. They really were looking out for us as people! I didn't even need anything, but staff and professors kept checking on me anyway, particularly throughout the shutdown, just to make sure. I was very impressed by all the love at Athens State!"
- "Athens State truly does care about its students and staff. I will highly recommend the university to any and everyone."
- "I have seen the school is much more caring and concerned about students than I realized."

Although campus precautions are being relaxed and life is beginning to return to normal for many, Hebrew plans to continue connecting with students via text. While the tool was implemented during the peak of the pandemic, it is geared to support Athens State students on a larger scale, allowing student services to continue to share information about resources of value to them including emergency financial funding, distance counseling services, and mental health tools for 24x7 connections.

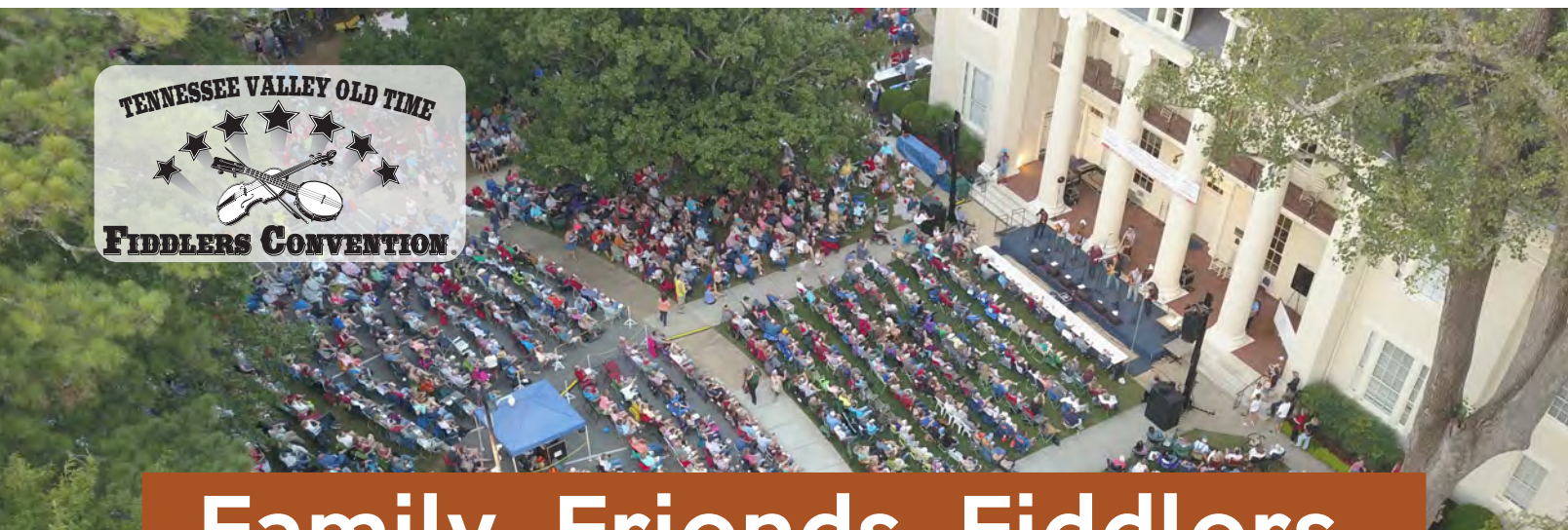


Study Abroad Opportunities Return for 2022

After a temporary hiatus due to COVID-19, Athens State University will be offering students the opportunity to study abroad again in 2022. Students will have the ability to travel to London to study history and biology in May 2022 or Rabat, Morocco to study Psychology and Culture & Global Issues in Education in June 2022.

London & Morocco

ATHENS.EDU/STUDYABROAD



Family, Friends, Fiddlers.

2021 FIDDLERS CONVENTION, PRESENTED BY AETOS SYSTEMS, INC.
THURSDAY, SEPT. 30 – SATURDAY, OCT. 2

INFO & TICKETS:
TVOTFC.ORG



ATHENS
STATE TO
INTRODUCE
HONORS
PROGRAM
IN FALL 2021



Athens State will launch a new Honors Program this fall with a mission to attract and provide honor students with an opportunity to be engaged in robust interdisciplinary academics and related programming that intentionally develops their curiosity and propels them toward their future careers as citizens of a global community.

Students participating in the Athens State University Honors Program will be required to participate in professional growth activities with their cohort such as community service; diversity and inclusion initiatives, seminars, and workshops; and co-curricular

projects with other honors organizations at Athens State. They will also be required to complete an original research, service-learning, or work-based Honors Project over the course of 18 months.

Students participating in the Honors Program will receive a travel stipend for presenting at or attending a professional conference and will graduate with an Honors designation on their transcript after successful completion of their Honors Project.

For more information, visit www.athens.edu/honors.

Athens State Introduces

ASSIST Program

Athens State University has been awarded a \$649,828 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to increase STEM degree completion of low-income, high-achieving undergraduates with demonstrated financial need. With the funds, the University has created the Athens State Scholars in STEM (ASSIST) program. Over its four-year duration, this project will fund scholarships to 30-45 unique full or part time transfer students who are pursuing Bachelor of Science degrees in Mathematics, Computer Science, Information Technology, Biology, or Chemistry. Transfer students will receive 2-4 years of scholarships depending on whether they are taking courses full or part-time.

ASSIST is funded by NSF's Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics program,

which seeks to increase the number of low-income, academically-talented students with demonstrated financial need who earn degrees in STEM fields. It also aims to improve the education of future STEM workers, and to generate knowledge about academic success, retention, transfer, graduation, and academic/career pathways of low-income students.

"We are pleased to receive this grant from the National Science Foundation and are excited about the opportunities it will create for Athens State STEM students," said Dr. Shannon Pittman, Assistant Professor of Biology. "These funds will allow us to financially support and mentor students as they pursue STEM-related careers that are vital to our local and regional economy."

For more information, visit: ATHENS.EDU/ASSIST

BONNER FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAM TO BEGIN IN FALL 2021



The Bonner Program
Access to Education,
Opportunity to Serve.

Students interested in becoming a force of change in their community while developing impactful leadership skills are encouraged to apply for the Bonner Leadership Program, a new fellowship program set to launch at Athens State in Fall 2021. Bonner leaders will obtain professional leadership development throughout the year while completing significant service-learning hours within the local community. Participants must qualify for Federal Work Study and will receive financial support to be used for educational purposes.

Bonner leaders will be required to serve approximately 10 hours of paid community service each week (around 280 hours each year), attend Athens State University full-time through Spring 2023, participate in an Orientation Retreat, and participate in all Bonner professional development activities throughout each semester.

Ten students will be accepted into the program's first cohort. For more information, contact Richard Collie at Richard.Collie@athens.edu or visit www.athens.edu/bonner.

PRINTMAKING MACHINERY DONATED TO ALABAMA CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The Alabama Center for the Arts' printmaking area is getting a vintage makeover thanks to a generous donation from local Alabama artist, Kathy Fetters. The new-to-the-ACA machinery includes a nearly 100-year-old Chandler & Price letterpress, guillotine paper trimmer, and slab roller.

"Not many campuses in Alabama have this equipment, and it will go a long way towards fleshing out our printmaking area, which I hope to grow," said Jamie Adams, Athens State University's Assistant Professor of Art, Studio Art. "Letterpress is such a beautiful process and recent technological advances in solar plate making have made these 75-100 year old presses relevant again."

Kathy, along with her now deceased husband, Glenn House, are considered Alabama royalty in

the arts among artists in the state. They formed a small collective of artists, the Crossroads Arts Alliance, that worked and shared studio space outside Tuscaloosa, and are responsible for helping along the careers of many Alabama artists over the years such as printmakers like Amos Kennedy. Kathy and Glenn have refurbished many C&P presses over the years, including the nearly 1000 pound donated press formerly housed in her Gordo, Alabama studio.

For more information about the Alabama Center for the Arts, visit us online.



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