



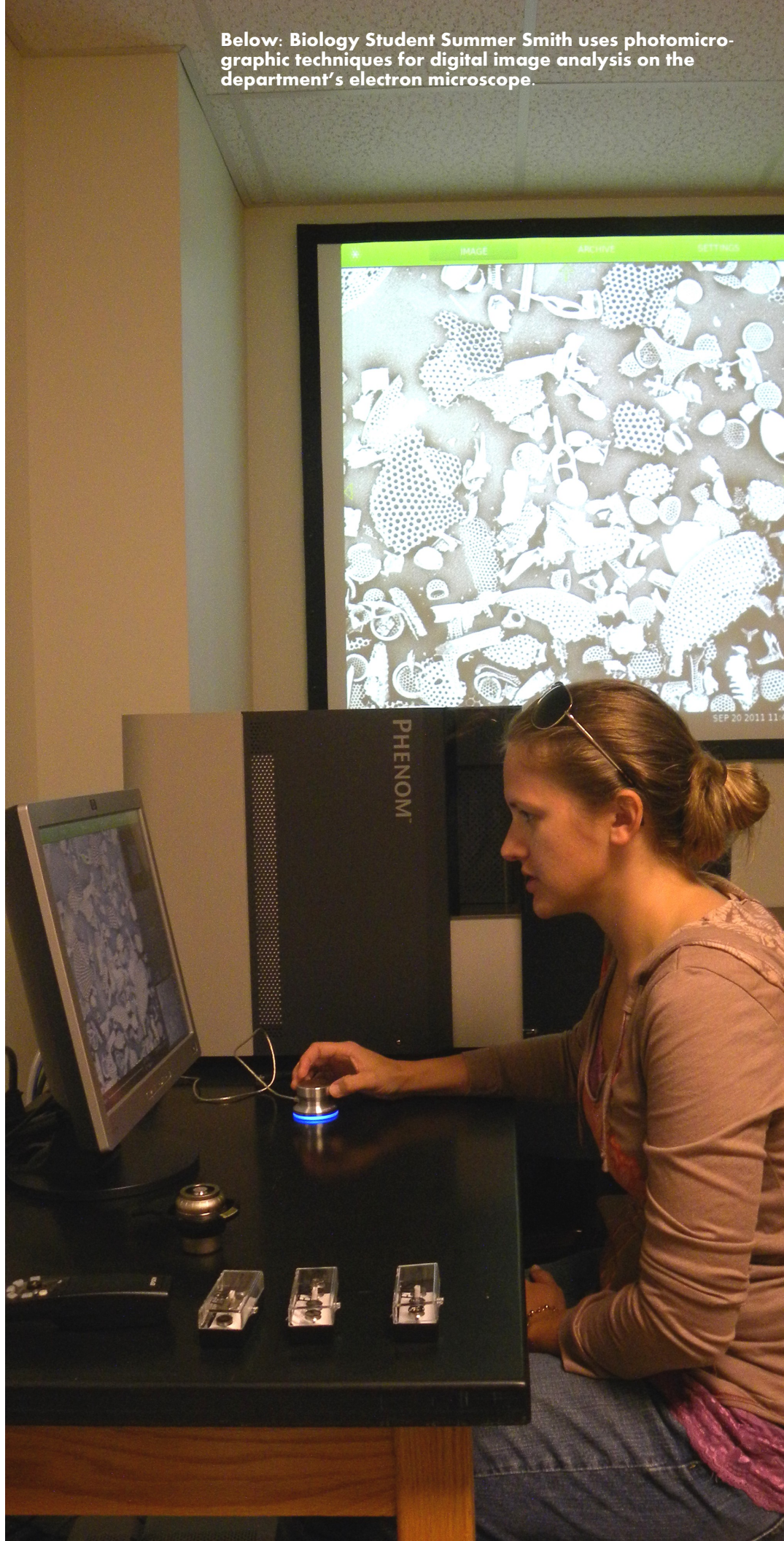
the **column**

winter 2011/2012

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Below: Biology Student Summer Smith uses photomicrographic techniques for digital image analysis on the department's electron microscope.





Alumni Association Funds Specific University Projects

Over the summer, the Athens State University Alumni Association helped to support the newly renovated McCain Hall by donating an Epson projector, Canon scanner, three bulletin boards, SmartBoard, Mobi View and \$500 gift card for decorative items for the lobby area. McCain Hall houses classrooms and administrative offices of the university's College of Education.

"The College of Education appreciates all the Alumni Association does to improve our programs and our environment," stated Dean Debra Baird. "Without their generosity, we would not have state-of-the-art technology in our McCain classroom, nor would the building be as nice to look at, as it is. Their main objective is to create an atmosphere where former students help current students."

Last summer, the Alumni Association donated just under \$5000 of equipment to Waters Hall, the university's sciences and math building, to support their renovation. Items donated included a skeleton, IDEAL Base T tool, Xerox, HP and Brother printers,

Optics system, and Chem Pro DVD.

"We're very excited to give back to the University and help create a better learning environment for our students," states Alumni Director Trish DiLullo.

In addition to these projects, the association has made a five year commitment of \$5,000 a year towards the Beaty-Mason home renovation, for a total of \$25,000 by 2014. Next will be donations to Sanders Hall for the College of Business.

"The association's pledge of \$25,000 over the next five years is a wonderful gift that will greatly assist in the restoration of the Beaty-Mason home," remarked Athens State President Bob Glenn. "We are excited to begin the process to restore the Beaty-Mason home and look forward to having it, once again, serve as an important and functional university and community edifice."

Pictured above: Athens State Alumni Association President Chad Easterling and College of Education Dean Debra Baird discussing recently acquired equipment.

Can You See Me Now?

Athens State University announces a mobile-friendly option when viewing the institution's website from hand-held mobile devices such as a smart phone or Blackberry. Effective immediately mobile device users have the option to view a version of the university website that offers an easier navigation than by using the full website.

"This will not affect our current website in any way," states Vice President for University Advancement Rick Mould. "In fact, users of mobile devices will automatically be taken to the newly formatted pages but will have the option to view the full page should they wish."

This option was implemented after the Athens State administration became aware that as the number and importance of hand-held mobile devices was increasing within their student population, a need to proactively create a mobile-friendly web presence was inevitable.

"The internet continues to evolve and more and more visitors will be using smart phones to access our site," added Mould. "By 2013 it is estimated that mobile phones will overtake personal computers as the pathway of choice for internet access. We wanted to be ahead of the curve to be able to service our student body and website visitors."

Athens State's website address is www.athens.edu. The mobile-friendly option is automatically visible to mobile device users upon logging onto the site. The mobile device user may upon access choose to use the mobile-friendly site or opt to the site that is available to personal computer users.



Center for Social Studies Education Created

Athens State University has recently created a Center for Social Studies Education (CSSE), the purpose of which is to promote teaching, learning, and research in the social sciences and their application to education.

This Center will serve as a partnership between the University's three colleges - Arts and Sciences, Business, and Education - to explore the interdisciplinary study of the human condition. The events and programs organized by the Center are directed towards improving the state of social studies education in our public schools.

"In the past decade we've seen an increasing emphasis on accountability and high stakes testing in education," states Dr. Prentice T. Chandler, chair of the Center. "With the testing craze has come a de-emphasis on history and social studies education."

Chandler continued, "The purpose of the CSSE is to improve the teaching of history and social studies in our public schools, to meet the professional development needs of local teachers, and to serve as a bridge between public schools and the academy in matters of civic education. In fact, the health of our democracy rests on effective, powerful social studies education."



McCain Hall Rededicated and Open for Business

Athens State University rededicated McCain Hall, the College of Education's administrative offices, on October 19.

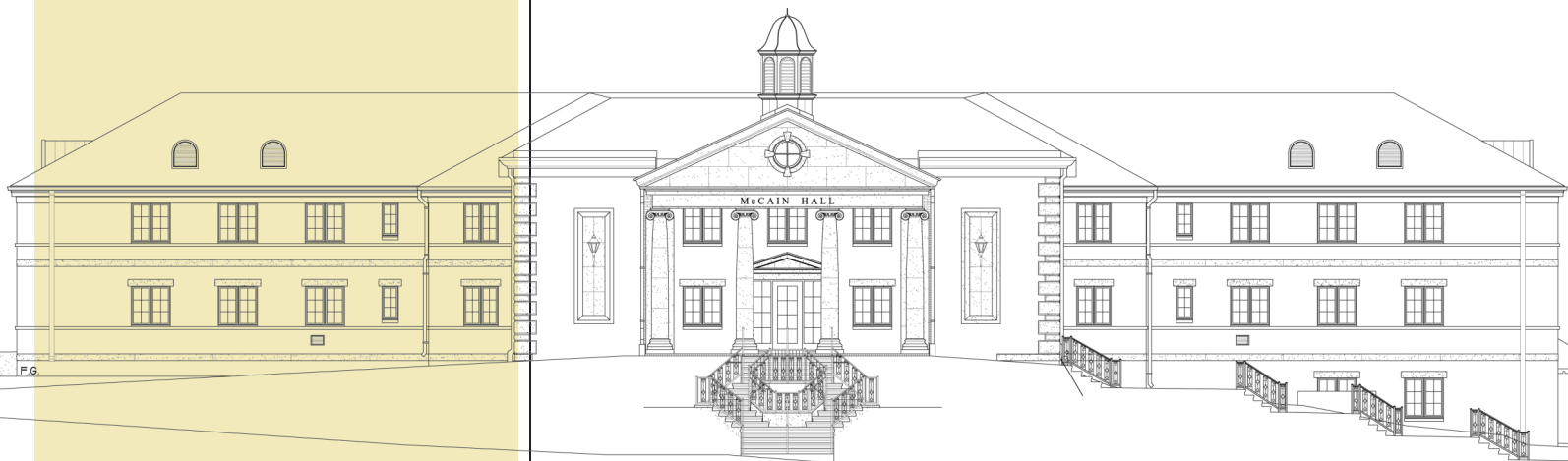
"I am very pleased that McCain Hall has reopened and continues to be a vital component in furthering Athens State's mission to prepare students for professional careers, graduate school, lifelong learning, and enrichment," remarked Athens State President Bob Glenn. "We are all very proud of the newly renovated McCain Hall and welcome the opportunity to steward its perpetual care as one of the institution's major edifices."

McCain Hall bears the name of Athens State University's President from 1959 to 1965, Virgil Bowden McCain. McCain led the institu-

tion during the dawning of a turbulent decade and was responsible for an extraordinary increase in enrollment that led to the need for and the construction of the neoclassic building.

Completed in 1962, McCain Hall served as a much needed women's dormitory. Later, the building was transformed into a day care center, a men's dormitory and home to the Bears Basketball Team, and finally into the offices for Education.

"Although the College of Education has occupied the building for many years," states College of Education Dean Debra Baird, "this renovation brings our division into the 21st century providing an environment best suited to maximize the daily operations of the College."



Above: The newly renovated McCain Hall Above Right: Dr. Glenn with McCain family members Beth Toledo, Bobby McCain and Virgil McCain III cut the ribbon at McCain Hall's rededication.

Athens State University Professor Emeritus Joe H. Slate has recently collaborated on a book about linking scientific techniques with practical application for self empowerment. The book, co-written with Carl Llewellyn Weschcke, is entitled *Self Empowerment Through Self Hypnosis: Harnessing the Enormous Potential of the Mind*.

Dr. Slate, a longtime professor of psychology at Athens State, is a noted author of numerous books in the field of psychology and parapsychology. Slate and his wife Rachel reside in Hartselle where they own and operate Holladay Antiques.

Slate and Weschcke have collaborated on other books such as *Doors to Past Lives and Future Lives*. Weschcke is the CEO of Llewellyn Worldwide, the world's oldest and largest independent publisher of books for body, mind, and spirit.

"I am fortunate to have Carl as my co-author on these books," states Slate. "He is globally recognized as the Father of the New Age."

Much of Slate's research focused on the use of self hypnosis to understand personal existence – be it in the past, present, or future. Slate hypothesizes that you have at your command all the required resources—master teacher, hypnotist, therapist, and guide—that exists within you and act as an integral part of your existence. His books are designed to put you in touch with each of these resources.

Slate explains, "As a young boy growing up in Alabama, I became convinced early on that my existence was not limited to this present lifetime. It seemed only reasonable to me that if life continues beyond death (which I was certain it would), it must have existed before birth. I discovered through self hypnosis that my early fear of enclosed places was directly related to a past-life experience of being buried alive, an experience I discuss in *Doors to Past Lives and Future Lives*."

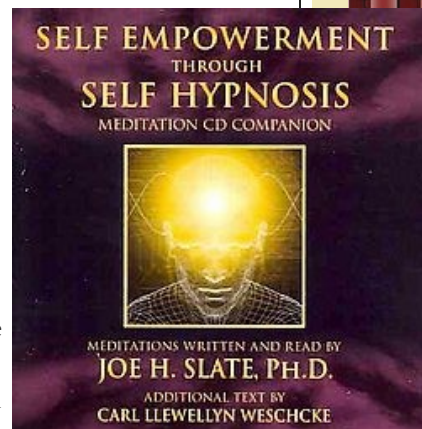
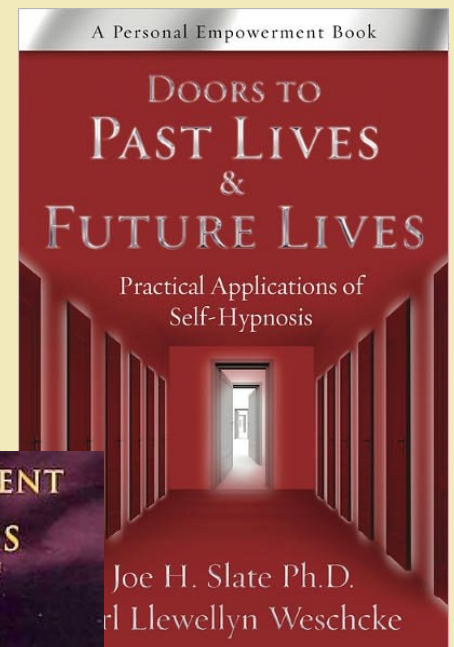
"As a licensed psychologist in clinical practice," Slate continues, "I've often found that the sources of many phobias were past-life related. For instance, fear of rats was a reaction to past-life imprisonment in a rat infested dungeon; fear of heights was the result of a past-life experience of fatally falling from a cliff; and the combined fear of crowds and bridges was the result of having been trampled to death on a crowded bridge in a past lifetime."

Among the studies discussed in his books are groundbreaking projects funded by the U. S. Army Missile Research & Development Command and the Parapsychology Foundation of New York. Numerous additional studies were sponsored by the Parapsychology Research Institute and Foundation which was established at Athens College in 1970 with the assistance of Dr. James E. Bathurst, former Academic Dean of the college. As a result of the college's vigorous research program accompanied by mounting interest among students, parapsychology was introduced into the instructional program as a relevant field of study, a first for the State of Alabama.

Slate's books are available for sale on Amazon.com or from Llewellyn Worldwide. He and Weschcke will have several books coming out soon, and more coming out within the next few years, including *Astral Projection for Psychic Development* which is scheduled for release in June 2012. This is a really substantial and innovative book on the out-of-body experience as both accessible and practical for everyone.



Slate



Logistics, Technical and Programmatic Institute

Athens State University, in response to the rapidly growing global demand from business, announces the establishment of the Logistics, Technical, and Programmatic Institute (LTPI). This independent division of the Center for Lifelong Learning now affords Athens State a host of unique avenues that can rapidly respond to requirements identified by the private sector as well as government operations.

"We are really excited about the opportunities this presents for Athens State to meet the growing demand for our services. With the LTP Institute, we are now positioned to craft solution sets that match precisely what customers are telling us they need" said Dr. Bob Glenn, President.

"Businesses recognize the energy, capabilities, and innovation higher education brings to the table and we're honored they are coming to us for that help."

"The phrase 'win-win' is a perfect description of the LTPI" said Dr. Thomas Pieplow, Department Chair for Logistics and Supply Chain Management. "Research recently published by the U.S. Department of Education indicates seventy-five percent of today's students are 'non-traditional' and they are juggling some combination of families, jobs, and school while commuting."

"What is unique about the creation of the LTP Institute is how this was really market driven" said Dr. Linda Shonesy, Dean of the College of Business. "Both the private sector and government have been coming to us, seeking the talents, expertise, and experiences of our faculty and students in a host of areas."



ASU and DAU Form Strategic Partnership

The Strategic Partnership defined under the Memorandum of Understanding is scheduled to begin with the Spring Semester 2012. Athens State University and the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) has entered into a Strategic Partnership to create a collaborative relationship for the purpose of offering professional development programs and curriculum targeting the Department of Defense Acquisition workforce and potential future members of that workforce.

Athens State President Dr. Bob Glenn and DAU Dean of South Region Campus James L. McCullough signed the agreement at a special ceremony at Athens State's main campus.

Athens State University currently serves as the bachelor's degree granting institution of the Alabama Community College System. The Defense Acquisition University is the United States Department of Defense's corporate university that trains and enables military and civilian personnel in the fields of acquisition, federal contracting, technology, and logistics, including Senior Service leadership and program management. This is the initial collaboration between the two uni-

versities to create educational professional development opportunities for current and future members of the acquisition workforce.

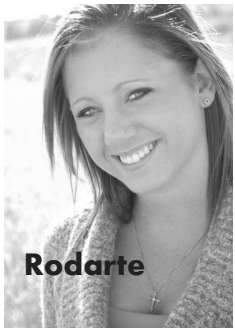
"Essentially, this will be a strategic alliance that benefits both our students and the Department of Defense," states Vice President for Academic Affairs Denver Betts.

"We will be producing graduates who are career-ready for immediate integration into the defense industry. The programs we will put into place will streamline the employee training process and therefore provide a seamless transition from school desk to work desk."

A Memorandum of Understanding was first developed to define the structure through which programs can be supported, and is specifically designed to allow a maximum transfer of credit and an easy transition for students. The memorandum will be reviewed annually, and both institutions will designate individuals to serve as a liaison for the purposes of monitoring the agreement.

Above: Athens State President Dr. Bob Glenn and DAU Dean James L. McCullough signed the agreement at a special ceremony on September 14 at Athens State's main campus.

Rewarding Student Achievement through Scholarships



Athens State University senior Kristin Rodarte is the 2011 recipient of the North Alabama International Trade Association (NAITA) annual scholarship. Rodarte, majoring in Management with an International Business minor at Athens State, competed against hundreds of students from across Alabama to garner this prestigious award. She was recognized by Congressman Mo Brooks and former Congressman Ronnie Flippo at a luncheon on September 19 at the Four Points Sheraton in Huntsville.

NAITA is a business-driven organization with the mission to promote economic growth through international trade education, training and networking. NAITA, a non-profit membership organization, provides an international networki

ing forum, education on trade issues, and prepares business for global success.

"I have worked in the education field for over 12 years, teaching at both the graduate as well as undergraduate level," states Dr. Thomas Pieplow, Department Head of Logistics & Supply Chain Management at Athens State. "During the course of my tenure, I have encountered well over a thousand students, some who have gone on to positions of significant prominence and importance, and have gained a keen sense of students who have greatness within. I can say without equivocation – Ms. Kristin Rodarte is one of the best students I have ever had the pleasure to work with."

The scholarship, administered through the Athens State University Foundation, requires adherence to strict criteria imposed upon those awarded the funding. Rodarte met and exceeded the expectations in order to be identified as a recipient.

Athens State Student Receives National Space Club Prize

Evgenia Smith, an Athens State University computer science major, has been announced as the winner of a scholarship provided by the National Space Club-Huntsville. She received her honor and recognition at the 23rd Annual Dr. Wernher von Braun Memorial Celebration October 26 at the Davidson Center for Space Exploration in Huntsville, Ala.

Ms. Smith earned a \$1,000 National Space Club Engineering and Science Scholarship to apply toward her studies. Annually the local chapter of the National Space Club provides \$25,000 toward scholarships and educational outreach in the areas of rocketry, robotics and astronautics.

Robert Crippen, pilot of the first Space Shuttle flight in 1981, delivered the keynote address and Homer Hickam, October Sky author and a former NASA aerospace engineer, served as Master of Ceremonies. This year's theme was "Leveraging the Past to Launch the Future: A Celebration of the Space Shuttle and the International Space Station."

Established in 1988, the Dr. Wernher von Braun Memorial Celebration honors the memory of this great space pioneer by recognizing individuals and groups who personify his ideals and vision and have made significant achievements in advancing space exploration or have contributed to America's leadership in rocketry and astronautics. .

The Art of the Web

Professor of Art Pamela Keller and Professor of Information Systems Lisa Rich have developed a new interdisciplinary course at Athens State University that marries analytical website creation with principles of artistic graphic design. This hybrid course serves students within the Colleges of Arts and Sciences and Business and integrates entrepreneurship and marketing, website design and development, and graphic design/aesthetics for students interested in website creation.

The 15 week course will be offered starting with the upcoming spring semester and will include coursework in business planning, introductions to WordPress and social media marketing, task analysis and wireframing, graphic elements with images and multimedia, customization of website design, and other topical subjects. In addition, students will be able to present their website designs to the class.

"The great thing about the course is the blending of marketing and business knowledge with the art of design for web pages. This assures that our students are going to be able to design functional and high-end websites," states Keller. "Initially, this will only be offered on the main campus and with the next spring semester on Tuesday afternoons. This will be a very cool course with something for art majors, business majors and any students interested in web design."



A Student Brings it Home

Weston Stewart, an Athens State senior majoring in Elementary Education won the 2011 National Bluegrass Banjo Championship held September 14-18 in Winfield, Kansas.



Stewart

The championship was held during the 40th annual Walnut Valley Festival. This festival has come to be one of the top acoustic music events in the world. Recent years have seen musicians and music fans from points around the globe making the trip to south central Kansas to participate. Upon winning the Championship, Stewart selected a prize of an OME Southern Cross HG50 Banjo by OME Banjos of Boulder, Colorado.

In 2011 and closer to home, Stewart was named the Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention Bluegrass Banjo Champion.

The 45th Fiddlers Convention Deemed a Huge Success



Fiddle Champ Johnny Ray Watts with Rick Mould and Gayle Davis

Athens State University hosted the 45th annual Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention on Oct. 7-8. The musical competitions were held on the steps of historic Founders Hall and other locations throughout the campus. A total of \$11,870 in prize money was awarded.

The convention is sponsored annually by the Athens State University Foundation and the Greater Limestone County Chamber of Commerce. Proceeds from the convention fund student scholarships and other university projects.

The convention attracted an estimated 15,000 people for the two-day event, with more than 200 musicians participating in the musical competition. There were 18 different categories, including several fiddle and guitar categories, harmonica, mandolin, bluegrass banjo, dulcimer, old time singing, banjo, and buck dancing. The festival culminated on Saturday night with the naming of the "Fiddle Champion." Being named Fiddle Champion is highly competitive and is a coveted prize.

Johnny Ray Watts was named "Fiddle Champion" at the 45th annual Tennessee Valley Old Time

Fiddlers Convention at Athens State University on Saturday night.

Watts of Delta, Alabama, won the title by winning the "fiddle off" which traditionally pits the top fiddlers from the junior and senior divisions. Roy Crawford of Cullman, Alabama finished runner-up. Watts, who won the junior fiddle division, earned the convention's top prize of \$1,000.

Headlining the event were the Quebe Sisters Band. Also headlining the convention was Jim Buchanan who hosted a free fiddle workshop.

Over 150 booths featuring old-fashioned arts and crafts were part of the convention. Convention goers saw everything from traditional artwork to coal-fired metal works.





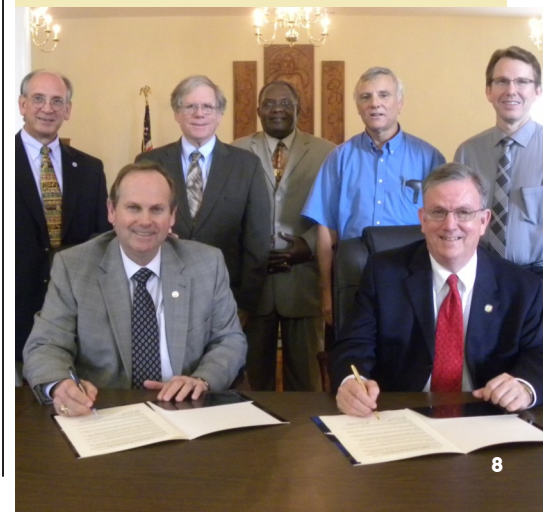
Athens and Snead State Sign Religion Agreement

Athens State University and Snead State Community College entered into an articulation agreement regarding the transfer of students between the two institutions. The articulation agreement allows students to have an uninterrupted transfer of the Associate's Degree from Snead State to the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religion at Athens.

"We're excited to offer this new opportunity for our students," said Snead President Robert Exley. "With Snead and Athens both part of the Alabama Community College System, the partnership is a logical move that provides a seamless transition for our students who wish to transfer to Athens to earn their bachelor's degree."

The associate's degree is received by completing a course of study at Snead State to include History of World Religions, Survey of the Old Testament, Survey of the New Testament, and Introduction to Preaching Ministry. Upon completion of these courses, students would matriculate to Athens State as a junior to complete the required coursework for a bachelor's degree.

"Athens State has, since its inception, offered a curriculum option to serve students with an interest in the study of religion," stated President Bob Glenn. "This agreement with Snead State may be a launching pad, for both institutions, towards a more in-depth focus on the creation of specialized bachelor's degrees."



A Special Endowment

An endowment for scholarship purposes was recently created through Athens State University Foundation by Senator Tom and Karen Butler and Damon Lares, named The Jill Butler Lares Education Scholarship. The scholarship honors the memory of their daughter and wife, respectively.



Jill passed away last year after a long fight with cancer. The loving wife of Damon and a special daughter to the Butlers, Jill held an elementary education degree from Athens State University and had a passion for teaching. She was a committed instructor who wanted nothing more than to see her students succeed.

In creating the fund, the family specified that the scholarship support Athens State elementary education students who are taking a minimum of six hours. Recipients are eligible to renew the scholarship providing they remain in good academic standing, and provide evidence of good citizenship and leadership.

"Jill believed in learning and education," stated Rick Mould, Vice President for University Advancement. "This scholarship in her name will create opportunities for future teachers and assist those who embrace children and the teaching profession."

Dr. Ronald Cromwell Named to Provost Position

At the first of November, Athens State University welcomed Dr. Ronald Cromwell as the institution's new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Cromwell replaced Dr. Denver Betts who retired at the end of the year as the current Vice President for Academic Affairs, a position he held since 2006.

Cromwell comes to Athens State after serving as the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dean of the Faculty, and Professor of Education at Mount Aloysius College in Cresson, Pennsylvania. Prior to that position, Cromwell served as the Dean of the School of Education and Allied Studies, and Professor of Education at Bridgewater State College in Massachusetts.

"We wholeheartedly welcome Dr. Cromwell into the Athens State family," states Athens State President Bob Glenn. "His experience in academia, both in leadership and instructional roles, singled him out as the best possible candidate for this position that is of the utmost importance to the mission of our institution."

This will be the first time the title of Provost will be bestowed upon the chief academic officer at Athens. Cromwell will have oversight of the curricular and instructional affairs of the University, as well as having the University Deans reporting to him. Dr. Cromwell will report to the President and will assume the position of second in command in the administrative of the institution.

Cromwell indicated he was very pleased to join the faculty, staff and administration of Athens State. He is pleased to be working closely with Dr. Glenn and others as Athens moves to the next level of excellence.



Grant Awards Scholarship to Recent Storm Victims

Athens State received a disaster relief grant in the amount of \$10,000 to assist students who were adversely affected by recent federally declared disasters. This grant is made possible through contributions to Scholarship America.

Institutions that received this grant disbursed funds to those eligible students adversely affected by the five recently federally declared weather-related disasters.

Students eligible for these scholarship funds must have been enrolled at least half-time at institutions located in the designated federally declared disaster areas.

Funds were used by selected institutions to supplement financial aid

for students who have experienced additional financial difficulties related to the defined weather event.

"We are pleased that our request to Scholarship America was granted," states Lynne Ingram, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at Athens State. "Our student body, not limited to the learning environment of a traditional campus, covers a broad area of north Alabama and many were directly affected by the April 27th storms."

Scholarship America specifies that the assistance must have been used for tuition, fees, books, or other education-related expenses as determined by the professional judgment of the financial aid officer.

Alumni Association News and Information

The Alumni Association offers a variety of programs and events to current and former students, faculty and staff, the community and the ASU family. The Athenian Ambassadors, sponsored by the Alumni Association, serve as hosts/hostesses for campus and presidential events. It is comprised of ten current students who will serve the University until May of 2012.

Twenty-one Alumni scholarships were awarded for 2011-2012 ranging from \$500 to \$1500 using the Scholarship Tracking and Review System (STARS) and the Office of Recruitment. Generous donors, vanity tag funding and scholarship investments made each possible.

Valuable funding is also raised through alumni programs while bringing people together to socialize and reconnect. Some of the events this year have been the Golf Classic, Awards Banquet, Flag Day Ceremony and Cookout, Art for a Cause, Fiddlers Tent and Raffle and area receptions or dinners in Decatur, Atlanta, Birmingham and New Jersey.

Interested parties can support the Alumni Association by joining as an Annual, Lifetime, Joint or

Associate member, and incentives include local and national discounts to Enterprise Rent-a-Car, Athens Limestone Wellness Center and SportsFit, Sci-Quest, Quizno's, Follett and Off Campus Bookstores, Theater Huntsville and Broadway Theater League, Dell, Wyndham Hotel Group, Cinemagic Theater and Jimmy Smith Buick- GMC.

A new program is in the works to utilize our graduates as mentors for current students. We are gathering information on graduates who are interested in providing job shadowing, serving in a mentorship role, volunteering with the Alumni Association and/or recruiting and providing expertise as a guest speaker. Please visit www.athens.edu/alumni to fill out the Mentor/Volunteer form to help with the process.

Lastly, remember to give back to your Alma Mater. It can be through donating your time, expertise or financial resources. Many of our scholarships were started by former struggling students and our Alumni Association would not exist if it weren't for the valuable volunteers. For more information on the Alumni Association contact Trish Di Lullo at or 256-233-8184.



2012 Ambassadors are (Top Row) Matt McHargue, Ryne Strong, Christopher Whitman, Nathan Rodriguez, Zach Henderson (Bottom Row) Oddny Caldwell, Savanna Smith, Patricia Umphrey, Teresa Garner, Brandi Edmiston.

Alumni Association Important Dates

Alumni Award Banquet
March 3, 2012

Alumni Trip to Savannah
March 12 - 15, 2012

Breakfast Club
First Thursday of the month
LuVici's in Athens

Golf Classic at Canebrake
Club
May 17, 2012

Flag Day Ceremony/Cookout
June 14, 2012

Alumni Bridge Benefit
June 20, 2012

Join the Alumni Association

visit

**athens.edu/alumni
to find out more**





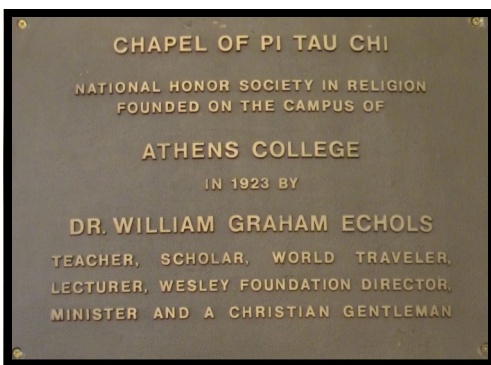
Stewarding an Important Legacy of our Foundation

Athens State is the grateful steward of a Chapel that harkens back to our Methodist roots and the foundation upon which our institution was laid.

The Chapel of Pi Tau Chi occupies a large central room on the second floor of Founders Hall that has had many uses since the building's construction in 1842. It has been a classroom, a study hall, and in 1923 it was designated as the institution's Chapel to honor the honor society in religion, Pi Tau Chi.

Today, the Chapel serves as one of the University's most sought after meeting rooms and is the main conference room for the Department of Religion and Ethics.

The Chapel of Pi Tau Chi also is the home to the interesting Altar of the New Testament which was dedicated in 1970.

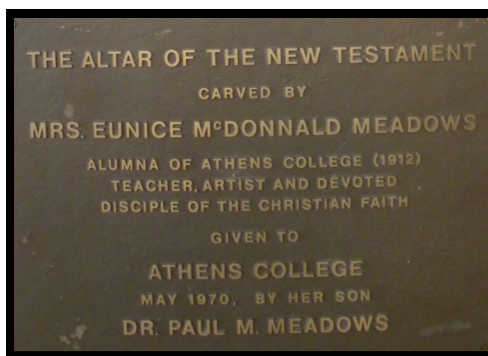


The Altar of the New Testament has occupied the Chapel since its completion in 1970.

Eunice McDonnald Meadows (Class of 1912), completed the carvings in tulip poplar wood acquired

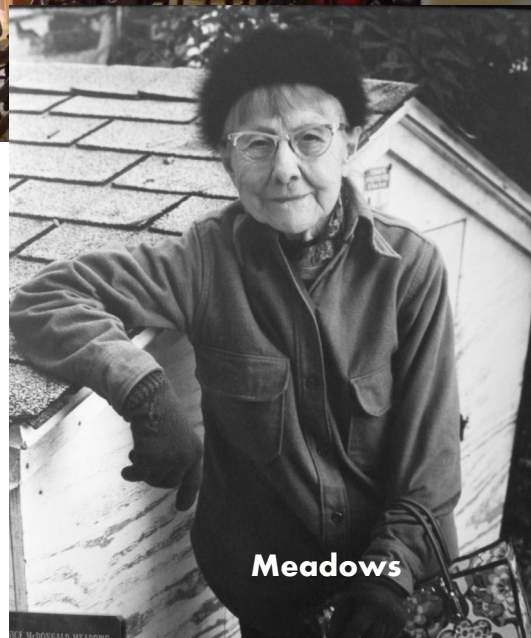
during her years of teaching art in the east. She returned to the then Athens College and lived in a Founders Hall apartment until well into her nineties.

It took twelve years for Mrs. Meadows to complete the carvings as she did them in her spare time during a period when she was alone in life and without transportation. The carvings were a panacea to her loneliness. Mrs. Meadows only wishes were that they would be placed where they would be appreciated and valued as works of art and would encourage people to read the Bible to find out more about the carved figures.



Mrs. Meadows was the daughter of a Methodist clergyman whose thirty-eight year record in the ministry she matched with her own thirty-eight years of teaching classes in almost all subjects, on all levels from kindergarten through college.

Receiving a degree and certificate of proficiency in Art from Athens College in 1912, she continued



her education at Peabody College where she earned a degree in education with a major in fine arts.

In September of 1925 with her husband, Dr. Thomas B. Meadows and their three children, Burton, Louise and Paul, Mrs. Meadows moved to New York and attended Columbia University receiving a masters in Fine Arts.

Mrs. Meadow is pictured below as a member of the 1912 Athens College Tennis Team.



Mrs. Meadow's remarks about the carvings:

"On the front Altar are the heads of the Evangelists who wrote the four Gospels which tell us the story of the life of Christ."

"The right panel of the Reredos shows Isaiah writing his prophecy on the coming of Christ. He is the only Old Testament character represented. St. Mark is reading the parchment scroll of Isaiah's prophecy. St. Luke is pointing upward to the ascending Christ which is the final fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. The young St. John completes the front of the Altar, the left panel of the Reredos shows St. John on Patmos just after completing his scroll of the Revelation."

"Sts. Paul and Peter are usually considered the two great preachers of the New Testament. St. Paul holding a staff is on the pulpit panel and St. Peter with the keys is on the lectern."

"In the central panel of the Reredos surrounding The Christ are twelve stars representing the twelve apostles. Above his left shoulder is the new moon, symbol of the ever renewing hope of the Christian. The trefoil braid around the neck of his robe and the three keys represent the Trinity."

"As time passed I decided to carve the heads of the five ethnic groups of earth, all of whom Christ said he would draw to him. I decided to use a man and a woman, or a boy and a girl of each group."

"All of the heads are wholly imaginary, except for those on the Baptismal font which are people of our era."



In the dedication speech in which my son, Paul, donated the carvings to Athens College, he said, 'If but one student is helped by these carvings, her work will not have been in vain.'



Athens Ladies Civitan Club Established Second Scholarship

Athens Ladies Civitan Club members Carol Malone, Carolyn Stair and Elizabeth McDowell recently presented the Athens State University Alumni Association another check to establish a second Athens Ladies Civitan Scholarship. The scholarships are designed to assist Special Education Majors within Athens States' College of Education and were recently awarded to Patricia Umphrey and Emilee Smith for 2011-2012.

"We are happy to provide these scholarships," said Carol Malone, chair of the club's Athens State scholarship project, and past president of the ASU Alumni Association. "The funding for this donation comes from our spring Vidalia Onion fundraisers and from revenues received from our annual golf tournaments."

The mission of Civitan worldwide is to build good citizenship through volunteers dedicated to serving individual and community needs with major emphasis on projects which assist people with developmental disabilities.

"This scholarship certainly mirrors the mission of Civitan," states Alumni Director Trish Di Lullo. "Assisting our students who choose to focus on a career in Special Education exemplifies good community service. I'm sure Patricia and Emilee will excel in their educational goals and make both Athens State and the Civitans proud."

Locally, the Athens Ladies Club lends support to groups like the Tanner special needs department, mental health center clients, and DHR among others. The club also promotes good citizenship in youth through its sponsorship of the Greater Limestone County Junior Civitan Club and its annual essay contests which are open to students in grades 6 - 12.

eLearning Symposium

The 2nd Annual Alabama Community College System eLearning Symposium sponsored by Blackboard was hosted by Athens State August 18. The keynote speaker was Rajeev Arora, Vice President of Marketing and Strategy for Blackboard Collaborate.

The first symposium held last year provided unique networking opportunities among the system's 27 educational institutions, acting as a system-wide professional development opportunity especially among those involved in online education.

Athens State President Bob Glenn states, "The conference provides a tremendous opportunity to bring together our sister institutions, as well as the leading providers of eLearning technology, to advance our state's commitment to providing the highest quality distance learning environment for our students to prepare the way for the future."

Other companies attending from the Blackboard Alliance Program included Connect Yard, Follett Higher Education Group, NBC Learn, Pearson Education, SoftChalk, Tegrity, Brainshark, eXplorance, ShareStream, Sprint and McGraw Hill Higher Education. Representatives conducted breakout sessions offering more in-depth previews through live demonstrations of their products.



Arora

Vice President for Marketing and Strategy for Blackboard Collaborate Rajeev Arora speaks to the crowd.

New Annual Faculty Awards Go to Busick and Owen

The Teaching Excellence Award and the Distinguished Research Award were both given for the first time to recognize outstanding faculty.

These \$1,000.00 awards are financially supported by the Athens State Foundation.

The Teaching Excellence Award was presented to Dr. Susan Owen, Associate Professor of Psychology. The Distinguished Research Award was awarded to Dr. Sean Busick, Assistant Professor of History. All full-time faculty members who have taught for at least three years at Athens State were eligible for the award.

Busick



"Athens State has historically been home to an excellent, accomplished faculty," states President Bob Glenn. "I am pleased that starting with these two very deserving instructors, we begin a process of annually acknowledging the impact our faculty has upon our student body."

The basis for the nominees for the Teaching Excellence Award is faculty members whose university careers are distinguished by truly outstanding performance in the classroom and/or laboratory setting the basis for the nominees for the Distinguished Research Award is faculty members whose university careers are distinguished by truly

Owen



outstanding research. After nominations were received, the awards recipients were chosen by a committee of their peers who were charged by the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The Livingston Concert Lecture Series sponsored "An Evening with Gary Redus and Chuck Meriwether"



on July 21. The sports legends and Athens State alums are pictured here with Vice President for Advancement Rick Mould. The well attended event was moderated by fellow alum Bob Labbe

Athens State Named Military Friendly School Again

G.I. Jobs, the premier magazine for military personnel transitioning into civilian life, has awarded Athens State University the designation of Military Friendly School for the third year. The 2012 Military Friendly Schools list honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America's military service members and veterans as students.

In its effort to help student veterans find the right school, G.I. Jobs incorporated a survey of student veterans for the first time. This feedback provides prospective military students with insight into the student veteran experience at a particular institution based on peer reviews from current students. Michael Dakduk, Executive Director for the Student Veterans of America agrees. "The Military Friendly Schools list is the go-to resource for prospective student veterans searching for schools that provide the right overall experience. Nothing is more compelling than actual feedback from student veterans."

"We are honored to once again be included in G.I. Jobs listing of Military Friendly School," states

Athens State's Director of Transfer Center and Veterans Affairs Lisa Payne. "This is an excellent resource for veterans who are looking to further their education as so many do here at Athens State."

The colleges on this year's list prioritize the recruitment of students with military experience. These schools are making the grade by offering scholarships and discounts, veterans' clubs, full-time staff, military credit and other services to those who served. The 2012 list of Military Friendly Schools was compiled through extensive research and a data driven survey of more than 8,000 schools nationwide. Methodology, criteria and weighting for the list were developed with the assistance of an Academic Advisory Board consisting of educators from schools across the country.

G.I. Jobs is published by Victory Media, a veteran-owned business which also publishes The Guide to Military Friendly Schools, Military Spouse and Vetpreneur magazines and annually rates the nation's "Military Friendly Employers," "Military Spouse Friendly Employers" and "Best Corporations for Veteran-Owned Businesses."



Athens State Secretary for the Transfer Center and Veterans Affairs Jean Martin, Athens State President Bob Glenn, Athens State Director of the Transfer Center and Veterans Affairs Lisa Payne.

Graduate Symposium

The Psi Chi chapter at Athens State University sponsored the first Graduate School Symposium at Athens State on November 16. The symposium, which was assisted by the Athens State's Student United Way Club, began with registration in the Carter Gymnasium on Pryor Street at the east end of campus.



Representatives from Auburn, University of Alabama, UNA, Troy, Alabama A&M, MTSU, and Jacksonville were on hand to answer questions about their graduate programs. The symposium was open to the public and targeted any student currently pursuing a bachelor's degree with plans to pursue an advanced degree after graduation.

Comment?
Tips?
Pictures?
Alumni News?

Send them to
column@athens.edu

We'd love to hear
from you!



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