



ATHENS STATE  
UNIVERSITY

*the* **column**

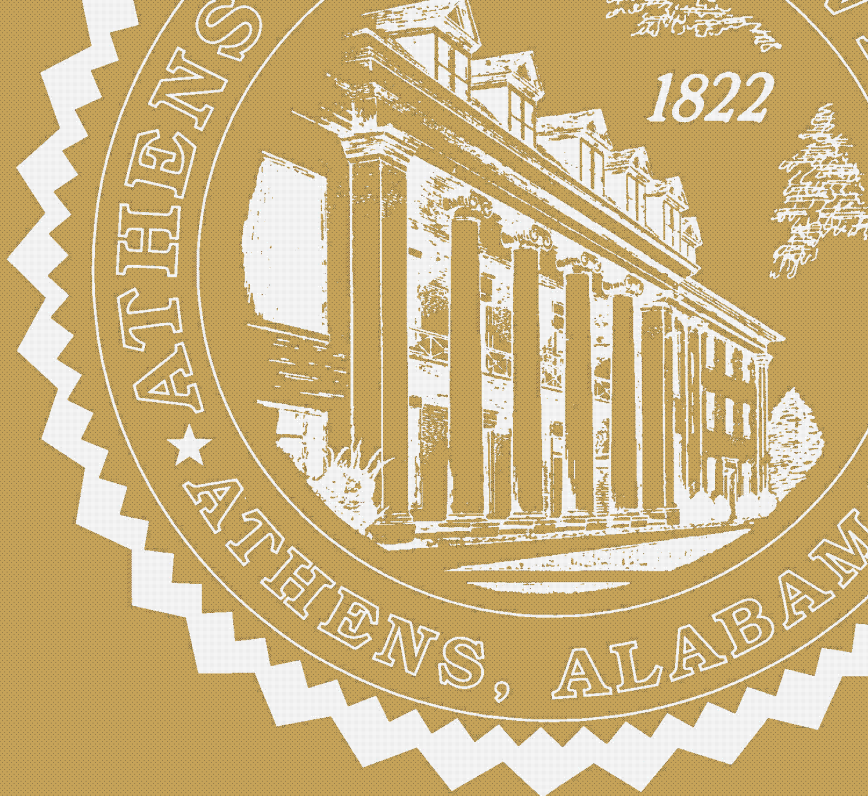
A publication for alumni, students and  
friends of Athens State University.

winter 2015



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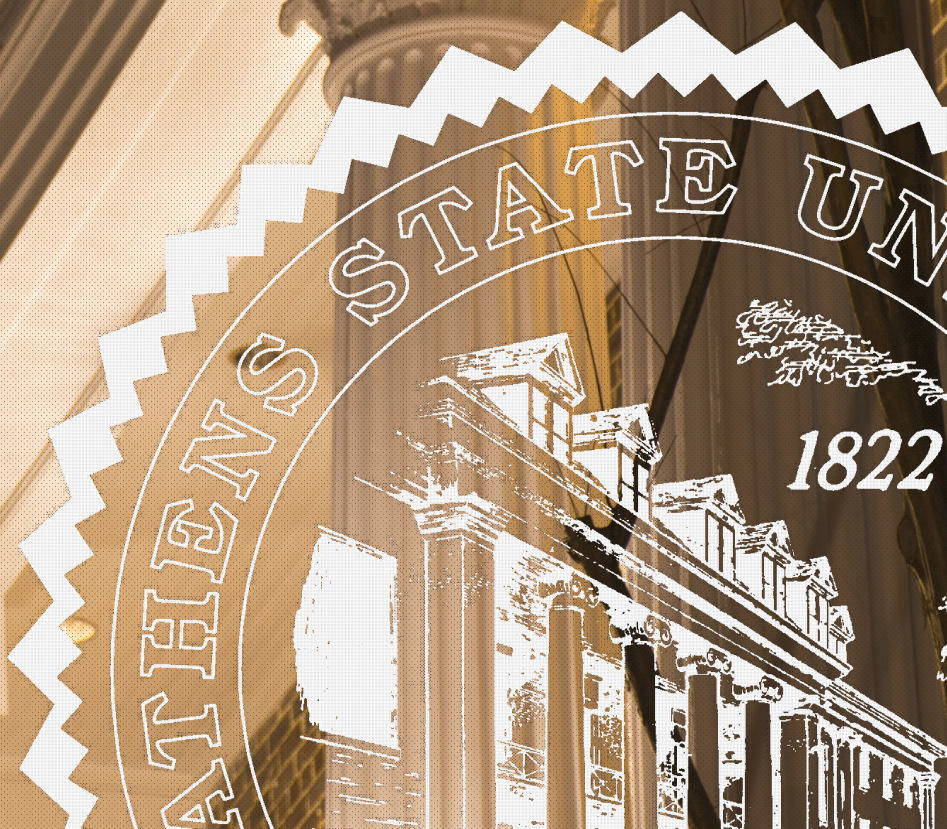
**Cover:** Students as seen from above in the newly renovated McCandless Hall.

**Below:** Jensie Britt and Wayne Blanks performing on stage in *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

**Opposite:** A detail of the façade of the newly renovated McCandless Hall.









# Athens State Announces Meritorious Service Awards

At the 2014 Inservice Meeting of the faculty and staff of Athens State University, President Bob Glenn bestowed awards on fourteen employees in acknowledgement of superior service to the University: Nine employees received the Individual Meritorious Recognition Award, and five employees received the Presidential Award for Meritorious Performance.

“Looking out on our team gathered each fall for Inservice, I realize how lucky we are as an institution to have such a remarkable and dedicated group that makes Athens State great,” states Glenn. “Our hard-working and devoted faculty and staff rival any collegiate group in the country and this is one small way we can recognize their loyalty and the successes they bring to our campus.”

Recognition was given for a variety of accomplishments -- from developing cost-saving measures within university processes to developing mentoring programs for underserved groups, to publicly advocating for Athens State’s mission, to the creation of “the world’s best one-block Mardi Gras parade.”

The Individual Meritorious Recognition Award recognizes employees for single efforts of employee performance that meet or exceed expectations as defined by the University Vision, Mission, Goals, and College Specific Goals and Objectives. Specifically, this program recognizes and awards individuals who provide outstanding service, implement a substantive new idea, or meaningfully contribute to or design an organizational initiative that reflects above and beyond what is expected.

The 2014 recipients for the Individual Meritorious Recognition Award are Associate Professor of Art Gail Bergeron, Assistant Professor of Career and Technical Education Bridgette Chandler, Associate Professor of Education Wendy Cowan, Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Financial Affairs Barbara Ferguson, Director of the Academic Technology Services and Instructional Design Mark Gale, Assistant Professor of Accounting Stacie Hughes, Assistant Professor of Elementary Education Lisa Hyde, Associate Professor of Mathematics Ronald Merritt and Assistant Professor of Operations Management Kim Roberts.

“All of us love the University and find great joy in seeing it do well,” states Wendy Cowan. “I appreciate the recognition and can only share it with my colleagues in the College of Education. We’re a great team.”

The Presidential Award for Meritorious Performance program recognizes employees who have demonstrated sustained quality and excellence in the performance of their duties. In particular, the award pro-

gram strives to recognize employees whose continued high performance significantly improves operations and outcomes in an area or department.

The 2014 recipients for the Presidential Award for Meritorious Performance are Assistant to the Director of Physical Plant Paula Bullington, Associate Professor of Accounting Linda Hemingway, Information Systems Coordinator Nikki Johns, Maintenance Superintendent Dwight Lovell and Enrollment Advisor Penny Roberts.

“The true honor is being able to work with such great people,” states Penny Roberts. “I have worked at Athens State for 26 years and it feels like home. I appreciate the recognition.”

Both award groups were publicly recognized during the August meeting and were presented with a certificate and monetary prize. The awards are made eligible to any full-time faculty or staff members who have been employed in their current position for three years. Nominations for the awards are taken from the recipients’ supervisors each spring.

Glenn spearheaded the drive to create this recognition program last year. He realized that the good work done by exceptional employees needed a type of formal recognition. He created an awards committee that includes the Presiding Officers of the Faculty and Staff Senates, the Directors of Human Resources and the Career Development Center and other members of the faculty and staff.

“I inherited a very capable team when I came to Athens State and appreciate the good work that they do,” added Glenn. “They make my job very easy and make the University look good every day. I appreciate each and every one of them daily, but it feels good to kick-off an academic year by pointing to our brightest stars.”

This was the first year the awards were given in recognition of outstanding service. Going forward, they will be bestowed annually at the fall Inservice convocation.







## Mauldin Leads Board of Trustees

At the quarterly meeting of the Athens State University Board of Trustees held July 18, North Alabama banker Macke Mauldin was elected as the Chairman Pro Tempore of the organization for a two-year term starting in October. The seated Governor of Alabama holds the office of the Board Chairman in perpetuity. Ms. Cathy Dickens was elected as Vice Chairman, Pro Tempore of the organization.

Mauldin has served as President of Bank Independent since 1996. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's Birmingham Branch and is currently a Director for the Southern Development Council. He is a former Chairperson of the Shoals Chamber of Commerce and the Shoals Economic Development Authority. In 2008, he was named Shoals Citizen of the Year for his work in economic development. Mauldin is a 1982 graduate of Auburn University. His grandmother, Annie Buchanan, was a 1912 graduate of Athens State, which was Athens Female College at that time.

Mauldin joined the Athens State University Board of Trustees at its inception in 2012.

"I am honored to have been elected Chairman Pro Tempore of the Athens State Board of Trustees," says Mauldin. "I've had the privilege of working among some of our area's greatest leaders in my two years on this board, and I will continue to serve them, the University and current and future students in this new role."

Dickens currently serves as the Deputy to the Commander, US Army Aviation and Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal. She is a 1993 graduate of Athens State and received her Master's degree in Management/Contract Management from the Florida Institute of Technology. She resides in Meridianville, Alabama.

"Mr. Mauldin has been an extremely active member of the Board and we welcome his leadership of it," states Athens State President Bob Glenn. "Both he and Ms. Dickens bring valuable experience and wise counsel that will provide good directives to lead Athens State into the future."

## Graduate Program Approved

Athens State University has been approved to offer graduate programming in one of their College of Business' most popular course of study. The Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) granted Athens State permission to offer the Master of Science in Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management.

"Establishing a program of graduate coursework has been a long-term goal of Athens State for quite some time," remarked Athens State President Bob Glenn. "It has by far been the most common request from alumni, students and the community. I am very pleased and excited that ACHE has trusted us with what will sure be a very popular and well-received graduate degree program."

In January of 2010 Athens State began offering a bachelor's degree in Logistics and Supply Chain Management. The University initiated the logistics coursework to assist the efforts of the Tennessee Valley BRAC (Base Realignment and Closing) Committee and to ultimately aid the long-term needs of the workforce that will be employed on Redstone Arsenal and throughout the North Alabama and South Tennessee region. The masters degree program will build upon the success the institution has had with the undergraduate offerings.

This will be the first time Athens State has offered graduate coursework since the mid-1970s, and the first time as a state institution.



# MY ATHENS STATE STORY:

## Paige Green



As I was entering into my third year of college and trying to figure out where I wanted to go to get my degree in Elementary Education, I would ask around and everyone would tell me, "You need to go to Athens State University!" I listened to all that told me that it would be a great place for me to be able to work full-time and still go to school.

I had several great teachers while at Athens State University that led me to where I am today! Dr. Mary Harris in the Elementary Education Department is one whom I still look to for advice even though I have been graduated for over a year now, she still has the time to email me back. I loved being a part of the Athens State University family.

I made a lot of great friends in my two years there. They are friends that I will keep for a lifetime. As far as my success with my degree, Athens State prepared me to be the teacher that I am today. I was blessed to have been put in a local school to intern and then once I graduated in May, I was hired on as a Fifth Grade teacher in June.

Still today, I am teaching and loving on my babies, just as my professors mentored me and loved on me. It has been great knowing that I was prepared and ready for a career as soon as I graduated.

Enjoy your time at Athens State and make new friends because you never know when that one friend you made becomes one of your best friends for life. My success story is not over yet...the best is yet to come! Dream BIG.

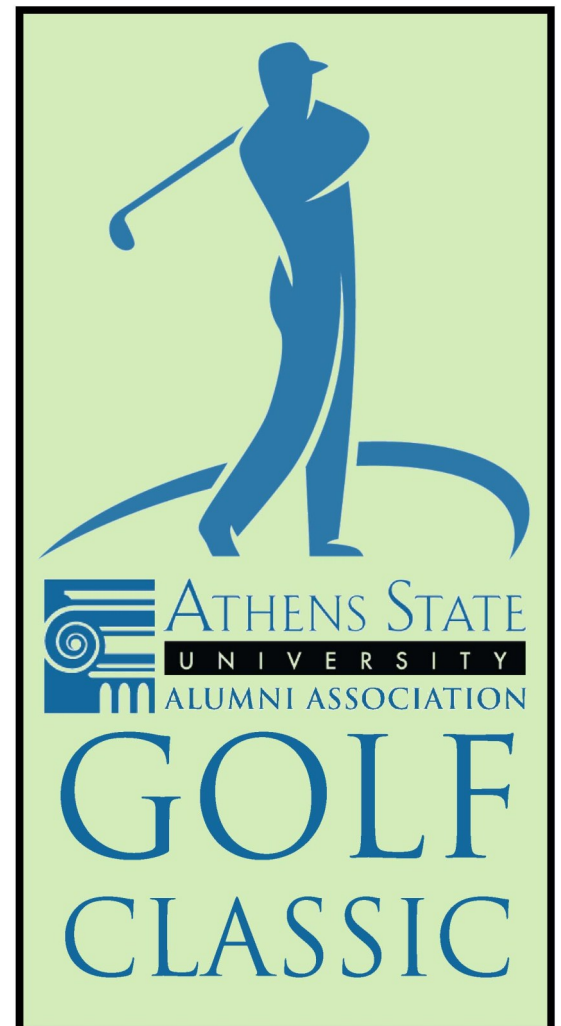
## Alumni Golf Classic for 2015

The Annual Alumni Golf Classic is scheduled for Thursday, May 14 at Canebrake Club in Athens. Lunch starts at 11:30 am and the tournament will begin at 1:00 pm. All proceeds from the tournament fund scholarships for the following academic year. The 2014-2015 golf scholarship recipients will be volunteering at the tournament.

Individuals or businesses can sponsor a shared hole with sign for \$100, a quarter hole with sign for \$250, a half hole with sign for \$250, or an entire hole with banner for \$1000. Team fees are \$500 for a 4-person team and include lunch, greens fees, golf cart, refreshments, hospitality gifts and prizes.

McClary Ford is sponsoring the Hole-In-One prize of a 2015 Ford Mustang, and skill prizes will be awarded for Best Score, Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin.

Contact the Athens State Office of Alumni Affairs at [alumni@athens.edu](mailto:alumni@athens.edu) or 256-233-8185 to reserve your team or to sponsor a hole.





## Business Honor Society Receives National Award



*Kim Bell (left) and Kim Roberts (right).*

Athens State University's Delta Mu Delta Honor Society was recently named as a Star Chapter by the international organization for business students. Star chapters are selected based on accomplishments for the 2013-2014 academic year and the Athens State chapter is one of twenty recipients nationwide.

Star chapters are recognized for inducting either at least 80% of its eligible candidates or more candidates than the previous year, participating in the scholarship program, and completing a community-service project or business-related activity on campus. The Athens State chapter was also noted as the most award-winning Star Chapter in the organization's history with 13 annual recognitions.

"It was an honor for this active group to have even been nominated for Delta Mu Delta's award of merit," states Athens State President Bob Glenn. "The students and faculty advisors have made Delta Mu Delta a true Athens State success story."

Delta Mu Delta was founded at New York University in 1913 to recognize and reward superior scholastic achievement of students with concentrations in Business Administration. The Athens State chapter was originally formed in 1970 with Professor Gene Ermert being its inaugural faculty adviser. The chapter has grown to be one of the largest and most active chapters within the national organization.

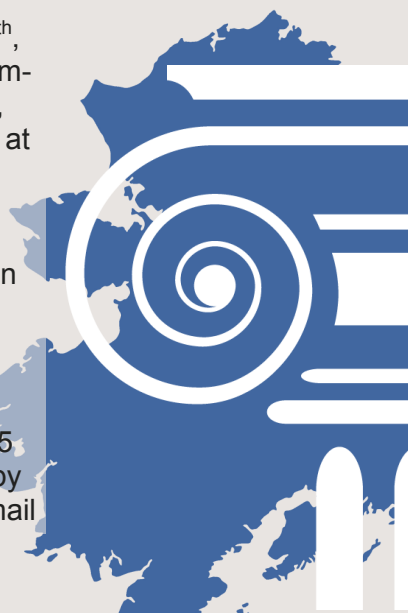
The Athens State University Delta Mu Delta Chapter is housed within the College of Business. The advisors are Professors Kim Bell and Kim Roberts.

## Alumni Association to Host Alaskan Adventure

The Athens State Alumni Association is sponsoring an Alaska Adventure trip on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015-September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015. This expedition is open to the public – not just Athens State alumni – and will include stops in Seattle, Ketchikan- the "Salmon Capital of the World", Juneau, and Skagway. A Collette travel representative will be on campus on Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm to present the trip in more detail. Refreshments will be served.

The Alaska Adventure will start with 3 days in Seattle, Washington's bustling seaport city, with a visit to the Space Needle and a duck boat tour before embarking on a 7 day cruise on the Celebrity Sostice. Journey into the Alaskan wilderness to see the glaciers, breathtaking mountains, waterfalls, rock walls and sail along the Inside Passage known for its awe-inspiring beauty and abundant wildlife.

The price of the 11 day trip includes round trip airfare from Huntsville, hotel transfers and 25 meals. Rates start at \$3599 per person for double occupancy accommodations, if booked by February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015. For information call the Office of Alumni Affairs at 256-233-8185 or email [alumni@athens.edu](mailto:alumni@athens.edu) for more information.





# A Seamless Transfer of Calhoun Students in Art



## ALABAMA CENTER FOR THE ARTS

### Phase II Groundbreaking

A groundbreaking ceremony for Phase II of the Alabama Center for the Arts (ACA) was held on Thursday, July 10 at 10:00 at the fine arts institution located at 133 Second Avenue in downtown Decatur. The new addition will house the theater and music departments of the collaborative academic effort between Calhoun Community College and Athens State University, and is enhanced by support from the City of Decatur and the Morgan County Commission.

"This phase of the total project has been in the planning stages since we initially broke ground in 2010," remarks Athens State President Bob Glenn. "We are pleased with the community's reception for Phase I and we look forward to working with Calhoun to further enhance the study of theater and music in the area."

"We are extremely excited that we are seeing this next phase of the ACA now coming to fruition" commented Dr. Marilyn Beck, Calhoun president. "This partnership with our sister institution, Athens State, is allowing us to continue to work together in meeting the needs of our community," Beck added.

LIVE Design Group from Birmingham has been selected as the architect for the project. The \$13.5M Phase II building will be adjacent to but separate from the Phase I portion of the ACA and will encompass approximately 44,000 square feet.

Athens State University's Art Department has recently developed a "two-plus-two" curriculum for students entering the program from Calhoun Community College. The title refers to the two years spent achieving the associates degree and the two years needed to complete the bachelor's degree. This program builds upon the University's existing collaboration with Calhoun Community College through the development of The Alabama Center for the Arts.

"As Athens State University functions as an upper-level university, many of its students are transfers from other public schools looking to round out their third or fourth years in a more focused environment, something that Athens State provides at the Alabama Center for the Arts," states Athens State Art Department Chair Pamela Keller. "Seamless transitions from most other schools make graduation with a four year degree in a timely manner a real possibility."

Athens State has established 3 two-plus-two curriculum track agreements with Calhoun in order to assist students matriculating to Athens State. Students may complete their freshman and sophomore years at Calhoun Community College and their junior and senior years at Athens State University in a Baccalaureate degree-granting academic art program. These two-plus-two tracks in art are designed to facilitate an easy transition from Calhoun to Athens State and places students on a track towards attainment of a bachelor's degree while completing their course of study at Calhoun Community College primarily at the Alabama Center for the Arts venue. The program clearly articulates the transferability of specific courses from Calhoun Community College to Athens State University.

"Our programs and our faculty are driven by a cause, by a purpose, and by a belief," added Keller. "This program encompasses all of those drives to develop and to assist Calhoun students and is one more way we work to create an environment of partnership to enhance their study of art and their collegiate experience."

Athens State's program in Art includes coursework in Studio Art, Graphic Design, and Art Certification for Teachers P-12. More information can be found at [www.athens.edu/art](http://www.athens.edu/art).



# MY ATHENS STATE STORY:

## Troy Birdyshaw



I am happy to say that I just completed the CPA exam! Now, let me elaborate on why this is the most significant achievement of my life, and why I can only take a fraction of the credit.

After high school, I went to work for one of the big banks and quickly began climbing the corporate ladder. After 5 short years, and 4 promotions, my superiors informed me that I would need to obtain a formal education in order to further my career with the bank. By this point, I was married, had a mortgage, and was enjoying the many freedoms afforded to young professionals. The thought of the sacrifices required in order to go back to school was crippling. However, I knew that it would be required if I was going to continue to grow personally and professionally. What I didn't realize at the time, was how many people would help me along the way.

As you can imagine, and perhaps even relate, going to school full time, working full time, and staying happily married is a tall order. My beautiful and supportive wife made it abundantly clear to me that we were going to achieve this goal together. There were many late nights I would be studying at the kitchen table, and she would slide a plate of food in front of me, kiss me on the forehead, and ask me how she could help make things easier. She didn't know it at the time, but more often than not, those little gestures meant more than life itself. Also, I became very close with many of my professors, and humbled by their sense of duty and purpose. To meet so many professors that genuinely cared, and were willing to go to any length for their students was astounding. It was those professors that taught me the true meaning of life – to humbly serve others.

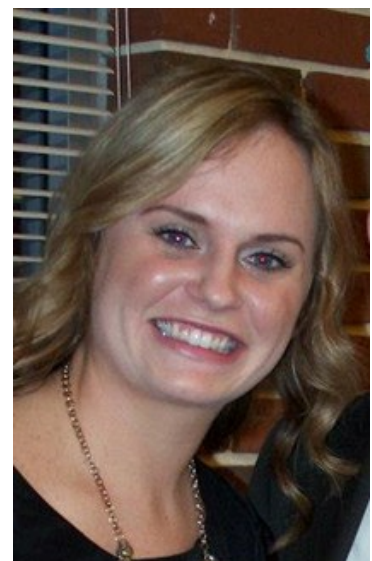
After completing my degree at Athens State University in 2013, I began my path towards the CPA certification. I began studying for the first exam in late November 2013, and passed my final exam in May of 2014. The day I received my final exam score, I became overwhelmed by the fact that I just accomplished the goal I set out to achieve 4 years ago – obtain a college education and the CPA certification. My next thought was about the many people that supported me along the way, and the sacrifices that they had to make. My final thought was how I could thank them and show my appreciation. Although personally thanking each one of them seems appropriate, I know that the only way to truly show my gratitude is to remain teachable, humble, and willing to serve others – just as they were.

I came to Athens State in 2012 and only knew a couple of people on campus. I transferred from Calhoun Community college and was involved with the Ambassador program there and knew I wanted to become involved in that as well with Athens State. I ran for the Head Athenian position and to my surprise was voted for it. I had little leadership skills at the time and had pushed myself to opening new doors and expanding those skills. The sponsors, Trish Di Lullo and Chelsea Love, were very supportive and helped me to reach beyond what I even thought was my potential. I used those skills to apply for various positions out in the community and ultimately landed a position with Highlands Medical Center in Scottsboro as the Marketing Coordinator.

I also received scholarships from the Alumni and Foundation departments and because of those blessings, I was able to graduate from Athens State with my school paid for.

The staff members and advisors at Athens State are more of a family to me than acquaintances. I will forever be grateful for the experience and guidance I had while attending Athens State.

## Hannah Esch





# Accounting Students Attend National Conference



Members of the Athens State University Accounting Club recently traveled to Indianapolis to attend the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) Student Leadership Conference. At the conference, the club was honored with a total of four top national awards. The Athens State chapter was one of only two universities across the nation that earned *Outstanding Student Chapter*. In addition, they were the only chapter to win the *Best Strategic Plan* and *Best Communications Awards*.

These awards are presented annually to the student chapters that demonstrate excellence in their incorporation of the IMA's mission and vision into the chapters' strategic plans and activities.

The Accounting Club was also recognized with the IMA *Gold Award of Excellence*. In order to qualify for this award, the club had to meet numerous criteria. Some of the criteria included training of officers, completing a publishable student manuscript, competing in a national case competition, holding educational meetings throughout the year, conducting plant tours, completing community service projects, and evaluating their performance through the use of a Balanced Scorecard.

"With over 100 IMA student chapters across the nation, the awards earned by the Accounting Club are a testament to the hard work and dedication of the students at Athens State," stated Professor Stacie Hughes.

The student chapters in attendance were challenged to participate in a t-shirt design competition. For the second year in a row the Athens State chapter competed and won first place in the competition.

"The success of this year's students has not only earned them awards, but also monetary prizes that will help ensure that the Club can send other students to next year's conference in Orlando," added Hughes.

The IMA Student Leadership Conference had over 570 registrants from 100 schools in 35 states. The attendees enjoyed three days of professional educational meetings, plant tours, and networking events. Martha Anderson, the Accounting Club's Ambassador, was one of only seven attendees selected to participate in a video interview with the IMA discussing what management accounting means to her. These interviews will be posted to the IMA's website for national and international viewing.



Right: Dr. Tony Moyers, Dean Ron Fritze, and Dr. Hugh Long preparing to march at the summer commencement.



# Cooperative Education Students of the Year Named

Athens State University's Career Development Center recently announced its Cooperative Education Student of the year and named an Honorable Mention for the academic year 2013-2014.

Kevin Woods, a Computer Science major from Huntsville, was named Cooperative Education Student of the Year. He was assigned an internship at Mentor Graphics and worked for Mentor Graphics for 4 years. He has worked as a Software Quality Engineer Intern and more recently, as a Building Engineer Intern.

Rich DeThomas, Mentor Graphics Senior Manager for Quality Control states, "It is because of Kevin's tireless work to constantly look for ways to improve our testing, improve our process and focus on my final goal of complete automation of our installation validation process that in my opinion, make Kevin stand out as one of our best Cooperative Education Interns."

As CO-OP Student of the Year, Kevin has been nominated for the Alabama Association of Colleges and Employers (AACE) Cooperative Education Student of the Year. This award recognizes the top Cooperative Education student in the state. The winner will be announced in July at the AACE Annual Conference.

Blair Stephens, an Accounting major from Athens, received Honorable Mention for the Cooperative Education Student of the Year. She has worked as an intern at Lambert Law Firm in Athens. Attorney Michael C. Lambert recognized Stephens for her strong work ethic, professionalism, and her efforts to make the law firm operate at a high level of efficiency.

Students entering the Cooperative Education Program at Athens State must be recommended by a member of the faculty and be degree-seeking with at least at 2.5 GPA. They must have completed at least one semester at Athens State and should not be in their final semester before graduating.



Top picture: Kevin Woods with the Career Development Center's Saralyn Mitchell (left) and Laura Allen (right).

Bottom picture: Blair Stephens



## The 48th Fiddlers Convention

The 48th annual Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention was held Oct. 3-4. The annual event is sponsored 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.

Beginning last year, The Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention was designated as the home to the Alabama State Fiddle Champion.



# Class of 1943 Alumnae Makes Return Visit

Ms. Thelma Louise Sawyer McGraw, Class of 1943, visited the campus of Athens State University recently. She was accompanied by her daughter, Paula Burns, and granddaughter, Stacey Burns. McGraw and her family were taking a trip down “memory lane” while recording a living history of McGraw’s time at the former Athens College. Ms. Louise Strange Steele, Class of 1941, also joined them on the tour and the alums reminisced about their time on campus under the presidency of Dr. E. R. Naylor. Both McGraw and Steele remembered Dr. Naylor fondly and held him in high regard. He was the president of Athens College from 1930-1949.

McGraw was visibly moved by her visit and when she re-entered Founders Hall. Founders was her dormitory before students were moved to Sanders Hall. “I can remember waiting in line against this wall for our mail”, McGraw stated as she positioned herself in the same place she probably did on a regular basis in the 40’s. The mailroom that she remembered so vividly is now a utility closet, and McGraw said that she shared her “large” dormitory room in Founders Hall with two other female students.

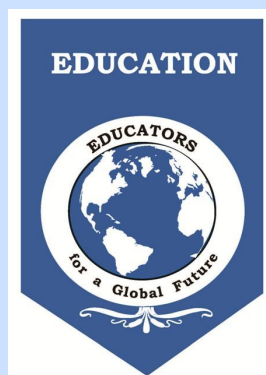
After stopping by the Parlor where McGraw spent much of her extracurricular time, the tour headed to McCandless Hall. This building also brought back a flood of memories. The auditorium is where McGraw received her diploma in 1943. McGraw went on stage and walked across one more time as she had done nearly 72 years before.

McGraw was in the Phi Sigma Literary Society and International Relations Club while at Athens College. She went onto raise a family and taught high school. The campus tour ended with lemonade and cookies at the home of our current President and first lady, Dr. and Mrs. Bob Glenn, before the family continued their journey to McGraw’s hometown of Bankston, AL.



*Bob and Laurie Glenn with Thelma Louise Sawyer McGraw (right).*

## College of Education News



Athens State University recently hosted a team of visitors from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) where preliminary findings determined that the institution’s College of Education met all the group’s standards. The team noted a number of strengths including feedback from teachers, administrators and field partners that indicates Athens State’s graduates are actively sought for placement and employment as a result of their outstanding preparation.

In addition, the NCATE representatives acknowledged the recently formed Board of Visitors that represents the commitment of community and school partners to the continuing success of teacher education at Athens State University. They were also complimentary of the work done at the Alabama Center for the Arts and their interdisciplinary programs that included teacher education.

“Overall this was an exceptionally strong validation of the good work of the faculty and staff of the College of Education,” stated Athens State President Bob Glenn. “I congratulate the entire College of Education, but I would be remiss if I did not note in particular the leadership of Dean Patricia Sims, Associate Professor Rosemary Hodges and Assistant Vice President Jackie Smith. This has been a very good day for Athens State University.”

NCATE establishes high quality teacher preparation through the process of professional accreditation of schools, colleges and departments of education. The organization’s performance-based system of accreditation fosters competent classroom teachers and other educators who work to improve the education of all P-12 students.



**BioTrain**

# Pedagogical Skills Development through a Pre-service Education Internship

Lori Anna Fortenberry  
Educational Outreach

**Abstract**  
This internship connected coursework with hands-on application, achieved through the unique experience of active involvement within the summer activities of the Educational Outreach Department. Some of the activities included planning and preparing educational exercises, observing and participating in GTAC (the intensive professional development for in-service teachers), along with delivering content through teaching opportunities and summer strengthened my pedagogical foundation in the areas of educator collaboration, time management and understanding confidence in content delivery, overall content knowledge, and cultivating questioning strategies to explore students' conceptions of material. It also developed a realistic perspective of the timeliness spent developing an effective pedagogy.

## Significance of Mentor Teachers

According to Schneider (2008), mentor teachers can:

- Model appropriate practices with students and collaborate with pre-service teacher to support student learning
- Focus the pre-service teacher's attention to specific features of teaching and share ideas about how those features may impact student learning
- Take an active role in guiding pre-service teacher's thinking in lesson planning
- Provide feedback that will encourage reflective thinking

## Importance of Student Teaching Opportunities

According to Glenn (2006). "Student teaching should provide students the opportunity to grow as educators- to learn from those who are more knowledgeable, to take risks, and to fail without becoming failures."

## Beneficial Opportunities

- Identifying and addressing misconceptions within genetic content
- Observing correct instruction of genetic material designed for all grade levels
- The importance of developing grant-writing skills and the impact of this practice
- The understanding of setting thresholds for every topic in my classroom
- The significance of gathering data in the classroom
- Leading labs and discussions

## Experience Data

Category	Count
Students Interacted With	288
Lessons/Labs Observed	87
Mentor Educators Observed	8
Research Presentations Attended	23
Lessons/Labs Delivered	13
Teachers Networked With	19
Library Visits	4

## Knowledge through Teacher Observation

How has this experience shaped me as an educator?

Overall content knowledge acquired from my college courses was significantly refreshed and reinforced. I received current, constructive professional development and a desire to be more involved in my classroom.

Applications for BioTrain 2015 are accepted beginning January 15. For more information on the program, visit <http://hudsonalpha.org/education/students/biotrain-summer-internship>. Students interested in applying to internships are welcome to attend a Career Development Center session for Dr. Cline's BI 302 Genetics class, which will spend a lab period developing resumes and personal statements.

## A photograph of Amy Frazier, a woman with long blonde hair, smiling. She is wearing a black top with a striped pattern and a blue sash that reads "Teacher of the Year 2013-2014". She is holding a large bouquet of red roses wrapped in black paper with a red ribbon, and a framed certificate. The certificate is from the "2013-2014 Teacher of the Year" award, presented by the "Action for Children" organization. It recognizes her as the "Teacher of the Year" for her "outstanding dedication and hard work to reach individual students at Scottsboro Head Start". The certificate is signed by Kim H. Smith, Director of Children's Services, and Michael Tabbas, Chief of Staff.



# MY ATHENS STATE STORY:

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Full-time newspaper work and full-time college was a bad mix in the early 1970s, so I never completed work on my degree. I was fortunate enough to advance up the ladder in the business and even take a brief detour into some PR jobs before joining The Times in 1998.

However, there was always a sense of unfulfilled potential in my not completing work on my degree.

Then came the Adult Degree Program at Athens State -- and this "was meant to be" scenario. The program was introduced at a press conference at the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County, where my wife works. After she attended the event, she talked to me about it. I blew it off. Not enough time. Why do I need a degree now? But I finally looked into it and it seemed a good fit.

The program enabled me to apply life experiences toward credit. By no means, though, was it as simply as "here's my resume, look what I've done." The program is geared to what the student has learned and how he or she has grown in those experiences. Indeed, there is a required class that instructs the student on how to prepare the learning portfolios to be submitted for credit.

I was able to transfer a decent amount of hours from the colleges I attended 40 years earlier. With the Liberal Studies path, I was fortunate to pick and choose courses that intrigued me, notably in English, political science and history. I took most of my classes on-line -- the one great regret is not being able to make enough time for a variety of lecture classes -- and was able to graduate in May 2014.

"My senior year in my senior years," I called it in a column.

Not long after I was accepted and began taking courses, another opportunity landed in my lap -- the chance to write a book. As a sportswriter and a baseball fan/historian, a publisher contracted me to write a book about the 50-year history of the Southern League, a Class AA minor league that I had covered in-depth at newspaper stops in Chattanooga and Huntsville. In May 2013 I embarked on that challenge, to report, research and write the book, doing nearly 100 interviews.

If nothing else, my time management skills increased and my sleep window shrank, to juggle nine hours of classes (mostly online) with the work on the book and a full-time job with weird hours. For the fall 2013 semester, Dr. Kevin Dupre enabled me to apply the work on the book as "directed studies" in English. He offered great encouragement and support along the way.

I'm proud to say that a month or so after my graduation, a copy of "Never a Bad Game" joined the shelves of the Athens State library.

## Mark McCarter



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## D.J. Klein



I returned to Huntsville after serving in the military after High School. After landing my first job in the defense industry I found myself years behind my peers who had all had a college degree. I completed my first two years at a local community college and looked at several options to finish my last two years. Both my immediate supervisor and the division manager were great mentors who also graduated from Athens State.

The Management degree that I earned from Athens State gave me the business foundation and understanding to build on that eventually led me to start my own business. Working as part of a group with other students helped give me the teamwork and communication skills that contributed to my desire to be a part of the community. Today, as a City Councilman in Madison, AL and a business owner, I couldn't have done it without Athens State.



# HOMECOMING

ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY

## SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES\*

### THURSDAY, May 14

- 11:30 a.m. ALUMNI GOLF CLASSIC LUNCH  
Canebrake Club Athens, Alabama
- 1:00 p.m. ALUMNI GOLF CLASSIC TOURNAMENT  
Canebrake Club Athens, Alabama
- 7:00 p.m. DINNER AND DANCING with 2ND COMING BAND  
Sandridge Student Center Ballroom / Cash Bar

### FRIDAY, May 15

- 12:00 noon REUNION LUNCHEON  
Sandridge Student Center Ballroom
- 2:00 p.m. PRESIDENT'S OPEN HOUSE  
President's Home, corner of Beaty and Bryan Streets
- 6:00 p.m. RECEPTION AT THE ALABAMA CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
Shuttle from Athens to Downtown Decatur, Alabama

### SATURDAY, May 16

- 8:00 a.m. ATHENIAN SPONSORED PANCAKE BREAKFAST  
Sandridge Student Center Ballroom
- 11:00 a.m. FAMILY FUN DAY ON CAMPUS  
Food Trucks / Inflatables / Family Activities
- 4:00 p.m. UNKNOWN LYRIC CONCERT  
Founders Green
- 7:00 p.m. GEEZERFEST IV LOW COUNTRY BOIL with DJ  
Sandridge Student Center Ballroom / Cash Bar
- 8:00 p.m. OUTDOOR MOVIE  
Founders Green

### ONGOING:

CAMPUS TOURS

TEE TIMES AVAILABLE AT CANEBRAKE CLUB

SHOPPING IN DOWNTOWN ATHENS

KAYAKING OR SUP ON THE ELK RIVER BY FORT HAMPTON OUTFITTERS

HORSEBACK RIDING, BIKING OR HIKING ON RAILS TO TRAILS

SHERIFF'S RODEO

*\*Schedule subject to change / Rain locations for outdoor events will be announced*



## HOMECOMING 2015

SPONSORED BY ATHENS STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

FOR REGISTRATION  
& INFORMATION:

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

ALUMNI OFFICE:

256-233-8185  
[alumni@athens.edu](mailto:alumni@athens.edu)

HOTELS:

Fairfield Inn and Suites  
256-233-4530

Holiday Inn Express  
256-232-7931

Hampton Inn and Suites  
256-232-2377





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Athens, Alabama 35611

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# THE ABCs OF *Domestic Violence* SEMINAR



**Tuesday, March 10, 2015**

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m.  
**Sandridge Center Ballroom**  
**Athens State University**  
CEUs, CE's and CLEs offered

**Guest speakers:**

**Ginger Stone (Safeplace) and**  
**Jennie Helderman**  
**(Author, *As the Sycamore Grows*)**

**Register online at**  
**[athens.edu/abcs-domestic-violence](http://athens.edu/abcs-domestic-violence)**