

*The*

# COLUMN

ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY



## FUNDING FUTURES

*How your support helps pave the way*

WINTER 2018

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# A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT GLENN



## *Dear alumni and friends of Athens State University:*

When I think of the achievements occurring on campus, in our community, across the state of Alabama, and throughout the nation as a direct result of the faculty and staff of Athens State University, it brings me great pride. Our Institution empowers students from all backgrounds and all walks of life to go out into the world and do great things. These accomplishments, both big and small, are what embodies our mission to provide a high-quality education and train individuals to be leaders in their respective fields. The stories from alumni and friends of the University remind us all on an ongoing basis that what we do here at Athens State is very powerful and rewarding work.

As I've mentioned before, each commencement exercise is an opportunity for me to reflect upon my role in the University's success and honor those who have preceded me in this role. One in particular is my great-grandfather, Edgar Massillon Glenn, who was president of this Institution from 1902 to 1904. It means a great deal to me to wear commencement regalia to honor him because both tradition and family are important elements of our lives, and in the life of our University.

Ultimately, if you are reading this publication, you have a connection to the University, and you probably have stories similar to mine that demonstrate the impact the University has had on you, your career, your family, and your future. The fabric of this great Institution is a wonderful tapestry of such stories. It is important to us individually and to Athens State that we not forget these stories.

In the years ahead, as we approach our Bicentennial in 2022, we will be asking for your support to help us insure the future of the Institution we all love. We will be asking you to join us for a variety of celebrations as we commemorate the stories and events that have made Athens State a University to be loved and honored. But, there is one last thing I would like to challenge you to do to allow us to properly applaud our history – tell us your story. Write it down and send it to us so that we can properly chronicle our common history. Tell us about your family members. Tell us about your friends who enriched your experience here. Tell us about that staff or faculty member you will never forget, and why. We need these stories. They are important. Write them down and send them to us.

By the time you receive this publication, the planning of our Bicentennial Celebration will be well underway. A committee has been formed and will be chaired by Dr. Robert Burkhardt, former Director of the Athens State University Library, and alumna Ms. Mary Stagg Johnston. In addition to working with the committee, Dr. Burkhardt will be working alongside former University Archivist Sara Love to bring Elva McLin's history of the Institution up to date. The committee is charged with planning all aspects of our Bicentennial Celebration, and regular updates will be appearing in this publication. We hope you are as excited about this milestone as we are!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert K. Glenn". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dr. Robert "Bob" Glenn  
President

**Please send your Athens State story to:**

Athens State University  
Attn: Dr. Robert Burkhardt  
300 N. Beaty Street  
Athens, AL 35611

## OUR VISION

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

## OUR MISSION

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

## CONTACT US

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## CONNECT WITH US



# BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED TO PLAN UNIVERSITY'S 200<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Athens State University President Dr. Bob Glenn has directed that a Bicentennial Advisory Committee be formed for the purpose of planning for the University's Bicentennial, which will be celebrated in 2022. In preparation for the celebration, President Glenn has requested that research be undertaken to ensure that the history of the University has been properly chronicled. The Committee will work to ensure the mission of the Bicentennial is accomplished with regard to planned activities, events, and projects that promote the values of Athens State University and properly celebrate the rich history it encompasses.

## Goals of the Bicentennial Committee include:

- Celebrating the historical significance of the University in Athens and North Alabama, including beginning as a female institute, transitioning to the Methodist Conference, and current status as an Alabama State Institution
- Discovering the contributions of the University to the intellectual growth of the State of Alabama, the nation, and the world through the efforts of faculty, staff, students, and alumni
- Engaging all University constituencies in an effort to strengthen connections in North Alabama and around the world
- Exemplifying the core values of the University that define its mission

## Members of the Bicentennial Committee:

Honorary Chairpersons	Mr. Tommy Carter & Ms. Louise Steele ('41)
Committee Chairpersons	Dr. Robert Burkhardt & Ms. Mary Stagg Johnston ('63 & '68)
Faculty Members	Dr. Bebe Shaw, Dr. John Berzett & Dr. Harry Joiner
Staff Members	Ms. Tina Hooks ('92), Ms. Kim Troupe ('91) & Mr. Chris Moss ('13)
Community Members	Ms. Sara Love, Ms. Rebekah Davis, Ms. Amy Golden & Mr. John Allison
University Alumni	Ms. Lisa Payne ('86) & Mr. J. J. Donahue ('73)
Foundation Board	Ms. Kathy Garrett ('81)
Alumni Representative	Ms. Betty Ruth Oliver ('82)
Athens State Student	Mr. Connor Bevill
University Archivist	Vacant
VP for University Advancement	Dr. Keith Ferguson
Director of Marketing & PR	Mr. Chris Latham ('09)
Office of Advancement	Ms. Tonyia Bowling ('94)



Your participation in the Bicentennial Celebration is wanted and needed! Stay tuned as details become available!

## 2017-18 ATHENIAN AMBASSADORS SELECTED



(L-R) Front Row: Alisha Collier, Diandra Matthews, Brittany Locke (Head Athenian); 2nd Row: Danielle Johnson, Keisha Pearl, Elena Silvar, Lei-Ling Ponter, Lorena Lucas Hernandez, Katie Harris; 3rd Row: Taylor Hamilton, Shea Briscoe, Katie Ikerman, Meagan Kilgo, Justin Long, Connor Bevill

The 2017-2018 Athenian Ambassadors were recently selected through an application and interview process. They include Connor Bevill, Shea Briscoe, Alisha Collier, Taylor Hamilton, Katie Harris, Katie Ikerman, Danielle Johnson, Brittany Locke, Justin Long, Lorena Lucas Hernandez, Diandra Matthews, Keisha Pearl, Lei-Ling Ponter and Elena Silvar. The Ambassadors were chosen to be the "face of Athens State University" based on character, personality, and school record.

After attending a mandatory workshop, they are now greeting guests and working events such as the College Fair, River Clay Rendezvous, Transfer Day, and Fiddlers Convention. They also helped decorate the Parlor and President's Home for Christmas.

The Alumni Association fully funds the Athenian Ambassador program and provides a formal and informal uniform based on the type of event request. Ambassadors also participate in teambuilding exercises and a community service project during their year of service.

# ALPHA IOTA CHAPTER OF DELTA MU DELTA WINS COVETED JABLONSKY OUTSTANDING CHAPTER AWARD



*L-R: Ms. Toni Harvey, Student Chapter President; Dr. Charles Finn, Delta Mu Delta National President; Dr. Kim Roberts, Faculty Adviser; and Dr. John Berzett, Faculty Co-Adviser*

Athens State University’s Alpha Iota Chapter of the Delta Mu Delta Honor Society was the recipient of the 2017 Anthony J. Jablonsky Outstanding Chapter Award. This prestigious award is presented to the chapter that not only exceeds Society standards but has developed outstanding programs to provide additional service to members and creative ways to further chapter growth, development, and visibility.

Delta Mu Delta faculty advisers, Dr. Kim Roberts and Dr. John Berzett, and the Alpha Iota Chapter student president, Ms. Toni Harvey, accepted the award at the organization’s biennial conference in Baltimore, Maryland. Furthermore, the Athens State chapter was recognized for its “Star Chapter” status. The chapter is noted as the most award-winning Star Chapter in the organization’s history, with 16 annual recognitions.

The 2017 conference offered students and faculty the opportunity to hear from distinguished speakers in the areas of networking and ethics. Dr. Roberts and Dr. Berzett presented “The Case for

Conversation” during one of the breakout sessions, which explored the consequences of digital technology, the value of face-to-face conversation, and steps we can take to improve our conversation skills.

The Alpha Iota Chapter at Athens State inducted their first graduate student member this year from the school’s Master’s in Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management program. In addition, student chapter members have received local and national recognition. Athens State’s Maria Rodriguez was the recipient of the 2017 Delta Mu Delta Regional Award, which included a \$500 scholarship. Roberts and Berzett acknowledge all previous Delta Mu Delta advisers at Athens State for building a foundation for continued growth. They would also like to thank Athens State students, faculty, staff, and the community at large for their support of the chapter.

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. 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.

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION OPENS READING LAB



*Mrs. Missy Ming Smith, Dr. Jameha Gardner, Ms. Marsha White, and Dr. Patricia Sims at the Reading Lab in Chasteen Hall*

Athens State University is pleased to announce the grand opening of the new College of Education Reading Lab. The Reading Lab, located in Chasteen Hall, provides teacher candidates at Athens State firsthand experience of how to teach reading strategies, create reading resources, role play, and practice teaching students how to read.

Dr. Patricia Sims, Dean of the College of Education, is excited about the new Reading Lab saying, “We think it’s a great opportunity to help our students deepen their learning as they learn various strategies to help students. They now have the time and opportunity to model and practice the strategies they’ve learned in class, so that when they go out for field experience and internships, they are prepared.”

“Nationwide, a large percentage of children are reading below grade level,” says Dr. Jameha Gardner, Associate Professor of Education at Athens State, “One way to work towards resolving this issue is by producing excellent reading instructors. Teacher candidates of Athens State University will participate in face-to-face reading courses held in the Reading Lab. The lab provides a warm and welcoming atmosphere that is conducive to learning.”

# DR. STEPHEN SPENCER NAMED DEAN OF COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES



Athens State University has appointed Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Stephen G. Spencer, as its new Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He will assume this position in January 2018. Dr. Susan Owen has been selected as the Interim Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences and began her service effective September 1, 2017.

Dr. Spencer received his Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree, both in English, from the University of Dayton. He then earned his PhD in American Literature, Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States, and Composition from the University of Cincinnati. He has a highly accomplished career in the field of education, spending 18 years at Wilmington College in southern Ohio and nine years at the University of Southern Indiana. During his time at these universities, Dr. Spencer was featured in a number of publications, delivered many academic presentations, was an active member of several committees, and taught undergraduate courses in composition, ethnic literature of the United States, and American studies, among others. He also taught graduate courses in American literature, international studies, and literature of Oceania.

As Chair of English at the University of Southern Indiana, Dr. Spencer oversaw the implementation of a new graduate program in English, the successful national accreditation of a new program in English teaching, and the expansion of English curricula and programs. At the university level, he served as Co-chair of the New Core Curriculum Implementation Team and Coordinator of Enrollment Management Planning. As a result of his outstanding work, Dr. Spencer received the Southwestern Ohio Council for Higher Education Award for Teaching Excellence in 2003 and the Wilmington College Student Government Teaching Excellence Award in 2001.

Dr. Spencer was initially drawn to Athens State because of its strong student focus. "During my visit to campus, I was impressed by the faculty and staff at Athens State. I could sense the genuine commitment to students and the campus community in every interaction." Joining Dr. Spencer in Athens will be his wife, Kelly, an artist and teacher, and two sons, Jackson and Camden. Dr. Spencer is looking forward to beginning a new chapter of his life and career at Athens State, saying, "I am eager to begin working with students, faculty, and staff in the College of Arts and Sciences to support their continued development and success."

"We are excited to welcome Dr. Spencer to the Athens State University family," says Dr. Joe Delap, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. "We feel his extensive background in higher learning combined with his excellent leadership skills will be a great asset to faculty, students, and the community at large."

Dr. Owen, currently serving as interim dean, has taught Psychology for a number of years at the University and currently serves as Department Chair for the Behavioral Sciences Department. During her tenure at the University, she has been an active participant in a number of critical committees and is well-respected among her colleagues in the College of Arts and Sciences and beyond.

## DR. MARY BETH JOHNS NAMED HIGHER EDUCATION ART EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Dr. Mary Beth Johns, Assistant Professor of Visual Art Education at Athens State University, has been named the 2017 Alabama Art Education Association Higher Education Art Educator of the Year. Dr. Johns holds classes at the Alabama Center for the Arts in Decatur, Alabama, where she is able to use a combination of technology and innovation to bring the arts to life in the classroom. Dr. Patricia Sims, Dean of the College of Education at Athens State University, provides praise for Dr. Johns and her accomplishments, supporting her throughout the selection process and writing a letter of support upon her nomination.

The Alabama Art Education Association (AAEA) is "a professional organization of art educators dedicated to advocating art education by following national standards through providing membership services and professional growth and leadership opportunities." Members of the organization range from art educators in early childhood education to those instructing at the collegiate level and beyond. The AAEA is an active affiliate of the National Art Education Association.

# NEW APPOINTEES TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Athens State University is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Cathy Dickens, Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried, and Mrs. Missy Ming Smith to the Board of Trustees by Alabama Governor Kay Ivey.



## MS. CATHY DICKENS

Ms. Cathy Dickens, representative of the Fifth Congressional District, has been reappointed to the Board of Trustees for a seven-year term. She is currently serving as the Chair Pro Tempore of the Board until September 2018. Dickens was initially appointed to the Board in 2012 for a five-year term and served as the Vice Chair Pro Tempore from October 2014 – September 2016.

Ms. Dickens currently serves as Vice President of Business Management at COLSA Corporation. She was formerly a Contract Executive in the Senior Executive Service within the Department of Defense at the US Army Contracting Command at Redstone Arsenal. She has also served in various positions within the US Army Aviation and Missile Command. Ms. Dickens is a 1993 graduate of Athens State College and received her Master's degree in Management & Contract Management from the Florida Institute of Technology. She currently resides in Meridianville, Alabama.



## DR. SANDRA SIMS-deGRAFFENRIED

Dr. Sandra Sims-deGraffenried, representative of the State-at-Large, has been reappointed to the Board of Trustees for a seven-year term. She was initially appointed to the Board in 2012 for a five-year term and served as Chair Pro Tempore from October 2012 – September 2014.

Dr. Sims-deGraffenried has an extensive career in public education leadership. For almost two decades, she served as an advocate for public education as Executive Director of the Alabama Association of School Boards (AASB). Following her retirement from AASB, she was Associate Executive Director of the Alabama Nursing Home Association. She now serves as a consultant. Sims-deGraffenried earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Athens College in 1967 and 1970, respectively, and her Doctorate from Vanderbilt University in 1984. She currently resides in Orange Beach, Alabama.



## MRS. MISSY MING SMITH

Mrs. Missy Ming Smith, representative of the Fifth Congressional District, has been appointed to the Board of Trustees for a seven-year term. This is her first appointment to the Athens State University Board of Trustees.

Mrs. Smith has served in various capacities with WHNT-TV and WAFF-TV and was the first woman in Alabama to anchor an evening news program. From 1991 through 2014, Smith served as Director of Information and Community Relations for the Madison County Commission. She then represented the Fifth Congressional District as Commissioner for the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) from 2006 - 2015. Smith attended Calhoun Community College and Athens State University and earned her Bachelor's Degree from Auburn University. Smith currently resides in Huntsville, Alabama.



The Board of Trustees is responsible for the governance of Athens State University and meets quarterly. All meetings of the Board and Board Committees are open to the public. The remaining members of the Athens State University Board of Trustees include Governor Kay Ivey, Mr. Ronnie Chronister, Chancellor Jimmy Baker, Ms. Crystal Brown, Mr. Macke Mauldin, Senator Arthur Orr, Ms. Maxine Randolph, and Mr. Clint Shelton.



# FUNDING FUTURES

## *How your support helps pave the way*

Each year, millions of students across the nation are able to pursue their dreams only because of financial assistance provided by scholarships. Scholarships open doors where, in many cases, they would remain closed. For some, scholarships turn an unattainable dream into a reality. Each scholarship awarded is a new beginning. Scholarships show recipients that someone out there believes in them and has faith that they will succeed. Scholarships provide hope – and for some students, they mean everything.

### **How Do Scholarships Impact Students?**

- They decrease the amount of loans and debt students have to tackle in order to complete their higher education.
- They give students confidence and motivation by letting them know that all their hard work is paying off.
- They teach philanthropy by showing students the impact of selfless giving.
- They allow recipients to focus on their careers after graduation instead of figuring out how they are going to repay their loans.
- They could be the difference between whether an individual is able to get an education or not.

According to a study by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, working while in college is the number one reason students drop out of school. Awarding a scholarship to a student immediately helps alleviate their stress and fear of going into debt to pay for their education.

Scholarships leave a lasting impact on those who receive them. Every gift, no matter how small, gives students the opportunity to flourish and empowers them to be their best self and live out their dreams. Your support for scholarships makes a difference in the lives of students, enabling them to receive a valuable education and gain experience that will equip them for future success.

**Scholarships mean a reward for the past, motivation for the present, and opportunity for the future.**



**SPOTLIGHT:**  
*Emergency Student  
Assistance Program*

Students often face many hardships and experience numerous setbacks while completing their studies. Most students at Athens State work at least part-time while taking classes, and a majority of students have families to care for. This can present many obstacles in achieving one's goals while still caring for the primary responsibilities in the student's life.

One program that some may not be aware of is the Emergency Student Assistance Program, which strives to overcome obstacles that may cause a student to drop out of enrolled courses. The fund attempts to keep students focused on their end goals, which is completing courses and receiving the degree that will equip them to be successful members of society.

The program, funded by generous donors, covers financial emergencies and unexpected expenses, such as car repairs, utility bills, groceries, books and supplies, or any other financial obstacle that threatens the student's success in his or her enrolled program.

The program is structured so that the funds can be provided to the student relatively quickly, as emergency

situations are typically time sensitive. If a student sees that he or she may be in an unfortunate or worrisome situation, Student Services instructs the student to complete a simple request for the funds, followed by an interview with the Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services. This interview is a chance for the University to discover the best method to help the student and ensure his or her situation is one that can benefit from the assistance program. After the request is reviewed and the interview is complete, the request is routed to the Office of Advancement, and the funds are provided to the student.

Students are given the opportunity to repay the funds once the emergency situation has passed; however, the University understands the nature of the program and does not want to further burden the student with financial obligations. If repayment will further weaken the student's chance for success, the funds are forgiven.

This program is designed to make an impact where it really matters. It's one additional way to support student success.

**YOUR SUPPORT**  
*makes all the difference*

Make a choice that changes a life.  
With your help, we can build a  
brighter future for generations to come.

**Invest in the future of students today!**

[ATHENS.EDU/GIVING](https://ATHENS.EDU/GIVING)



# *Celebrating* ATHENIAN SUCCESS

**AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. KATIE KINNEY,  
2017 OUTSTANDING ALUMNA IN EDUCATION**

*“We* talk about the millennials, and we talk about these categories or groups of people, but I think the common thread is that no matter what generation you’re a part of, we’ve got to build relationships,” says Dr. Katie Kinney, Athens State University Alumna and Elementary Education professor at the University of North Alabama. Before she became a teacher, Katie learned what a vital role relationship building can play in academic success – especially for students like her that desperately needed hope and a second chance.

Growing up in Athens, Alabama, Katie came from a single-parent home. It was important for her to make the most out of her opportunity to go to college, but she

found herself in an academic predicament. Her attempt at a traditional college experience away from home had failed, resulting in a low GPA and a lack of financial resources to try to go off to school again. “In my situation, I couldn’t give up,” says Katie, “I had to regroup, mature, and dig myself out of a hole. I ended up at Athens to pursue my goal of becoming a teacher, and that is where I found my second chance and my hope.”

Despite her academic challenges, Katie was able to develop relationships with her professors at Athens State. They could see her potential and poured their time and attention into her, helping to make her dream a reality. “Not only did I get the knowledge and the skills and

acquire the dispositions that I needed in order to be a successful teacher, but it's the relationships that were so important. The relationships that I made kept me connected to my craft and furthered myself as an educator - they are so critical to student success."

One special bond she made during her time at Athens State was with former College of Education faculty member Dr. Betty Dean Newman. Dr. Newman was there for Katie during every stage of her college and professional career. She served as either a professor that Katie studied under or as a friend she could go to for advice. Now lifelong friends, Dr. Newman nominated Katie as the 2017 Outstanding Alumna from the College of Education, an award she attained. "It's just been neat to see how at all those different stages she's been there for me," says Katie. "For her to take the time to do that, to honor me, was just very overwhelming. I admire her so much."

Katie graduated from Athens State in December 1997 and immediately began her graduate education at the University of Alabama. She received her Master's degree in Elementary Education in 2000 and PhD in Instructional Technology in 2004. Katie uses her story to motivate students that are grappling with the decision of quitting school. "We as part of universities, our culture is geared around student success. The thing I try to relay to the students I work with is 'Don't give up.' Going to school was a struggle. I had to work full-time and go to school full-time while doing it, but I would not trade that experience.

“  
The thing I try to relay to students I work with is ‘Don’t give up.’ Going to school was a struggle. I had to work full-time and go to school full-time while doing it, but I would not trade that experience.  
”

I grew up and I learned so much about myself and what I had in me. People like Betty Dean Newman saw my potential and were able to give me what I needed. Coupled with their expertise, I fulfilled my goal."

Since Katie knows firsthand how impactful professors can be in helping students achieve their goals, her advice to today's students is to build meaningful relationships, ask questions, and not stop until their goal is met. "Just reach out," Katie says. "Ask questions and try to find those people that are going to help you. They're there. Those people are there."

Katie also advises against setting unrealistic expectations, because education is only a small part of the bigger picture. "I hear a lot of students say, 'I've got to finish this in three years' or 'I've got to finish

this in two years.' You've got the rest of your life to be a grown up. Don't put that kind of pressure on yourself, because this is bigger than a degree or a piece of paper. This is about developing the skills, knowledge, and dispositions to be a good citizen in your community."

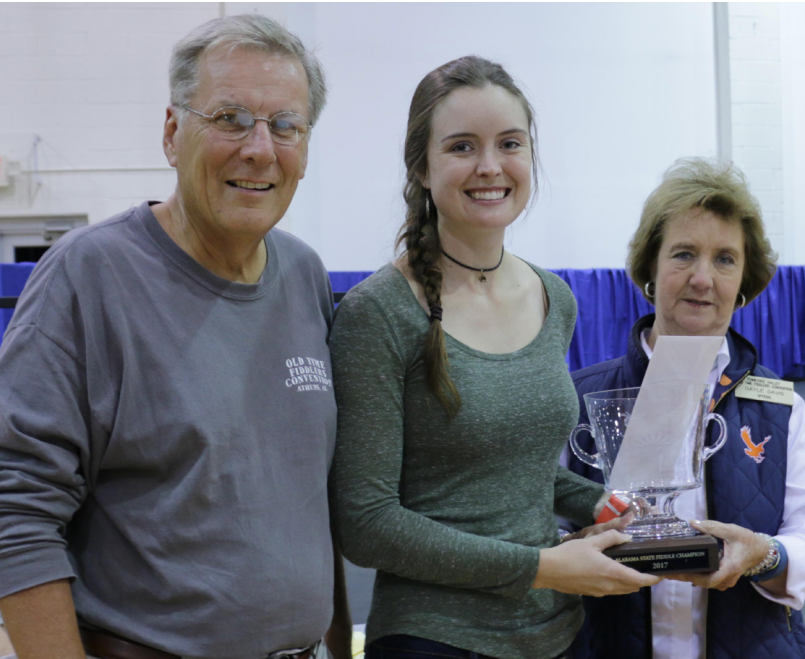
Katie lives in the Shoals with her husband, Jeremie, and two children, Mary Cole and Griff. She loves learning and is keeping her options open for the future - perhaps even pursuing another Bachelor's degree. "I've done this life's work and I've loved every second of it, but life's too short not to keep learning."



**TODAY'S LEARNERS. TOMORROW'S LEADERS.**

PREPARE FOR YOUR TOMORROW: **ATHENS.EDU/MASTERS**

# DENTON NAMED “FIDDLE CHAMPION” FOR SECOND YEAR IN A ROW



For the second year in a row, Maddie Denton was named “Alabama State Fiddle Champion” at the 51st annual Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention held at Athens State University the first weekend of October.

Denton, of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, won the title by winning the “fiddle off,” which pits the top fiddlers from the junior, intermediate, and senior divisions. Sharon Bounds of Northport, Alabama finished runner-up. Denton, who won the junior fiddle division, earned the convention’s top prize of \$1,200.

The Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention is sponsored by the Athens State University Foundation, Alabama Farmers Cooperative, and the Greater Limestone County Chamber of Commerce. The convention contributes to Athens State by funding student scholarships and University projects.

**For a list of all winners,  
please visit the Tennessee Valley  
Old Time Fiddlers website:**

**TVOTFC.ORG**

*L-R: Rick Mould, Fiddlers Committee; Maddie Denton, 2017 Alabama State Fiddle Champion; and Gayle Davis, Fiddlers Committee*





# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

52nd ANNUAL TENNESSEE VALLEY OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION

OCTOBER 4 - 6, 2018



FEATURING  
RHONDA VINCENT  
& THE RAGE



# ACCOUNTING CLUB RECOGNIZED WITH IMA GOLD AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Student members and faculty advisors of the Athens State University IMA Student Chapter, also known as the Accounting Club, traveled to Houston, Texas November 9-11 to be honored at the 18th Annual Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) Student Leadership Conference. Hundreds of college students from all over the country and several foreign countries participated in professional educational meetings, networking events, and industry tours. The Athens State student group received national awards, gained valuable networking opportunities, toured Minute Maid Park and Hess Corporation, and attended seminars about management accounting, professionalism, leadership skills, and recent developments in automation and artificial intelligence. One student attendee from Athens State was selected to interview with Cummins, Inc., a Fortune 500 corporation, during the conference.

The Athens State student chapter was honored with the IMA Gold Award of Excellence and also received the Outstanding Student Chapter Award, only awarded to up to five gold award schools annually. To qualify for the gold award, the chapter satisfied many criteria plus additional activities, including preparing four newsletters, completing a student manuscript, competing in a national student case competition, preparing a budget and treasurer's report, holding eight educational club meetings throughout the year in addition to multiple board meetings, attending three plant tours, participating in several community service projects and promotional events, and documenting their efforts in detail.

## REDSTONE RESIDENT EARNS BACHELOR'S DEGREE AT AGE 71



*Athens State President Dr. Robert Glenn,  
graduate Edna Cole, and Huntsville Mayor  
Tommy Battle*

The Athens State University graduation ceremony was nearing completion when Athens State President Dr. Robert Glenn asked graduate Edna Cole to stand. Puzzled, she thought to herself "Uh oh." But then Glenn bestowed her a compliment. Cole had taken one class per semester through the years until she achieved her bachelor's degree at age 71, becoming a member of the class of 2017. "She is the most young-at-heart," Glenn said.

Cole, a Redstone resident since 2010, smiled and waved and enjoyed the crowd's adulation. She wants people to know you're never too old to follow your dreams. "I think it's fantastic. To God be the glory," she said of receiving her diploma May 6 at the campus in Athens. "I want to continue my education. And I want the young people to know that you can do it, too. And I want the senior citizens to know that they should always work towards their goal."

The Philadelphia native graduated from West Philadelphia High School in 1963 at age 16. In 1964 she started going to night school at Temple University and received her teaching certificate from Harcum College, in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, in 1996. This enabled her to teach at a private school at her church, Deliverance Evangelistic Church, in Philadelphia. She served as a pre-K teacher and registrar at Deliverance Evangelistic Christian Academy from 1999-2002.

Cole worked for Prudential Insurance Company of America for 30 years until she retired in 1994. During those three decades, she kept taking one college class each semester on whichever night she could. In 2002, she married retired Sgt. Maj. Charles Cole, and they moved to his native Gadsden. After he passed away in 2004, Cole started attending Gadsden State Community College and earned an associate's degree in applied science 2009. She moved to Redstone in 2010 and began taking classes at the Athens State extension on post. The college allowed her to take one class per semester under a senior citizen plan.

Cole serves as honorary hospitality chairperson for both the Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club and the Legacy 4 Korean War Veterans Foundation. She and her late husband have a blended family of five children, 22 grandchildren, and 25 great-grandchildren. Her volunteer work in the community also includes helping the North Alabama Center for Educational Excellence, serving with a military re-enactment group and with the First Missionary Baptist Church in Huntsville. She got her bachelor's degree from Athens State in liberal studies with a minor in religion. She plans to soon start working on a master's in counseling and sign language.

Contributed by Skip Vaughn, *Redstone Rocket*

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

## FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION & ALUMNI AWARDS CEREMONY

APRIL 7

On April 7, 2018, the Athens State University Foundation, in conjunction with the Athens State University Alumni Association, will host a Scholarship Reception and Alumni Awards Ceremony in Carter Gymnasium.

This event offers an opportunity to recognize our supporters, honor successful Athens State alumni, and serve as a mentoring opportunity for our new scholarship recipients.

The Alumni Association is seeking nominations for the Annual Alumni Awards. The nomination packet must include a completed nomination form, a cover letter from the nominator, at least one additional letter of recommendation, and a resume, vitae, bio and/or supporting article. All completed packets must be submitted online, delivered to the Office of Alumni Affairs or postmarked no later than Friday, February 2, 2018.

Visit [athens.edu/alumni/alumni-awards](http://athens.edu/alumni/alumni-awards) for more information.

MAY 17



## 27TH ANNUAL ALUMNI GOLF CLASSIC

The 27th annual Athens State University Alumni Golf Classic will be held Thursday, May 17, 2018, at Canebrake Club in Athens. All proceeds from the tournament fund scholarships for the following academic year.

The Golf Classic was established by JJ and Dottie Donahue. Scholarship awards have steadily increased from \$9,000 in 2010-2011 to more than \$29,000 in 2017-2018. Each scholarship recipient volunteers at alumni events throughout their award year and is considered for a renewal based on their service to the Alumni Association. Scholarship funds are raised through sponsorships, team entries, and donations.

## JOIN US FOR HOMECOMING 2018!

AUGUST  
3-4

Join us on Friday, August 3, 2018, beginning at 6:00 PM, for food, fun, and fellowship on the green in front of Founders Hall, with entertainment by "The WannaBeatles" from Nashville, Tennessee. This year's Homecoming will honor the Class of 1968. At the commencement ceremony scheduled for Saturday, August 4, the Class of 1968 will march with the Class of 2018 and will receive special certificates commemorating their joining the 50 Year Club. We hope you will make plans to join us for this special occasion!



## JOIN US IN ICELAND FOR "ALUMNI ADVENTURES"

See the Magical Northern Lights in beautiful Iceland! The "land of fire and ice" is a place of many wonders, including the rare opportunity to see the aurora borealis! Featuring attractions and landmarks such as: Reykjavik, Northern Lights Cruise, Golden Circle, Thingvellir National Park, Geysir, Gullfoss, Seljalandsfoss, Vik, Eyjafjallajökull Volcano Visitor Centre, Skogar Folk Museum, Skógafoss, Jökulsárlón Glacial Lagoon, Skaftafell National Park, Vatnajökull Glacier, and Blue Lagoon.

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

OCTOBER  
13-19



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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

# ARE YOU A MEMBER?

## JOIN THE ATHENS STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

More than \$54,000 awarded in Alumni scholarships to 41 students for 2017-2018  
Annual Membership: \$25 • Lifetime Membership: \$250

**[ATHENS.EDU/ALUMNI/MEMBERSHIP](http://ATHENS.EDU/ALUMNI/MEMBERSHIP)**

