

THE

COLUMN

ATHENS STATE
UNIVERSITY

ATHENS.EDU

WINTER 2023



HARRY EDWARD MILLER:

BLAZING A TRAIL & BUILDING A LEGACY

OUR VISION

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

OUR MISSION

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

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CONNECT WITH US



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT WAY

A Relay Race

The advancement of a university over time requires a series of committed leaders and their followers who grapple with the challenges of their times and make headway toward the organizational vision. It's much like a relay race.

In running or swimming relays, it takes a sequence of individuals with different speeds and styles to take the team toward the finish line. Improvements in performance in sports or organizations may result from changes in team members or possibly the employment of new athletic techniques or organizational strategies. Either way, success smells sweet.

This edition of Column magazine highlights some recent changes at Athens State. We have grown stronger with additions to our faculty and staff in the past six months. At a senior level, Dr. Dave Ragsdale is our new Dean of Arts and Sciences. We also have two new Board of Trustees members in Mr. Mac McCutcheon and Mr. Mike Underwood.

We have also invested in new activities to expand our profile. This edition features the new master's degree program in Acquisition and Contract Management and our efforts to promote economic development through an incubator in downtown Athens. We also have a story about a landmark change for the University back in the 1930s when we became co-educational.

Examples of success abound at Athens State. We spotlight some of our students and alumni. We also celebrate the reaffirmation of accreditation in the College of Education. In addition, we review our Bicentennial events and the well-attended Fiddlers Convention.

On a personal note, I am completing my leg of the presidential relay. I am stepping down from the Athens State presidency at the end of 2022.

It is a time to celebrate! I have done what I aimed to do.

We have established a new strategic plan with widespread input. The plan is being executed. We have made progress despite COVID.

There is a new culture of innovation. Approximately 20 new degree programs, especially at the graduate level, are being or

have been introduced in response to regional employer needs and student interests. More flexibility is evident in more online programs. Increased engagement of students in experiential learning is preparing them for the labor market. A new brand identity and a marketing partnership have aided the recent growth of enrollments in Alabama and other states. State appropriations have grown in recognition of the strides made by the university in programs and student outcomes. Innovations in fundraising and grant seeking have led to a successful campaign.

The culture is now more externally focused. There is an emphasis on increasing economic and workforce development and incubating new businesses. Reciprocal learning partnerships with organizations are burgeoning. We continue to serve our community through volunteerism and service learning. Athens State is truly an anchor institution. Internationally, relationships with India are developing, bringing the benefits of cross-cultural interactions and increased enrollments here and abroad.

It's time to pass the baton. It's a long race. I have spent the last decade at two universities as a provost, an interim president, and a president. I want to pause. I need to rebalance my life, give more attention to traditional faculty activities as well as family and personal pursuits. I want to ponder the next phase of my life.

I will maintain my tenure at Athens State. I have agreed to be a Special Assistant to the Board on call to help ensure there is no break in our progress during the next year of transition, although I leave a capable executive team and a watchful Board of Trustees.

Thank you to everyone who has played a part in our progress. I value you all.

Philip K. Way

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TABLE OF CONTENTS



12



20



16



21

- 6 | NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 11 | CAFE 1822 NOW OPEN
- 12 | HARRY EDWARD MILLER: BLAZING A TRAIL & BUILDING A LEGACY
- 16 | HOMECOMING & BICENTENNIAL RECAP
- 20 | 2022 FIDDLERS CONVENTION RECAP
- 21 | SEEING STUDENTS SUCCEED: MEET TAYLOR JORDAN



THERE'S STILL TIME



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PAVING THE WAY
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NEW MEMBERS ADDED TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Representative Mac McCutcheon
Speaker of the Alabama House of representatives



Mr. Mike Underwood
Chief Executive Officer of TriGreen Equipment

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the governance of Athens State University, with quarterly meetings open to the public. Their appointments are for a seven-year term beginning on Oct. 1, 2022 and ending on Sept. 30, 2029.

MASTER OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT MANAGEMENT APPROVED FOR SPRING 2023

Athens State is pleased to announce that the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) has approved a Master of Science in Acquisition & Contract Management program to begin during the Spring 2023 semester. This program builds upon the undergraduate program in Acquisition and Contract Management (ACM), offering distinct opportunities to undergraduate learners who want to further their education upon completion.

The M.S. in Acquisition & Contract Management program is designed for professionals seeking a degree that prepares them with the strategic decision-making skills necessary for management positions in any organization. This program focuses on procurement, contract negotiations, cost principles, and subcontract formulation, among other topics related to acquisition and contract management as well as the core competencies of the master's degree in management. The objective of the management master's program with a concentration in acquisition and contract management is to meet the demand of working professionals who are pursuing upward mobility within their organization.

Career paths for individuals who earn a master's degree in management, especially with a concentration in acquisition and contract management, vary widely as the program is suited for any individual who is advancing their career in the private, public, and military sector. The Huntsville area is expected

to see related occupations in this field grow 10.3% during the ten-year period 2021-2031, which is higher than the 9.8% expected national growth rate. Annual median mid-career earnings for this field locally are estimated at \$91,600. ■



DR. C. DAVID RAGSDALE SELECTED AS DEAN OF COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Athens State University is pleased to announce that Dr. C. David Ragsdale will become the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, effective August 12, 2022. "We welcome Dr. Ragsdale to the Athens State community. He emerged from an outstanding field of candidates for this prestigious position and his expertise in building strong programs and signature events made him an ideal choice," commented Dr. Catherine Wehlburg, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

In preparation for starting this position, Dr. Ragsdale said, "I am thrilled to join the exceptional faculty and staff in the College of Arts and Sciences at Athens State. I look forward to the work ahead as we continue to build rich educational opportunities for all of our students."

Dr. Ragsdale will be coming to Athens State University from the University of Alabama in Huntsville where he has served as Chair of the Department of Music and Theatre. Under his leadership, the Department enjoyed a strong reputation within the region for its quality faculty and programs, as well as its immersion in the community through robust public programming initiatives in the arts, such as the Constellation Concert Series and the university's signature event, Peace on Earth. The Department of Music, an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music, was recently one of ten schools named by Yamaha Corporation of America as a 2021 "Institution of Excellence."

Dr. Ragsdale sits on the Board of Directors for ArtsHuntsville, the Board of Trustees for the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra and serves the National Association of Schools of Music as a Visiting Evaluator for its Commission on Accreditation and Vice Chair of NASM Region 8. In 2017, he received the National Band Association's Citation of Excellence and in 2015, was named the UAH College of Arts, Humanities

and Social Sciences Professor of the Year. Dr. Ragsdale holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Appalachian State University (NC), a Master of Music degree from Winthrop University (SC), and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Miami (FL). ■

NEW FACULTY MEMBERS FALL 2022

Athens State University is pleased to welcome the following new faculty members to campus this fall.



Patricia Elmore
Assistant Professor of English Education



Yahia Fadlalla
Associate Professor of Computer Science



Travis Morgan-Chavers
Instructor of Early Childhood Education



Dagan Bond-Turner
Assistant Librarian



Tina Camba
Assistant Professor of Management/HR Management



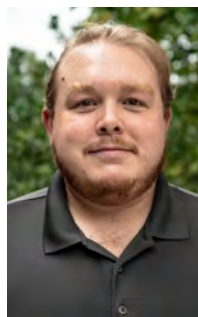
Ronald Muhammad
Distinguished Assistant Professor of Professional Practice



Alana Daniel
Assistant Professor of Business Analytics and Strategic Management



Lawrence Reeves
Assistant Professor of Logistics/Supply Chain Management



William Richardson
Assistant Professor of Drama & Theatre Arts: Lighting and Scenic Design



Christopher Roberts
Instructor of Logistics/ Supply Chain Management



Kem Roper
Writing Center Director and Assistant Professor of English



Maria Steele
Clinical Instructor

To read more about our new faculty members and their areas of interest, visit their individual pages at athens.edu/people.



ATHENS STATE RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

In their effort to aid nationwide humanities research, preservation, and education, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has endowed \$10,000 to Athens State University. Out of 113 applicants, Athens State was one of 65 award recipients of the NEH Preservation Assistance Grant for Smaller Institutions. In total, the NEH awarded \$31.5 million to support 226 humanities projects across the U.S. and \$52 million in annual operating support for the national network of state and jurisdictional humanities councils.

NEH grants support research and education used to advance the preservation of historical materials and provide enriching experiences of study to humanities scholars. According to the NEH, the purpose

of the Preservation Assistance Grant for Smaller Institutions is to “Help institutions—particularly small and mid-sized institutions—improve their ability to preserve and care for their humanities collections, including special collections of books and journals, archives and manuscripts, prints and photographs, moving images, sound recordings, architectural and cartographic records, decorative and fine arts, textiles, archaeological and ethnographic artifacts, furniture, and historical objects.”

The University plans to apply the grant money towards funding an archival staff training opportunity as well as hiring consultant, Margot Note, for the general assessment and planning of the Archives’ collections. “With thousands of records in our care, we couldn’t ask for a more needed service than a thorough assessment of our materials and our facility,” said Laken Smith, University Archivist

and Assistant Librarian. “Margot Note is the perfect provider of this service as she is an experienced informational professional and a Women’s History educator. We’re excited to work with her so that we can gain a greater understanding of how to protect the collections we have, while also making them more accessible to others. We see the Archives as part of the university’s heart. When the Archives improves and strives to meet archival best practices, we become more viable. In turn, the university gains a stronger heartbeat and can maintain, preserve, and share its identity through the materials that we have.”

As a 200-year-old university, the Archives remains at the center of all history as it documents not only institutional history, but also state and American history. Smith considers the Archives a resource for “analyzing how everyday human actions shaped American history and how that past can impact our present and future.” Athens State is pleased to be a recipient of the NEH Preservation Assistance Grant for Smaller Institutions and is excited to witness the impact this award will have on the preservation of Athens State’s historical documents in the Kares Library, museums across campus, and forthcoming digital accessibility and storage. ■

ATHENS STATE RECEIVES CAEP ACCREDITATION

The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) recently announced that Athens State University is one of 35 providers from 22 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico to receive accreditation for their educator preparation programs (EPPs). This accreditation replaces Athens State’s previous accreditation with the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The Spring 2022 review by the CAEP Accreditation Council resulted in 35 newly-accredited EPPs, bringing the total to 471 providers approved under the CAEP Accreditation Standards – rigorous, nationally recognized standards that were developed to ensure excellence in educator preparation programs.

“These institutions meet high standards so that their students receive an education that prepares them to succeed in a diverse range of classrooms after they graduate,” said CAEP President Dr. Christopher A. Koch. “Seeking CAEP Accreditation is a significant commitment on the part of an educator preparation provider.”

The CAEP Board of Directors updated the educator preparation standards in 2020 as part of its commitment to reviewing the standards at least every seven years. The changes to the CAEP

standards reflect the Board’s commitment to equity and diversity and also place an emphasis on the importance of technology in preparing future educators.

CAEP is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Accreditation is a nongovernmental activity based on peer review that serves the dual functions of assuring quality and promoting improvement. CAEP was created by the consolidation of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and the Teacher Education Accreditation Council. It is a unified accreditation system intent on raising the performance of all institutions focused on educator preparation. Approximately 650 educator preparation providers participate in the CAEP Accreditation system, including some previously accredited through former standards.

Educator preparation providers seeking accreditation must pass peer review of the CAEP standards, which are based on two principles:

1. Solid evidence that the provider’s graduates are competent and caring educators, and
2. Solid evidence that the provider’s educator staff have the capacity to create a culture of evidence and use it to maintain and enhance the quality of the professional programs they offer.

If a program fails to meet one of the standards, it is placed on probation for two years. Probation may be

lifted in two years if a program provides evidence that it meets the standard.

“We are delighted to receive such a strong report from CAEP,” said Dr. Lee Vartanian, Dean of Athens State’s College of Education. “In a nutshell, CAEP wants teacher

preparation programs like Athens State’s to pursue a data-driven plan for continuous improvement and develop strong, mutually beneficial relationships with local schools, teachers, and administrators. Receiving such a glowing report from CAEP is an indication of the commitment of our faculty, staff,

and school partners as well as a confirmation that we are on the right track. We look forward to growing our collaborative relationships and continuing to enhance the quality teacher preparation our students receive.” ■

approximately 80 children in grades K-5 through eight workshops. The workshops will present lessons and activities crafted by local educators and the Center for Lifelong Learning to create an hour-long experience. The Center for Lifelong Learning plans to soon host their first STEAM Roller workshop with

latchkey program students from iAcademy at Athens Elementary once equipment and supplies are delivered. During the workshops, students will engage in creative problem-solving activities that foster teamwork and collaboration and depart with a tangible item as memorabilia. Dr. Dollar is “grateful

for the opportunity to enrich the lives of Limestone County children” with desires for the STEAM Roller to “create one more contact point in STEM fields and provide enriching opportunities to plant the seed that all children can grow up to become scientists, engineers, and so much more.” ■



ATHENS STATE RECEIVES FUNDING TO LAUNCH STEAM ROLLER PROJECT

After receiving a grant from Mazda Toyota Manufacturing, Athens State University has taken the initiative to launch STEAM Roller to address educational needs and expand education opportunities in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) to underserved youth in Limestone County. The STEAM Roller will be a mobile STEM lab traveling to

Athens City and Limestone County elementary schools and community organizations to deliver on-site lessons and activities with a goal of stimulating underserved children's interests in STEM fields. The mobile lab will be able to transform a parking lot into an outdoor classroom within twenty minutes.

The STEAM Roller project is rooted in research and statistics that demonstrate there is an opportunity access gap between underserved youth and their peers within the Limestone County community.

Currently, Limestone County and Athens City have a combined total of eleven Title I elementary schools. Serving as the education and community outreach extension of Athens State, the Center for Lifelong Learning will be leading and executing STEAM Roller, and the Athens State College of Education will take a secondary role in the project with a proposal to offer education majors field experience through their involvement with the project.

The STEAM Roller aims to provide enrichment opportunities for students who are unable to participate in summer programs or outside of school learning opportunities. Dr. Andrew Dollar, Director of the Athens State Center for Lifelong Learning, reports a 25-30% increase in attendance of youth summer camps since shifting to STEM based camps this past summer. These statistics encouraged him to ask, “What does year-round development look like?” From there, the idea to develop the STEAM Roller project grew.

During the first year of operation, the STEAM Roller will target

café 1822
Now Open!

Athens State University is pleased to announce Café 1822 as its new food service provider. Café 1822 is now open and ready to serve Athens State students, faculty, staff, and public patrons at their location in Sandridge Hall. Lunch will be served from 10am-1pm Monday-Friday.

Branded in honor of Athens State University's founding, Café 1822 offers menu items named after unique characteristics significant to the University such as Café 1822's specialty burger, “The Fiddler,” and sandwiches, “The Column” and “The Hebrew.” The café will offer selections fitted to match the typical college cuisine and delight

the taste buds of anyone who pays a visit to Café 1822. Their menu varies from salads and sandwiches to burgers and chicken tenders, catfish, and shrimp baskets. One is sure to find a menu item or two that suits and satisfies their palate upon a visit to Café 1822.

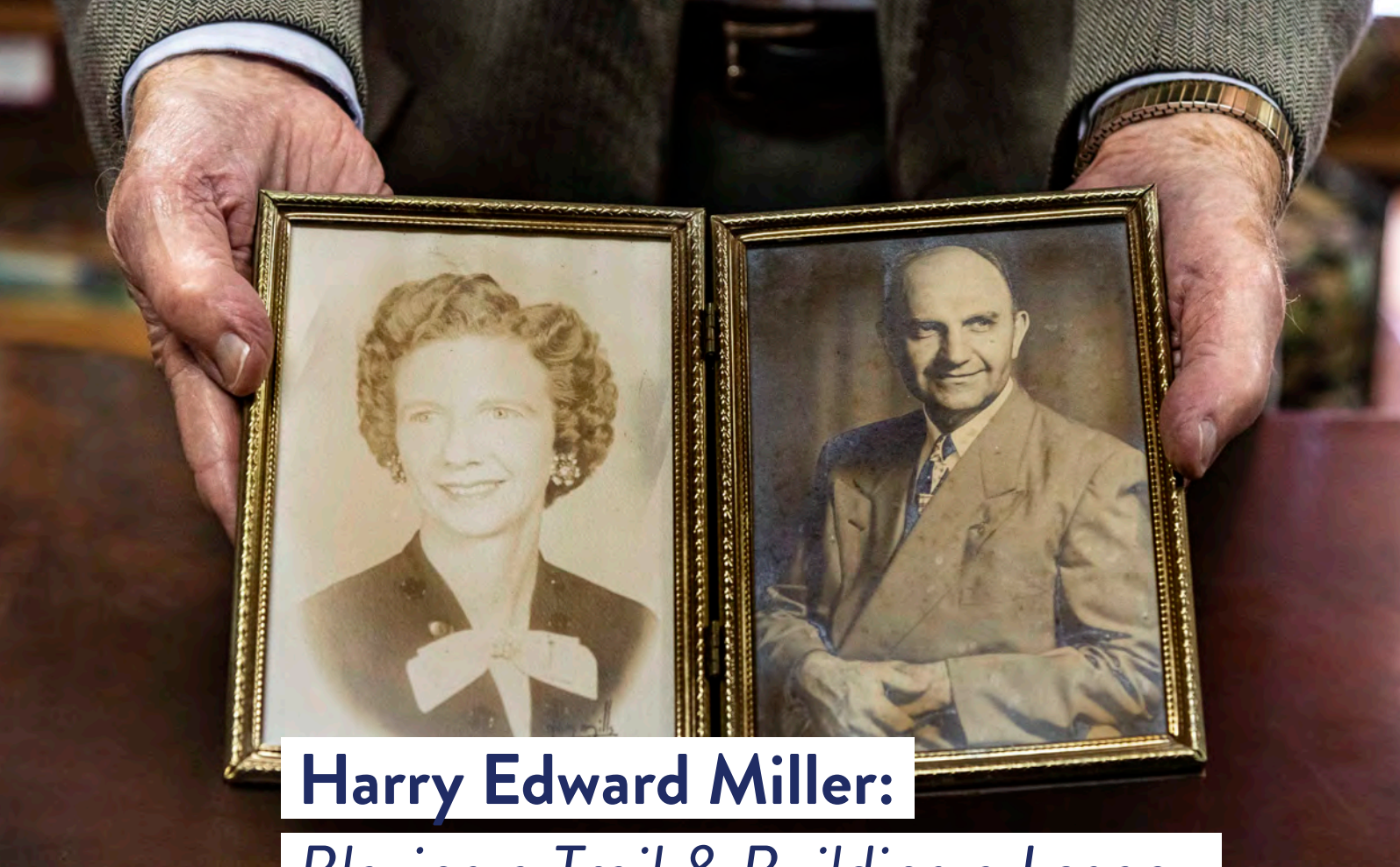
Café 1822 owners, Chuck and Angie Clark, have been in the food service business for several years. They have owned their catering business, C & A Catering, since 2006 where they cater for various events such as weddings, corporate breakfasts, and holidays and special event parties.

Athens State University gladly welcomes Café 1822 and Chuck and Angie Clark to campus, and we wish them the recipe for success in their venture as the new food service provider! ■



Courtesy of The News Courier





Harry Edward Miller: Blazing a Trail & Building a Legacy



By: Carol Chamberlain

To the benefit of Athens State University, alumnus Harry Edward Miller (Class of 1934) was a meticulous collector of artifacts reflecting his college years. And his son, H.E. (Ed) Miller, Jr., is a serious history buff who can add rich cultural and historical nuance to his dad's life timeline. Together, the Millers paint a vivid picture of life on campus at Athens College for Young Women in the 1930s.

They also provide a bit of revisionist history. Ed reached out to President Philip Way to fact-check an article appearing in the Summer 2022 issue of "The Column" claiming two men, other than his father, were the first males to enroll in the college, which was in 1930. One was a transfer

student, who graduated in 1931, and the other did not graduate from Athens College for Young Women. However, Harry Edward Miller also enrolled as a student in 1930 and was the first male to receive his complete college education at Athens College for Young Women, which resulted in his receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree on May 31, 1934. Ed clarified his assertion with copious notes and documents. His information revised school history and set the record straight here at "The Column." We stand corrected.

The following is a conversation conducted with Ed to learn more about his pragmatic father and the roads he traveled to earn a degree.



“ [My dad] liked to tell his friends: 'My wife has a Ph.D., my daughter has a Ph.D., my son has a J.D. And me? I have a J.O.B.' ”

Throughout its two-hundred-year history, Athens State University has withstood plagues, reinvented itself in dire times, survived wars and the Great Depression, and competed with colleges near and far. Its endurance reflects the determination of civic and religious leaders to keep the school afloat and the resolve of students, past and present, to get a degree — no matter what. Harry Edward Miller had that resolve.

Depression-era circumstances and tragedy combined to find young Harry in dire need of an affordable university. Sensibility and a sister with connections resulted in Harry being hired by the new business-minded President, Dr. Eugene R. Naylor, as a field representative and recruiter for the college in 1930 and Harry becoming a student at the beginning of the Fall Semester of 1930.

The relationship of Dr. Naylor, as President, and Harry, as the college's new recruiter, was mutually beneficial. Enrollment increased to all-time highs, and Harry earned his degree. Harry continued serving as the field representative after graduating for a total of nine years; his friendship with Dr. Naylor

endured a lifetime, and so did his dedication to Athens State. He served on the Athens State Alumni Board for many years and was a recipient of a Distinguished Service Award in 1986. He also endowed two student scholarship funds, which his son has continued. Harry died in 1989.

Harry's story is one of opportunity knocking and someone listening. It's a story of a student understanding the importance of education and the tenacity to reach a goal. It's also a story of how Harry did it in the 1930s, and how our students today are doing it, too. Determination does endure.

The Art of Persuasion

Harry Edward Miller was born in Dickson, Tennessee in 1910 and grew up on a farm near Spring Hill, Tennessee. His Grandfather, Augustus E. C. Miller, was born in Gotha, Germany in 1825 and immigrated to Pennsylvania in 1837 with his parents. In 1869, the Miller family moved to Dickson County, Tennessee.

By the end of Harry's junior year in high school, his four older siblings were off to college or graduated and out on their own (all but one of the siblings earned a degree). The deepening economic depression

and a devastating fire at the farm, however, gave young Harry few options. Unlike his brothers and sisters, Harry had no resources to attend Vanderbilt University (one brother had received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Vanderbilt) or the University of Tennessee, no place to call home, and nowhere to even finish high school. What to do?

Harry's father took action. He knew an influential citizen in the area south of Nashville, then also a farming community. He was an heir of Robert Irvin Moore, a prominent Tennessean who built Mooreland, a Greek Revival mansion that at one time served as a hospital to both sides during the Civil War. Harry's father persuaded the owner to take Harry in. Arrangements were made, and Mooreland became Harry's new home. Ed says the house became historically significant and a fond memory for his dad. He says Harry liked to do Mooreland drive-bys; he would reminisce and say, "That's where my bedroom was." (Mooreland is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as of 1975.)

Harry went to Franklin High School, the only high school in the county, his senior year, traveling the inter-urban track system to and from school. (The inter-urban was a type of trolley that was closed down many years ago.) Mooreland solved the high school problem for Harry,



but college affordability was still a debilitating barrier to his ultimate goal of earning a degree. Then the family's dedication to education came full circle.

Dedication to Education

Harry's sister, Clara Ragan, and her husband, Paul, lived in Athens. They were Methodists in a Methodist town, and Harry's brother-in-law, Paul, owned a Western Auto store, located a block from the county courthouse. They knew everybody, including the new president of the college, Dr. Eugene R. Naylor.

Dr. Naylor arrived on campus during the summer of 1930 to begin his nineteen-year presidency, the longest in Athens State's history. Faced with declining enrollment and significant debt, the business-minded president decided to expand the pool of

potential applicants by admitting men.

"Dr. Naylor had just been appointed president of Athens College for Young Women — remember — for Women," emphasizes Ed. He needed help recruiting students and raising money. Through Clara and Paul, Dr. Naylor met Harry and hired him on the spot. His new job was to travel in the South to recruit students, and come that fall, he could start taking classes.

Recruiting men wasn't easy, especially with the moniker of "College for Young Women" still on the letterhead. Plus, there was only dormitory space for one gender. But Harry was pragmatic. Athens was the one place he could go — so he went. He made the most of it, even playing on a ragtag football team made up of some of his own recruits, and Ed guesses, perhaps some kids from town.

Harry Recruits a Ringer

Of all Harry's recruits, he definitely considered one a ringer. He persuaded his future wife, Mabry Batson of Sylacauga, Alabama, to attend Athens College for Young Women. She, at the time, already had her sights set on another prestigious women's college, Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia. Ed says, "Dad must have been quite convincing."

Ed says his dad's entre to students was through Methodist churches scattered throughout the state and beyond, and therefore he knew Methodist ministers all over the place. Despite the heavy travel schedule, and the documented extracurricular activities, Harry

completed his degree in four years.

During his nine years on the College staff, Harry's ringer, Mabry, an English major with a minor in French, graduated in 1937, married the recruiter, became a faculty member and together the newlyweds lived on campus.

Ed says his parents' first apartment was in Founders Hall, in what is now the president's office. His dad made about \$20 a month. When children were in the offing, the Millers left Athens, moved to South Pittsburg, Tennessee, and Harry opened a Western Auto store. Then later, he bought a bigger Western Auto store in Huntsville, where Harry lived the rest of his life.

The Recruiter Builds a Career

Years after the successful move to Huntsville, Harry bought a parcel of land in Madison, Alabama, developed a subdivision, and saved space for a shopping center. (He had sold the Western Auto store in Huntsville.) He opened his own M&M Discount Store in his own Madison Mall. His motto at the store was "If you need it we have it, if we don't have it, you don't need it." That proved to be a powerful slogan. Obviously, Harry was still a recruiter — this time cultivating customers.

He had help in that endeavor from a friend, Bill Holloway, an employee who happened to be African American. Bill Holloway became a part of the Miller family. He and Ed worked together like brothers. The Millers had a well-deserved reputation of being open to everybody, were firm believers in interracial harmony, and gave

back by doling out the gift of education to many, including Bill's daughter, who attended Florida A&M University, an historic black college of high esteem.

As additional evidence of the interracial relationships was the relationship that Harry had with Frank Langford, an African American, who was an employee of the City of Madison. When he was not assigned to City duties,

Frank provided plumbing services for Harry at his shopping center. Many times, Harry had Frank join him for dinner at the Britling Cafeteria in Huntsville. The white guy and his black friend dining together turned heads. Interestingly, the supportive restaurant manager at the Britling Cafeteria is now the mayor of Huntsville, Tommy Battle. ■



High Expectations

Harry and Mabry Miller's children grew up with high expectations in the realm of education, and indeed met the challenge. Son Ed earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree at The University of the South (Sewanee), a Master of Business Administration Degree at Cumberland University, and a Doctor of Jurisprudence Degree at Vanderbilt University. Their daughter, Mabry Miller O'Donnell, received an Associate of Arts Degree from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Louisiana State University, a Master of Arts Degree from the University of Alabama, and a Doctor of Philosophy Degree from Bowling Green State University.

Their daughter's pursuit of a doctorate brought to surface Mabry's own desire to pursue a Ph.D., despite the fact that she

already was a Master's Degree holder. With Harry's blessing, Mabry went to Ohio State University and achieved her goal of earning a Ph.D. She then joined the faculty of Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, where she enjoyed a rewarding career teaching Organizational Behavior.

Harry and Mabry's professional lives from then on required a long-distance relationship, gathering only for holidays and special occasions. It was indeed a sacrifice, but each spouse was fulfilling his and her dream.

Harry liked to tell his friends: "My wife has a Ph.D., my daughter has a Ph.D., my son has a J.D. And me? I have a J.O.B." He made the educational goals of his wife and children achievable.

GOLF CLASSIC RAISES ALMOST

\$50,000 FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

The Athens State University Alumni Association hosted the 31st Annual Golf Classic on September 22 at Canebrake Club in Athens. Twenty-eight teams participated in the Classic, and the event raised almost \$50,000 for student scholarships.

Thanks to the generosity of golfers, donors, sponsors, and volunteers, the following students are current recipients of the annual golf scholarship: Valerie Davis, Kayla Hale, Olivia Logan, Branigan McPeters, Rebecca Rotermund, Anna Schrimsher, Christopher Gonzalez.

Athens State would like to express its sincerest gratitude to all donors and everyone who came together to make this event a success. The 32nd Annual Golf Classic is scheduled for Thursday, September 21, 2023.



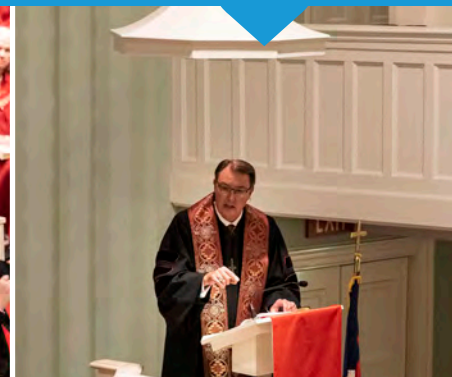


WHAT A YEAR!

Thank you for helping us celebrate our Bicentennial! Take a look back at some events that were part of our Homecoming and Bicentennial celebration. Here's to many more years of making history in our city and state!

Athens State + Trash Pandas Baseball
Athens State was proud to sponsor this game against the Birmingham Barons as a special way to kick off our Bicentennial Celebration!

A Service of Gratitude
A special service at Athens First United Methodist Church celebrated the institution's history and the obstacles it has overcome.





Athens State Community Band Concert

The Athens State University Community Band, a collaboration of musicians from the local community and the campus community, performed in McCandless Hall for a special bicentennial concert.

Movie Night, Featuring Disney's "Encanto"



Alumni Social in Merchant's Alley



Concert on the Square

A special commemoration of Athens State University's bicentennial was held in Downtown Athens with special concerts by Iron Horse and Collin Raye!

Homecoming Celebration Dinner



Summer Commencement

Alongside summer graduates, we honored the Athens College Class of 1972's 50th year of their commencement.



Nicolayeff Named Tennessee Valley Fiddle Champion, Alabama State Fiddle Champion



Katrina Nicolayeff from Meridian, Idaho was named the 2022 "Tennessee Valley Fiddle Champion" at the 55th annual Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention held at Athens State University on October 8, 2022.



As the top fiddler, Nicolayeff not only won the title of Alabama State Fiddle Champion but also the Convention's top prize of \$2,000. Justin Branum from Murfreesboro, Tennessee, who was the 2021 Fiddle Champion, finished runner-up.

The 2022 Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention was presented by Aetos Systems, Inc., with stage sponsorships by Pettus Plumbing and Piping (Brown Hall Stage) and Blake Williams Communications (Delmore Brothers Stage). Other sponsors included Redstone Federal Credit Union, Bank Independent, Nanny's Old Fashion Lemonade, Pepsi, Listerhill Credit Union, The Orthopaedic Center (TOC), Breeze Airways/Huntsville International Airport, and Johnston RV.

The Convention contributes to Athens State by funding student

scholarships and University projects. This project was made possible in part by a grant from the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area.

Music fans are encouraged to save the date for the 56th annual Fiddlers Convention, which will be held Thursday, October 5 through Saturday, October 7 in 2023. ■

2023 CONCERT SERIES:

- 2.26 | Russell Moore & Illrd Tyme Out with the Becky Buller Band
- 3.21 | Wanda Vick and Friends
- 5.11 | Rob Ickes & Trey Hensley
- 7.13 | Blue Highway
- 9.28 | Larry Sparks and the Lonesome Ramblers

SEEING STUDENTS SUCCEED:

MEET TAYLOR JORDAN

By: Anna Schrimsher

Taylor Jordan has encountered doors of opportunity throughout her time at Athens State. This summer, Taylor was admitted to the HudsonAlpha Biotech Internship program which provides college students with job experience to connect their coursework to the real-world.

Her summer at HudsonAlpha was spent working as a Genomics Lab Assistant in Dr. Richard Meyers' lab with Dr. Emily Ross on a complementary method to Chip-seq using the CUT&RUN (Cleavage Under Targets & Release Using Nuclease) method. Taylor remarked that she went into her internship knowing very little about research science, yet she stated, "It opened my eyes to brilliant things occurring in the research science industry by working on present-

day problems and implementing solutions to better civilization."

After two months of hands-on research collecting samples and going through protocols to observe transcription factors, Taylor's internship concluded with a BioTrain Symposium where she presented her poster presentation titled "Observing isolated transcription factor CTCF and associated DNA sequence regions using CUT&RUN" to HudsonAlpha faculty and staff, the families of summer interns, and the public. Those in attendance of the BioTrain Symposium were given an overview of Taylor's research and followed up with questions and further discussion on her internship and research experience.

Taylor grew up in Scottsboro, Alabama and was a 2017 graduate

of Skyline High School. After her high school graduation, Taylor made the decision to begin classes at Northeast Alabama Community College to obtain her Associate's Degree in Science. Her interest in choosing a science degree was sparked by her high school science teacher and further motivated by her college chemistry professor. She claims that both educators showed they were strongly invested in her education, and she found their classes to be interesting and fun.

In the fall of 2020, Taylor transferred to Athens State. She began her journey in pursuit of an education degree; however, after taking a few science classes she made the decision to change her major to Biology with a minor in Forensics and Investigation. Taylor commends her professors at Athens State, such as Dr. Cline and Dr. Pittman, who

encouraged her to apply for the HudsonAlpha Biotech Internship program. When asked what her favorite classes have been at Athens State, Taylor replied, "Marine Biology and Plant Ecology because I was able to go on trips to Dauphin Island and the Smokies and get to know my classmates better."

Taylor is an Athenian Ambassador, SGA Senator, and is involved in the Multicultural Empowerment Club and the Health and Science Careers Club (HSCC). She is also a scholarship recipient under the Athens State Scholars in STEM (ASSIST) scholarship program. When asked what advice she would give to other college students concerning campus involvement, Taylor replied, "Be as involved as you can. You won't get these years back. Make connections, build your network, and overall, just make friends."

Recently, Taylor has started a full-time position in a hospital handling outpatient lab services. Planning for a spring 2023 graduation, she hopes to gain experience with a smaller company in the forensic science field post grad with the possibility of returning to school to become a pathologist assistant. Taylor claims her education as very valuable and doesn't feel she would have been provided with the same opportunities for success had she



not attended Athens State. As a mother, she hopes her daughter will follow in her footsteps as she's demonstrated perseverance and determination to walk through open doors that lead to experience, knowledge of the world, and connection to other people. ■



Anna is a senior at Athens State University who is majoring in English with a minor in education. After she graduates in Spring 2023, she plans to become an English teacher, but is also open to other career opportunities that incorporate her love of writing. During the Fall 2022 semester, she has been able to use her talents and gain experience working in the Public Relations field as an intern with Athens State's Marketing &

Communications department. Real-life work experience opportunities have become vital for college students today to gain a competitive advantage in the working world after graduation. Therefore, Athens State has made it a priority to provide Experiential Learning opportunities to all students to take advantage of as they complete their undergraduate education. Examples include placing students in internships, allowing them to participate in research projects with faculty members, participation in hands-on activities in the classroom, taking expeditions to professional spaces, and allowing collaborations with community organizations and businesses. To find out more about Experiential Learning, please visit www.athens.edu/qep.

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