

THE

COLUMN

ATHENS STATE
UNIVERSITY

ATHENS.EDU

SUMMER 2026



Brown Hall

A Legacy Renewed

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 NOTE FROM *Dr. Catherine M. Wehlburg*

Dear Alumni and Friends of Athens State University,

At Athens State, we believe that preparation is only meaningful when it leads to possibility—and that is exactly what we do here. We are focused on our new Athens State Career Advantage initiative that is designed to deliver a high-quality, flexible, and relevant education to our adult learners and transfer students with a focus on ensuring that they are prepared for their next chapter.

As Alabama's transfer university, our focus is clear: to serve adult learners who are balancing careers and families and transfer students who are building on the foundation they have already created. Today, this is more important than ever. The workforce is evolving rapidly, and Athens State must not only keep pace, we must lead.

Athens State Career Advantage represents our commitment to doing just that.

This initiative is built on a simple but powerful idea: every student deserves not only a high-quality academic experience, but also a clear and supported pathway to a meaningful career. Through Career Advantage, each student is surrounded by a network of support with a Success Coach, a Faculty Mentor, a Financial Wellness Advisor, and a Career Development professional who are all working together to ensure that no question goes unanswered and no opportunity is missed.

But Career Advantage goes even further. We are strengthening the connection between what happens in the classroom and what is needed in the workforce. Through deeper engagement with our Boards of Visitors and industry partners, we are aligning our curriculum with real-world expectations, expanding opportunities for internships and applied learning, and ensuring that our graduates are prepared not just for their first job, but for long-term success and economic mobility.

This is what makes Athens State distinctive. We are built for adult learners, designed for workforce needs, and powered by the expertise and dedication of our faculty.

Summer at Athens State brings a different rhythm. It is a time that invites reflection, renewal, and preparation for what comes next. As the days grow longer and the pace slows just enough to catch our breath, it offers an opportunity to celebrate progress, reconnect with purpose, and look ahead to a new academic year filled with promise. Across our campus and communities, this season reminds us that growth is not only found in motion, but also in moments of pause that prepare us for the next chapter. I hope that you are also able to take some time to reflect and enjoy some relaxation this summer.

As you read this issue, you will see the many ways our students, alumni, faculty, and partners are bringing our vision to life. You will see preparation turning into opportunity, and opportunity opening doors to new possibilities for individuals, families, and communities. That is the power of what we do together. And that is why we will continue to move Onward Ever.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine M. Wehlburg".

Catherine M. Wehlburg, Ph.D.
President, Athens State University

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**ATHENS STATE
UNIVERSITY**

athens.edu/academics/learningpartners

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ALABAMA CENTER FOR THE ARTS ANNOUNCES NEWLY NAMED ARTHUR ORR PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The Athens State University Board of Trustees unanimously voted to name the Alabama Center for the Arts' Performing Arts building the Arthur Orr Performing Arts Center. This follows a vote from the Alabama Community College System who also approved the naming.

Senator Arthur Orr has been instrumental in the formation, development, and expansion of the Alabama Center for the Arts (ACA). For years, he has played a key role in establishing the ACA as part of broader economic and educational development efforts in North Alabama and has tirelessly worked to secure state funding for ACA projects.

"Naming the Alabama Center for the Arts after Senator Arthur Orr is a fitting tribute to a leader whose

continuous support for the arts, education, the Alabama Center for the Arts, and Athens State University has helped shape a vibrant future for creative expression in our state," said Dr. Catherine Wehlburg, President of Athens State University. "Senator Orr understands the vital role the arts play in education, workforce development, and community engagement, and we are proud to honor his legacy of support."

The Arthur Orr Performing Arts Center is a state-of-the-art performing arts facility that functions as both an educational space and a public performance venue on the ACA campus in downtown Decatur, Alabama. The Center's amenities include a recording technology computer lab, recital hall and studio theatre for performances, piano lab with Yamaha Clavinova digital pianos, scene shop for building sets, and more. ■

ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY NAMED A 2025-2026 COLLEGE OF DISTINCTION

In a higher education landscape often dominated by rankings and test scores, Athens State University has been recognized for what truly matters: a transformative undergraduate experience. For the 2025-2026 academic year, Athens State has been named a College of Distinction, a prestigious designation awarded to schools whose commitment to engaged, experiential education sets them apart.

This recognition is based on Colleges of Distinction's unique evaluating criteria known as the Four Distinctions: Engaged Students, Great Teaching, Vibrant Community, and Successful Outcomes. Through extensive research and interviews, Colleges of Distinction identifies institutions that make a meaningful impact on students' lives, not just ones that fight their way to the top of rankings lists.

"This recognition as a College of Distinction reflects the spirit of who we are at Athens State University," said Dr. Catherine Wehlburg, Athens State University President. "We believe education should be transformative — an experience that not only expands knowledge, but shapes confidence, purpose, and possibility. This honor celebrates not only our institution, but the determination, curiosity, and resilience of our students, our faculty, and staff. At Athens State, we measure success by the lives we help change,

the opportunities we help unlock, and the futures our graduates go on to create.”

“Athens State University has crafted a campus culture where students are empowered to take ownership of their learning,” said Tyson Schritter, Chief Operating Officer at Colleges of Distinction. “Its programs reflect the kind of innovation and intentionality that prepare students for life after graduation.”

Unlike rankings that focus on prestige-driven metrics, Colleges of Distinction highlights schools that champion educational impact. That includes everything from first-year seminars and collaborative projects to undergraduate research, global learning, and internships. Athens State’s inclusion is a result of its commitment to these high-impact practices and the personalized support it offers students throughout their college journey.

“We’ve never believed in ranking schools,” Schritter continued. “Our goal is to celebrate institutions that help students find their place, their purpose, and their potential. Athens State stands out for creating an environment where students thrive not just academically, but as whole people.”

In addition, Athens State has also been recognized as a **2025-2026 Business College of Distinction, 2025-2026 Education College of Distinction, and recipient of the 2025-2026 Career Development badge.**

The Business College of Distinction award is granted to schools whose undergraduate business programs balance classroom theory with real-world application, preparing graduates to lead with confidence, integrity, and agility. To qualify for this badge, schools must demonstrate accreditation, well-

rounded curricula, applied learning experiences, and a track record of successful outcomes.

The Education College of Distinction award recognizes an institution’s proven ability to graduate confident, compassionate, and classroom-ready teachers. Receiving the Career Development badge shows that Athens State has demonstrated a clear dedication to helping students translate their college experience into meaningful careers.

To view Athens State’s profile or learn more about its programs, visit collegesofdistinction.com/school/athens-state-university. ■



COULTER WINS SEVERAL ADDY AWARDS

Congratulations to Grant Coulter for winning six awards at the Addy's: one bronze, one silver, two gold, and two Judges Choice Awards. He will receive his Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) this year with a concentration in Graphic Design.

Learn more about Athens State's BFA program at athens.edu/BFA.



ATHENS STATE AWARDED \$2M GRANT FROM U.S. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Athens State University has been awarded a \$2,000,000 U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to increase STEM degree completion of low-income and high-achieving undergraduates. Fourteen scholarships of up to \$15,000 each will be available to students majoring in a STEM field through the College of Arts and Sciences for the Fall 2026 semester.

This project will contribute to the national need for well-educated scientists, mathematicians, engineers, and technicians by supporting the retention and graduation of high-

achieving, low-income students with demonstrated financial need at Athens State University. Across the 6-year grant duration, a total of 28 scholars pursuing a bachelor of science in Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Information Technology, Cyber Security, or Mathematics will receive scholarships up to \$15,000 per year. Scholars will receive faculty, peer and community mentoring, and the project will build strong scholar cohorts through virtual seminar speakers, virtual tutoring, and an orientation STEM course.

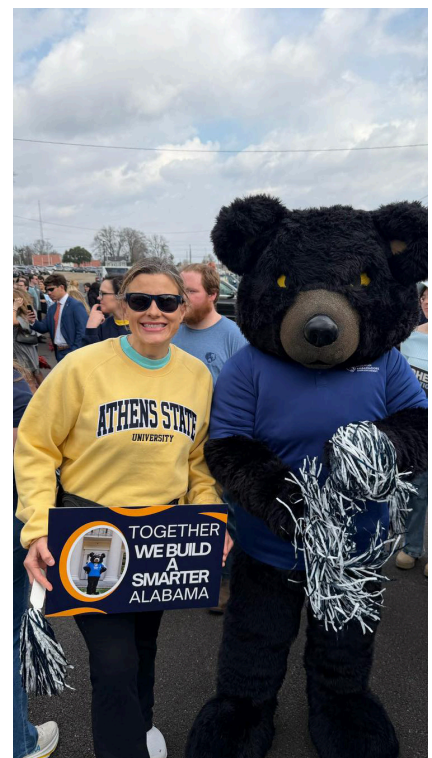
There is a significant national need to grow the STEM workforce, particularly in North Alabama, and nurture key talent that will ensure economic competitiveness and provide domestic leadership across

critical sectors. This project directly speaks to this need by supporting STEM student success, which will strengthen the workforce in biotechnology, aerospace, computing and other key areas of need.

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

For more information, visit www.athens.edu/assist. ■

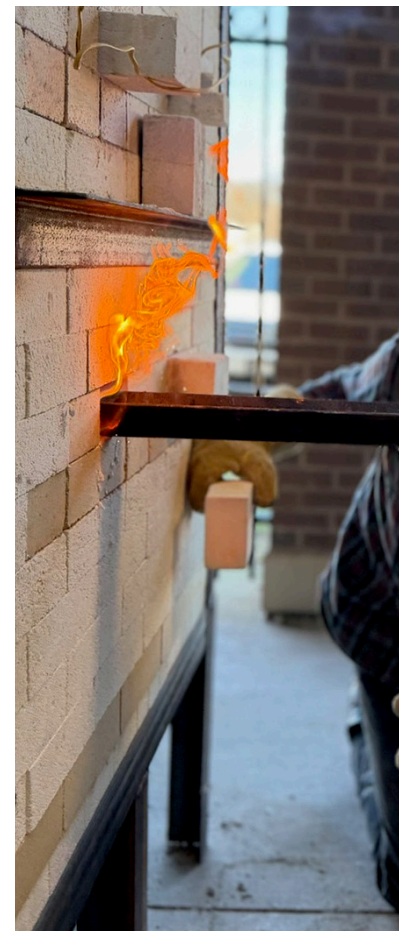
Earlier in the year, Athens State students made the journey to Montgomery, AL to join nearly 1,000 students representing all of Alabama's public 4-year institutions for **Higher Education Day**. The event is orchestrated each year by the Alabama Higher Education Partnership (HEP) and is designed to provide students with the opportunity to advocate for increased funding and support from state legislators.



The Alabama Center for the Arts hosted a four-day **Soda Firing Workshop** in February that brought together ceramic artists and students to explore the unique surfaces created through the soda firing process. Held in the ceramics studio and kiln yard, participants prepared bisque-fired pieces with bare clay or slip surfaces before learning how to load the kiln using close stacking and tumble stacking techniques designed to guide flame movement and soda ash throughout the chamber.

During the multi-day firing process, participants explored soda ash introduction methods, kiln soaking, and cooling techniques that influence color and surface development. When the kiln was finally opened, each piece revealed distinctive flashing and soda glaze effects, producing a range of colors from browns and greys to reds and pinks.

With one of only a few soda kilns in the state of Alabama, the ACA continues to offer a rare hands-on learning environment for ceramic artists and MFA students interested in atmospheric firing methods.



YOUR CAREER ADVANTAGE

AT ATHENS STATE

ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES

Career Advantage Initiative To Transform Adult Learning and Workforce Alignment



Athens State University has announced its new Career Advantage initiative, a comprehensive framework designed to better serve adult learners, strengthen workforce alignment, and position the institution at the forefront of higher education innovation.

Built with working adults in mind, the Career Advantage model emphasizes accessible, affordable, and efficient pathways to degree completion and career advancement. Through flexible scheduling, transfer-friendly pathways, and prior learning assessment, the initiative enables students to translate real-world experience into academic credit and accelerate their progress.

“Our mission is to meet students where they are and help them move forward with purpose,” said Athens State President Dr. Catherine Wehlburg. “Career Advantage reflects our commitment to making higher education more relevant, responsive, and impactful for today’s workforce.”

The framework is grounded in employer-informed curriculum and real-world application, ensuring programs align with regional and national economic needs. Students can build toward degrees through stackable credentials while gaining verified



competencies tied to employer-recognized skills. Applied learning experiences allow students to address real workplace challenges, and agile program development ensures offerings remain responsive to evolving labor market demands.

Student success is central to the Career Advantage model, with a fully integrated support system embedded from day one. Each student is supported by a coordinated team that includes Success Coaches providing proactive guidance, faculty mentors offering academic and professional insight, career coaches connecting students to employment opportunities, and financial aid advisors helping to reduce financial barriers. This structured approach ensures consistent support from enrollment through career placement.

Programs are powered by academically qualified faculty and industry-certified professionals who bring both scholarly rigor and current workplace expertise into the classroom. Mentorship is embedded throughout the student experience, reinforcing engagement, relevance, and long-term success.

Career Advantage also reflects Athens State's commitment to lifelong learning. The university serves as a partner throughout each student's career journey, offering multiple entry points including non-degree credentials and certificates, as well as pathways to bachelor's and master's degrees that support continued advancement, specialization, and leadership development. ■



+1,000
GRADUATES IN
CLASS OF 2025

2,832
CURRENT
STUDENTS

35,630
LIVING ALUMNI

\$305,272
FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED IN 2025

SAVE THE DATE: AUGUST 4 | **ATHENS.EDU/GIVING-DAY**





Brown Hall

A Legacy Renewed

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on March 30 to celebrate the grand opening of the newly renovated Brown Hall building on Athens State's campus. This iconic, columned three-story structure that stands directly behind Founders Hall was constructed in 1912 and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986. It is the second oldest building on the Athens State campus behind Founders Hall.

Brown Hall is named in honor of Ms. Florence Brown, the 21-year-old staff member who remained with young women on campus who were too ill to travel as a result of the 1909 typhoid epidemic that claimed the lives of 15 students. Ms. Brown also succumbed to the epidemic on November 5, 1909.

The historic building has been transformed into a space for the University's growing Health Sciences programs. Brown Hall was built for students in honor of a woman who gave her life in service to students, and Athens State has renewed that mission to utilize Brown Hall to serve students once again.

"Over the years, Brown Hall has evolved with Athens State University," said President Wehlburg. "It's been a residence hall, the President's home, offices for the Provost, and many others. Today we celebrate the start of a new chapter as this becomes the home of our



Nursing and Health Sciences faculty, an especially fitting purpose for a building rooted in a legacy of care, healing, and service.”

Dr. Wehlburg continued, “As we stand here today, we are reminded that places like Brown Hall are not just structures, they are stories. They carry forward the values of those who came before us and inspire the work that we do here today. In this space, we will continue to prepare students, especially those entering the health professions, to serve others with the same level of dedication and purpose that Florence Brown exemplified. This is who we are at Athens State – honoring our past, shaping our future, and always moving onward ever.”

“This is a day that has been a long time coming,” said Senator Arthur Orr. “The renovation of Brown Hall is a great accomplishment for Athens State and puts us in a great position for the future of higher education in the

Athens and North Alabama area. I’m pleased the facility will house Health Sciences faculty, which is a growing area of our economy and our workforce needs. Athens State is taking the lead in providing nurses for us across North Alabama - what an important mission for this institution to undertake, and now we have a great place to do it.”

Later that day, a separate ribbon cutting was held to celebrate the grand opening of Pillar & Paw’s new, permanent location on the top floor of the Sandridge Student Center. The campus gift store also includes an adjoining coffee shop, appropriately named “heBREW’s” on behalf of Athens State’s mascot, Hebrew the Bear. Store hours are Monday – Friday from 9:00 am – 4:30 pm. ■





NAZARETIAN ALUMNI WELCOME CENTER FACILITATES VENUE FOR CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

Since its groundbreaking on July 25, 2025, the Nazaretian Alumni Welcome Center has served as a vibrant hub for connection, celebration, and community engagement at Athens State University. The space has welcomed alumni, friends, state legislators, faculty, and staff for a variety of meaningful gatherings, reinforcing its role as a cornerstone for the Office of Alumni Affairs and campus life.

One of the highlights from the first year of the Nazaretian Alumni Welcome Center's opening was the Alumni & Friends Mixer held in February. The evening brought together graduates and supporters for an opportunity to reconnect and build new relationships in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere. The mixer exemplified the growing enthusiasm for alumni engagement and the importance of creating spaces where connections can flourish. The foundational work being

established by the Office of Alumni Affairs continues to strengthen the bond between Athens State and its extended community.

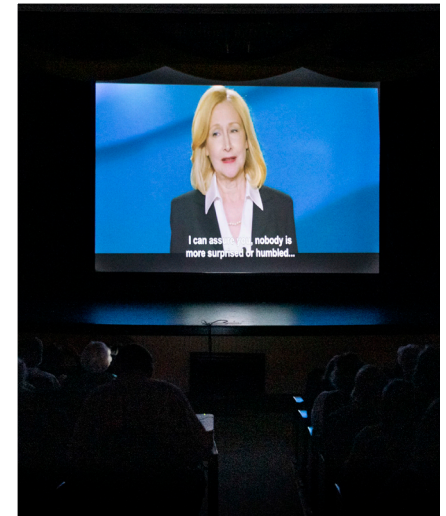
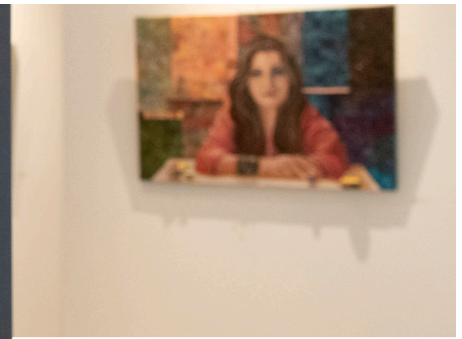
The Nazaretian Alumni Welcome Center also hosted guests during one of Athens State's most beloved traditions, the Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention. During the convention, the Welcome Center hosted two Alumni Gatherings, providing a dedicated space for graduates to reconnect with classmates, network, and enjoy time on campus. The spirit of nostalgia and pride that defines the Athens State alumni experience was meaningfully captured during the gatherings.

In addition to signature events like the Alumni & Friends Mixer and the Alumni Gatherings, the Nazaretian Alumni Welcome Center has housed a range of artwork exhibitions. The first exhibition featured the work of world-renown artists in "Vietnam: Then and

Now," followed by Athens State MFA student exhibitions titled "Light on the Land" and "Wise Women."

On a regular basis, the space is used for smaller gatherings, meetings, and campus initiatives, further establishing itself as a versatile and welcoming addition to the Athens State campus. The Nazaretian Alumni Welcome Center reflects Athens State's commitment to fostering lifelong relationships with alumni and providing opportunities for engagement that extend beyond graduation.

Looking ahead, the Nazaretian Alumni Welcome Center will remain a vital space for connection, celebration, and community. With each event, it continues to bring the Athens State family together, honoring the past while building excitement for the future. ■

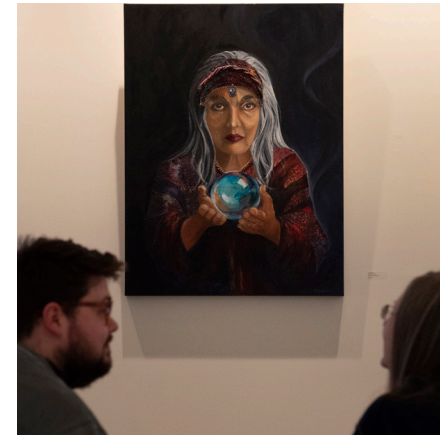


HONORING LILLY: ATHENS STATE CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The Athens State University community gathered on March 12, for a meaningful and reimagined International Women's Day celebration, honoring the life and legacy of Lilly Ledbetter. The evening began with a special exhibition viewing in the Nazaretian Alumni Welcome Center, where guests explored "Wise Women," featuring the work of Master of Fine Arts student Char Baxter. Attendees then moved to McCandless Hall for a screening of LILLY, enjoying complimentary popcorn and signature cocktails as part of the experience.

More than a film, the evening served as a tribute to Ledbetter's lasting impact and deep connection to Athens State—as a former keynote speaker, Commencement speaker, and Presidential Medal of Honor recipient. A national advocate for pay equity and a cherished friend of the University, her legacy continues

to inspire the community. Through reflection and shared experience, the event brought the campus together in remembrance, admiration, and celebration of a woman whose voice and influence will always remain part of the Athens State story. ■



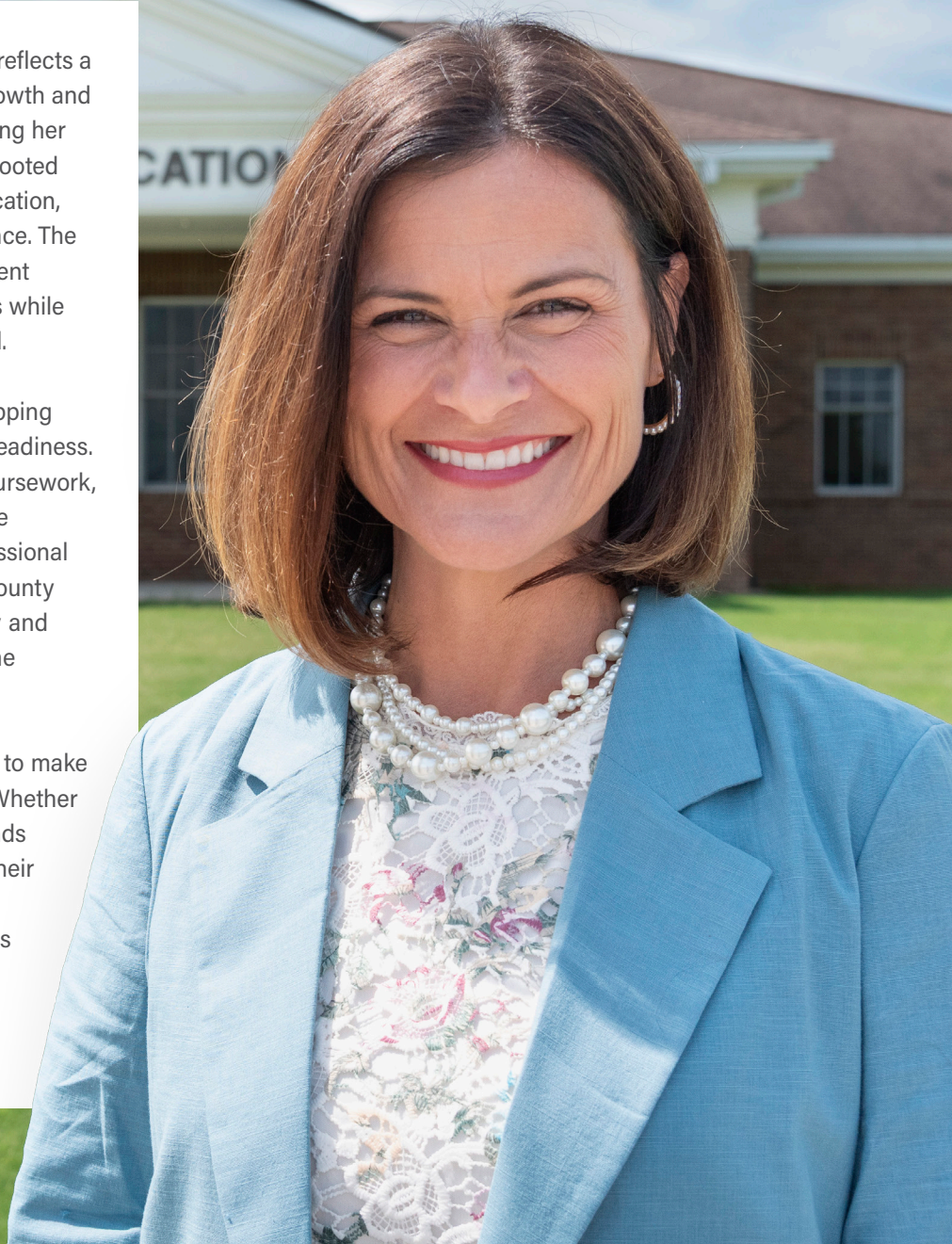
ATHENS STATE GRADUATES

IN THE WORKPLACE

April Hall's Athens State journey reflects a commitment to professional growth and lifelong learning. After completing her degree, she built a strong foundation rooted in practical skills and real-world application, hallmarks of the Athens State experience. The University's flexible learning environment allowed her to balance responsibilities while preparing for advancement in her field.

Athens State played a key role in equipping Hall with the tools needed for career readiness. With supportive faculty, accessible coursework, and a focus on applied knowledge, she confidently transitioned into her professional role as Finance Director for Morgan County Schools. The emphasis on adaptability and critical thinking helped her navigate the evolving demands of her career.

Today, Hall's work is driven by a desire to make a meaningful impact on others' lives. Whether guiding, supporting, or leading, she finds purpose in helping individuals reach their full potential. Her experience reflects how Athens State empowers graduates to turn education into action and purpose into progress.





Rick Rosenblum's time at Athens State helped shape both his academic and professional path. Earning his degree in Computer Science provided him with not only subject-matter expertise but also the confidence to pursue new opportunities and advance within his career in the tech industry. His experience highlights the value of finishing strong and building on prior educational foundations.

The career-focused approach at Athens State prepared Rosenblum to step directly into the workforce with applicable skills. From collaborative learning experiences to faculty mentorship, he developed a practical understanding of his field that translated seamlessly into his day-to-day responsibilities. This preparation positioned him to contribute immediately and effectively in his profession.

In his current role, Rosenblum is motivated by the impact his work has on those around him. He values the ability to solve problems, support others, and make meaningful contributions within his organization. His journey is a testament to how Athens State graduates are prepared to lead with purpose and create lasting impact in their industries.



Jodie Gray graduated from Athens State in May 2025 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, marking a major milestone in a journey defined by perseverance and determination. Despite facing significant life challenges, she remained committed to her goal of building a better future for herself and her family.

Athens State's flexible and supportive environment played a crucial role in Gray's success. From accommodating her schedule to providing responsive faculty support, the University ensured she could continue progressing toward her degree. These resources not only helped her complete her education but also prepared her education but also prepared her for advancement in the healthcare field.

Today, Gray serves as a Staff Development Coordinator, where she trains and supports healthcare staff, a work made possible by earning her BSN. Her daily work is rooted in compassion and a desire to give back, both to her patients and her community. For Gray, her career is more than a job; it's a way to uplift others and create a lasting legacy for her children.

In Remembrance

Dr. Jerry Bartlett

*I*t is with deep sadness that we share the news of the passing of Dr. Jerry Bartlett, a devoted leader and an important part of the Athens State University story.

Dr. Bartlett served as Athens State's 35th President from 1991 to 2008, making him one of the longest-serving presidents in our institution's history. His leadership spanned nearly two decades of significant growth and transformation, and his vision helped shape the university we now know today.

During his presidency, Dr. Bartlett led the construction of Kares Library, the Classroom Building, and the courtyard—spaces that continue to support learning, community, and connection. He guided the rebranding of Athens State as a university, helping distinguish it within Alabama's higher education landscape, and laid critical groundwork for distance learning and online coursework that expanded access for generations of students.

Dr. Bartlett's service to Athens State extended far beyond his presidency. He dedicated a total of 41 years to the institution, beginning as a business faculty member in 1967. In 1983, he joined the president's administrative staff, drawing on his legal expertise to help guide the university through the Title VI desegregation lawsuit. He later co-authored the consent decree that resolved most claims involving Athens State and Calhoun Community College. Under his leadership, both the College of Business and the College of Education achieved national accreditation—an enduring testament to his commitment to academic quality and integrity.

For many, Dr. Bartlett was not only a president or colleague, but a steady presence whose work quietly shaped opportunities for students, faculty, and staff alike. His legacy is visible across our campus and embedded in the mission we continue to carry forward.

We are grateful for his many years of dedication to Athens State University and honor the incredible impact he made on our community.



CLASS NOTES

DEC 25 - APR 26

Current Students

- Robert Cheatham has been named Plant Manager for the Chore-Time manufacturing facility in Decatur, Alabama.
- Easton Henderson has been named the Junior Varsity Baseball Coach for Sparkman High School in Harvest, Alabama. He also recently took a PE coach position with Midtown Elementary School in Madison, Alabama.

Class of 2025

- Heather Boyanton has been hired as a Prevention Facilitator in Jackson County Schools and Scottsboro City Schools.
- Sondra Dudley has started a new position as Program Manager with the Rural Health Maternal Health Disparities Consortium (RMDC).
- Kelsey Porter has been hired as a RN Medical Reviewer with Blue Cross Blue Shield.
- Amanda Scott recently began a new job as Staff Accountant at Sparks CPA Firm.

Class of 2024

- Nicholas Rizzo recently completed his Master of Communication Design from Liberty University, was named the Director

of the East Walker County Chamber of Commerce, and began a position as an adjunct art instructor for Beville State Community College.

- Olivia Rizzo recently accepted a position as a Middle School Science Teacher for Athens Middle School.

Class of 2023

- Brett Gonzalez, Class of 2023 & 2024, has been promoted to Coordinator of Enrollment Outreach/CRM Administrator at Northwest Shoals Community College.
- Terika Johnson-Portlock joined Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Xi Delta Zeta Chapter of McIntosh, Alabama in Fall 2025.

Class of 2021

- Matthew Towery has welcomed a daughter (February 2022) and a son (May 2024). He is currently working at Fayetteville Middle School as the P.E Teacher, and is also the Boy's and Girl's Head Basketball Coach.

Class of 2015

- Chris Allen was recently interviewed on Story Financial Partners' podcast.
- Nathan Springer has been appointed as Decatur's new Fire Chief.

Class of 2013

- Ashley Claborn has started a new position as Administrative Assistant, Personal Workspace Solutions at Logitech.

Class of 2011

- Nathan Smitherman has been appointed the new fire chief in Alabaster, Alabama.

Class of 2010

- Brent Rhodes has been honored with the Star of Life Award.

Class of 2009

- Ryan C. Tittle's play STILLDEATH had its World Premiere as part of the 27th annual Theatre Oxford Ten-Minute Play Festival February 20-21, 2026.

Class of 2005

- Mrinal Joshi has received the National Educator of the Year Award from the National Space Club.

Class of 2000

- Fred Abernathy has completed the CASE Special Education Leadership Institute.

Class of 1997

- Randy Centanni has been named Vice President of Business Development at Venturi.

Class of 1994

- Don Phillips was recently promoted to Clinical Director at His Way, Inc. in Huntsville.

Class of 1991

- Russell Bryant recently retired from Brigham Young University as the Director of Marketing - Division of Continuing Education after 22 years.

Class of 1989

- Jimmy Bright recently released his newest book, "Who is Gregg?"

Class of 1986

- Kent Chambers was elected Mayor of Eva, Alabama.

Class of 1972

- Mary Gem Johnson has been inducted into the Hartselle Educator Hall of Fame.
- Brenda Parr Spencer has been inducted into the Hartselle Educator Hall of Fame.

Class of 1942

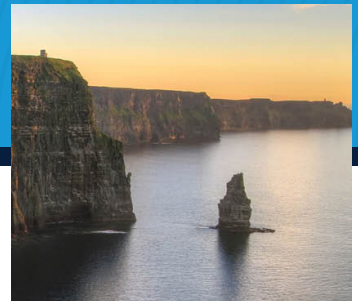
- Mary Lillyan Landreth Wilson celebrated her 105th birthday on March 16.

Let your fellow Athens State alumni see what you've been up to! Submit your alumni updates at athens.edu/alumni.

LET'S GO!

ATHENS STATE GROUP TRAVEL

Discover the world with Athens State! Our travel experiences are open to alumni, faculty, staff, students, and community members. Everyone is welcome to travel with the Athens State Bears!



2026 Destinations:

REAL BRITAIN

10 Days (Sept. 26 - Oct. 4)

SPAIN'S COSTA DEL SOL & MADRID

10 Days (Sept. 26 - Oct. 4)

2027 Destinations:

IRISH SPLENDOR

8 Days (Mar. 4 - 11)

CANADIAN ROCKIES & GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

7 Days (Jan. 6 - 12)

COMING SOON:
CHRISTMAS MARKETS OF
GERMANY, SWITZERLAND,
& FRANCE (Dec. 2027)

2028 Destinations:

CLASSICAL GREECE + MORE DESTINATIONS COMING SOON!

For more information, scan the code or contact Alumni Affairs:
256.233.8114 | alumni@athens.edu



SAVE THE DATE!

2026



**ATHENS STATE ALUMNI
+ ATHENS MAIN STREET
FRIDAYS
AFTER FIVE**

JUNE 26 | 5-7 PM
@ The LaunchBox



**ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY
HOMECOMING**

JULY 24

*50-Year Club Brunch will be held
July 25th following the summer
commencement ceremony.*



**ATHENS STATE ALUMNI
FIDDLERS 5K
FUN DAY**

SEPTEMBER 26
Athens State Campus



**TENNESSEE VALLEY
OLD TIME
FIDDLERS
CONVENTION**

SEPT. 30 - OCT. 3

*Lineup includes:
The Larry Sparks Show, Mike
Compton & Andy Todd, The Isaacs,
and the Del McCoury Band*



**35TH ANNUAL
ALUMNI
GOLF CLASSIC**

OCTOBER 19

Canebrake Club of Athens



**ATHENS
STATE**
UNIVERSITY

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ATHENS, AL 35611

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE **PAID**
ATHENS, AL 35611
PERMIT 122

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

New!

ATHENS STATE LICENSE PLATE DESIGN



Each license plate helps fund scholarships, so your support directly impacts students and their quest for success.

For more information, scan the code or visit the Alabama Department of Revenue's website.

