



# Strictly Business

## Announcing Two New Graduate Programs

### Bachelor of Science with Majors in:

- Accounting
- Acquisition & Contract Management
- Advanced Manufacturing Management
- Aerospace Systems Management
- Health Care Management
- Human Resource Management
- Logistics & Supply Chain Management
- Management
- Management of Cybersecurity Operations
- Management of Technology
- Occupational Health and Safety Management

### Master of Accountancy

#### Master of Science with Majors in:

- Acquisition and Contract Management
- Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management
- Strategic Healthcare Management & Administration
- Strategic Human Resource Management
- Strategic Leadership and Business Analytics

In Fall 2022, the College of Business launched a new Master of Accountancy (MAcc) program. This program can provide students with advanced knowledge and a diverse set of skills in current, developing, and emergence accounting topics. The program will help accelerate students' careers and prepare them to pursue leadership positions in public accounting, industry, government, and not-for-profit organizations. The MAcc helps prepare students for the Uniform Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Examination and to meet the 150-credit hour requirement for CPA certification in Alabama and many other states. It also provides a solid foundation to pursue other professional

accounting certifications.

Flexible and affordable, the program features a high-quality, cutting-edge curriculum and a uniquely-qualified faculty with industry experience and professional certifications that combine to bring the real world into the courses. In its first semester, the program has 31 students enrolled.

The M.S. Acquisition and Contract Management was approved by ACHE to launch Spring 2023. This program is designed for professionals seeking a degree that prepares them with the strategic decision-making skills necessary for management positions in any organization. The pro-

gram focuses on procurement, contract negotiations, cost principles, and subcontract formulation, among other topics.

The Huntsville area is expected to see 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.

For more information regarding these and all of our graduate programs, contact Mallory Jackson, Graduate Support Services Administrator for the College of Business, at [Mallory.Jackson@athens.edu](mailto:Mallory.Jackson@athens.edu) or 256-216-5351.

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## Athens State University Celebrates 200 Years!



Athens State University celebrated its 200th birthday with a week-long series of activities that coincided with Homecoming and Summer Commencement. Events included Athens State Game Night with the Trash Pandas at

Toyota Field in Madison, Alabama; a special Service of Gratitude at Athens First United Methodist Church; a concert by the Athens State Community Band; a family movie night; and a concert on the square featuring Iron Horse and Collin Raye.

Faculty and staff also participated in special field games during the week which included kickball, cornhole, and pickleball competitions. Various buildings on campus competed for best building dec-

oration to honor the big event. Sanders Hall, the College of Business office building, won second place with its "Rocking Chairs to Rockets" theme. First place honors went to McCandless Hall with its "Ghosts of McCandless" theme. Third place was awarded to Founders Hall which featured representations of famous people and events associated with its hallowed halls.

Happy Birthday, Athens State, and here's to many more!

## Aerospace Systems Management Major Blasts Off!

The B.S. Aerospace Systems Management is the newest undergraduate program and was approved for launch in Fall 2022. The program includes two possible concentrations: Aviation and Space Systems. The program has attracted some well-qualified instructors. On April 9, Faith Hooper, an adjunct instructor for the program, met with members of the Alabama Chapter of the 99's, a women's aviation organization co-founded by Amelia Earhart in the 1930s. Ms. Hooper, a private pilot and aircraft owner, is a member of the organization, currently serving as its Vice Chair. The 99's have several hundred members in Alabama alone and represent a significant movement in the

aviation industry, many of whom are interested in advancing their careers with a four-year degree.

Dr. M.J. Marggraff, is another adjunct professor for this program.



Dr. Marggraff has participated in research to identify an innovative application to mitigate the health risks of astronaut isolation on long-duration space flights. She continues to develop the first social agent for space that time-shifts communication for astronauts in time-delay conditions. Her innovations have earned her two U.S. patents. Dr. Marggraff is a commercial pilot and former flight and advanced ground instructor.

Dr. Wayne McCain is the lead professor and developer of this new program. He has done a masterful job in recruiting these and other highly qualified instructors.

## BS-ASM Students Launch High Altitude Balloons

On Saturday, June 25, members of the Athens State American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Student Branch, in conjunction with the local Athens Amateur Radio Club, launched high altitude telemetry balloons. The event was designed to support training of Aerospace Systems Management students in Mission Control and Com-

munications. It also supported a course of the same name being taught during the summer term. The balloons may circumvent the Earth if they are able to catch the Jet Stream. Athens State's Mission Control team will track the balloons that report GPS coordinates, altitude, speed, and other data.

"It's a great opportunity to involve our ASM students, local STEM students, and others in a real mission," said ASM Professor, Dr. Wayne McCain. "It's also good training for our future STEM-SAT1 (Radio-Astronomy CubeSat) launch scheduled for 2023 on a Vaya Space Dauntless rocket."

## ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY HOSTS 99TH ANNUAL ALABAMA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE CONFERENCE

Athens State University hosted the 99th Annual Meeting of the Alabama Academy of Science from March 16-18, 2022. Members from the Alabama Academy of Science (AAS), Alabama Junior Academy of Science (AJAS), and Gorgas were in attendance. The guest speaker for the banquet was Dr. Jan Davis, retired aerospace professional with experience as an astronaut, engineer, and senior manager. Dr. Richard M. Myers, President and Science Director of HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology, served as the

AJAS speaker.

Students from across the state of Alabama competed at the conference, and several students from Athens State University earned awards in their fields. Len Naugher, Aerospace Systems Management Adjunct Instructor and Athens State University graduate student, from Springville, Alabama, won first place in the STEM Education paper category for "Takeoff Killer—As-Loaded Stall Speed." Brandi Wheeler, Aerospace Systems Management Major,

from Somerville, Alabama, won second place in the STEM Education poster category for "STEM-SAT1—Radio Astronomy CubeSat Project." Other winners were Evan Martin and Olivia Rizzo (Biology), Levi Seibert (Computer Science), and Roy Nagle (Sociology).

In 2023, the 100th Annual Meeting of the Alabama Academy of Science is scheduled for March 8-10 and is to be hosted by Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama.

## COB Students Earn Lean Six Sigma White Belt

Over the course of the summer semester, five students earned their Lean Six Sigma White Belt Certification through The Council for Six Sigma Certification. This signified that an individual has been provided, and has demonstrated an understanding of, the most basic level of the Six Sigma Methodology. The White Belt Certification designation also reflects knowledge by the individual of the basic definition, history, and structure of the discipline.

Dennis Nelson, B.S. Individualized Degree Program, states, “I have been a machinist for over 35 years, with extensive experience in aerospace industries. My current position as a

department lead has given me the opportunity to work in the cost aspect of the business. Taking this class has helped me understand the difference in waste and time management. My employer is already heavily invested in the Six Sigma way of life. So, with this new knowledge, I feel like I can be an added benefit to my employer.”

Wesley Watts, B.S. Advanced Manufacturing Management, is currently employed with Clayton Homes Building Group as a Customer Success Manager. Upon graduation, he plans to use what he has learned at Athens State to become a General Manager of a Clayton Homes facility.

Other students achieving this designation were Dominick Zarnesky, B.S. Individualized Degree Program; Jennifer Rivara, B.S. Advanced Manufacturing Management; and Bonita Schatz, B.S. Accounting.



## Accounting Major Competes in Pageant



In January, Lauren Gray, an Athens State University accounting major, competed in the 2022 Miss Alabama USA pageant held at the Gogue Performing Arts Center in Auburn, Alabama. She was one of the first women to compete in a wheelchair.

Ms. Gray, previously crowned Miss Flint River USA, won the title of “Miss Congeniality” during the state-wide competition. She hopes to encourage and inspire others with disabilities to

pursue their dreams. “If you have a disability—or even if you don’t have a disability—don’t let the obstacles get in the way.”

The Huntsville native was born with arthrogryposis, a rare disorder that affects the joints and muscles. It can cause stiffness, weakness, restricted movement, spine curvature, underdeveloped limbs, and more. Ms. Gray has used a wheelchair since she was three years old.

## CLL Opens New Entrepreneurial Center

Located at 121 South Marion Street on the east side of the historic Courthouse square in Athens, Alabama, the Center for Lifelong Learning opened in 2012 and has served as the continuing education and outreach extension of Athens State University. The LaunchBox Entrepreneurial Center project, opened October 1, is a collaborative partnership between Athens State University, the Greater Limestone County Chamber of Commerce, City of Athens, Limestone County Economic Development Association, and Main Street Athens.

Located in the fastest growing county in Alabama, the LaunchBox Entrepreneurial Center will serve as a collaborative workspace for aspiring entrepreneurs, students, investors, small businesses, idea makers, and government. Its purpose includes creating

new jobs, increasing investment, and innovating business solutions in Athens and Limestone County. The center plans to offer business development assistance, professional network and relationship support, community educational programs, and facility-based services. It will also include multi-use, collaborative workspace, virtual pre-incubator programming, a technology-based conference room, and ongoing technical support services to strengthen and diversify local entrepreneurial endeavors.

States Dr. Andrew Dollar, Director of the Center for Lifelong Learning, “Athens and Limestone County are full of talented and innovative thinkers. This project aims to harness the local talent to build an ecosystem throughout Limestone County and encourages creativity, risk taking, and

growth. The LaunchBox will serve as a source of economic and community engagement to help generate growth and investment in our area.”



**Dr. Andrew Dollar** speaks at press conference announcing LaunchBox Entrepreneurial Center.



## SHRM News

SHRM (the Society for Human Resource Management) awarded a 2021-2022 Outstanding Student Chapter Award designation to the Athens State University SHRM student chapter for providing superior growth and development opportunities to its student members. The award encourages the development of more effective student chapters and distinguishes outstanding activities and projects.

Said Johnny C. Taylor, Jr.,

SHRM-CP, SHRM President and CEO, "The hard work of Athens State shows the future of the profession is, indeed, in good hands."

At right, members of Athens State University's SHRM chapter are shown in attendance at the Tennessee Labor-Relations Foundation Conference. The conference is an annual meeting of HR professionals and labor-relations officials from throughout the state of Tennessee. Pictured from left to right are Dr. Tina



Camba (ASU-SHRM Co-Advisor), Sharifa Abubaker, Zach Griffin, Dawn Murph, and Billy Dycus.

## Accounting Club Wins Gold



The Accounting Club/IMA Student Chapter received the Gold Award of Excellence. The award included a certificate (shown above), along with a \$500 monetary award. This award requires the student chapter to submit evidence of at least a minimum number of educational meetings, leadership training, board meetings, budget, goals and strategies, community service activities, promotional events participation, newsletters, industry tours, and more. The student officers worked very hard through an-

other mostly virtual year to earn this recognition. At the IMA Student Leadership Conference, the club also won the 2021-22 t-shirt design competition.

Some of the prescribed activities over the past year include industry tours to Love

Packages in Decatur, Alabama, and NDesigns in Fayetteville, Tennessee, a screen printing and digital marketing business.

Accounting Club meetings routinely host guest speakers to impart important and pertinent information to accounting students. A November guest speaker discussed Becker materials that

assist in preparing one to sit for the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exam.

Community service is another important role of the Accounting Club. This past year, the group collected hundreds of canned goods for the Limestone County Churches Involved food pantry, wrote notes to pen-pals, and provided gift bags for the children of Guatemala.

As you can tell, the Gold Award of Excellence is a well-deserved honor!



## New Faculty Faces

The College of Business welcomes six new faculty.



**Dr. Tina Camba** is an Assistant Professor of Human Resource Management. She earned her Juris Doctor

from University of California (San Francisco), her Master of Public Policy from Vanderbilt University, and her MBA from Southern Adventist University. Dr. Camba has her SHRM-CP PHR Law License and has worked in human resources since 2012.



**Dr. Alana Daniel** is an Assistant Professor of Business Analytics and Strategic Management. She earned a

PhD at University of South Alabama and her MBA from Troy



**Mr. Brandon Eubanks** is an Assistant Professor of Accounting and has a Master of Accounting (MAcc) from the

University of Alabama Huntsville. He is a licensed CPA and Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE). Mr. Eubanks had served as an adjunct instructor at Athens State since 2009.

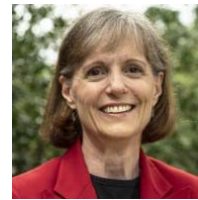


**Dr. Lawrence Reeves III** is an Assistant Professor of Logistics and Supply Chain Management. He has a DBA from

Walden University and MBA from University of Phoenix. He has approximately 20 years of experience in logistics.



**Dr. Christopher Roberts** is an Instructor of Logistics and Supply Chain Management. His DBA is from Walden University. He earned his MBA from Geneva College and MS in Healthcare Management from Kaplan University.



**Dr. Janet Willeson** is an Assistant Professor of Information Systems/ Cybersecurity. She has an EdD in Instructional Technology and Distance Education from Nova Southeastern University and a Master of Science Management in Information Systems from Florida Institute of Technology. She is a Certified Information Security Manager and Microsoft Certified Professional.

## Fond Farewell

**Dr. Mike Haghghi**, Associate Professor of Management Information Systems, retired on January 1, 2022. He had been employed at Athens State University for the past 10 years, but had been an educator much longer. Dr. Haghghi was well liked by faculty, staff, and

students. He had a pleasant personality and was a true team player. Dr. Haghghi served on many committees and was appointed as an ACBSP liaison for the College of Business. His willingness to serve in whatever capacity needed was one of the traits that endeared him

to all. Thank you for your dedicated service. You are truly missed!



## 2022 Service Awards and Faculty Accomplishments

At this year's fall convocation, the following COB faculty received service awards:

5 Years—**Dr. Cyndi Lovelace, John Moore, Chris Nelson, and Dr. Lionel Wright**

10 Years—**Dr. Kim Roberts**

15 Years—**Debra Vaughn**

20 Years—**Dr. Jim Kerner**

**Kim Bell, Dr. Diann Hammon, and Dr. Lionel Wright** were promoted to Associate Professor. Drs. Hammon and Wright also received tenure.

**Congratulations, Dr. Stacie Hughes!** Dr. Hughes received her Doctor of Business Administration from Indiana Wesleyan University on August 12, 2022.

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Sanders Hall, College of Business

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Mail your contribution to: College of Business, ATTN: Molly Pepper, Executive Assistant to the Dean, College of Business, Athens State University, 300 North Beaty Street, Athens, Alabama 35611

## Mentor

What is a mentor? According to Google men·tor / men tōr can be both a noun and a verb. A mentor is an experienced and trusted adviser, or it can mean to advise or train someone, especially a younger colleague.

Some institutions, like Athens State, have formal mentoring programs for both faculty and staff. The programs may vary, but they usually involve getting to know more about the other person and offering them good advice on how to be successful at their new position. Many times, the program will involve setting goals, establishing networking opportunities with others at the institution, or simply “showing them the ropes.”

Over the past several months, I have served as a mentor to two new employees at the University. I also know of several others who

have served or are serving as mentors. In truth, I have always considered myself a mentor to anyone who is in a similar position as my own. Plenty of times, I have helped train new employees in specific tasks or job requirements, simply because it was the right thing to do.

I believe that all of us are mentors whether we want to be or not. Most have somebody who looks to them as their example. Sometimes, we might be an example of what *not* to be. Either way, we may be teaching particular behaviors to impressionable onlookers.

What kinds of behaviors are you demonstrating? Are you the type of person who makes the best of every situation, or complains about every little setback? Do you think of solutions to problems or create more problems? Do you think

about the impact your actions have on others and the business unit as a whole?

These are things all of us should consider. We should strive to be the type of employees that the company would like to clone. We should always keep a mentor mentality and practice what we would want to see from our fellow co-workers. If we do this, we will help create the type of workplace to which others will be drawn. In other words, we can be responsible for creating our own dream job!

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