Faces of SGA

Jessica Baker and Gage Craig
Assistant Editors

Pictured above: (left to right) Kar’Michay Pope, Kara Grigsby, Angela Christopher, and Daniel Easters

SGA President: Kar’Michay Pope

Kar’Michay is a senior majoring in Behavioral Sciences from Huntsville Alabama. As SGA President she wants to make sure that all student voices, online and on campus, are heard. She is also finishing her term as President of the American Association of University Women at Athens State. Her favorite movie is The Sound of Music and when asked what her spirit animal would be she replied with “butterfly.”

SGA Vice President: Angela Christopher

Angela is a senior majoring in Business Management from right here in Athens. As Vice President of SGA Angela would like to encourage a higher degree of student involvement at the university by assisting in the development of new clubs and organizations. Angela’s favorite holiday is Halloween and the Fiddler’s convention is her favorite event here at Athens State.

SGA Treasurer: Kara Grigsby

Kara is a senior majoring in Business originally from Bowling Green Missouri. She previously served as SGA President in 2014. She is currently working to ensure that the SGA will have a successful fundraising campaign during next year’s Fiddler’s Convention. Her dream car is a 1990 Lamborghini Diablo and she considers her spirit animal to be a bonnet-head shark.

SGA Secretary: Daniel Easters

Daniel is a senior majoring in biology Secondary Education. He is from Cocoa Beach Florida. Daniel’s primary focus as SGA Secretary will be to keep students up-to-date on SGA meetings and events. He is looking forward to meeting new students and helping them adjust to Athens State University. Daniel has previous leadership experience, having served as a Squad leader in the U.S Army.
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The staff of The Athenian follows the Associated Collegiate Press, Model Code of Ethics for Collegiate Journalists. The Athenian office is located in the Classroom Building Room 105.

The Athenian welcomes letters and columns from students, staff, faculty, administration and alumni. All submissions are subject to approval of the editorial board and advisor. Submissions must be accompanied by a name, address and phone number. The editorial board reserves the right to edit submissions for brevity, style, clarity and liability.

Submissions should focus on the issues rather than personalities. Proof of identification may be required. Submissions must be limited to 400-500 words, and may be delivered via mail, e-mail, or in person.

Views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the Athens State University Administration, faculty, or the student body at large.

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Jordan Taylor
Writing Center Director

When I was a student here at Athens State from 2004 to 2005, a writing center existed, but barely. It was nestled out of the way in a small room on one of the top floors of labyrinthine Founders Hall (press “5” on the elevator). At best, the original center can be described as austere. The room’s floor consisted of the same creaky boards as the rest of Founders Hall. A bookshelf or two lined the walls and housed a few relevant, albeit seldom-used, texts. A chair was stationed before a simple desk. Although a computer with a bulky CRT monitor sat on the desk, its sole use was for word-processing since it did not have Internet access. There was little else.

To be honest, I probably never would have known about or visited the Writing Center had it not been for my friend Kristin, who was a fellow student employed as a Writing Center consultant. When my schedule allowed, I would often visit her and keep her company, talking about our assigned readings for our English courses and sometimes playing a rousing game of Scrabble.

Those who are acquainted with the Writing Center as it now exists know what a sharp contrast the old Center is to the present one. At some point around 2010 or 2011, the Writing Center left its seclusion in Founder’s Hall and moved across campus to the library. Shortly thereafter, Dr. Tony Ricks was hired as the Writing Center director and began working in August 2011. Under his guidance, the move from Founder’s Hall to the library proved to be beneficial; the Writing Center experienced a marked increase in visibility and visits.

During Dr. Rick’s tenure, the Writing Center’s reach and offerings were expanded. Not only could students receive one-to-one help in person from a variety of consultants, but they also were given the option of working with writing consultants through online chat, which proved particularly useful for students in online courses. Dr. Ricks also developed a blog and a Facebook page for the Center, and he began publishing a simple Writing Center newsletter to help increase the Center’s profile.

Shortly before the beginning of Fall Semester 2014, Dr. Ricks accepted a teaching position at Athens State University. I was hired to serve as interim director until a search could be held for a permanent writing center director. As some know, I have tried to keep the Writing Center on the same course Dr. Ricks started. Interestingly, the Writing Center may soon be experiencing some changes.

It was recently announced that Dr. Joy Bracewell has been selected as the new Writing Center Director. Dr. Bracewell has a strong background in writing centers. In 2012 she began working with the Georgia Tech Communication Center, and in 2013 she became assistant director. Dr. Bracewell will begin her tenure at Athens State this summer.

This is an exciting time for Athens State and the Writing Center. I am sure Dr. Bracewell will bring fresh ideas to our institution as well as new knowledge and resources to help writers. Consequently, if you are going to be around campus this summer, make a point of dropping by the Writing Center and getting to know more about the Center’s services and our new director.
Fifty years ago in September of 1965, I met Elva Bell McLin. She would become my mentor, my role model, and my cherished friend for the next half century. When she died at the age of 97 in February of this year, she left behind a loving family and a multitude of admiring friends. When Dr. McLin, who had moved to Texas in 2002 to live near her youngest daughter, passed away, I knew she was saying goodbye.

I sensed from the moment I met Elva Bell McLin that my life was about to change forever. She was a miniature dynamo, tireless and indefatigable. She never met a challenge to which she was not equal. She never questioned whether or not something could be done, she simply did it. Her talents were as various and impressive as her spirit was indomitable. Most importantly, she wanted no credit for any of her achievements, preferring to nudge me into the spotlight while she did all the hard work in the wings.

Other than my mother, my father, and my grandmother, Dr. Elva McLin was the most powerful influence in my life. It was she who persuaded me to commute with her to Nashville to complete my PhD. Her doctoral dissertation “Characterization in Shakespeare’s Second Tetralogy” drew praise from the pre-eminent Shakespearean scholar, Dr. J. Leeds Barroll of Vanderbilt. Without Elva’s enthusiastic support, I would never have made that long journey two or three times a week for nearly three years. Not even ice storms could deter her. Once I thought we would surely die as the behemoth of a Lincoln she drove went into a tailspin and out onto the icy median. When we came out of the spin, she declared calmly, “I had it [the car] under control all the time.”

Under Elva’s tutelage, I matured into a competent and caring teacher. I learned from her that teaching meant going far beyond being a teacher. I learned from her that teaching meant finding ways to model the behavior you wanted your students to emulate and to make that long journey two or three times a week for nearly three years. Not even ice storms could deter her. Once I thought we would surely die as the behemoth of a Lincoln she drove went into a tailspin and out onto the icy median. When we came out of the spin, she declared calmly, “I had it [the car] under control all the time.”

Elva produced wonderful dinner theatres at Athens College, some based on plays she had written such as the delightful “Scott and Zelda in Paris.” She took students to the Alabama Shakespeare Festival when it was still in Anniston and received a special invitation to the opening of the Festival when it moved to Montgomery. She made regular excursions to Oxford to the University of Mississippi and to Faulkner’s home. She accompanied students and colleagues to conferences to meet writers like Eudora Welty, Cleanth Brooks, and Gwenfrolyn Brooks, to name only a few. Gwenfrolyn Brooks and Elva playfully called each other “my twin” as they were both born June 5, 1917 in Kansas. In 1985, Elva and I took the Amtrak to New Orleans and, after exploring the city, rented a car and drove to Nicholls State in Thibodaux, LA, where we attended the Southern Literary Festival and then sat on the bayou and ate five pounds of steamed crawfish and a loaf of freshly baked bread. Elva was not only brilliant, she was so much fun.

It was Dr. McLin who, as sponsor of the Athens chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, National English Honor Society, hosted the 1984 Sigma Tau Delta National Convention at Athens State featuring celebrated writers like James Dickey, William Bradford Huie, and Charles Ghigna. Over the years Elva brought to the campus innumerable other prominent authors, including the distinguished playwright Horton Foote. In 1985 Athens State held its first annual Writers’ Conference and continued the tradition of bringing famous writers to the college. Elva’s admirers included scores of internationally renowned writers, esteemed literary scholars, filmmakers, and even artists, notably Nall Hollis (aka “Nall”) who adored her. As a result of my association with Dr. Elva McLin, I became lifelong friends with novelist H.E. Francis, who celebrated his 91st birthday this year, writer Nanci Kincaid, who completed her BA degree at Athens State; and poet Charles Ghigna.

Wherever we went, everyone knew and respected her. She was like to be the colleague of Dr. Gertrude Stein surrounded by glittering literati, but unlike Gertrude Stein she was utterly without ego. She was the unselfconscious vortex of all that was happening, and those of us who knew her were the beneficiaries. When anyone asks me what it was like to be the colleague of Dr. Elva Bell McLin, I simply say, “I sat at the feet of Gamaliel.”
I began my educational journey at Athens State when I transferred in the Logistics Program in the summer of 2012 and graduated in the May 2013. Since graduating with my undergrad degree in Supply Chain and Logistics Management I decided that I would continue that journey and pursue a Executive MBA which I earned in December 2014 from the University of North Alabama.

The coursework that I completed at Athens State laid the foundation for my continued success during my educational pursuits. Understandably, being successful requires a great deal of commitment and focus from the student but also requires a strong effort from the instructors. One such instructor that really encouraged/enabled me to be successful was Dr. Pieplow. He probably doesn't realize the impact that he, himself, had on me by just being honest with me with the quality of the first paper that I ever submitted at Athens State. His constructive criticism on that assignment allowed me to understand quickly the quality standards expected from students at that level.

Since graduating with my EMBA I have landed a role as Sales Manager with Ornametals Manufacturing in Cullman, AL. This role is more inline with the degrees that I have than jobs that I have held in the past. I have only been in the role for a few days at this point; but so far so good. I am hopeful that I will be an asset to this organization as they continue to grow.

Thanks for allowing me the opportunity to share my story and I hope that in the future I will continue to be successful thanks to the education and guidance that Athens State University instilled in me.

My Athens State Stories are sponsored by the Athens State University Alumni Association

ADP
ADULT DEGREE PROGRAM
ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY
This semester the Athenian Players are putting on a production comprised of five one-act plays written by Susan Glaspell and Eugene O’Neil; the production opened Thursday April 16 and aired through the weekend. The production will continue starting on Thursday April 23 and will be airing through Saturday; each production will begin at 7:30 PM. I conducted interviews with a few of the Athenian Players to find out how they felt about the complex characters they are portraying in the dramatic one-act plays.

Laura Poe, a veteran Athenian Player appearing in all of the previous Athenian Player productions, stars in the one-woman show about a woman who drives her husband to commit suicide called “Before Breakfast,” she explains how she gets into character: Poe explains that in order to come her character she first has to “build” her character in her mind; “you have to find the common pieces of yourself and your character so that you can build who they are.” Poe references one of the grievances her character has with her off-stage husband about pawning everything they have in order to afford liquor; “There have been times in my marriage when life has been rocky. I have had to pawn items just to put food on the table. I can understand the bitterness Mrs. Rowland feels toward her husband. She thought she was getting one lifestyle but the reality is she did not.”

Another of the Athenian Players, Forrest Johnson, described what it was like to play the antagonist of Eugene O’Neil’s one act play “The Web.” The antagonist, Steve, is a pimp and a drug addict who is incredibly abusive towards his prostitute girlfriend and her child. Johnson explains that it is impossible to play a character authentically without taking them on and “becoming” that character, he has examined his character thoroughly and determined that above anything else Steve desires control. Johnson explains that the reason he feels this way is because his character has not had an easy life and seems to be searching for some semblance of control because of this. Johnson also spoke about the small cast in the play, explaining that a smaller cast means more work for everyone but also lends itself to a greater sense of camaraderie; “There is an old saying, I think it’s ‘better but fewer.’” He believes that the size of the cast and the fact that everyone is required to help with every stage of the production process has led to a more close-knit group than any of his previous plays with the Athenian players.

Jo Beth Workman is a new addition to the Athenian Players; this is her second appearance in a production here at Athens State. Her largest role is that of Allie Mayo, a widow living on the shore who “never says an unnecessary word.” Workman spoke about the significance of the character to her own life by revealing that her brother passed away last Summer; “It was tough because I am also trying to deal with my own grief, it wasn’t really something that I could let myself let go of very easily once rehearsal or a show was over. Her words not only made me face my pain, but they also gave me clarification and helped shed some light.” Her character is a very emotionally charged part to play and Workman said that it was sometimes overwhelming to play her.

The Athenian Players is a tight knit group, and through these interviews it is obvious that each one of them throws themselves completely into their character. They each have found ways to relate to their character, to grow from their character, or to shape their character into something that is uniquely them.

Arbor Day Festival

Join SGA, Heath and Sciences Career Club & Student Activities for a day of fun for you and/or your whole family at Athens State! Featuring a duel water slide, obstacle course, golf driving range, food, music, face painting, arts and crafts and lots of interesting activities learning about some of the amazing trees we have here on campus such as our tree tours, leaf rubbing and chalk dendrochronology. The best part: it’s all free!!! So please join us on Saturday for what promises to be one of the biggest events this year. We hope to see you.

If you’d be interested in helping with our event you can sign-up at: http://www.myathens.org/student-activities/volunteer-opportunities/
In a few days a celebration of Athens State University’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) so eloquently named as Building Success Through Writing will commence. The event will be jubilant as we pause to reflect on our past, celebrate our present, and anticipate the continued writing success that has been birthed out of the QEP. Administrators, faculty, staff, students, and invited guests will race to “The Courtyard” to enjoy games, music, and food.

The inception of the QEP dates back to January 2008. Faculty, staff, students, Foundation Board members, recent graduates, and area employers participated in data collection activities to lay a foundation for a five-year initiative that would address a need at the University. As the pendulum swayed from the left to the right during focus group conversations among all stakeholders, student success in writing was the dominate concern. Dr. Kevin Dupré and Dr. Jackie Smith compiled qualitative and quantitative data to lay a foundation for ASU’s overarching Quality Enhancement Plan. This plan was intended to improve college-level writing based on the following student learning outcomes:

1. Students will formulate and support a thesis through accurate evidence and documentation
2. Students will research, collect, and assess scholarly information using standard practices within their major field of study.
3. Students will present written information clearly, logically, and critically.
4. Students will create an audience-appropriate document that exhibits clarity and organization and serves the intended purpose.

Beginning fall of 2010, the University focused on writing mastery that would positively affect student learning and promote a campus environment conducive to faculty, staff, and administrative development. By appointment, the Student Success, Faculty and Staff Success, and Institutional Success Teams were officially charged to begin their work in September. Each team began to huddle to determine how they were going to respectively address the objectives, known as Building Blocks, to get to the student writing success finish line. Every minute counted when the five-year clock began to tick. Whether a Writing Center Director was hired, a rubric developed, or an online toolbox launched, each endeavor sought to help students at Athens State become success stories in writing. Additionally, QEP Directors/Co-Directors, Chairs and Success Teams met to:

provide writing workshops for faculty, staff, and students; administer surveys to assess the effectiveness of professional development activities and its impact of student writing; and create a Writing Tutorial for all new students.

Passionate about the Quality Enhancement Plan, the leadership of QEP Directors/Co-Directors Dr. Kevin Dupré, Dr. Jackie Smith, Dr. Darlene Turner-White, and Dr. Tony Ricks, has been stellar. Each has brought strengths to our Building Success through Writing initiative. Collectively, Success Team chairs, Dr. Tedi Gordon, Dr. Darlene Turner-White, Dr. Wanda Hutchinson, and Dr. Kim LaFevor, and faculty and staff members of each team have worked tirelessly to ensure writing success of faculty and staff, but most importantly, the students. Their leadership and contribution from team members have produced a student webpage, lib guide, partnership with Calhoun and Northwest Shoals, and inter-college faculty forums.

As we watch our Building Success Through Writing time clock run down, the finish line is in view. It is time to celebrate our victory!
The annual Athens State University Alumni Golf Classic is scheduled for Thursday, May 14th at Canebrake Club in Athens. This event will kick off the activities for Athens State’s Homecoming Weekend.

The Golf Classic was started by J.J. and Dottie Donahue over 20 years ago. Walt Merritt stepped up to assist and chair the Golf Classic after J.J. Donahue retired from the Alumni Board. The Golf Classic is the Alumni Association’s largest scholarship fundraiser due to the groundwork started by the Donahues and Merritts. Merritt passed away in January 2015 and the Golf Classic Committee is naming two scholarships in their names: the Walt Merritt Memorial Alumni Golf Scholarship and J.J. and Dottie Donahue Alumni Golf Scholarship.

The event starts with lunch at 11:30 am and the tournament will begin at 1:00 pm. All proceeds from the tournament fund scholarships for the following academic year.

The 2014-2015 golf scholarship recipients will be volunteering at the tournament and include Lindsay Adams, Dylan Bunnell, Chelsea Carter, Kelsey Cooper, Ruby De La Pena, Mallory Hall, Hannah Hallmark, Jarrod Hardy, Georgiana Lamar, Jasmin Malone, John Malone, Alison Partlow, Kelton Riley, Katherine Roberts and Alyssa Schultz.

Individuals or businesses can sponsor a shared hole with sign for $100, a quarter hole with sign for $250, a half-hole with sign for $250, or an entire hole with banner for $1000. Team fees are $500 for a 4-person team and include lunch, greens fees, golf cart, refreshments, hospitality gifts and prizes. Or, you can just join us for lunch from Greenbrier for $10.

McClary Ford is sponsoring the Hole-In-One prize of a 2015 Ford Mustang, and skill prizes will be awarded by Osbornes and Pepsi for Best Score, Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin. In addition, Huntsville International Airport has provided a $500 travel voucher and there will be a 50/50 cash pot. Chances for the travel voucher are $5 and chances for the 50/50 pot are $1. You do not have to be present to win the travel voucher or 50/50 pot. Winners will be chosen after the tournament during the awards presentations.

Contact the Athens State Office of Alumni Affairs at alumni@athens.edu or 256-233-8185 to reserve your team or to sponsor a hole or visit the event page at www.athens.edu/golf-classic.
The Career Development Center would like to invite you to register with Athenian Jobs! Athenian Jobs is the place where you can apply for CO-OP, find upcoming career events, build your resume, practice interviewing, and view and apply for job opportunities. To register for Athenian Jobs please visit: www.athens.edu/career/

HOW TO REGISTER:
You will need to complete the registration form. You will receive an email which will ask you to verify your email address. You will receive a second email that will have you set your password.

Once you have completed these steps you will be able to login to Athenian Jobs. Please be sure to complete all required fields on the registration form and on your profile. If any of the required sections are not completed it will delay your ability to use Athenian Jobs. Please note: A resume must be uploaded or created and approved by a member of the Career Development Center staff before you can apply for any jobs.
# Homecoming Agenda

## Athens State University

### Schedule of Activities*

**Thursday, May 14**
- 11:30 a.m. **Alumni Golf Classic Lunch**  
  Canebrake Club  
  Athens, Alabama
- 1:00 p.m. **Alumni Golf Classic Tournament**  
  Canebrake Club  
  Athens, Alabama
- 7:00 p.m. **Dinner and Dancing with 2nd Coming Band**  
  Sandridge Student Center Ballroom / Cash Bar

**Friday, May 15**
- 12:00 noon **Reunion Luncheon**  
  Sandridge Student Center Ballroom
- 2:00 p.m. **President's Open House**  
  President’s Home, corner of Beatty and Bryan Streets
- 6:00 p.m. **Reception at the Alabama Center for the Arts**  
  Shuttle from Athens to Downtown Decatur, Alabama

**Saturday, May 16**
- 8:00 a.m. **Athenian Sponsored Pancake Breakfast**  
  Sandridge Student Center Ballroom
- 11:00 a.m. **Family Fun Day on Campus**  
  Food Trucks / Inflatables / Family Activities
- 4:00 p.m. **Unknown Lyric Concert**  
  Founders Green
- 7:00 p.m. **Geezerfest IV Low Country Boil with DJ**  
  Sandridge Student Center Ballroom / Cash Bar
- 8:00 p.m. **Outdoor Movie**  
  Founders Green

**Ongoing:**
- Campus Tours
- Tee Times Available at Canebrake Club
- Shopping in Downtown Athens
- Kayaking or SUP on the Elk River by Fort Hampton Outfitters
- Horseback Riding, Biking or Hiking on Trails to Trails
- Sheriff’s Rodeo

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

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For registration & information:

athens.edu/homecoming

Alumni Office:
256-233-8185
alumni@athens.edu

Hotels:
Fairfield Inn and Suites
256-233-4530

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For More Information Call 256-232-3611 or Visit Our Website at www.naecu.org

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