The New Year Brings New Faces to Athens State: Colleges of Education and Business Start the Year with New Deans

Dr. Patricia Sims named Dean of the College of Education

Bridgepte Pylant, Assistant Editor

Just four days into her new position as Dean of the College of Education, surrounded by boxes that have yet to be unpacked, I was able to sit down with Dr. Patricia Sims to discuss her new position and her ideas on the teaching profession. What I found was a kind and enthusiastic leader who is ready to meet the challenges ahead.

Dr. Sims is from Canton, Mississippi, a small town outside of Jackson where she was raised and finished high school. She left Canton for The University of West Alabama where she received her bachelor’s degree in Biology. Originally planning on going into Research, Dr. Sims attended Alabama A&M where she received her Master’s Degree. While studying for her master’s, Dr. Sims met her husband and decided that working in a lab would not be conducive to marriage and starting a family. It was during this time that she decided that she wanted to teach. She taught middle school science and served as a school administrator.

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“Years ago when teachers had a homogenous group of students that all looked the same, thought the same, teaching was an easier job. Now it is much more challenging because teachers are all while raising her daughter and studying for her Doctorate which she received from Vanderbilt.

All education students at Athens State learn about the issues facing today’s educators as they complete education courses. Dr. Sims believes that the most pressing issue is the need for teachers to be able to teach a diverse learning group. “Years ago when teachers had a homogenous group of students that all looked the same, thought the same, teaching was an easier job. Now it is much more challenging because teachers are
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The lecture was offered free and was open to the public. The Road Scholars Speakers Bureau provides public presentations and lectures on a variety of humanities topics. Designed to educate and entertain, the programs are presented by Alabama’s most enlightening university and independent scholars.

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Athens State Hosts Folklife Expert for Black History Month

Joyce Cauthen, Director Emeritus of the Alabama Folklife Association, spoke Tuesday, February 18 at 7:00 p.m. as part of the Alabama Humanities Foundation’s Road Scholars Speakers Bureau.

Cauthen’s presentation, entitled Fiddlers, Banjo Players and Strawbeaters: Alabama’s First Pop Musicians, discussed the pivotal role played by African Americans in developing the music at the roots of today’s bluegrass and country music. She and her husband Jim Cauthen demonstrated the use of the banjo, “straws” (a technique in which broom straws or knitting needles were beat on the strings as the fiddler played) and guitar in backing up the fiddle. The audience heard musical styles and tunes that are seldom heard today—and had the opportunity to ask questions and share their perceptions of the differences in this music and the modern country music that are based upon it.

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Joyce Cauthen, Director Emeritus
Alabama Folklife Association

Photo Credit: Guy McClure

Colleges of Education and Business Start the Year with New Deans

Dr. Patricia Sims named Dean of the College of Education

Continued on Page 2

Dr. Kim LaFevor Promoted to Dean of the College of Business

Dr. Kim LaFevor
College of Business Dean

Athens State University welcomes Dr. Kim LaFevor as the new Dean of the College of Business. LaFevor is wasting no time in taking care of business and pursuing avenues to make leaps and bounds towards expanding the College of Business.

LaFevor is the right Dean for the job to get this expansive new agenda accomplished. Her academic preparation and professional experience resonates with today’s students. Earning five college degrees, including a doctoral degree, while going to school and working full-time she knows what is takes to be a successful student and professional. She also knows the challenges and sacrifices of students who are faced with rising tuition costs and personal demands of family and community. A native of Detroit, Michigan, Kim has a Bachelor of Science Degree with dual majors in Psychology and Personnel Psychology from Athens State University, a Master of Science Degree in Human Resources Management from Troy State University, and a Doctorate of Business Administration with dual majors in Management and Education from the University of Sarasota.

Dean LaFevor has taught collegiately for 22 years at both the undergraduate and graduate level. These experiences have included teaching various management courses with a specialization in advanced human resource practices, labor relations and employment law, as well as course development and student services at the undergraduate and graduate level. She profession-

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Continued on Page 2
Dean Patricia Sims
Continued from page 1
faced with a much more diverse classroom racially, socio-economically, and ethnically. In this culture, everyone is encouraged to express that. Teachers today are trying to meet all the needs of a very diverse group. This requires a highly skilled educator and we need to prepare those educators and give them the tools to meet those needs.”

When asked if she had a message for the Education students she spoke words of encouragement. “I want to encourage them” she said. “I still feel and believe that teaching is an honorable profession and you cannot choose a more rewarding profession. Teachers have the ability to change lives, and they are remembered for years for the relationships they build and the impact they have on the lives of their students. I want to encourage you in your choice. Even now, it is exciting for me to impact lives of those who are entering the field.”

Dr. Sims is excited to be here at Athens State and work with some of the best educators in the nation. “This College of Education, the faculty and staff, bar none they are top notch. I am excited about this opportunity and I am hoping to find ways to add value to a team that is already exceptional. I am listening and learning and I cannot wait to find ways to contribute to this team because they are phenomenal.”

Dean Kim LaFevor
Continued from page 1
ally consults specifically in the areas of leadership development, recruitment and selection, performance management, compensation administration and labor relations. LaFevor also maintains many active professional memberships and currently serves as the President for the Tennessee Employment Relations Research Association and College Relations Director for the Alabama SHRM State Council.

Prior to her current responsibilities she had a 21-year career with General Motors of which she spent the greatest portion of her tenure in progressively responsible HR positions. Prior to her retirement, her most recent assignment was Plant Personnel Director at Saturn-GM Manufacturing in Spring Hill, Tennessee. There she managed human resources activities for Saturn Service Parts Operations including recruiting, selection, compensation administration, team member development/performance improvement, leadership development and labor relations activities, such as grievance resolution, contract negotiations and interpretation. During this time, she also served on two main table collective bargaining agreement negotiations between GM Spring Hill Manufacturing and the United Auto Workers (UAW).

As the new Dean, LaFevor maintains that future success for the College of Business will come by being open to change and allowing business operations to grow in new ways, rewarding efforts in the right direction, experimentation in new ways of doing things, using selective surgery to discontinue non-productive or counterproductive outcomes, and revolutionizing practices while holding on to important traditions. LaFevor purports, “the focus of college leadership today should be about adaptation, innovation, creativity, and management actions aimed purposefully at strategies that will ensure not only organizational survival in this competitive market, but also capitalize on an emerging competitive advantage.” This resonates as her mantra.

Accounting Club News: Why Certification

According to Department of Labor小さな文本 is not visible in the image.

Emily Corzine, Faculty Advisor
RJ Logan, Accounting Student JMT-Member

Of what importance is professional certification to an Accountant? Certainly there are many jobs that do not require certification. However, professional certifications set Accountants apart in many ways, including greater marketability, increased promotion potential, and higher salary levels. The Accounting students at Athens State University are encouraged by faculty members to increase their earning potential not only by obtaining a bachelors degree in Accounting but also pursuing certification within the field of Accounting. The Accounting faculty of Athens State set an example for students in this area:

• All current Accounting faculty members are CPAs (Certified Public Accountants).
• Two are also CMAs (Certified Management Accountants), with one currently pursuing it.
• One Accounting professor here has five professional certifications.

The curriculum for an Accounting major here at Athens State is structured to satisfy the education requirements of the CPA certification, as well as the CMA and others, such as the CFE (Certified Fraud Examiner). While completing studies for a degree, students often consider pursuing certification and licensing after graduation. Which credential to pursue is a matter of preference and career goals. Many CPAs work for public accounting firms and are commonly known for tax, audit, and financial statement preparation work, and many CMAs work in industry settings focusing on cost and managerial accounting, although each of these credentials represents a broad spectrum of competence.

Knowing which certification, if any, to pursue may not be very clear to a junior or senior in college, but what is clear is that having a certification is better than not having one.

According to Department of Labor statistics, a professional certification can boost your salary as much as 30%. While many accountants seek multiple certifications, if only one is feasible, and there is no clear area of focus, then the CPA may be appropriate since it is widely valued by both public accounting and industry. However, the CMA is highly respected and widely sought after as well.

All Accounting professional certifications carry strict requirements for education, work experience, and examination before licensure. There are also annual CPE (Continuing Professional Education) requirements to maintain each of the certifications; for example, CPAs must obtain forty hours of CPE credits per year. To read about the specific requirements for the CPA, CMA, and CFE, please visit the Accounting Club website: https://sites.google.com/site/athensimasc/home.
Campus News

Commencement Fall 2013

Photo Credit, Guy McClure
1. What University did Dr. Sims receive her doctorate?

2. Where does Dr. Scott Warnock teach?

3. How many college degrees does Dr. Kim LaFevor hold?

First TWO students with the correct answers win FREE gas gift cards from Jiffy Mart.

Submit answers to the Student Activities Office in the Classroom Building.

LIPLOCKED!

Be the first to correctly match the lips to their owners and win TWO movie passes to Cinemagic Theatre

1. Nate Mitchell
2. Jackie Gooch
3. Ronnie Knox
4. Sara McAbee
5. Kim Roberts
6. Larry Kennum
7. Robert Burkhardt
8. Mary Simpson

Please submit entries to Tena Bullington in the Student Activities Office in the Classroom Building.

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Fall 2013 Honors List

Provost’s List:
3.5 to 3.99 GPA
with 12 hours

Albany, GA
Young, Passion

Baldwin, GA
Chelsi, Arnold
Bedsole, Heather
Cornelius, Cynthia
Floyd, Valerie
Hayes, Brandi

Altoona, PA
Gibson, Kristen
Miller, Elizabeth

Alabaster, AL

Atlanta, GA
Adams, Lindsay
Bauer, Mallory
Beason, Jacob
Bowers, Christie
Boyd, Andrew
Christopher, Angela
Clifton, Rachel
Cook, Corey
Edwards, Robert
Evans, Destiny
Figueroa, Angelica
Garner, Eva
Gilbert, Katelyn
Haggard, Chelsea
Hamilton, Glenda
Hilliard, Elizabeth
Jones, Ciara
Lann, Jordan
Lovell, Krystina
Luyk, Hayden
Miller, Jessica
Miller, Marla
Mills, Haley
Nicholas-James, Josette
Patel, Hinaben
Poe, Laura
Purcell, Elizabeth
Quiroz, Aurora
Rose, Ryan
Saari, Christopher
Smith, Bailey
Smith, Charles
Taylor, Nanette
Toller, Laquena
Trout, Diane

Bainbridge, GA

Birmingham, AL

Bluegrass, AL

Birmingham AL
Hodge Chasity
Blountsville AL
Goble Randy
Boaz AL
Davis Elisabeth
Ford Tracie
Jones Abby
Williams Courtney
Bridgeport AL
Russell Kathleen
Brilliant AL
Sanderson Ryan
Caphshaw AL
Sweeney Benita
Cleveland AL
Hill Amy
Cottondale AL
Youngblood Amy
Crane Hill AL
Hines Joshua
Callman AL
Allredge Joseph
Ballard Sara
Barnes Eric
Bennett Whitney
Bradbury Richard
Brock Hannah
Cameron Daniel
Chumley Savanna
Fortner Stacie
Foss Megan
Frazier Danielle
Henderson Nora
Moore Daniel
Penn Matthew
Sellers Dori
Shields Tristan
Vance Cecilia
Wix Deirdra
Wood Beth

Dawson, AL
Bell Laura
White Sonya

Decatur, AL
Aldridge Kenyetta
Appleton Ashleigh
Birchfield Hannah
Boston Matthew
Brooks Michelle
Brown Julie
Delapena Ruby
Dunn Shanna
George Whitney
Haynes James
Hubbert Julie
Lewis Pattie
Lorance Charlie
Parks James
Reeves Emily
Rice Megan
Rigby Sarah
Riley Rachael
Starkey Sydney
Stephenon Jayda
Strack Michelle
Thompson Meagan
Tippett Pamela
Tucker Caleisha
Watkins Darius
White Stephanie
Double Springs AL
Harrison Kathryn
Elkmont AL
Bailey Elizabeth
Blakey Tiffany
Christin Brewer
Lewter Jessica
Saylors Amy
Turner Kelsey
Eufaula AL
Hanie Amanda
Ev AL
Gourley Philip
Fair AL
Owens Jessica
Falkville AL
Boyer Jaime
Goff Crystal
Harbison Heather
Hart April
Smith Logan
Flat Rock AL
Morgan Sherry

Florence AL
Dalton Kayla
Parrish Jessica
Thigpen Whitney
Yerby Jordan

Fort Payne, AL
Houston Ashley
Phillips Katie

Fyffe, AL
Tod Stacie

Gardendale, AL

Grant, AL

Guin AL
Crowe Jennifer

Huntsville AL
Aycock Victoria
Blocker Julie
Brewer Angela
Bushnell Raymond
Caldwell Daniel
Christ Laura
Condon Stacey
Cox Sylvia
Crosby James
Darnell Jerry
Emblom Kelsey
Emmons Brianna
Frost Jordan
Gast Kristopher
Grote Melissa
Harton Rachel
Heine Tracey
Hughes Nathaniel
Jennings Danielle
Jones Quedeisha
Kern Patricia
Kimbrough Christy
King Casie
Leslie Sherwyn
Malone Anita
Moebes Mark
Moody Joe
Morrow Mark
Moser Richard
Motogbe Christie
Northington Emily
Peddicord Latricia
Posey Kristin
Rigdon Rubyjean
Scott Carolyn
Sivak Andrew
Sizemore Joanna
Suffin Kristin
Toth Katie
Warren Lavette
Whitt Morgan
Williams Andie
Woods Travis
Yother Zack

Ider AL
Baugh Melinda

Continued on page 8
This year's Athens State University Ms. Merry Christmas was crowned Tuesday, November 19 in the Parlor of Founders Hall. The crown went to Lauren Millican from Pisgah, Alabama. Millican is the daughter of Greg and Lesa Millican. She is a junior at Athens State University pursuing a bachelor’s degree in Elementary and Collaborative Education after transferring to Athens State from Northwest Alabama Community College.

“I chose to pursue a career in education because I enjoy teaching children and helping them to succeed,” Millican remarked on her choice of majors. “I also want to be a positive influence for children.”

Millican serves as President of Mu Alpha Theta, is a Teacher Ambassador, in the Student Government Association, and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and Sigma Kappa Delta.
In Memoriam

Remembering Mildred and Richard Ploss

Bridgette Pylant, Assistant Editor

During the holiday break, the Athens State University family suffered a tragic loss. Mildred and Richard Ploss were vacationing in Florida when they were involved in a car accident that claimed both of their lives.

Mildred graduated from Athens State University in December of 2012 with a Bachelor’s degree in Behavioral Science. She was active in many clubs on campus and also served as an Athenian Ambassador. The Athens State Director of Alumni Affairs, Trish Dilullo remarked that Mildred was a great asset to the University. “She was an advisor and mentor to many students. Her service to Athens State University continued after graduation when she was chosen as one of the inaugural members of the Young Alumni Advisory Council.”

Mildred’s story was exemplary of the tradition of Athens State University Success Stories. She was not a traditional student, and she received her degree at an age when most are beginning to look forward to retirement, but Mildred wanted to use her education to better her community. After graduation, Mildred was named the Director of the Limestone County Juvenile Community Service Program, where she had previously interned. Her work centered on pairing troubled children and teens, who have been sentenced to community service, with area businesses willing to work with the children. Her coworker and friend with the program, Deborah Cain, admired Mildred for her enthusiasm and her eagerness to help children. “Mildred had a sixth sense when it came to these kids. She always knew when there was more going on with them than they were letting on, and she would do whatever she could to help them. She loved working with them. It was her calling. Mildred’s goal was to be a juvenile probation officer and she would have been a phenomenal one.”

Also lost in the accident was Mildred’s husband Richard. Richard served in both the Army and Navy, and he was disabled while serving in Vietnam. After his service, Richard went on to receive a Bachelor’s Degree in Fine Arts from Valparaiso University. The couple married in 1997 and moved to Athens in 2010. Richard was a talented artist, and the couple spent much of their time supporting the arts in Athens where they were members of the Athens Arts League. Their friends agree that the Plosses shared a special relationship. Mrs. Dilullo remarked that “Mildred and Richard were inseparable. They were a very loving couple, and anyone could see that they truly enjoyed each other's company. Mrs. Cain shared those same sentiments. “They were like teenagers dating, and Richard would always call or stop in to see Mildred at work. They were very close.”

Athens State University held a memorial service for the Plosses on January 12th in the Chapel of Founders Hall. Those in attendance shared fond memories of the Plosses. In addition to the memorial, several of Richard’s paintings have been on display in the Bear Cage in the Sandridge Student Center along with a pictorial memorial of the couple.
Fall 2013 Honors List

Provost’s List:
Continued from page 5

Joppa AL
Garrison Alex
Killed AL
Aston Kayla
Kimberly AL
Ray Kayla
Laceys Spring AL
Montgomery Benjamin
Richards Jeremy
Robinson Keith
Tolomei Adam
Leesburg AL
Campbell Sally
Leighton AL
Glasgow Courtney
Lexington AL
Killed Anthony
Pettus Lacey
Putman Shelby
Locust Fork AL
Braden Holly
Moore Melissa
Young Joshua
Madison AL
Appling Shawn
Arafat Maha
Bender Danielle
Brown Jacqueline
Calhoun Chelsea
Estes Christopher
Fletcher James
Horlick Christopher
Karimi Elizabeth
Keller John
Khan Talal
King Ashley
Kirkland James
Kutsor Patrick
Mitchell Eryn
Mullins Amanda
Plant Trey
Scottcey
Thresher Amanda
Waldrop Caitlin
Wolf Yuni
Zink Timberlin
Meridianville AL
Campbell Susan
Charles Tiffany
Hawkins Anthony
Sharkita Ivy
Lang Jennifer
Nixon Aimee
Millbrook AL
Hobble Amy
Mobile AL
Hogue Facethia
Morris AL
McPhaul Mallory
Skinner Megan
Moulton AL
Jones Cortney
Montgomery Wendy
Muscle Shoals AL
Burton Ashley
Isbell Ashley
Michael Hannah
Weatherbee Madison
New Market AL
Jackson Christopher
Johnston Jamie
Oakman AL
Dougherty Virginia
Oneonta AL
Daily Brian
Owens Cross Roads AL
McCartor Mark
Russell Trisha
Pelham AL
Keller Nicki
Phil Campbell AL
Johnson Zachery
Pharr Adam
Rainsville AL
Cuzzort Morgan
Red Level AL
Nearar Rita
Rogersville AL
Beavers Parker
Quinn Brittany
Russellville AL
Hall Mary
Scottboro AL
Johnson Jesslyn
Smith Ethan
Stewart Briania
Section AL
Thompson Sydney
Selma AL
Donovan-Boothman Alesha
Somerville AL
Beggs Ashlee
Felts Anna
Robinson Tina
Scott Dalton
Stevenson AL
Adams Meghan
Baker Joshua
Sumiton AL
Poole Emily
Tanner AL
St. Amand Rochelle
Toney AL
Baxley Kristy
Erdner Joseph
Wilt Jacob
Trinity AL
Bowling Michael
Fleming Whitley
Henderson Dillon
Lanier Rachel
Millwood Matthew
Sparkman Jacob
Wales Hannah
Tuscaloosa AL
Dixon Timothy
 Sexton Bryan
Waller Kamala
Tuscumbia AL
Agee Amanda
Counts Teanna
Crosswhite Matthew
Handley Alena
Robbins Jennifer
Union Grove AL
Carter Kelci
Vinemont AL
Bryson Stephen
Johnson Sara
Warrior AL
Etheredge Brittany
Mallory Pritchett
Winfield AL
Garrison Melissa
Lenahan Ashley
Walker Leann
Woodville AL
Berry Thomas
Gilliam Jorlen
McAnally Marti
Twentynine Palms CA
Sanders Katie
Fayetteville TN
Meeks Kimberly
Flintville TN
Steel Amelia
Taylor Laken
Goodspring TN
Hamelink Kaylee
Hohenwald TN
McColle Andrew
Loretto TN
Yocom Joseph
Palaski TN
Durham Rachel
Spring Hill TN
Murphy Ashley
Dallas TX
Shokoufi Pejman
Fort Worth TX
Segura Monica

President’s List:
4.0 GPA with 12 hours

Addison, AL
Meigs, Danielle
Albertville, AL
Canady, Magon
Scholl, Rachel
Altoona, AL
Gober, Katye
Andalusia, AL
Williamson, Jessica
Anderson, AL
Fleming, Jonathan
Hood, Katherine
Kennemer, Ashley
Arab, AL
Amorite, Karli
Nix, Sheena
Springfield, Stephanie
Ward, Brittany
Ardmore, AL
Ford, Heather
Yell, Kim

Athens, AL
Abney, Sarah
Adams, Samantha
Alexander, Brooke
Brown, William
Johnson, Alexa
Kyle, Regina
Lewis, Jolene
Lowe, Michael
Perry, Miranda
Reed, Glenn
Riley, Kelton
Sampson, Trey
Smith, Erica
Stephens, Blair
Tilton, Zachary
Watson, Robert
Attalla, AL
Kline, David
Auburn, AL
Hudson, Jonathon
Berry, AL
Cordell, Corey
Blountsville, AL
Hawkins, Shaun
Hyatt, Brandon
Smith, Brandi
Smith, Jada
Boaz, AL
Jung, Aimee
Mathis, Katrina
Minor, LeAnna
Walden, Jonathan
Williams, Macey
Bremen, AL
Cates, Amanda
Cleveland, AL
Patterson, Connie
Cordova, AL
Smith, Patty
Cullman, AL
Adams, Andrew
Banks, Anna
Brock, Randy
Dansby, Sarah
Gilley, Raevan
Hudson, Peggy
Lancaster, Ashley
Reid, Joshua
Strane, Robert
Striker, Kathryn
Thomas, Miranda
Waldrop, Savannah
Watts, Susan
Wilkins, Anna Lee
Decatur, AL
Adams, Lauren
Charles, Cory
Croxdale, Courtney
Davis, Kasey
Dubach, Rebecca
Fulks, Melissa
Greathouse, Rachel
Hogeland, Molly
Link, Cassandra
Newberry, Alaina
Ross, Tracy
Shelton, Justin
Shelton, Lilija
Swope, Toborsha
Fall 2013 Honors List

Taylor, Kathryn
Dora, AL

Blevins, Donald
Flowers, Melody
Hamilton, Kristine
Hooper, Kana
Nuneez, Melissa
Owen, Ashley
Pendergrass, April
Hazel Green, AL
Riggins, Cody

Huntsville, AL
Brigman, Katherine
Canfield, Emily
Didyk, Yuliya
Dilbehbani, Marta
Gaston, Leslee
Glidewell, Megan
Gresham, Jessica
Harwell, David
Harwell, Priscilla
Hicks, Dorothy
Kleis, David
Lones, Maghan
Lumpkin, Kyla

Meridianville, AL
Dorsett, Marla
Moulton, AL
Borden, Carlie
Free, Amber
Smith, Emilee

Muscle Shoals, AL
Crowell, Jonathan
Keelon, Anna

Nauvoo, AL
Dodd, Lauren

New Hope, AL
Mettee, Colton

New Market, AL
Barnhill, Kayla
Longmire, Donna
McCay, Erin

Oakman, AL
Elliott, Meghan

Odenville, AL
Margavio, Joseph

Onoonta, AL
Hutches, Morgan

Owens Cross Roads, AL
McMullen, Ashley

Phil Campbell, AL
Campbell, Magen

Pisgah, AL
Barrentine, Taylor
Millican, Lauren

Quinton, AL
Odom, Melanie

Russellville, AL
Wilson, Lauren

Latham, Tiffany
Thorton, Amy

Scottsboro, AL
Clark, Tammie
Cox, Sabrina

Selma, AL
Spicer, Debra

Somerville, AL
Cotton, Jessica

Spruce Pine, AL
Kuykendall, Nathaniel

Sulligent, AL
Avent, Christina

Sylvania, AL
Harris, Lorie

Tanner, AL
Waldran, Mitchell

Toney, AL
Bastin, Catherine
Carroll, William
Davis, James

McCarley, Brooklyn
Pelt, Donell
Williams, Elizabeth

Works, Billie

Tuscumbia, AL
Moon, Elizabeth

Union Grove, AL
Hood, Maegan

Vaughn, Christopher

Valhermoso Springs, AL
Jordan, Dennis

Vinemont, AL
Copeland, Casey

Cottingham, Mallory

Warrior, AL
Mann, Clarissa

Waterloo, AL
Gilchrist, Darah

Weaver, AL
Smith, Amanda

Winfield, AL
Guin, Amy

Rhodes, Derek

Woodville, AL
Hollaway, Elizabeth

Collinswood, TN
Holt, Lori

Elora, TN
Fanning, Katherine

Fayetteville, TN
Brown, Kristine

Shelton, Kecia
Taylor, Kristin

Taylor, Peggy

Lawrenceburg, TN
Risner, Kristin

Leoma, TN
McDow, Jessica

Summertown, TN
Pollock, Timothy

Taylor, Kathrynn
Dora, AL
Thurman, Wendy

Dothan, AL

Logan, Randall
Graves, Megan

Morgan, Glen

Montgomery, Stephanie

Scarborough, Shelley
Williams, Cameron

Hartsville, AL
Alfred, Emily
Blackwood, Julie
Clark, Carrington
Compton, Shelby

Graves, Megan
Logan, Randall

Montgomery, Stephanie
Morgan, Glen
Scarborough, Shelley

Williams, Cameron

Harvest, AL
Blade, Ashley

Brewer, Meredith
Chilufya, Zenaaida

Fogg, Benjamin
Fowler, Taylor P
Gayman, Tiffany

Harris, Judith
Hope, Maria

Jackson, Nitzenia
Kirkland, Shauna

Lenahan, Dale
Madden, Kathryn
Miller, Amber

Morgan, Jodi

Owens, Alanna

Ramsey, Jessica
Rathburn, Sarah
Reutter, Ashton

Richardson, Rachel
Robertson, James

Sams, Kendal
Sanders, Kaylee
Sanders, Tanya

Speer, Caroline

Sutherland, Whitney

Tanner, Tammy

Wade, Christopher
Warner, Courtney

Warren, Rebacca
Whitt, Abby

Fourcade, Jasmine
Sears, Brant

Gardendale, AL
Reed, Allyson

Grant, AL
Cooper, Miriam

Guntersville, AL
Reaves, Chelcie

Gurley, AL
Harris, Hannah

Haleyville, AL
Allen, Jessica
Pike, Alicia

Romine, William

Hamilton, AL
Simmons, Fallon

Sink, Brittany

Hanceville, AL
Cook, Christina
Norris, Alissa

Skinner, Arianna

Hartselle, AL

Alred, Emily
Blackwood, Julie
Clark, Carrington

Compton, Shelby

Graves, Megan
Logan, Randall

Montgomery, Stephanie
Morgan, Glen

Scarborough, Shelley

Williams, Cameron

Harvest, AL
Blade, Ashley
Twice a year, SHRM Alabama (Society for Human Resource Management) sends representatives from the districts in the State of Alabama to represent the Human Resource profession on Capitol Hill. The purpose of these visits is to allow members of SHRM in the State of Alabama to lobby with their local congressmen and congresswomen. The goal is to ensure that our politicians are well informed and educated on Human Resource related issues and that these issues are presented to the Senate and House of Representatives. This allows the Human Resource professionals within the State of Alabama to represent their profession and lobby for legislation that will improve the effects that Human Resources has on businesses throughout the state.

This year, SHRM Alabama decided that it wanted to embrace their goal of connecting HR professionals, congress leaders, and HR students. In order to accomplish this, TVC-SHRM decided to grant a scholarship to a student that met the following three qualifications:

- Be a Human Resource major in good standing at Athens State University
- Have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA overall
- Be an active member in the student SHRM chapter at Athens State University

In addition to the qualifications listed above, students also had to write an essay that consisted of answering three questions:

- What does legislative advocacy in Human Resource mean to you?
- How would accompanying the TVC-SHRM on the annual Capitol Hill visit to meet the State Representatives and Senators benefit you and the pursuit of a career in HR?
- What could be discerned from this experience that would allow you to be better in the community as a corporate citizen?

This was a very competitive scholarship and after a week of review and deliberation by the TVC-SHRM Board of Directors, I was chosen as the recipient of the TVC-SHRM Campus to Capitol Hill Scholarship. I was so excited that I would be given the chance to represent students from Athens State University to lobby in Washington, D.C. with Human Resource professionals about HR policies. I knew it would be a chance to really grasp the relevant nature of human resources as a key profession at the core of business operations and public policy.

There were two main topics that the HR professionals addressed with the Senators and members of Congress on the Capitol Hill visit. The first topic addressed was based on the Immigration Reform Control Act (IRCA). This particular policy focused on the belief by both SHRM and the ACIP (American Council on International Personnel) that foreign born talent contributes to the U.S. workforce and how employers recognize the importance of family unity and contributions of foreign-born talent. The second topic that the HR professionals lobbied was the current problematic nature and potential solutions for the E-Verify system. HR advocacy is aimed at enhancing the E-Verify system by eliminating the paper version of the I-9 form since this form is a paper documentation that is at risk for identity theft, forgery, and alteration. The goal is to create a fully electronic verification system that integrates the paper-base Form I-9 into the E-Verify system and moves towards a more secure system.

Having gone on the TVC-SHRM Capitol Hill visit, there were several significant takeaways. This trip gave me the opportunity to embrace and appreciate the role of HR advocacy and to learn more about the political process and how it works. I also had a chance to advocate on behalf of SHRM and the HR profession and to get to see first hand the real impact these visits have on the public policy debate involving critical HR issues. Going on the Capitol Hill visit really gave me the appreciation for diverse perspectives on HR advocacy issues. I also learned what it truly means to interact with the Senators and Representatives of Congress. It really meant a lot to me to see the sincere interest that the Senators and Representatives of Congress have about HR advocacy issues that were presented to them. I felt like we were partners in finding real solutions on these HR related issues and that their aim was to be joint problem solvers. It was especially impressive to me that the Senators and Representatives took time out of their very busy itinerary to talk to HR professionals about real business issues that they are facing.

One of the greatest learnings I gleaned is how important it is to network with Human Resource Managers, Directors, and HR professionals as a profession and in the workplace really puts in perspective what it will be like when I get a job in HR. I heard tons of “war stories” and “practical lessons” from all of the professional HR Managers, Directors, and the other professional staff. It really afforded me the opportunity to see the HR profession operationalized and put into practice. It gave me a realistic perspective on what can be expected in the real world of HR as a profession and in the workplace. This trip has also allowed me to affirm my choice of human resources as a profession and made me realize just how excited I am that I have chosen HR as my major. By going on the Capitol Hill visit, I have found that there are opportunities to support the SHRM member advocacy team (A-Team) as well as leverage state and local resources, federal resources, legal reports, and HR issue updates.

Finally, I have learned a tremendous amount about HR advocacy. I have found out that the “SHRM Getting Involved” web page provides a comprehensive outline the strategic nature and relevance of HR as a profession and how HR professionals are strategic problem solvers with this site also indicating how HR professionals can get involved. This trip has also made me realize the significance and important role of networking. While I was a member of the Student SHRM Chapter at Athens State University and a Member of National SHRM before going on the trip to Capitol Hill, by going on this trip it made me realize how important it is to stay connected and involved with my Student SHRM Chapter at Athens State University, Professional SHRM Chapters, such as my sponsoring TVC-SHRM Chapter, and with National SHRM. Being involved and staying connected with my Student SHRM Chapter, TVC-SHRM Professional SHRM Chapter, and with National SHRM, it will allow me to reap the benefits of networking, problem solving, action research, benchmarking best practices, and leveraging the vast resources available to allow me to be the best in the profession I have chosen as a career: HR. I will close with a quote I recently became familiar with from the SHRM website which states: “America is not governed by the majority, but by the majority of those who participate-Thomas Jefferson.” I believe this quote says it all. As professionals we have to stay connected and involved. This trip has left a lasting impact on my life and I am so thankful to be given this opportunity. I have also had the opportunity to share my experience and learning outcomes at the 2013 year end Alabama SHRM State Council Meeting, TVC-SHRM Annual Legislative Meeting, and Shoals SHRM last annual meeting. I am graduating in May 2014 with a Bachelor’s degree in Human Resource Management from Athens State University and I am more excited today than ever before about my chosen profession and what I will be able to achieve. Thanks TVC-SHRM for this life changing experience!
On January 31, 2014, Athens State University hosted Dr. Scott Warnock, an associate professor of English at Drexel University and an avid writer, who delivered two workshops covering such topics as writing online, communicating effectively, and using “low-stakes writing” as a teaching tool.

What brought Dr. Warnock here, you ask? Athens State has a program called “Building Success through Writing”-This is a Quality Enhancement Plan that aims to impact the role writing plays in teaching and learning at Athens State. It also measures student’s development as writers over a five-year period (2010-2015).

Dr. Warnock sat down with me for an interview after the last workshop—I did get a little more personal by asking a few questions.

Me: “Why did you pursue the job of teaching--what made you want to become a professor?”

Dr. Warnock: “I have always had the desire in my heart to teach.”

Me: “What are the challenges of teaching writing today and what could you share with young professionals about the importance of writing in their careers?”

Dr. Warnock: “Today’s writing challenges are in some ways no different than challenges writing teachers have always faced, but now they have a digital twist. A main issue in writing instruction is that, for some reason, students are often convinced they will not write much in their careers. Everything I know about professional writing contradicts this idea of theirs. I have interviewed dozens of friends and associates of mine about the writing they do professionally. I have a nice file of their answers called “Writing in the Professions,” and I share this with my students. The students are stunned to see that in so many diverse fields – ranging from pediatric medicine to insurance sales to software programming – writing is a significant part of work. Once students believe writing is of value professionally, teachers can make inroads into then helping them believe that it is crucial to their learning and personal development. In many cases, it appears that writing is a key way to differentiate people who achieve high levels of success in their given fields – you may get in the door with your degree and experience, but often climbing the ladder takes, among other things, good writing. The digital “twist” is that many traditionally-aged students spend most of their time writing, but they don’t think of these mostly digital interactions as being “real” writing, even though I believe it is and they are part of the most literate generation perhaps ever.”

Dr. Warnock says that he would jump at the chance to visit Athens State University in the future. In his New Jersey accent he says, “You folks were very good to me!”

One pair of tickets available to the first student with the correct answer.

Movie Trivia

Which wizards appear in The Hobbit-The Desolation of Smaug that also appear in the The Lord of the Rings Trilogy?

All movie passes courtesy of Cinemagic Theatre Athens, AL

Submit answers to Student Activities Office in Classroom Building.