

The 50-Year Club Celebrants

“The 50-Year Club” of Athens State University gathered for a celebration and luncheon in May in the Annex of the Sandridge Student Center. The event gathered almost 20 alumni of the university who graduated in or before 1957.

The meeting was called to order and welcomed by Louise Strange Steele of the Class of 1947. The guest speakers included Mr. Leonard Gossett of the Class of 1957 and Rick Mould, the university’s Vice President of University Relations. The university invites this austere group to return yearly to the Athens State campus for a special day of reminiscing with classmates and to tour the campus.



Front row (L-R) Dorothy Jones Henderson, Julia Culps Smith, Mabry Batson Miller, Mack Vinson , Louise Strange Steele, Lifford French, Leonard Gossett, Rebecca Davenport Leopard, Margaret Williams Kaucher, Agnes Gann Pounds.
Back row (L-R) Tressie Davis McLemore, Bill Crutcher, W.R. Nelson, Robert Allen Tinnon, Dennis Jett, Frances Belue Box, Joe Ann Chambers Crutcher.

Hebrew returns! Mascot is back after restoration



William Barksdale and Randy Vinson of Athens State’s Physical Plant begin to attach the claws to the bear statue.

After a two-year hibernation, the well-known mascot of Athens State University once again stands proud on campus.

The fiberglass bear, first placed on campus in 1966, underwent a complete restoration overseen by Jerry Bradford, the University’s Director of the Physical Plant.

The mascot has been repainted, repaired, and Bradford painstakingly recreated the bear’s claws by forming a mold from the one remaining claw before its restoration was complete.

Along with the makeover, the location of the bear has changed as well. For 39 years it stood on Pryor Street, guarding the entrance to the Carter Physical Education Building. On Monday, he was placed in his new home on the east side of the Sandridge Student Center near the Alumni Fountain.

Three major campus renovation projects on the drawing board

Beginning this fall, Athens State University will undertake three major renovation projects. Plans to refurbish McCandless and Waters Halls, along with the reallocation of the use of Sanders Hall, came about after an approximate \$13 million bond issue by the state appropriated funding late last year to target these simultaneous projects.

McCandless Hall will see its first renovation effort in 20 years. One of the most sought-after concert and lecture venues on campus, the structure will undergo a complete interior transformation with a special focus on the Griffin Auditorium and the upgrading of safety features and handicapped accessibility.

The most dramatic transformation of the three will be the changes to Waters Hall. The mid-century architecture will give way to an architectural style that is more cohesive with the other buildings on campus. A hip roof, additional wing and portico columns will be added to the exterior while increasing and upgrading classroom and laboratory spaces within the interior.

Sanders Hall, after serving off and on as a dormitory since its erection in 1926, will act as the new home to the College of Business. Due to the college's faculty and programmatic growth, and the incremental decrease in the number of traditional boarding students, the change in the building's purpose will act to better serve the students and the university in the future.

The completion of these multiple projects is expected to take 3 years with the university doing its best to assure the interruption to the student curriculum is minimal.

Letter to the Editor



I would like to thank the ASU Alumni Association for allowing me the opportunity to serve on the Alumni Board for ten years. It was a chance to pay back a little of what ASU had given to me. When I was on staff at ASU (then Athens College) from 1969 – 1975, employees were permitted to take up to two courses per term free. Because of this policy, I was able to receive a bachelor's degree in 1975. I will be forever grateful for that opportunity.

It was a pleasure to serve on the Alumni Board and I will always treasure the friendships that were forged with my fellow board members and the alumni staff. I urge other alumni to be open to serving on the board and to also seek out ways to support alumni activities.

I would also like to thank Rick Mould, vice-president for university relations and director of alumni affairs; secretary, Ellen Breland; coordinator of alumni affairs, Tena Bullington; and secretary, Trish Dilullo for their support of the Board's work. Certainly, we could not have accomplished our goals without their assistance and backup.

Carol Malone, '75
Past President, ASU Alumni Association

Fiddler's Convention - October 5-6, 2007



Alumni golf classic draws 91 golfers to support student scholarships

The Athens State University Alumni Golf Classic was held on Thursday, June 7th. A shotgun start kicked off the event at 1:00 pm at the Canebrake Golf Club after a lunch at the clubhouse.

The Golf Classic was originally created to provide student scholarship funds. Almost \$8,000 was raised during this event for the support of these scholarships.

The first-place team included Robert Pitman, Guy McClure, Sr., Steve Hargrove and Joey Jackson. Each team member received a \$100 gift certificate to the Canebrake Pro Shop. Second-place team members, winning \$75 gift certificates were J.J. Donahue, Oliver Carlota, Charlie Gross and Adam Hutson. Third-place winners, winning \$50 gift certificates, were Jim McClary, Jim McClary III, John Hubbs and David Hunt. Longest drive prize of a one-year supply of Pepsi went to Debbie Merritt.

Kay Bentley Kelly narrows workplace generation gap

By Carol Cross Malone, '75



When Kay Kelly isn't traveling, she and husband Mike collect antiques for their home on Lindsay Lane, such as the side-board shown.

"If the events of 9/11 did not make me understand that America had changed, the 17 hour train ride home did," said Kay Kelly as she related her experience of being in Washington D.C. when America was attacked in September 2001.

Kay was at Bowling Air Force Base on that fateful day conducting a leadership training seminar when word came about the attacks, first in New York and then in D.C. She was asked to remain there for the rest of the week to participate in traumatic stress training with military intelligence employees who were affected by the events. "One person in my class," she said, "saw the plane hit the pentagon."

With no flights available, Kay took a slow train home to Alabama. At each stop, National Guard troops would board. "I never thought I would see that in America," she said.

Most of Kay's work experiences have not been that traumatic.

After graduation from then-Athens College in 1974 with a degree in behavioral science, she spent seven years as a social worker in Lawrence and Limestone counties followed by 15 years as human resource director for the city of Athens.

During that time she met and married Mike Kelly, an engineer, and had a daughter Jordan. Mike took up Kay's hobby of collecting antiques for their home and her life seemed full.

"I was not looking for a job...certainly not a third career," said Kay. A man who trained employees for the city of Athens asked her to go to work for him. She had no experience in that field and it would involve a lot of travel. But Mike said he would hold down the home front if she wanted to try it.

Nine years of globe trotting later she is with another company, Applied Communications Group of Bowie Maryland, and is an expert in employee communications. She especially likes addressing the topic of generations in the workplace.

"There are now four generations in the workplace," said Kay. "Each brings with it generational attitudes and traits and with that comes communication issues. Once we better understand those attitudes and how they impact productivity, we can work towards resolving some of the conflicts and capitalize on the strengths that each generation brings to the workplace."

"For example," Kay continued, "the older generations prefer more formal reading and writing skills. They are most likely to write a memo or pick up a phone. The younger generations prefer technology - email, text messaging. They might even yell across the room at a colleague which older employees find offensive."

Two years ago she was asked to team-teach a group of young professionals in the D.C. area on leadership.

"We did not know walking in that they were a group of millennial," she said, using the term to describe the generation born in years leading up to the millennium—a group growing up with unprecedented access to technology. "After four days, we had not lost the battle, we had lost the war. We were not prepared for their training style."

Kay decided that she would learn what was driving the group and what was effective in teaching communication skills to them. The experience led to her development of what she now calls "generational training."

"I had to look at the four generations and ask what shapes them, what events, what life experiences," said Kay. "In order to find a way to help them communicate and collaborate, I needed to know what their attitudes were, what their goals were. I asked, how can a workplace balance the personalities, i.e., someone who is a traditionalist— trained in top-down management— vs. a millennial who is used to helping make decisions?"

In thinking about how each generation has its own memories and life experiences that the other did not have, she realized that each generation's memories has a mortality—the next generation paves over them and thus tensions arise.

Through class participation, Kay generates a list of what the employees perceive to be the conflict between the generations. She then helps them draw a big picture review...how they have always done things, how they communicate, what their leadership styles are, what their goals are, what their life balance is — where each generation is in their life cycle. From that, she leads them into leadership techniques for resolving the issues.

"I really like watching people as they 'turn on,'" she says. "When they realize what is happening to cause the tension."

Another course she teaches is how to deliver presentations. "I love to see how good people feel about themselves once they have mastered the presentation – the confidence it gives them," said Kay.

She knows now she chose the right career path.

continued on page 4

Kay B. Kelly, continued from page 3

“I love this job,” says Kay. “I still draw from experiences in previous jobs and from the education I received at Athens State University (then Athens College). Athens College was a place where individuals could develop. The small student body kept me from being ‘one among many’ and I was able

to be a leader in my sorority and the Student Government Association. That experience and the one-on-one time the professors provided helped me to realize that I could do a lot more than I thought.”

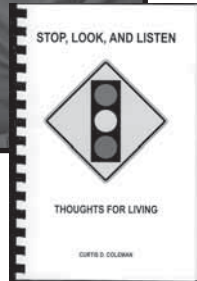
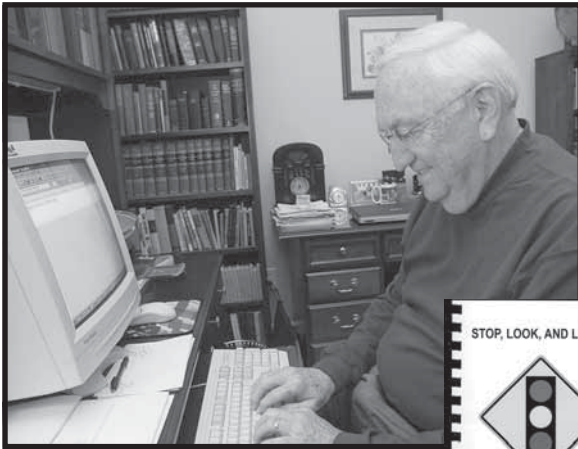
She also can’t forget her mother, Dorothy Bentley, who told her when she was thinking about going into this new

field, “Kay, I have no doubt that if you want to do it, you can.”

To contact Kay about courses on communications in the workplace, call 256-777-0452.

Author’s note: Kay Kelly serves on the ASU Alumni Board of Directors.

Well-known educator Curtis Coleman publishes collection of inspirational articles



Athens State University former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Curtis Coleman, has recently completed *Stop Look and Listen*, a collection of inspirational essays gathered over the past decade.

Coleman retired from Athens State in 1998 after 32 years as a professor. Since his retirement, he has written a weekly column for the *Athens News Courier* from which these articles have been compiled.

In his preface, Coleman states, “These articles are built on the foundation of spiritual truths and life experiences.” He dedicates his book to his wife Jane who he describes as “the wind beneath my wings.”

Dr. Robert White, Professor of Religious Studies, commented, “Dr. Coleman’s book is more than a self-help book, it is about living with faith and wisdom. The book is an extension of Dr. Coleman’s life and teaching. He instructs and inspires.”

The University hosted a public book-signing to introduce the publication in February in the Parlor of Founders Hall on the Athens campus. Books are available at Pablo’s on Market in Athens. All of the proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to the Center of Religious Studies and Ethics at Athens State.

Alumni Bridge Benefit provides scholarships

Athens State University Alumni Bridge Benefit was held on Wednesday, June 20th in the ballroom of the Sandridge Student Center. This year’s event brought together 76 players for the game. Local merchants provided several door prizes and the participants enjoyed refreshments and coffee. Recognition went to High Scorer Leatrice Cole, Second Highest Scorer Madlyne Papot, and Low Scorer Elizabeth Buck.

The annual tournament raises much needed funding for scholarships that are directed by the Alumni Association.



(From Left to Right) Bridge Committee Member, Louise Steele; High Score, Leatrice Cole; Second Highest Score, Madlyne Papot; Low Score, Elizabeth Buck; Bridge Benefit Chairperson, Tressie McLemore.

Alumni in the news ...

Scott Hendrix, Class of ‘98, B.A. in history, now serves on the faculty of Carroll College in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Johnny Butch Looney, Class of ‘73, was inducted into the Marshall County Sports Hall of Fame, 2007.

Kerry Donaldson, Class of ‘04, is currently the head basketball coach at Athens Middle School.

Clyde Guinn, Class of 1971, currently serves as Senior Vice President of Operations for Stanford Hotels based in San Francisco.

Bob Labbe, Class of ‘95, hosts his own weekly live radio program, *Reeling in the Years*, on WLRH-FM in Huntsville, Alabama. The show airs from 9pm to 2am on Friday evenings.

Kathee Baker, Class of 1971, is the Communication Director for the National Association of Chemical Distributors based in Arlington, Virginia.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Alumni Association Honorees

Athens State University hosted its 100th Annual Alumni Banquet honoring its Distinguished Alumnus of the Year on March 17, 2007. The event was held in the University's Sandridge Student Center Ballroom where several other awards were given to alumni and supporters of the university.

"So many of our graduates have achieved notable success," remarked Athens State President Jerry Bartlett. "This banquet is an extraordinary opportunity to reunite friendships that were formed on campus over the years, and a wonderful chance to spotlight just a few of the many success stories from those with an Athens State education."

The following were honored as the award recipients for 2007:

Ms. Robin Carter Clem, *Lydia Malvina Hammerly Distinguished Alumnus of the Year*

Ms. Clem is a 1994 graduate of Athens State, played softball and was very involved in student activities while on campus. She attended Birmingham School of Law and currently is in private law practice with her own firm in Huntsville. Ms. Clem was selected as the recipient of the Huntsville-Madison County Bar Association Community Service Award in 2004 and serves on the Athens State Alumni Board.

Mrs. Dorothy Gabarro, *Loraine B. Pabst Commitment to Teaching Award*

Mrs. Gasbarro is a 1980 graduate of Athens State and presently teaches mathematics at the University. She is well known as an excellent teacher and is a respected colleague of the faculty and staff. Mrs. Gasbarro has been named "Who's Who Among America's Teachers" on three separate occasions – most recently in 2004.

Mr. Dwight Gooch, *Outstanding Alumnus in Arts and Sciences Award*

Mr. Gooch is a 1981 graduate of Athens State. He is a well-known artist in Athens and Limestone Country for his work depicting local landmarks. He is an active volunteer of his time and artwork to Habitat for Humanity, Hospice and CASA. Mr. Gooch had a long career with the federal government as a graphics artist.

Mr. Donald Entrekin, *Outstanding Alumnus in Education Award*

Mr. Entrekin is a 1969 graduate of Athens State. He taught English in Pennsylvania and later became an administrator and baseball coach. Mr. Entrekin has also served in an advisory role with Athens State University student teachers.

Ms. Melisa Zwilling, *Outstanding Alumnus in Business Award*

Ms. Zwilling graduated from Athens State in 1995. She was very active while attending the University, receiving the Most Outstanding Business Senior Award and the titles of Ms. Athens State College and Founders Queen. Ms. Zwilling is currently an attorney practicing in Birmingham, a spokesperson for the American Stroke/Heart Association, and was awarded the title of Mrs. Alabama United States in 2006.

Mr. Mike English, *Clio Lovin Alumnus Loyalty Award*

Mr. English is a 1972 graduate of Athens State University and has served on the Alumni Executive Committee as President-Elect and President for the past four years and as chair of numerous committees. Mr. English has been a dependable supporter of the Alumni Tent for Fiddlers where he assisted in supplying merchandise for sale.

Ms. Lisa Payne, *Dedicated Support Staff Award*

Ms. Payne is a 1986 graduate of Athens State University and has been employed at the University for over twenty years, most recently as the Coordinator in the Transfer Advising Center / Veterans Affairs. Ms. Payne supports Athens State not only locally, but in her travels as well and has assisted with many of the alumni events before her appointment to serve on the Board.

Ms. Carol Malone, *Alumni Spirit Award*

Ms. Carol Malone graduated from Athens State in 1975. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association in several capacities to include president and committee chair. She has given much of her time and energy to make the Alumni Association a success.

Athens State University Alumni Scholarships

Scholarships are awarded to students based on various criteria. Awards vary from \$1,000.00 to \$1,500.00 annually.

- Alumni Vanity Tag Scholarship
- Dr. James Ballew Scholarship
- Mary Norman Moore McCoy Scholarship, two awarded
- Dr. Angie Nazaretian Scholarship
- Dr. Lorraine Pabst Scholarship
- Leovis and Carlton D. Whitt Scholarship

Requires a **3.25 minimum GPA**, must have a member of the immediate family (grandparent, parent, sibling, aunt or uncle) who attended or graduated from Athens College/Athens State College/Athens State University. Must be a new entering student for fall semester.

Golf Scholarship

Three scholarships awarded annually, requires a **minimum 3.0 GPA**, full-time enrollment status, and demonstrated leadership qualities through clubs and organizations, and requires the student to perform 150 hours per semester of service for the Alumni Office.

Geraldine Whitt Alumni Scholarship

Scholarship requires a **3.25 minimum GPA**.

Applications are online at Athens.edu.

Alumni Association
ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY
300 North Beaty Street
Athens, Alabama 35611

STANDARD
POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT No. 122
Athens, AL
35611
Non-Profit Organization



*Athens State University is
"Building Success Stories!"*