



COLLEGE *of* ATHENS

CoA Fall 2023 Newsletter

*Equipping the next generation of Christian leaders to transform the world in
Jesus' Name*



The Things Revealed

Working at a Christian college (and currently enrolled in graduate studies at a Christian seminary), I often get asked why anyone would want to spend years getting a specifically Christian-based education. By way of answer, I believe that God does not call us to hunker down in an ivory tower, but rather He equips us for useful and meaningful work amongst our communities and our world. Scripture and biblical history speak to the importance of learning everything in light of God's principles and priorities. Just prior to entering the Promised Land, Moses calls the Israelites to reaffirm their commitment to God's covenant. After forty years in the wilderness, the Lord reminds the people of their choice: live according to His holy laws and experience the blessings of fellowship with Him or live apart from God's ways and suffer the consequences of a broken relationship with their Creator. Moses cautions them that a large part of living in obedience is to live in wholehearted faith. They might not have all of the answers regarding God's plan for securing their Promised Land, but they have something even better—they have the promise of God Himself that *"he may establish you today as his people, and that he may be your God"* (Deuteronomy 29:13). Moses further explains, *"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever . . ."* (Deuteronomy 29:29). Moses' words remind us of "The Greatest Commandment": *"You shall love the LORD your God with all of your heart and with all of your soul and with all of your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise"* (Deuteronomy 6:4-7).

Jesus repeatedly referenced the Great Commandment in His earthly ministry. He incorporates it into His parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), and He also uses it to explain the whole crux of the Jewish Bible (Matthew 22:40). Essentially, Jesus tells us that the entirety of the Scriptures can be summed up in these two truths: we are undeniably called to know and fully love God, and to know and fully love others. To be considered God's people, we have to share God's Heart. We are called to knowledge and to action—all of which is borne out of our love of who God is and what He has done for us. It is clear that we must have a truthful, robust, and growing knowledge of God. It is telling that Jesus' quoting of the Great Commandment includes the call to love the Lord, "with all your mind." Ours is not a blind faith that forgoes all intellectual rigor or training. A thirst for knowledge is a gift from God, and the Lord is honored when we study His Word faithfully and fully. Likewise, God is also honored when we explore other academic and professional education and training with a mind to be made useful for God's works.

Practically, what does this look like? In part, it means honestly treasuring and taking advantage of every opportunity we have to learn more about God. Far from being an empty academic exercise, truly seeking after the Lord results in holistic growth. When we delve deeply into Scripture, and when we expand our Christian worldview to encompass every aspect of our lives, we find ourselves maturing spiritually, but also mentally and socially. As we grow and expand in our knowledge of God, we become better stewards of all that we have

been given. We acknowledge Christ's Lordship over every aspect of our lives, and we more fully appreciate that all people are created in the Divine Image. A genuine embrace of the Great Commandment should directly result in a genuine striving to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). We hunger to be of loving use to our neighbors, and we fulfill the charge of the Great Commission in the unique ways in which God calls us.

The revealed things—the beauty and magnificence of creation that points to a divine Creator, and the progressive revelation of that Creator in the Words of Scripture—are God's gracious gift to us. Through them, we can begin to know God's character: His holiness, His righteousness, His justice, His mercy, and His love. We see that God is never arbitrary. He has a wonderful plan for redemption, and that plan will never be thwarted or pushed aside. We see that God cares for and loves us, and that He demonstrated the full extent of that love through Christ. We see that God values us in our entirety—our hearts and our minds. For those of us who are dedicated to offering and pursuing Christian education, God's love is enough to call forth our obedience, even when some things are left yet to be revealed.

By Cynthia Wilbur, CoA Assistant Director of Program Services



CoA Summer 2023 Academic Honors

Congratulations to our Summer 2023 Academic Honors recipients!

President's List (3.76 - 4.0 GPA)

Undergraduate: Grace Bode, Brooke Williford, Lili Seale, Lauren Siegers,

Leslie Mayen-Repreza, Noah Shoemaker
Graduate: Lisa Graham

Dean's List (3.5 - 3.75 GPA)

Undergraduate: Destiny Groberg



CoA Now Inviting International Students!

We are super excited to announce that the College of Athens has been approved to provide visas for international students. Applications for international students beginning Spring Semester 2024 are open! We look forward to how God will use us to equip, train, and send out the nations to impact the nations for his glory.

If you are an international student or know someone who is who would be interested in an experiential and transformative Christian college experience, please encourage them to **apply today!** The Spring 2024 deadline is October 1st and the Fall 2024 deadline is May 1, 2024

Want to travel the world and learn about new cultures and people groups without leaving your own home? Then consider hosting an international student! CoA is looking for individuals and churches willing to host international students and assist them (both financially and practically) in settling into their new lives as students here in the U.S. Please contact the Office of Admissions for more details!



CoA Celebrates our new C4C Coaches!

Congratulations to nine CoA students who took part in a year-long training to become certified in Coaching 4 Christlikeness! C4C is a life-on-life discipleship program designed to help grow individuals into an understanding and lived application of 1 John 4:17—that as Christ-followers, we are “as Jesus is in this world.” As one student stated, “I’ve moved from a rules-directed form of religiosity to a Christ-empowered identity!”

[Click here to learn more about becoming a C4C coach!](#)



HOSTED BY THE
COLLEGE OF ATHENS

Saturday, October 14th
8:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Every year the faculty, staff, students and families of the college come together to [serve the Athens community in Christ's name](#). Our event is an opportunity for Christians to unify as a representation of Christ to the world. This annual joy-filled day brings the heart of Christ and his servants closer to others. We hope that you and your church will join us in bringing God's love to those around us this year! Breakfast, worship, and Kick-off at St. James Church, 111 Westlake Drive, Athens, 30606. [Sign up to serve now!](#)



Pastors Appreciation 2023
Thursday, October 4th
10:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Will you help us invite your pastor for the College of Athens' [2023 Pastor's Appreciation Luncheon?](#) CoA appreciates the pastors who lead God's people day-in and day-out. The annual Pastor's Appreciation event is a small way for us to give back to area ministry leaders who need our continued love, support, and prayer! This year's event will feature discussion by author, Dr. Tracy Reynolds, Discipleship Pastor at Grace Fellowship Church, with 45 years of leadership experience in vocational ministry. Event location will be Alps Road Presbyterian Church, 380 Alps Road, Athens, 30606. Thank you for sharing this invitation with your pastor!

Campus Development Update



In 2017, CoA rezoned and purchased a stunning 114-acre parcel in Oconee County as the site of its permanent campus. We are ready to move some dirt and build a place for CoA to grow and to thrive! CoA is expanding its capacity to build a Christ-centered workforce through degree and non-degree programs and to serve our local community.

Student housing is now the greatest practical need for our full-time and international students. Completion of initial Phase I construction ensures that CoA will have residential space for 72 individual students as well as additional classrooms and better professional space for the growing number of staff and academic faculty.

In total, the CoA campus development effort needs \$45,000 per month in gifts and pledges for a 36-month period to provide for expenses during the building and lease-out phases.

Whatever way you prefer to support the college's giant leap forward onto its Promised Land will be a tremendous blessing!

[Learn more about the College of Athens' "Promised Land" campaign.](#)

CoA Student Spotlight: Meet Caedmon Coley!

College of Athens has a foundational commitment to transforming the world in Jesus' name! One of the ways we engage in that mission is the expectation that all of our students will engage in experiential learning. This past summer, current student Caedmon Coley was able to participate in an internship in Maine. Caedmon says of his experience, "Over the course of this past summer, I was blessed to work as a pastoral intern under the elders at Christ the King Church in Belfast, Maine. While I was there, I was intimately involved in the life of the church and was able to experience rich liturgy, beautiful fellowship, and a truly gospel-informed culture that has permeated the Christian community in Waldo County across denominational lines. My heart coming back has been to see similar flourishing in Athens, and I'm optimistic that the lessons that I've learned this summer will help me to engage in even deeper theological thoughtfulness and spread that to the greater Athens area."



CoA Helps Rebuild Lives @ Hancock State Prison



CoA is excited that inmates at Hancock State Prison now have the opportunity to enroll in our Leadership and Christian Ministry degree programs! Current HSP students completed the "Foundations of Faith" class over the summer semester and are now studying the Old Testament. The goals of the Hancock State Prison Degree Program through the College of Athens are to restore the men into the fullness of their identity in Christ, to equip them with a strong biblical foundation, and to prepare them with the skills needed to be productive members of society in community.

Please consider [partnering with CoA](#) on the Hancock State Prison Initiative! Additionally, if your church is interested in providing hygiene kits for the men at HSP, please contact [Dr. Marcia Wilbur](#), College of Athens President, at 706-769-1472.

CoA Upcoming Opportunities

Make plans now to go deeper in your faith. CoA always has ways to connect you with others who share your passion for life in Christ!

Fall Student Gathering



From our CoA Student Leaders: "Welcome Back! We are so excited about the Fall Semester! CoA alumni and raving fans are welcome to join us for the Fall Potluck / Picnic on September 9th at Herman C Michael Park."

Saturday, September 9th

Noon-2:00 pm

Herman C. Michael Park Pavilion

1051 Elder Road, Bishop

Bring a side dish to share!



New Year - New Heart 2024

It's never too early to make plans to attend NYNH! Start the New Year off right with a focus on growing your faith and prayer life.

Saturday, January 20, 2023

Stay tuned for more details!



Annual President's Gala

Please consider joining us for what has become the most anticipated evening of the CoA calendar! Welcome and cocktails at 5:30 PM, with dinner, program, and special guest speaker to follow!

Saturday, February 24, 2024

5:30-9:30 PM

Trump's Catering

Transformed! 2024



Save-the-date for next year's *Transformed!* Conference!
June 2024

CoA Employment Opportunities

Assistant Director of Admissions

The Assistant Director of Admissions will be responsible for recruiting students to enroll in the College and assisting them through the admissions process. Specific duties will include attending college recruiting fairs across northeast Georgia and surrounding areas, participating with the college's admissions and onboarding team in the overall admissions strategy, effectively and creatively utilizing social media and other marketing materials, and assisting with undergraduate Academic Advising.

For more information, please visit our [CoA Employment Listings!](#)



COLLEGE of ATHENS

CoA Service Opportunities

New Heart Thrift Store

Planning on doing some spring cleaning? Looking to refresh your home or closet? Be sure to stop by the [New Heart Thrift Store](#) and stock up for the new season! Located just outside of downtown Watkinsville at 1450 Greensboro Highway, New Heart is open Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00am until 5:00 pm.

Proceeds from purchases and donations will help fund the CoA student scholarship fund while also giving back to other community ministries. Additionally, volunteers are also always needed and appreciated! To volunteer, please call 706-705-1702 or email info@newheartthriftstore.org.



COLLEGE of ATHENS

Core Values

IN THE CONTEXT OF CHRIST AND HIS KINGDOM, WE VALUE:

- A strong biblical foundation
- An abiding relationship with the Trinity through prayer
- Grounding each person's Identity in Christ
- Practical, experiential learning
- Every believer's calling to Christ-like love and service
- Worship in Spirit and truth
- Unity in the body of Christ
- Faith and trust in God alone

Thank You, CoA Business Sponsors!





CoA Mission Statement

College of Athens is a biblically grounded, Holy Spirit-empowered, accredited Christian college that prepares and restores men and women who will teach, reach, lead, and minister to others out of their identity in Christ through relational, hands-on training for life and leadership in the church, in the marketplace, and across the globe.

Our Contact Information

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