

Each year, on the second Thursday of October, the establishment of the *University of Montevallo* is celebrated on campus at Founders' Day convocation.

Originally founded on Oct. 12, 1896, as the *Alabama Girls' Industrial School*, UM has developed over the course of more than a century into the state's premier public liberal arts institution.

The annual ceremony begins at

11 a.m. with UM faculty, clad in their processional regalia, leading graduating seniors into Palmer Hall. For seniors, Founders' Day marks their first opportunity to officially don their black graduation robes with the Investiture of the Senior Class.

An annual tradition, the seniors march across Main Quad into the ceremony in Palmer Auditorium with graduation gowns in hand. Toward the end of the Founders' Day

convocation, the senior students rise as one and slip on their robes while family, friends, alumni, faculty and staff applaud in approval. This symbolizes the achievements each student has made in their academic endeavors to reach the point of graduation.

This year the university is celebrating 128 years of acknowledging its past while celebrating its future.

Significance of This Day

We wonder if we people of Montevallo realize the importance of showing this day our appreciation of the great significance of Alabama College. This is Founders Day, commemorating the establishment of the State College for Women.

Appropriate exercises will be held at the college in honor of the people and the day when they set up into reality their vision of one of Alabama's greatest institutions.

That vision has materialized into a physical and spiritual fact before our eyes. Not many of us were here when Alabama College was founded but we are here because Alabama College is here.

We hope the people of our town will attend the program at Palmer Hall today and show the feeling of pride that we have for the college.

Let us not misrepresent our selves by failing to show our interest. That would be unfair both to the college and to us, because we do appreciate Alabama College in our hearts. We would deny and

resent any charge that we are unappreciative. Then will we let our negligence be our own accuser?

Alabama College is Montevallo, and vice versa. The town is among the oldest in the State. It is among the best-known places in the State, which is true only because the founders of Alabama College chose to place the great institution here.

Montevallo owes everything to Alabama College. This day, of all days, we ought to close up our places of business, hang out the bunting, parade the band, go to the college and proclaim to the world our full and loyal appreciation of the day that set us apart as one of the very choice and treasured spots in all the land.

The administration, faculty, and student body will be glad to receive from the people of the town and community the fullest expression of our appreciation on this Founders Day. We should give it to them by laying aside everything else until we have done a worthy part in celebration of the founding of Alabama College in Montevallo.



This tribute to the Founders Day tradition at Alabama College (now the University of Montevallo) is excerpted from the October 12, 1939 edition of the weekly *Montevallo Times* and was presented in the newspaper as an editorial by Publisher W. M. "Mack" Wyatt in hopes of boosting local interest in that year's Founders Day celebration.

UM Founders Day – Oct. 10, 2024
Convocation: 11:00 am – Palmer Hall



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P.O. Box 411 • Montevallo, AL 35115

montevallo1817@gmail.com

Veterans Wreaths will be laid
this year at Montevallo City
Cemetery on
December 14, 2024.
Order your wreaths now
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