



CVB's Missy Wilson receives GSAE Award



Pictured (L to R): Chuck Jones, Missy Brandt Wilson and Paul Cramer

Please join us in congratulating Missy Brandt Wilson, Athens CVB Director of Sales, for earning the Georgia Society of Association Executives, Inc., (GSAE) Chair's Award.

GSAE President Wendy Kavanagh praised Missy, stating, "Missy was recognized for helping GSAE create inspiring and engaging experiences for the 2016 annual meeting in Athens. From organizing the host committee to managing "controlled chaos," Missy helped produce an enormously successful event. Her support of the GSAE staff and volunteers during their annual meeting was unwavering. She problem solved and was proactive in ways that made GSAE look amazing to attendees."

The Chair's Award is presented to the member who the chair feels has made a significant contribution to the Society, advancing the aims, ideals, and standards of GSAE and association management. [VIEW VIDEO](#)

Hyatt Place celebrates construction with 'topping out'

On Thursday, December 14, the Hyatt Place hosted their "Topping Out Celebration," a recognition of the milestone of the last beam placed atop the new connecting hotel to The Classic Center. The celebration proved to be a great opportunity to bring meeting planners to Athens to see developments in this new product. The new Hyatt Place is an integral part of the new hotel growth that will bring new rooms to downtown.

[VIEW PHOTOS](#)



Hyatt Place General Manager Angela Smith explains interior plans to visitors.

Credit: Online Athens



The Athens CVB helps promote our destination for film, in addition to other economic activities. On Thursday, January 12, a few members of the Athens CVB staff met with a production team during their visit to Athens scouting the location for an upcoming film. The team was quite impressed with Athens and expressed interest in an ongoing relationship with the CVB and Athens.

Pictured (L to R): Missy Brandt Wilson, Brett Hays, Kevin McGrail, Rob Roediger, Hannah Smith, Alex Hughes, and Chuck Jones

National Geographic Traveler's Best Trips of 2017: Georgia and Athens

Athens is honored to be named part of Georgia's culture and music scene that landed the state on *National Geographic Traveler's* list of "Best Trips for 2017." Georgia is one of only three U.S. locations mentioned. *The National Geographic Traveler* profile puts the spotlight on Georgia's rich music scene, including music festivals such as AthFest.



With more than 8.5 million readers, *National Geographic Traveler* has the largest audience of any travel magazine in its category. The highly coveted annual list was released in the December 2016/January 2017 issue of the magazine and is also available [online](#).

Athens CVB wins SportsEvents "Reader's Choice Award"

SportsEvents Media Group, the leading industry publication focused exclusively on helping sports event planners produce excellent competitions in the United States, has announced the Athens Convention & Visitors Bureau as one of its 2017 Readers' Choice Award winners.



Sports event professionals were asked to nominate destinations and sports venues that they believe display exemplary creativity and professionalism toward the groups they host. Nominations were received from readers throughout the year, and the top picks were selected based on results from an online voting system.

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- **Restaurants**, make your menu available
- **Events**, upload your event poster or flier

Don't forget, meeting specs and floor plans can also be uploaded.

Industry Events

**Tourism Hospitality
and Arts Day at the
Capitol**
January 23-24
The Capitol

**GACVB Winter
Meeting**
February 15-17
Cartersville, Georgia

Recent Media Coverage

- "Why Athens, Georgia Deserves A Spot on Your Getaway Bucket List," [StyleBlueprint.com](#), January 13, 2017
- "Athens Anniversaries and Must See Music Sites for Fans," [ExploreGeorgia.org](#), January 6, 2017
- "Where to Eat in Athens Georgia," [WithHusbandinTow.com](#), December 1, 2016

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