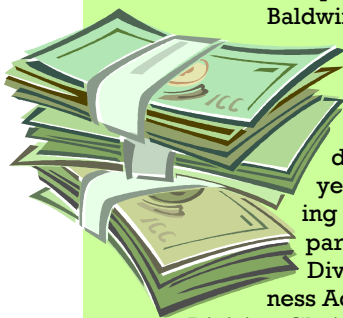


President's Update

ABAC Generates Over \$100 Million Impact on Tifton Area



The economic impact of Abraham Baldwin on the Tifton area reached an all-time high of \$100,741,299 during fiscal year 2003, according to a study prepared by ABAC's Division of Business Administration.

Division Chair Jeff Gibbs said this figure represents a 79 percent increase over the fiscal year 2000 economic

impact of \$56 million. The estimate was based on projected student expenditures, institutional expenditures, and ongoing capital project expenditures.

In terms of employment, the study showed that ABAC added \$40 million in labor income to the economy of the seven-county region and created 1,281 total jobs in the area. Approximately 20 percent of these positions are on the ABAC campus.

"On average, for each job created on campus, there are four off-campus jobs that exist because of spending related

to the college," Gibbs said. "Even though state budget cuts have reduced the ABAC budget by over \$2 million in the same period, substantial increases in enrollment and capital projects have fueled the increase in economic impact.

Gibbs said ABAC's economic impact report, based on the methodology of Dr. Jeffrey M. Humphreys of the Selig Center for Economic Growth in the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business, is a very conservative estimate of the value of ABAC to the local economy.

ICAPP Study Shows Payoff for ABAC Grads

Graduates of ABAC find that their degrees do pay off, according to a new statewide study on higher education in Georgia.

Commissioned by the University System's Intellectual Capital Partnership Program (ICAPP), the study places a dollar value on the quality education University System students receive.

Researchers at Georgia Tech analyzed earnings of nearly 90,000 University System of Georgia students who graduated between 1993-1997 and found that, overall, the increased earnings resulting from their college degrees added \$1.25 billion to the state's economy during 1998, the most recent year for which data was available.

For the purpose of the study, 980 ABAC graduates were polled. These graduates earned a total wage of \$27,023,427 in 1998. Their average salary was \$27,575. By attending ABAC, these graduates increased their salaries by \$7,169 per year. Over a 40-year career in the workplace, ABAC graduates would earn \$286,760 more than graduates with only a high school diploma.



ABAC students enjoyed visiting this apartment at ABAC Place in December

ABAC Place, Ag Sciences Ready For Action

A portion of the \$32 million ABAC Place Apartments project and all of the \$7.1 million Ag Sciences Building will be open for business in the new year. A total of 200 students are scheduled to begin moving in to ABAC Place Jan. 7, and students from all over the campus will begin taking classes in the Ag Sciences Building on Jan. 12..

The \$1.2 million renovation to Howard Auditorium will be completed this month, and the \$1.5 million Pedestrian Mall is about to begin Phase III. Construction on the other 635 beds at ABAC Place will continue until students return for the fall semester. This is the largest two-year college housing project in the nation at this time.

ABAC Students Awarded Foundation Scholarships

Fourteen Abraham Baldwin students were recently awarded ABAC Foundation Scholarships for the 2003-04 academic year through the Foundation Scholars Program.

The program provides scholarships to the top three honor graduates from eight local counties: Ben Hill, Berrien, Colquitt, Cook, Irwin, Tift, Turner, and Worth. If any of the top three

students chooses not to attend ABAC, the scholarship is available to three of the top five graduates. The students received scholarships in the amount of \$1,800 to be divided equally among two semesters of attendance.

Students receiving Foundation Scholarships included Erin M. Hand, a secondary education--history major from Tifton and the first honor graduate from Tift County High School; Elizabeth F. Hughes, an undeclared major from Tifton and the fifth honor graduate from Tift County High School; Mathew (Blake) McCranie, a pre-medicine major from Alapaha and the first honor graduate from Berrien High School; Jesse F. McMillan, a pre-dentistry ma-



Abraham Baldwin's 2003-04 Foundation Scholars include the following students (left to right): Jesse McMillan, Blake McCranie, Candice Stripling, Jason Willingham, Kati Spurlock, Bethany Story, Tony Brock, Erin Hand, Elizabeth Hughes, Joshua Spain, and Lauren Kicklighter. Not pictured: Shevellaine Stone, Krystle Franks, and Amber Huff.

major from Enigma and the fourth honor graduate from Berrien High School; Shevellaine E. Stone, an information technology major from Nashville and the fifth honor graduate from Berrien High School; Kati L. Spurlock, an English major from Moultrie and the fifth honor graduate from Colquitt County High School; and Krystle N. Franks, an undeclared major from Lenox and the third honor graduate from Cook High School.

Other students receiving scholarships included Candice M. Stripling, a secondary education--mathematics major from Ocilla and the second honor graduate from Irwin County

High School; Jason S. Willingham, a civil engineering major from Wray and the third honor graduate from Irwin County High School; Lauren A. Kicklighter, an occupational therapy major from Sycamore and the fourth honor graduate from Tift-area Academy; Bethany M. Story, an undeclared major from Sycamore and the second honor graduate from

Turner County High School; Amber N. Huff, a middle childhood education major from Ashburn and the third honor graduate from Turner County High School; Tony (Brent) Brock, a biology major from Arabi and the fifth honor graduate from Turner County High School; and Joshua S. Spain, a science major from Sylvester and the second honor graduate from Worth County High School.

The scholarships cover tuition and fees for two semesters of full-time enrollment provided the students maintain a 3.0 grade point average each semester. They are funded by the ABAC Foundation.

ABAC, Kids Advocacy Selected as Carter Partnership Award Finalist

ABAC combined with the Kids Advocacy Coalition Partnership for Lifelong Learning to receive one of the three finalists' spots for the fourth annual Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter Partnership Award for Campus-Community Collaboration.

The winner of this year's award was the Latino Initiative, a partnership with the State University of West Georgia. The other finalist was the South Georgia Farm Worker Health Project sponsored by Emory University.

Sue Wilson and Diane Kilgore represented ABAC at a November ceremony in Atlanta.

The three program finalists were selected from a group of 19 campus-community partnerships from across the state by a national selection committee composed of representatives from higher education, business, government, and community groups. The winner received \$10,000 in support of the winning program, with \$5,000 going to each partner.

In the Partnership for Lifelong Learning, students and faculty from Abraham Baldwin work with the Kids Advocacy Coalition in after school programs for local children. Programs include performing and visual arts, a project for at-risk middle school students, continuing education courses for teachers, and annual childcare conferences.

Congratulations to all those at ABAC who were involved in the project. It is indeed a signal honor to be a finalist for the prestigious award.



Ag Sciences Grand Opening January 27

The grand opening for the \$7.1 million Ag Sciences Building will be held on Jan. 27 at 2 p.m. University System of Georgia Chancellor Thomas Meredith will be the guest speaker at the ceremony. The building will be open to students when spring semester begins on Jan. 12. The building is located on the north side of the campus on Perimeter Road.

Hospital Foundation to Furnish \$60,000 in Lab Equipment

The Colquitt Regional Medical Foundation has approved the purchase of \$60,000 worth of laboratory equipment for use by nursing students enrolled at Abraham Baldwin's Moultrie campus and Moultrie Technical College.

Students attending nursing classes at ABAC on the Square in Moultrie presently have to travel to Tifton for lab classes. The equipment will be installed in an existing classroom lab on the Moultrie Tech campus and be utilized by students from both institutions.

The target date for opening the new lab facility is early January, 2004 to coincide with the beginning of the spring semester on Jan. 12 at ABAC.

"This is such a generous show of support from the Colquitt Regional Medical Foundation," ABAC President Mike Vollmer said. "It's going to make a tremendous difference for our nursing students who take classes at ABAC on the Square. Nursing is now our single largest major, and we need to help these students any way we can."



Here is the architect's latest rendering for the new Health Sciences Building

Health Sciences Tops ABAC 2004 Wish List

If Santa was going to deliver a special present to the Mike Vollmer household this year, it would be funding for a new Health Sciences Building at Abraham Baldwin College.

The ABAC President said the \$7.8 million project tops the college's wish list for the upcoming year.

"We've already put a lot of money

into this project since we paid for all of the architect's fees so far," Vollmer said. "Now we hope the General Assembly is able to spare some dollars to send in our direction."

The project will incorporate the existing Health Center operation as well as the Nursing Program, which is now the largest single major at ABAC with over 700 students.