

FOCUS

Lott Overcomes Odds to Earn ABAC Degree

The speaker for Abraham Baldwin's fall graduation ceremony on Saturday knows a thing or two about dedication, persistence, and determination in the presence of great obstacles.

Nancy Lott, a nursing major from Rochelle, has overcome many obstacles to get where she is today.

In 1990, she began having heart problems. Lott underwent heart surgery at the age of 23, having a pacemaker installed. She had her first of eight procedures at this time, as well. This procedure had only been done on 10 patients at the time, seven of those had passed away.

In 1997, Lott was diagnosed with Idiopathic Dilated Cardiomyopathy (IDC), a terminal heart disease and was told she had five years to live.

Lott said, "The doctor told me there was nothing to be done. I went through all the emotions of pity and feeling sorry for myself. But then I refused to believe that the diagnosis was the end and got a second opinion."

IDC is caused by a virus, such as the flu. Lott said within the first five years after being diagnosed, 70 percent of IDC patients die, and 85 percent die within 10 years.

"I was not going to be one of those people," said Lott.

Lott had seven surgeries and was taking 11 different medications daily until her eighth experimental procedure in 2000 at Emory University. She was only the second person to undergo this type of procedure at the time. She now takes only two medications and has no restrictions on what she can and can't do.

After all her medical problems and struggles, Lott decided she wanted to go back to school and be a nurse.

"I decided to pursue nursing because of my being sick," Lott said. "I saw just how beneficial nurses are to



Nancy Lott will be the featured speaker at ABAC graduation ceremony on Saturday in Gressette Gym.

the medical field."

But Lott's obstacles were not over.

"I had one person tell me that I could not attend the nursing program because I was disabled and even if I did make the grades, I would not be alive to see them because the program is so stressful," Lott said. "That just made me even more determined."

Lott graduates with a 4.0 grade point average and has a job waiting for her at Taylor Regional Hospital in Hawkinsville as an ICU nurse.

Not only is she at the top of her class and the graduation speaker, but she is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and was recently awarded a trip to St. Simons Island through the Workforce Investment Area (WIA) Program that helps

with tuition, books, and other expenses.

Lott isn't the only member of her family attending ABAC. Her son, Chris Williamson, is majoring in physical therapy, and her daughter, Courtney Williamson, will attend ABAC next fall to pursue a career in the medical field.

Lott is the wife of Darryl Lott and has three younger children, Caitlin Williamson, Alyssa Lott and Ben Lott.

As she speaks to her fellow graduates Saturday, Lott can remember the day when she dropped out of high school and had to get a GED.

The graduation ceremony begins at 10 a.m. in ABAC's Gressette Gym. Approximately 145 graduates are expected to participate.

Payment Deadline for Spring Term on Friday

Fee payment deadline for students who have already pre-registered for spring semester at ABAC is Friday by 5 p.m. If payment is not made by this time, students will lose their classes and have to register again. Spring term classes begin Jan. 10. The college will be closed from Dec. 25 – Jan. 3 for the holidays.

Registration and orientation for the new students at ABAC will be held on Jan. 6 beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the J. Lamar Branch Student Center. There is an orientation fee of \$35, and pre-registration is encouraged. Those who have already paid the orientation fee can report at 9:30 a.m.

Registration for other new and returning students will take place on Jan. 7 beginning at 9 a.m.

Students who need assistance paying for their college education can still apply for financial aid, but they must be prepared to pay initially and be reimbursed for the aid that they qualify for at a later date. For additional information, contact the Financial Aid Office at 391-4910.



Double Delight of Susans

Dr. Susan Roe sings a Christmas song during the annual Christmas concert in the Chapel. Accompanying her on the piano is Susan Johnson. It was a delightful hour which culminated with refreshments from President and Mrs. Call.



Smiles From the Winners

Winners of the recent Alpha Beta Gamma and ABAC Entrepreneurial Society raffle were Melissa White and Jeannie Rigdon. White received two tickets to the UGA/GA Tech football game and a tailgate basket, and Rigdon received two UGA/GA Tech game tickets. Pictured are (left to right) White; Kathy Moreno, club advisor; Rigdon; and Dr. Jeff Gibbs, Business Administration Division Chair.

Kay Weeks Is High Five Weekly Winner



The winner of the High Five Award for the week ending Dec. 10 was Dr. Kay Weeks, Associate Professor in the Humanities Division.

Weeks' nomination read: "Kay started the College Democrats Club at ABAC this semester. She worked very hard to ensure that an open debate regarding the current political issues took place here on campus. She encouraged and motivated her students and club members to become more aware and involved in their world. She brought a representative down from Atlanta, from the senatorial hopeful, Denise Majette's, campaign. She organized a viewing of "Fahrenheit 9/11" with the Tifton Film Group. This event drew record attendance for a film being shown on campus. I think Kay deserves this award for taking on a task with short notice and creating such a successful debate and club for all ABAC students."

Weeks received a certificate of appreciation and will get one of the High Five T-shirts, provided by the ABAC Bookstore.



Dessert with the First Family

Interim President Tom Call and his wife, Judy, served refreshments after the annual Christmas Concert Tuesday in the Music Building.

Donations Needed



Phi Theta Kappa is assisting with *Project Graduation: Feed a Body, Feed a Mind*, a program which helps community-based organizations fight hunger and illiteracy.

Phi Theta Kappa asks that you bring a donation of canned foods and books to ABAC's graduation ceremony on Saturday. All items collected will be used locally.

Collection boxes will be set up at the entrance of Gressette Gym and in the Student Center during the Faculty Social before graduation.

Holiday Basketball Camp for Kids



Sign your children up today for the Annual ABAC Holiday Basketball Camp to be held on Dec. 21 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. This camp, conducted by Coach Julie Conner, is designed to enhance basic skills and fundamentals. Great way for the kids to spend the day while you work or finish making those Christmas purchases. Camp fee is \$29, bring a sack lunch.

Call Public Service and Business Outreach at 5070 to register!

Note of Thanks

The National SAT was administered to 223 students from over 26 different school districts on Dec. 4. Thanks to the following who helped make the administration go well: Joyce Willis, Bernice Hughes, Rita Wade, Ellen Resta, Vonda Fenn, Phyllis Kester, Debra McCrary, Jenelle Handcox, Debbie Riner, Howard McCrary, Bernice Corbin, Jack Larry, Scott Jackson and Public Safety.

Dr. Maggie Martin

College Entry Seminar Begins January 18

Anyone who is considering beginning or re-entering college may benefit from the Adult College Entry (ACE) Seminar available at Abraham Baldwin beginning Jan. 18.

The ACE Seminar provides a system of support services that prepares adults for college entry and success. In the seminar, ABAC faculty and staff members will teach students how to apply for admission and financial aid and how to prepare for placement testing. Career and transfer programs available at ABAC will also be discussed.

The seminar will meet 11 Tuesdays from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. through April 5 in Room 202 in the Baldwin Library on the ABAC campus. The cost is \$49 and includes the following: a \$20 application

Holidays to Begin

ABAC will be closed for the holidays Dec. 25-Jan. 3. All offices are scheduled to reopen on Jan. 4. Be sure to leave a message on your phone on the length of time you will be away from your desk.

Registration for the spring term will be held on Jan. 6.



Last FOCUS of 2004

This will be the last edition of this prized publication until 2005. The next edition will appear on your e-mail on Jan. 10. If you have information for that FOCUS, please e-mail it to Pam Leonard at pleonard@abac.edu by noon on Jan. 6.

ABAC Basketball Season Update

The Golden Fillies of Coach Julie Conner have completed the 2004 portion of their schedule with a record of 0-15. The Fillies will return to the hardwood at home on Jan. 6 in a 7:30 p.m. encounter with North Florida.

On Wednesday, the Fillies found that an ineligible player had played in seven victories, and those wins had to be forfeited.

The Stallions of Coach Todd Sheppard will take a 9-3 record into the Gulf Coast Tournament in Panama City, Fla., this weekend. The Stallions' next home game will be at 4 p.m. on Jan. 8 against Truett McConnell.

fee if the student decides to apply to ABAC, a textbook, and waiver of ABAC 1000—Freshman Seminar as a graduation requirement upon successful completion of the ACE Seminar and enrollment at ABAC.

"In the ACE Seminar, students will be with other adults who are also just starting college," Kay Powell, ABAC's Interim Director of the Evening and Off-Campus Programs, said. "They will learn valuable skills to help them succeed in college, including note taking, time management, and various study skills in a program tailored to their personal needs and goals."

For additional information about the ACE Seminar, contact the Evening and Off Campus Program Office at 391-4907.

Fillies Have 45-Year-Old Player On Court

Winnie Moore, a physical education major from Alapaha, is not your average non-traditional Abraham Baldwin student. After deciding that now was the time to go back to college full-time, Moore did something most people her age wouldn't do. At 45 years old, she tried out for the women's basketball team and made it, playing as a guard and forward.

Most people would be daunted by such a challenge, but not Moore. "It was a spur of the moment decision. I received a student e-mail about tryouts and thought, 'I'll just go talk to them. All they can do is say no.' I didn't have any reservations about it," Moore said. She played the position of guard on her team at Berrien County High School.

Julie Conner, coach of the women's basketball team said, "I was surprised when she e-mailed me about joining the team. But I didn't care as long as she could play. Winnie has a great work ethic, and the team really respects her."

While the decision to join the team was not a hard one, deciding to head back to college was.

"I had taken some classes on and off, but when my boys came along, I stopped," Moore said. "Now that my boys are older, I decided to finish college. I had acquired some English and History credits, and I didn't want those credits to go to waste. I chose ABAC because it was close to home."

One big difference for Moore once making the team was her conditioning.

"I have always kept myself in decent shape, but while Coach Conner knew that my conditioning wasn't 100 percent I wasn't sure if my teammates un-

derstood that. I didn't want to hold them back," Moore said.

After the team's fourth practice, Moore pulled both of her quadriceps muscles.

"My confidence was lacking when I first joined the team and being injured before the season didn't help," Moore said. "But I was able to play once the season started."

That confidence was lifted even higher after scoring her first basket of the season.

"One of my teammates came up to me in the locker room and gave me a big hug," Moore said. "That meant a lot to me."

And so has all of the support she has received from everyone on campus.

Another main change for Moore is that fact that everyone, including her coach, is younger than her. "Coach Conner brought that up when I first met with her. I told her I didn't have a problem with that. She's the coach, and I'm the player," said Moore.

"College has been a big adjustment with practice and classes. Studying and making the grade is priority for me. At first, I was thinking 'What have I done?' Now it's getting better since my injuries are healing, and I'm getting used to my classes. I couldn't have



Forty-five year old Winnie Moore is not only taking classes at ABAC, she is also playing basketball for the Fillies this season.

done any of it without my husband's support."

Besides attending ABAC and playing for the Fillies, Moore works at Hubert Moore Lumber Company and is an active member of Northridge Church of Christ. She is the wife of Tim Moore and they have two sons, John Michael and Keefe.

ABAC Offers Creative Writing Class This Spring



Anyone who enjoys making up or telling stories may want to enroll in the **Introduction to Creative Writing: Fiction (HUMN 1100)** class that will be offered this spring semester at ABAC. The one-credit-hour class will meet on Tuesdays from 6:30 – 7:20 p.m. in Conger Hall, Room 317. No prior creative writing experience is necessary.

Sandra Giles, an assistant professor

of English in ABAC's Division of Humanities, said the class is targeted toward anyone who writes fiction or anyone who might like to give it a try.

"I really hope some people from the community will audit the class or even take it for credit," Giles said. "I know there are a lot of people who write, and I'd like them to share their work and their experiences with the regular ABAC students. Maybe we could get a community of writers started—a group of like-minded people who like to write and talk about stories."

In the class, students will read, write, discuss, and learn techniques for writing fiction. Traditional and experimental types of fiction will be discussed. Students can write in all lengths: chapters from novels, short stories, and short-shorts. The main text for the class will be Stephen King's *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*.

For more information, contact Giles at 391-4961, or e-mail her at sgiles@abac.edu. Prospective students can also visit her web page at www.abac.edu/humanities/sgiles.

ABAC Public Relations

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ABAC Family

Cheryl Biggs and **Rita Wade**, accompanied four students to the annual Georgia Association of Special Programs Personnel (GASPP) Student Leadership Conference held Nov. 12-14 at Callaway Gardens. Three of the students participated in the talent portion of the conference by performing a praise dance. **Biggs** and **Wade** also took several students to Florida A&M University to attend the "Black Nativity" play on Dec. 4.

Michael Chason was the guest speaker for the meeting of the local chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals on Nov. 16 in the dining hall. **Fran Kinchen** introduced him. Chason also spoke at the Moultrie YMCA banquet on Dec. 7. **Dr. Gail Dillard** introduced him.



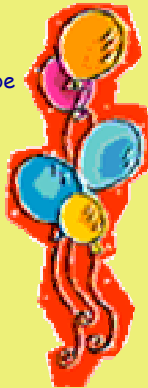
Looking for the Next Bite

Like some prehistoric carnivore, the metal "Jaws of Death" wait for the next piece of steel to chew on at the Fulwood Hall demolition site. The building is now completely on the ground, and clearing on the area will continue through the end of the month.

Celebrating Birthdays

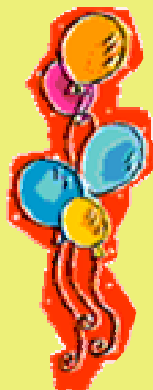
December

- 17 Stephanie Holcombe
- 18 Thomas Cravey
- 18 Bam Pirkle
- 19 Kris Chason
- 19 Doris Roundtree
- 22 David Crockett
- 24 Kip Hall
- 25 John Silvery
- 26 B.J. Rathburn
- 26 Herbert Shippey
- 28 Alton Hudgins
- 29 Nancy Coleman
- 29 Ellen Resta



January

- 1 Remzi Engin
- 2 Abul Sheikh
- 3 Vickie Wilson
- 4 Daniel Eriksen
- 5 Ray Barber
- 5 Emory Johnson
- 5 Bobby Mathis
- 6 Eve Felton
- 7 Kimya Young
- 9 Bryan Golden
- 9 Donna Hatcher
- 9 Luke Vassiliou
- 10 Wayne Jones



Calendar of Events

Monday, December 13

- Today-Final Exams
- 6 p.m.-Tifton-Tift Co. Arts Council (Cordell Conf. Room A)
- 9 p.m.-Midnight Breakfast (Dining Hall)

Tuesday, December 14

Today-Final Exams

Wednesday, December 15

- Today-Final Exams
- 8 a.m.-Public Safety Inservice Training (Cordell Conf. Room A/B)
- 7 p.m.-Kelley Manufacturing Christmas Party (Dining Hall)

Thursday, December 16

- 9 a.m.-CAAP Testing (Cordell Conf. Room)
- 11 a.m.-Graduation Rehearsal (Gressette Gym)
- 7 p.m.-City of Tifton Employees Christmas Banquet (Dining Hall)

Friday, December 17

- Noon-Tifton Housing Authority Banquet (Magnolia Room)
- 7 p.m.-Beulah Hill Baptist Church Banquet (Dining Hall)

Saturday, December 18

- 10 a.m.-Graduation (Gressette Gym)
- 7 p.m.-I Hope Church of God Banquet (Dining Hall)

Monday, January 3

- Today-New Year's Holiday
- 8 a.m.-Tift Co Board of Ed Reading Comprehension Course (Cordell Conf. Room A)

Tuesday, January 4

- 4 p.m.-Evening New Student Orientation (Ag Sciences Bldg)

Wednesday, January 5

- 3:30 p.m.-Tift Co Board of Ed Reading Comprehension Course (Cordell Conf. Room A)

Thursday, January 6

- Today-New Student Orientation
- 7:30 p.m.-Basketball: Fillies vs. N. Florida (Gressette Gym)

Saturday, January 8

- 2 p.m.-Basketball: Fillies vs. Truett McConnell (Gressette Gym)
- 4 p.m.-Basketball: Stallions vs. Truett McConnell (Gressette Gym)

Monday, January 10

- Today-Spring semester classes begin
- 8 a.m.-Ga. Dept. of Corrections Class (Cordell Conf. Room c)
- 6 p.m.-Tifton-Tift Co. Arts Council (Cordell Conf. Room A)