

FOCUS

Tift Regional Assists ABAC in Funding New Building

In a unique collaboration between a community college and local hospital, Tift Regional Medical Center (TRMC) is working to aid Abraham Baldwin in achieving its goal of building a new nursing program facility.

TRMC will begin providing in-kind and direct donations to the college beginning Oct. 1, as well as providing a physician who will serve as medical director.

A "glass-breaking" was held Sept. 1 to initiate the project with ABAC, the ABAC Foundation, and TRMC personnel participating.

The donations, totaling \$100,000 per year, will free up funds ABAC needs to finance construction of a new, 41,424-square-foot Health Sciences building. Money saved from TRMC's contributions to the student clinic will assist the college and the ABAC Foundation with a loan the Foundation will receive from local banks. The Foundation is serving as a financial partner in the collaboration with ABAC and

TRMC. ABAC has already invested \$500,000 in the project for architectural fees and demolition, and Governor Sonny Perdue has committed \$4.7 million from state funds.

"ABAC and Tift Regional Medical Center are two of Tift County's biggest assets," said William T. Richardson, President/CEO of TRMC. "We both provide invaluable services to the community through education and health care, and I think that this collaboration could serve as a national model for other communities."

In addition to providing a benefit for the community, Richardson said the collaboration is a sound investment for TRMC. "Hospitals like Tift Regional Medical Center need quality nurses, so it's important for us to support the nursing program at ABAC and help ensure they have the best training in the best facility possible," said Richardson.

ABAC President Mike Vollmer said without this collaboration, the new \$6.2 million facility wouldn't be a reality.

"Finally, instead of having a 1950s style ranch house, we will have the largest and most modern facility for the division," Vollmer said. "Nursing is now the single largest major at our college, with more than 800 students. These students deserve some first class attention in a brand new building."



Wanda Golden, Mike Vollmer, Bill Richardson, Representative Jay Roberts, Representative Austin Scott, and ABAC Foundation Chair William Bowen celebrate the first physical step toward completion of the new Health Sciences Building.

The construction for the new Health Sciences building will begin this fall and will take two years to complete. Vollmer said the new building will be located on the existing site of Creswell Hall and the Moore Building. Administrative offices for Nursing and Health Services Division Chair Wanda Golden and her faculty and staff will move from Gaines Hall into the new building.

"This building will give us space for our students that we just don't have right now," Golden said. "It will also enable us to offer new programs for the community."

Eight classrooms will be in the new building with a seating capacity ranging from 42 to 100 students each. Four general labs are included in the plans as well as three small specialty labs.



President Mike Vollmer presents Bill Richardson an ABAC sledge hammer for the hospital's assistance with funding for the new Health Sciences Building.

Going Away Party Set for September 14



A going-away party will be held for ABAC President Mike Vollmer and his wife, Lennie, on Sept. 14 from 4-6 p.m. in the Donaldson Dining Hall. The event is open to anyone who would like to attend.

Mike Vollmer

Vollmer said Sept. 14 will be his last day at ABAC as he prepares to take the reins of the Department of Technical and Adult Education. He does plan to return to the campus for the Sept. 23 Grand Opening of the ABAC Place apartments.

At presstime, Chancellor Thomas Meredith had made no announcement on ABAC's interim president. Past interim presidents included Dean and Coordinator of Continuing Education Tom Cordell, Academic Dean Frank Thomas, Academic Dean Jim Burran, and Director of College Services Homer Day.

At some point after naming an interim president, Meredith will appoint a search committee to find a new president. If the process goes as it has gone in the past, that new chief executive might not take office until July 1, 2005.



Cleanup Patrol

Floyd Vogel and Leon Wilcox get ready to cut up some limbs which fell on the front campus during Monday's storm.

Three Trees Down At Alumni House

Hurricane Frances uprooted three trees at the Development Alumni House. At least one small tree was also down on the Pedestrian Mall.



Residents of ABAC Place stroll down the Mall en route to classes.

Everyone Invited To Opening Ceremony For ABAC Place

Make your plans to attend the grand opening of ABAC Place on Sept. 23 at 11 a.m. The \$32 million development is the largest housing project at a two-year college in America. Dr. Thomas Meredith, Chancellor of the University System of Georgia, will be the featured speaker.

All 835 rooms are filled, and some students are in overflow status in Comer Hall.

The grand opening promises to be quite an event with music, speeches, and much hoopla. Landscapers and contractors are working frantically to put the finishing touches on the \$32 million development to set the stage for the affair which will be another historic day in the life of our college.



The Past Meets The Present

Longtime Comptroller J. Talmadge Webb (right) talks with Vice President for Fiscal Affairs Floyd Wright at the groundbreaking for the Health Sciences Building on Sept. 1. Webb is now a trustee for the ABAC Foundation.

Roundtree High Five Winner



The winner of the High Five Award drawing for the week ending Sept. 3 was Dr. Doris Roundtree. She is the Coordinator for the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP). She was nominated with Vonda Fenn and Javier Gonzalez for the outstanding camp, "Steps to College."

Their nomination said, "Doris, Javier and Vonda went above and beyond the call of duty when they organized and carried out the 'Steps to College' camp this summer. This was one of the most organized and efficiently run camps that I've had the opportunity to work with."

Roundtree received a certificate of appreciation and will be given a T-shirt donated by the ABAC Bookstore.

Submit your nominations for the faculty and staff members who have gone above and beyond the call of duty for this week's High Five winner. Nomination forms are available on the Human Resources page of the ABAC website or from the HR Office.

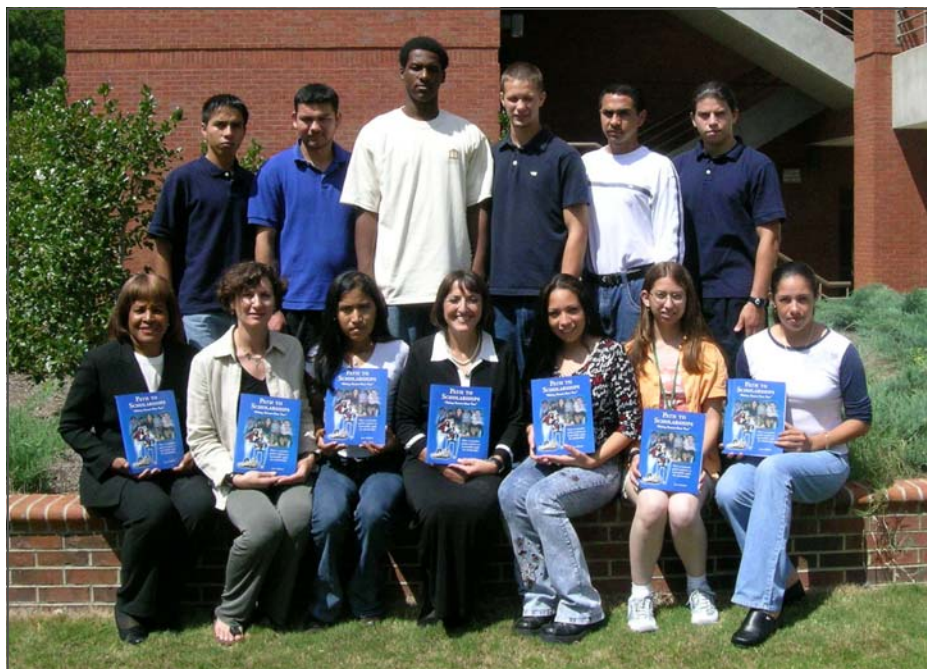
Memorial Service for ten Hoop on Thursday

A memorial service for former ABAC softball player Stefanie ten Hoop will be held on Thursday at 4 p.m. in the Chapel of All Faiths. All faculty, staff, and students are invited to attend.

Fillies Coach Donna Campbell said ten Hoop first came to ABAC in January, 2002. She suffered a knee injury and had to sit out the 2003 season. She and her sister, Elske, returned to ABAC in 2004 to be the first sister combination in ABAC fastpitch history. Both spent this past summer working Fillies Fastpitch Camps.

On July 13, after the final camp, ten Hoop was killed in an automobile accident in Henry County. Former ABAC student Dennis Clemons-Schmelz was also injured in the accident.

ten Hoop, who was 20-years-old, was scheduled to fly home the following day to the Netherlands to continue her studies.



HEP/CAMP Students Learn Path to Scholarships

ABAC students enrolled in the High School Equivalency Program (HEP) and College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP), participated in the Seventh Annual Path to Scholarships workshop on Aug.28. The workshop was conducted by June McBride, author of Path to Scholarships. Students were provided with the tools that they will need to successfully apply for scholarships. McBride is pictured with HEP/CAMP students and staff.

Baldwin Players Tryouts Sept. 13-14



Tryouts for the Baldwin Players' fall production of "Death of the Hired Man" will be held Sept. 13-14 at 7 p.m. in Conger 319. Baldwin Players' director John Galyeon said no experience is necessary. The production will be staged Nov. 11-13. All crew and performance positions are open. For more information, contact Galyeon at 3099.

Master Planners Here

Representatives of Sasaki Associates, the firm hired to develop a new master plan for ABAC, will be on campus Sept. 15-17 to interview faculty, staff, administrators and students about their opinions on what they would like to see ABAC's campus become in the next 10 years.

Public Relations Administrative Assistant Pam Leonard has scheduled a series of meetings for all areas of the campus. If your office or area has not been scheduled, contact her at 3264.



Newest Foundation Trustee

Dallas Hunt, center, is the newest trustee of the ABAC Foundation. He is welcomed to the Board by Foundation Chair William Bowen, right, and ABAC President Mike Vollmer, left. Active in civic and community affairs in Tifton, Hunt is the son of Regent Julie Hunt and the late John Hunt.

Sunbelt Expo Roots Extend to ABAC

When Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College began an event called "Dealer Day" 40 years ago, no one knew it would eventually grow into the mammoth show called the Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition. It's only fitting that the college most south Georgians know as ABAC will be the 2004 Spotlight Exhibitor at this year's Expo on Oct. 19-21 at Spence Field in Moultrie.

"Forty years ago ABAC's Ag Equipment Technology (AET) Club initiated 'Dealer Day', where students could meet with potential employers," said Jimmy Grubbs, Mechanical Technician for the Division of Agriculture and Forest Resources at ABAC. Grubbs participated as a student in the AET Club during "Dealer Day".

When expansion was needed, the Farm Power and Recreation Expo began. "We emptied the agriculture buildings and used the parking lot and Lake Baldwin," Grubbs said. "The event was expanded into a three day affair that lasted three years."

This gathering eventually outgrew the ABAC location and moved to the nearby Rural Development Center.

"We had a steak supper with the tractor dealers. They wanted a place to have demonstrations for their equipment. That was when Spence Field was chosen," Grubbs said. The designing

of Spence Field began in 1973 with huge involvement on ABAC's part. "The AET Club donated 6,000 hours within the first year of working on Spence Field," Grubbs said.

In 1978, the event moved to Spence Field and the rest is history as over 200,000 persons annually attend the Expo. "The AET Club still worked behind the scenes of the Expo until it became privatized," Grubbs said. "With the privatization of the Expo, ABAC's AET Club continues to run the livestock show yearly."

Just as the Expo has grown, so has ABAC. The two-year college in Tifton, Ga., now has a record enrollment of 3,407 students who come from 146 Georgia counties, 22 states, and 22 countries. Unlike 40 years ago, ABAC is now 58 percent female and features nursing as one of its most popular majors.

Over 700 students choose to major in the Division of Agriculture and Forest Resources.

"The Expo is a great show and great for the economy, as well as a good educational tool," Grubbs said. "There's a lot more than agriculture. There are crafts, vehicles, boats, hunting and outdoor booths. There's entertainment. There's something for everyone down there."



Nursing Division Chair Wanda Golden presents ABAC President Mike Vollmer with a nurse's hat at the groundbreaking for the Health Sciences Building.

ABAC Public Relations

ABAC 30, 2802 Moore Highway
Tifton, GA 31793-2601
(229) 386-3264

Alumni Board Here

The officers and board of directors of the ABAC Alumni Association will meet on campus Friday in Town Hall at ABAC Place. If you see these former students on campus, please welcome them back to ABAC.

CAMP Video Shoot

A videographer will be on the ABAC campus Sept. 13 shooting footage for a new CAMP recruitment video. Faculty with Hispanic/Latino students may be asked to participate in this effort. The CAMP staff appreciates your cooperation.



Care & Concern

Anita White is recuperating after suffering a broken leg and ankle in a car accident. **Darby Sewell** is also recovering after a fall in which she twisted her ankle and dislocated her knee. **Evonne Connell** is also recuperating after undergoing surgery. Please keep all these members of the ABAC Family in your thoughts and prayers.

Celebrating Birthdays September

- 6 Jennifer Cleary
- 6 Joe Courson
- 6 Tawana Ford
- 6 John Galyean
- 6 Deborah Pyles
- 8 Patricia Barber
- 8 Wendy Hightower
- 8 Diane Jackson
- 8 Mary Jane Rootes
- 8 Joy Shurley
- 9 Herb Hendrix
- 10 Ed Seagle
- 12 Cristella Contreras
- 12 Becca Turner
- 13 Erin Campbell
- 13 David King



Notes of Thanks

I would like everyone to know how thankful I am for all of the flowers, cards, and support that I have received from my ABAC family during such a difficult time with the passing of my grandfather. It was all appreciated very much.

Rebecca Harnage

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*Thanks for the flowers, cards, phone calls, and emails that I have received due to my broken ankle. I really appreciate everything, and I 'm so thankful to be a part of "The ABAC Family."*

*Janice Payne*



### Happy Trails!

**Director of Procurement Margaret Brogdon said goodbye to ABAC at a farewell party in her honor on Aug. 31. Judy Perry, Terrie Mathis, and Shirley Wilson were there to see her off. Brogdon is the new Director of Development at Valdosta Technical College.**

### Faculty Drive Closed

Faculty Drive is closed to ALL traffic from the Donaldson Dining Hall to Stallion Drive for the safety of students at ABAC Place Apartments. Signs are posted at both ends of the road. Absolutely no traffic is to enter through the barricades. Citations for this offense are state violations and will go through City Court.

Faculty and staff may enter the dining hall parking lot through the fence at the Physical Plant on the west side of the building and accessed through the lower end of the south parking lot.

### First Tuesday Concert Cancelled

The First Tuesday Concert scheduled for tonight has been cancelled. Dr. Susan Roe said the concert will be rescheduled at some point in the future.

Classes were cancelled at the college today because of the damage inflicted by Hurricane Frances. Trees and limbs littered the campus. Duane Weeks was here all night Monday night trying to restore power. Jack Larry and other members of the SO-DEXHO staff also spent numerous hours on the campus during the Labor Day holiday.

### Calendar of Events

- Monday, September 6**  
Today-Labor Day Holiday
- Thursday, September 9**  
4 p.m.-Stefanie tenHoope Memorial Service (Chapel)
- 6 p.m.-Humanities Career Forum (Cordell Conf. Room)
- Friday, September 10**  
10 a.m.-Alumni Board (Town Hall)
- Sunday, September 12**  
2 p.m.-Hunters Safety (Cordell Conf. Room A)
- Monday, September 13**  
3 p.m.-CAMP/HEP Lecture (Cordell Conf. Room B)
- 6 p.m.-Tifton-Tift Co. Arts Council (Cordell Conf. Room)