

FOCUS

Graduation on Tuesday for 200 ABAC Students

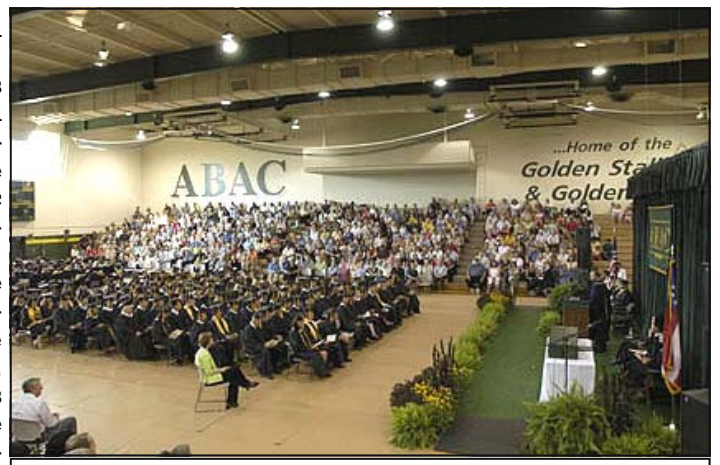
All faculty members who are participating in Tuesday's graduation ceremony should assemble in the Student Center at 5:15 p.m., where light refreshments will be served before the march to Gressette Gym. The ceremony will begin at 6 p.m., with the march from the Student Center beginning at 5:50 p.m.

Faculty Marshals for graduation are Don Coates and Andrea Willis. They are responsible for lining up faculty according to division and rank, and leading the processional and recessional. Faculty Marshals of each line will be the first to exit, followed by the remaining faculty and the graduates.

Kaedy Cawthon will be the guest speaker at the ceremony. A 2003 graduate of Jackson High School, Cawthon is the daughter of Douglas and Sharon Cawthon of Jackson. Cawthon will be one of the approximately 200 graduates participating in the ABAC ceremony, receiving her degree in

early childhood education.

Cawthon was recently named ABAC's J.G. Woodroof Scholar, the highest academic student recognition at the college. As a freshman, she served as Vice-President of the Freshman Class, and serves as treasurer of the Student Government Association this year. She is an active member in the Cattlemen's Club, Georgia Association of Educators Student Program, and Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Cawthon has been a part of the ABAC Ambassadors for two years, serving as President in 2004-05.



Graduation exercises begin on Tuesday at 6 p.m. in Gressette Gymnasium.

ABAC Interim President Tom Call will open the ceremony. Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs Caroline Helms will present the degree candidates.

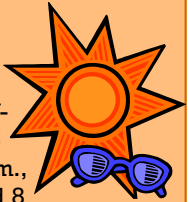
ABAC Alumni Association President Lynn Medford McDonald will induct the graduates into the Alumni Association and assist in the presentation of the coveted George P. Donaldson award. The award, named for ABAC's president from 1947-61, goes to the top graduate participating in the ceremony.



Moonlight Breakfast Brigade

Faculty, staff, and administrators gathered in the dining hall last Monday night to cook and serve pancakes and bacon to students preparing for final exams. Over 200 students stopped by before embarking on a long night of exam preparation. Bernice Hughes organized the event.

Summer Hours Begin



Official summer office hours for ABAC will be 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday, and 8 a.m.-3 p.m. on Friday. This schedule begins today and will run through Aug. 12. Individual supervisors are responsible for scheduling employees to ensure all offices are properly staffed. During this time, the summer dress code will be business casual. No jeans please.

Ballenger Named Coach of Women's Soccer Team

Jimmy Ballenger has been selected as the head coach of the first women's soccer team in the history of Abraham Baldwin College.

Alan Kramer, Director of Athletics said, "Jimmy is a perfect fit for our Division. He has played college ball here at ABAC and coached locally. He is competitive, organized and strives to be the best at all times in everything he does. I look forward to working with him in the upcoming year to get ready for the inaugural season to begin in August of 2006."

Ballenger will become a full-time member of the ABAC faculty in fall 2005, teaching health and wellness, weight training, and golf; classes he currently teaches on a part-time basis at the college. He will also serve as the Recreational Sports Director for the



Jimmy Ballenger

2005-2006 school term.

"Jimmy will be a tremendous asset to our HPER program of instruction. He has already proven himself as an instructor of high quality in the classes he's taught for us on a part-time basis. He's thorough, dependable, and passionate about his work," said Andrea Willis, chair of the Division of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation.

Originally from LaGrange, Ballenger is a graduate of Troup County High School where he played baseball and football. He played baseball for the Golden Stallions while a student at ABAC. He received his undergraduate degree in Education in May, 1999 from Valdosta State University and his master's degree in Health and Physical Education in December, 2004 from Albany State University.

Ballenger has been a resident of Tifton since 1994. He was an assistant baseball coach at Tift County High School for two years and an assistant football coach for three years at Eighth Street Middle School. Currently, he teaches 5th grade Health, Science,

Math & Social Studies at Matt Wilson School.

Ballenger will spend the 2005-06 year recruiting players while the new soccer complex is being built. The first women's soccer season will begin in the fall of 2006.

"It's exciting because ABAC has never had a soccer team before, and I get the opportunity to be the first coach. And I'm even more excited about the community supporting this sport and its players," Ballenger said

He already has some goals in mind for his team.

"First and foremost, I want my student athletes to graduate from ABAC. Second, I'd like to win the Region 17 Championship and dethrone Young Harris College (currently ranked second in the nation), and third, to provide exposure for young women to move on to a four-year school," Ballenger said.

Ballenger and his wife, Joy, reside in Tifton with their three year old son, Carson.

Only 60 Dollars Tickets Still Available

Since the first show in 1972, Dollars for ABAC Scholars has played a role in the growth of Abraham Baldwin. Over the past 34 years, the annual benefit banquet and show has generated over one million dollars in scholarships for ABAC students.

Betty McCorvey, Assistant Director of Development said, "There are fewer than 60 tickets left for this year's benefit. If people want to go to this event, they need to get tickets now."

Doors to the Donaldson Dining Hall will open on May 20 at 7 p.m. and the buffet dinner will be ready for service at that time.

This year's Dollars for ABAC Scholars will feature *The Temptations*. This marks the first time that the scholarship event will feature Motown music and dancing. Space for dancing will be made available at the benefit.

Unlike most scholarships, proceeds from this event go to those scholar-



The Temptations will be on stage at ABAC on May 20

ships that are not named for individuals, but instead for scholarships such as the Foundation Scholars and various FFA scholarships. These scholarships are awarded every April, and proceeds from this year's event will go to next year's scholars. The amount of scholarships awarded due to Dollars for ABAC Scholars varies from year to year, depending on the size of the scholarship, McCorvey said.

This year, like all other years, the goal is a sold out house of 600 persons.



Parking Changes In Effect Today

Beginning today faculty and staff members at ABAC no longer have to park in the same parking space every day.

Interim President Tom Call said students will still be restricted to parking in the student spaces, but that faculty and staff members can park in any spaces marked for faculty and staff.

"We have tried this in the Tift Hall lot for several months now, and it has worked fine," Call said. "It's a better way to utilize our parking spaces."

Tickets to the event are \$125 each. A limited number of reserved tables for eight people are available for \$1,250 each. Interested persons can call, mail, or e-mail their request to attend. For additional information, contact the ABAC Foundation Office at 391-4900.



GSFC Meets at ABAC

Interim President Tom Call greets Shelley Nickel, president of the Georgia Student Finance Commission, at that group's meeting on campus Friday. The GSFC administers the HOPE Scholarship. The group enjoyed a delightful dinner at the home of board member Eunice Mixon on Thursday evening. Financial Aid Director Jenelle Handcox represented ABAC at the meeting.

Youmans High Five Winner



Brenda Youmans is this week's High Five Award Winner. She is s Store Clerk I in the ABAC Bookstore.

A comment from her nomination form: "Book Buy Back is always a demanding period for the Bookstore staff. Brenda Youmans has pitched in and learned the buy back process and has taken on this task in addition to her duties as head cashier. She not only has learned the process but has worked to train new employees on this procedure. This has happened because Brenda sees a need and takes the initiative to do whatever she can to fill the gap. This has especially been beneficial to our operation during the end of spring buy back because we have had two key part-time employees to retire and two others that were trained during the December buy back who became unavailable for this important part of our operation."

Youmans will receive a certificate of appreciation and a t-shirt from the ABAC Bookstore.

Submit your nominations for faculty and staff members who have gone above and beyond the call of duty.



Stallions Wind Up With Win

The Golden Stallions of Coach Steve Janousek ended their season with a 4-1 win over Middle Georgia last Monday. With a final record of 25-30, the Stallions did not qualify for the playoffs this year.



Stallions Sign with Four-Year Schools

Every sophomore player on the 2005 Stallions' basketball team will continue his playing career at a four-year school. Pictured are the Stallions as they prepare to sign and start a new career. Seated from left to right are Byron "Slim" Conaway (Auburn University Montgomery), Ahmad Farley (Emmanuel College), Ronald Camon (Fort Valley State University), John Beugnot (Clayton State College and University), Marquette Northington (Clayton State College and University), and Warren Beulah (Brewton Parker College). Also standing is Assistant Coach Larry Cannon and Head Coach Todd Sheppard.

The Name Game

Names changes abound in the University System of Georgia. The State University of West Georgia has changed its name to The University of West Georgia. Floyd College has changed its name to Georgia Highlands College. Clayton College and State University wants to change its name to Clayton State University.

ABAC Public Relations

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FOCUS Schedule Change

This is the last weekly issue of the *FOCUS* until the fall semester. The *FOCUS* will appear on your e-mail every other week on Mondays throughout the summer. The next issue will be on May 23. Send all information to pleonard@abac.edu by noon on Thursday prior to the Monday appearance of this prized newsletter.

Note of Sympathy

The ABAC Family expresses sympathy to Vickie Wilson whose sister, Dorothy Goodman, passed away on April 29. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers.

Care & Concern

Evonne Connell's daughter, Melissa, is recuperating at home after undergoing surgery last week. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Positions Open

ABAC:

- Registered Nurse I, Salary \$32,000-\$34,000 (deadline 5/16)
- Mail Clerk, ABAC Post Office Salary \$16,000 (deadline 5/20)
- Admin. Secretary, Institutional Research, Salary commensurate w/experience (deadline 5/20)

Contact Human Resources for details.



Celebrating Birthdays

May

- 9 Pathelyn Smith
- 12 Carlos Howard
- 12 Tony Jenkins
- 13 Debra McCrary
- 16 Barbara Snyder
- 17 Lee Hodges
- 17 Betty McCorvey
- 20 Julie Boland
- 21 Keisha Gay
- 22 Amy Jackson
- 22 Todd Sheppard



ABAC Family

Interim President **Tom Call** shared an ABAC Update with the Adel Kiwanis Club on Wednesday. Public Relations Director **Michael Chason** assisted with the program.



President Pours the Pancakes

Interim President **Tom Call** prepares pancakes for Abraham Baldwin students as Development Director **Melvin Merrill** looks on with glee. Faculty, staff, and administrators prepared a moonlight breakfast for the students Monday night in the dining hall in preparation for the week of final exams ahead.

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, May 10

- 8 a.m.—DHR/DFCS Training (Cordell Conf. Room C)
- 6 p.m.—ABAC Graduation (Gressette Gym)

Wednesday, May 11

- Today—May-mester classes begin
- 8 a.m.—DHR/DFCS Training (Cordell Conf. Room C)

Thursday, May 12

- 8 a.m.—DHR/DFCS Training (Cordell Conf. Room C)

Friday, May 12

- 7 a.m.—Innovative Rehab Solutions (Cordell Conf. Room A)
- 8 a.m.—DHR/DFCS Training (Cordell Conf. Room C)
- 6:30 p.m.—Tift County EMS Banquet (Magnolia Room)

Friday, May 14

- 7 a.m.—Innovative Rehab Solutions (Cordell Conf. Room A)
- Noon—TCHS Class of 1950 Reunion Luncheon (Dining Hall)
- 7 p.m.—TCHS Class of 1950 Reunion Dinner (Dining Hall)

Sunday, May 15

- 7 a.m.—Innovative Rehab Solutions (Cordell Conf. Room A)
- 12:30 p.m.—Tift Bridal Luncheon (Magnolia Room)
- 2:30 p.m.—District 4-H Officers Social (Rowan Pavilion)

Monday, May 16

- 8 a.m.—ABAC Nursing Review (Cordell Conf. Room A/B)

Tuesday, May 17

- 8 a.m.—ABAC Nursing Review (Cordell Conf. Room A/B)
- Noon-Tift Co. Child Abuse Council Luncheon (Magnolia Room)

Wednesday, May 18

- 8 a.m.—ABAC Nursing Review (Cordell Conf. Room A/B)

Friday, May 20

- 9 a.m.—Dept. of Human Resources Training (Cordell Conf. Room A)
- 7:00 p.m.—Dollars for ABAC Scholars (Dining Hall)

Saturday, May 21

- 7 p.m.—Brooks Party (Nickelodeon)

Monday, May 23

- 8 a.m.—Ga. Dept. of Corrections Class (Cordell Conf. Room A & C)