

FOCUS

ABAC Now Enjoys New State College Status

Balloons, cupcakes, and a party atmosphere gave new life to historic Tift Hall on May 17 when the ABAC Family celebrated the college's change from a two-year college to State College status. For the first time ever, students at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College will be able to obtain a four-year degree from ABAC on its Tifton campus.

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia gave ABAC approval on that day to offer a Bachelor of Applied Science (B.A.S) degree with a major in turf grass and golf course management and a Bachelor of Applied Science degree with a major in diversified agriculture.

"The main benefit from the four-year degrees on our campus is the fact that we can better serve our students," Interim President Tom Call said. "At ABAC, we specialize in real world experiences, and both of these degrees are practical, hands-on programs that will allow our students to be more attractive to prospective employers."

Dr. David Bridges will step in as the 10th president in ABAC's history on July 1. He was excited about the news.

"I want to thank the Chancellor and the Board of Regents for allowing ABAC to take this giant step forward in meeting the needs of our students," Bridges said. "I can't wait to get started."

Call, Bridges, and Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs Caroline Helms spoke at the celebration, which included faculty, staff, students, and members of the community.

"Now the real work begins," Helms said. "Our goal is to have these degrees available in the fall semester of



Interim President Tom Call addressed those who gathered at Tift Hall to celebrate the approval of ABAC's State College status.

2007."

Under its previous titles of South Georgia A&M College and Georgia State College For Men, the institution actually offered four-year degrees from 1925-33. Since the name changed to ABAC in 1933, the college has offered only two-year degrees.

"I am pleased that our institutions are responding to unique and documented state needs," University System Chancellor Erroll B. Davis, Jr., said.

Call said diversified agriculture graduates will meet the needs of major agricultural, chemical, and equipment companies who require four-year degrees for their sales and product promotion positions.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America now recommends a four-year turf grass and golf course management degree for an industry where technology is developing rapidly and environmental issues are growing more complex.

ABAC has an extra added advantage

with this particular program since the college operates the Forest Lakes Golf Club. The nine-hole course was donated to the ABAC Foundation by Tifton ophthalmologist Larry Moorman and his wife, Debra.

ABAC currently offers 55 two-year programs of study in a wide range of majors including nursing, education, wildlife, criminal justice, and forestry. The college experienced an all time enrollment high of 3,423 students during the 2005 fall term which included students from 149 Georgia counties, 16 states, and 17 countries.

Call emphasized that ABAC will continue to concentrate on its two-year programs as well as recruit students for the new four-year degrees.

"These new degrees will just add to what is already a quality academic program at ABAC," Call said. "Our graduates have always excelled in the workplace, and that will continue to be the case."

Call believes housing will not be a problem for students in the new programs since the ABAC Foundation hopes to build a complex housing 400 students on the banks of Lake Baldwin in time for the 2007 fall term. The \$32 million ABAC Place apartments already hold 835 students. All rooms are currently filled for the 2006 fall semester.

"With our new housing complex coming on-line, we anticipate some of these new students living on campus all four years of their ABAC careers," Call said.

Pending their accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the new degrees should be in place at ABAC by the 2007 fall term.

Kramer, ABAC Tennis Players Honored

ABAC Coach Alan Kramer and two members of his ABAC tennis teams, Nikola Prpic and Whitney Lightfoot, were recognized on the national level at the recent NJCAA national tournaments.



Alan Kramer

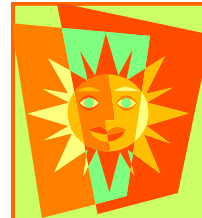
The men's team finished in a tie for third place in the tournament in Plano, Texas, and the women's team finished in 12th place in its tournament in Tucson, Ariz.

Kramer received the Hershel Stevens Coaching Award. This award is for outstanding service and dedication to the NJCAA Tennis Coaches Association. Coaches can win the

award only once in their careers. Kramer will also serve as vice president of the NJCAA Tennis Coaches Association next year.

Prpic was named the International Tennis Association (ITA) National Player of the Year. The award recognizes sportsmanship, leadership, and ability on the court. Prpic played at number two singles for the Stallions and teamed with Justin Pickham at number one doubles. Prpic and Pickham were named Second Team All America team status. They were the only ABAC players to reach the championship round where they lost in the finals of the doubles' competition.

Lightfoot was honored with the Arthur Ashe Sportsmanship and Leadership Award. She was selected from four nominees nationwide to receive this honor at the national tournament.



Summer Orientation, Registration Thursday

Registration and orientation for students enrolling at ABAC for the summer term will take place on Thursday. There is an orientation fee of \$30. Students should sign up ahead of time by calling the Office of Enrollment Services at 391-5001. All students must sign in between 8-9 a.m. at the Student Center.

Activities during this orientation will include meeting student leaders, campus tours, a guide to registering for classes, a Focus on Your Major session, and the actual registration process.

Students attending the Thursday registration and orientation session must pay all fees by 3 p.m. on Friday.

For additional information about the fall term, contact Enrollment Services, or visit the ABAC web site at www.abac.edu. Summer term classes begin June 5 and end July 25.

Alapaha ACE Student Finishes Strong at ABAC

In 2004, **Tammy Murray** of Alapaha decided to re-enter college life to attain a degree in nursing. She enrolled in ABAC's Adult College Entry (ACE) Program. Today she is a college graduate, with honors.

"The program helped me out a lot," said Murray. "I had a lot of pre-conceptions when starting college. The biggest benefit I received from the ACE program was that little boost of confidence I needed to make my life dream come true."

The ACE Seminar provides a system of support services that prepare non-traditional students for college entry and success. In the seminar, ABAC faculty and staff members teach students



ABAC honor graduate Tammy Murray started classes as an ACE student

how to apply for admission and financial aid and how to prepare for placement testing. Career and transfer programs available at ABAC are also discussed.

fall term, which begins Aug. 21. For more information on the ACE Program, contact the Office of Evening and Off-Campus Programs at 391-4905.

"In the ACE Seminar, students are with other adults who are also just starting college," Kay Powell, ABAC's Interim Director of the Evening and Off-Campus Programs, said. "They 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."

Another ACE Program will be scheduled for the

FOCUS ON

Su Senapati

Dr. Su Senapati is an Associate Professor of English in the Division of Humanities. Her duties include teaching English, World Literature, and Humanities classes. She is also the co-advisor of ABAC's literary magazine, *Pegasus*. She has been a member of the ABAC faculty since 1999.

Senapati received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English Honors and History and her Master's degree in British Literature from Utkal University in India. She received her Master's degree in English from the University of West Florida and her Doctorate in Medieval & Renaissance Literature from the University of South Florida.

She was a Fulbright-Hayes recipient for travel to Thailand in the summer of 2005; the Chancellor's Fellowship recipient for European Council to Hungary in the summer of 2004; the Fulbright-Hayes recipient for travel to Egypt and Israel in the summer of 2000; and the Georgia Council for Humanities featured speaker for Literature as Reflection of Culture. She is also a member of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association.

Her hobbies include gardening, writing, sewing, and jewelry-making. She is married to Kiron Senapati, an environmental engineer. They have a daughter, Gitanjali Jennifer Senapati, 23, a liaison for Turner Entertainment.



Transfer of Power

Interim President Tom Call (left) plans to retire from the college on June 30. On July 1, Dr. David Bridges will become the first alumnus ever to serve as president of ABAC. Bridges was a member of the Class of 1978. Call has served as interim president since Sept. 15, 2004, perhaps the longest interim presidency in ABAC's history.



Next FOCUS June 12

The next edition of the *FOCUS* will appear on your e-mail on June 12. Please send all information for that issue to pleonard@abac.edu by noon on June 8.

Variety of PSBOC Classes Offered in June

A variety of classes will be offered at ABAC as a part of the Public Service and Business Outreach Center's June schedule. Pre-registration for all classes is required. For more information or to register, contact the PSBOC at 391-5070.

Adult classes being taught in June will cover topics such as cooking, agriculture, Spanish, art, photography, computers, and athletics. Kids' programs include athletics, science and math, art/music, and language/reading courses.

The athletics' program for kids includes swimming, basketball, softball, golf, bowling, tennis, baseball, cheerleading, and private horseback riding lessons.

Children interested in the arts can participate in music and art classes. Students can choose from art classes focusing on clay, mosaics, crafts, scrap booking, and more. Other classes include carpentry and embroidery for kids.

For the avid reader, classes will feature Fairy Tales, Get Curious with George, and Friendly Phonics. There will also be beginning and intermediate Spanish classes for kids.

A section of classes geared to science are planned. In these classes, children can learn about dinosaurs, insects, frogs, the ocean, trees, or become mad scientists.

Other classes being offered include Babysitter Basics, Junior Police Academy, and Junior Pathology Academy.



Registration In Moultrie Tuesday

The summer term orientation and registration session for ABAC on the Square in Moultrie is scheduled for Tuesday at 4 p.m. Summer term classes begin June 5.

Twenty ABAC classes are available in Moultrie during the summer term.

Registration will also be held for the ABAC on-campus evening program on Tuesday at 4 p.m. in the Ag Sciences Building. Twenty-two evening classes are available this summer on campus.

For additional information, contact Kay Powell, Director of ABAC on the Square, at 891-7235 or e-mail her at kpowell@abac.edu.



ABAC From the Air

Public Relations Director Michael Chason took this shot of ABAC from above when he traveled into the "wild blue yonder" with ABAC student Tyler Harper in a helicopter recently.

Vaughn Wins High Five



Heather Vaughn, Senior Administrative Assistant in the Public Service and Business Outreach Center Office, is this week's High Five Winner.

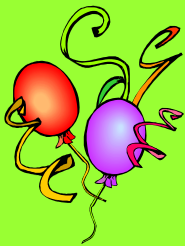
Her nomination, submitted by Diane Kilgore and Fran Kinchen, said, "Heather is not only one of the most diligent workers on the ABAC campus, she is also one of ABAC's most loyal. During the past several months she has volunteered her decorating talent to make cakes for the following events: the Staff Forum fundraiser (2 cakes); the Celebration for girls' basketball team (sheet cake); the Relay for Life fundraiser (2 cakes); and last week's State College Status celebration (120 cupcakes). Heather has gladly spent many sleepless nights in service to ABAC, and she deserves special recognition for her selflessness."

Vaughn will receive a certificate of appreciation and a t-shirt from the ABAC Bookstore. Her name will also go into the drawing for the monthly High Five Winner.

Celebrating Birthdays

May

- 29 Tamara Dennis
- 31 Nick Rachowicz
- 31 Donnie Thompson



June

- 5 Willis Hyde
- 6 Jenelle Handcox
- 8 Howard McGrary
- 8 Cathy Newton
- 8 Chrystle Ross
- 12 Earl Denham
- 12 Brian Ray

Thank You

Thank you for the floral arrangements, cards, and food sent when my mother passed away. It is a blessing to work with people who care so much.

Sherin Nixon

Positions Open

ABAC:

- Admissions Recruiter
- Salary \$26,000-\$27,000
- Interviews begin 6/9
- Contact Human Resources for details.

Note of Sympathy

Former ABAC faculty member Sophronia (Sam) Grantham was killed in an automobile accident on May 20. Funeral services were held on May 24 at Barwick Baptist Church. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

ABAC FAMILY

Michael Chason and Michael Maw, ABAC's J.G. Woodroof Scholar, spoke on ABAC at the Tifton Kiwanis Club meeting on May 12.

Calendar of Events

Monday, May 29

8 a.m.—GA Dept. of Corrections Class (Bowen 113)

Tuesday, May 30

Today—Maymester classes end
 8 a.m.—GA Dept. of Corrections Class (Bowen 113)
 4 p.m.—Evening Program Orientation (Ag Sciences Bldg)

Wednesday, May 31

Today—Maymester final exams
 8 a.m.—GA Dept. of Corrections Class (Bowen 113)
 3:30 p.m.—NSO Leaders Training (Bowen 113)

Thursday, June 1

Today—Summer Term Orientation
 8 a.m.—GA Dept. of Corrections Class (Bowen 113)

Friday, June 2

Today—Fall Semester Early Bird Orientation
 8 a.m.—GA Dept. of Corrections Class (Bowen 113)
 5 p.m.—Police Academy Graduation (Cordell Conf. Room)

Friday—continued

6 p.m.—Jones/Holton Wedding Rehearsal (Chapel)

Saturday, June 3

8 a.m.—National SAT
 3 p.m.—Jones/Holton Wedding (Chapel)

Monday, June 5

Today—Summer term classes begin
 7 p.m.—Migrant Leadership Camp (Cordell Conf. Room A)

Wednesday, June 7

10 a.m.—Police Academy Lecture (Cordell Conf. Room A/B)

Friday, June 9

1 p.m.—HEP Graduation Set-Up (Howard Auditorium)

Saturday, June 10

8 a.m.—National ACT (Student Development Center)

10 a.m.—HEP Graduation

(Howard Auditorium)
 6 p.m.—Thompson/Knight Wedding Reception (Dining Hall)

Monday, June 12

1 p.m.—PSBOC Class: *Broadway Bound* (Howard Auditorium)