



# FOCUS

## ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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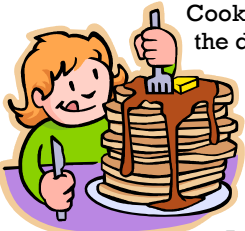
### Pancake Breakfast For Finals Tonight

The Student Government Association at ABAC will host a Pancake Breakfast for Finals tonight at 9 p.m. in the dining hall.

Volunteers from the faculty and staff are needed to cook and serve the food.

Cooks should report to the dining hall by 7:30 p.m., and servers should arrive by 8:30 p.m. Please wear closed toe shoes.

Please e-mail Amanda Urquhart at [aurquhart@abac.edu](mailto:aurquhart@abac.edu) to sign up to give students a little encouragement and support during finals week.



**Mark Your Calendar**  
**Stallion Day**  
**Feb. 13 at 8 a.m.**



### Chancellor Davis on Campus Today

Chancellor Erroll Davis, Jr., will visit ABAC today. If you see him on campus give him a warm ABAC welcome.



### ABAC Rings in the Holidays

The ABAC Jazz Band, Jazz Choir, and ABAC faculty performed some holiday tunes on Dec. 1 in the Chapel. Faculty and staff were treated to a dessert reception from President and Mrs. Bridges after the performance.

*ABAC President and First Lady*  
**David & Kim Bridges**  
*cordially invite you to their home*  
*for a*

**Holiday  pen House**

*Tuesday, December 8*  
*6 until 8 o'clock in the evening*

*807 North College Avenue*  
*Tifton, Georgia*

## Gonzalez Speaking at Commencement Friday

Javier Gonzalez, Director of the College Assistance Migrant Program and the High School Equivalency Program at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, will be the featured speaker at the ABAC fall commencement ceremony at 6 p.m. on Friday in Gressette Gym.

"I feel extremely honored to have the opportunity to address the graduating class," Gonzalez said. "Having come from a humble background, where earning a college degree was a very rare exception, I learned the value of education at very early age."

Gonzalez has been a member of the ABAC staff since 2003. In recent weeks, he has been selected to attend the University System of Georgia Executive Leadership Institute. The institute addresses the need for succession planning by identifying and developing high potential employees to equip them to become the next generation of exemplary leaders.

He has been involved in the education field for 18 years. He served as a Resource Specialist for the Marion County Board of Education and an Adolescent Outreach Specialist at the Chatahoochee-Flint Regional Education



Javier Gonzalez

Service Agency (RESA) before joining the ABAC staff.

Gonzalez earned a General Educational Development (GED) diploma from Heart of Georgia Technical College. He received his bachelor's degree in Spanish from Georgia Southern University and a Master's in Education Leadership degree from Columbus State University. He earned an English as a Second Language (ESL)

certification from the State University of West Georgia and an education certification in Spanish Education K-12 from Georgia Southwestern State University.

"I came to understand that education is the great equalizer, that a diploma at any level, from a GED to a Ph.D, can provide the same opportunities for success to anyone regardless of their background," Gonzalez said.

"It is my hope that my words will inspire the graduates to utilize their earned diploma to confidently face the next phase of their educational or personal journey and take pride in their accomplishment."

A total of 133 students are expected to participate in the ceremony.

## Regents Approve Fee Increase for USG Students

An increase of \$50 has been added to the students' institutional fee at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College beginning with the spring semester of 2010. The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (USG) approved a mandatory increase for all USG students. This fee will be added to the current ABAC mandatory fee of \$50, which went into effect in January, 2009.

Although the \$50 increase for ABAC and other two-year/state colleges will be an additional burden on students, it is not as severe as the \$100 increase per semester at the research universities, as well as at Georgia Southern University, Valdosta State University, Georgia College and State University, Kennesaw State University, Southern Polytechnic State University, and the University of West Georgia. Other comprehensive universities will have a \$75 increase.

"Funds derived from this fee will go directly to offset budget cuts that the state has or will have as far as funding goes," John Clemens, ABAC Vice President for Fiscal Affairs, said.

ABAC students who have already paid their fees for the spring semester will receive an e-bill through their e-mail to reflect the additional \$50 charge. Banner accounts for ABAC students will reflect the \$50 charge at that time.

The HOPE scholarship will not cover this fee, but other financial aid (Pell, loans) will cover the fee if a student's award amount is sufficient. For students who have pre-registered, all charges for spring semester 2010 must be paid by Dec. 14, 2009, at 4:30 p.m.

The Board of Regents is also adjusting the System's budget from a six percent reduction to an eight percent reduction level for the current fiscal year. The special institutional fee is part of the overall strategy to ensure access and academic excellence for students. The fee increase spreads the cost equitably among all USG students.



### Taylor Wins AET Pennington Farms Weekend Hunt

The ABAC AET Club raffled off a weekend hunt donated by Dan Pennington and family, and Pennington Seed Inc. ABAC faculty member Lee Ann Taylor won the raffle, and traveled to Pennington Farms in Madison on Nov. 20 for the weekend to hunt. Taylor is pictured with (l-r) ABAC alumnus Dan Pennington, Dustin Pennington and current student Dan Pennington Jr., at the Pennington Hunting Lodge.

### Space Limited for PSBO Costa Rica Trip

The Public Service and Business Outreach Center (PSBOC) at ABAC will offer a fabulous trip to the exotic locale of Costa Rica on March 17 - 25, 2010. Space is limited for this trip so register early. For more information, interested persons can contact PSBOC at the web site at [abac.edu/psbo](http://abac.edu/psbo).

# ABAC Family

Brooke Jernigan, Mike Chason, and ABAC Ambassadors Bernard Green and Savannah Brown spoke to the entire senior class at Tift County High School on Dec. 1 on opportunities at ABAC.

Dr. Darby Sewell presented at the Association for Career and Technical Education's Annual Meeting in Knoxville, Tenn., on Nov. 18-20. The title of the presentation was Enhancing Family and Consumer Sciences Education.

## Job Opportunities

- ABAC Police Officer
- Part-time Clinical Instructor, School of Nursing and Health Sciences
- Part-time Credentialed Faculty

## A Note of Sympathy

Former ABAC employee Calvin Lee passed away recently. Calvin was a retired painter for the physical plant. He had been living in Montezuma.

## Art Open House Thursday

The ABAC Art Program will host an Open House on Thursday from 4:30—6 p.m. Please stop by the first floor of Bowen Hall for a night of good food and great art. For further information, please contact Donna Hatcher at 391-4963.

## ABAC Birthdays

- 7 William Ryder
- 7 Isom Harmon, III
- 7 Dawn Tillman
- 9 James McCrimmon
- 10 Amitava Ghosh
- 12 Lawrence Shepard
- 12 Vivian Jackson

## ABAC Students Don't Have a Beef with Helping



ABAC students (l-r) Sara Parramore, Brittany C. Smith, Ashley Offenberg, and Glen Major worked at the local Harvey's recently for the Georgia Beef Board. Smith and Major completed the MBA program and are on the alumni website. The MBA is a national on-line program called the Master's of Beef Advocacy.

## January 7

Spring Advising  
& Registration  
Check-in will begin at  
8:30 a.m. in the  
Branch Student Center

## ABAC Closed Dec. 24 – Jan. 4

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College will close at 5 p.m. on Dec. 23 for the holidays and will reopen at 8 a.m. on Jan. 5. Dec. 24 and Jan. 4 will be taken as furlough days. Taking the furlough days at that time will allow faculty and staff to have extra time with their families during the holidays. It will also allow the College to save on energy consumption by delaying the return of employees until Jan. 5, 2010.

Beginning on Jan. 5, 2010, ABAC will return to an 8 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. schedule on a Monday through Thursday basis and an 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. schedule on Fridays.

## Staff Forum Meeting Tuesday

A Staff Forum meeting will take place on Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. in room 237 of the Health Sciences Building. This meeting will focus on ABAC budget questions and concerns.

SkyBridge Associates consultant Nancy Harris, Diane Owens, Donna King and Brenda Bailey will be the featured speakers at this meeting. There will be a question and answer session conducted by the representatives of the business office.

Also taking part will be Amanda Bridges and Elaine Auger from the ABAC Foundation. They will give a brief update on the Staff Forum Foundation Account.

The FOCUS is a weekly electronic publication produced by the Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College Public Relations Office.

**Ashley Williamson**      **Mike Chason**

Writer and Layout      Writer & Editor

Please submit any information to Ashley at [awilliamson@abac.edu](mailto:awilliamson@abac.edu) by Thursday at noon for inclusion in the next FOCUS.