

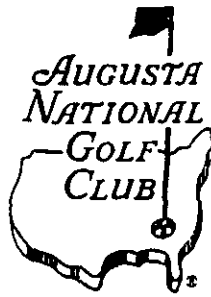
**LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR THE
BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN
TURFGRASS AND GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT**

ROBERT TYRE JONES, JR.
President in Perpetuity

CLIFFORD ROBERTS
Chairman in Memoriam

JACKSON T. STEPHENS
Chairman Emeritus

WILLIAM W. JOHNSON
Chairman



POE 2026
309

February 6, 2003

President Michael Vollmer
ABAC
2802 Moore Highway
Tifton, GA 31793

Dear Mr. Vollmer,

I am writing to express my support for the development of a Bachelor of Applied Science in turfgrass degree at ABAC.

As the turfgrass industry evolves the expectations for some areas of turf management have been raised to a point where a two-year degree may not be sufficient. The future turfgrass manager may be called on to possess a greater knowledge of business administration in addition to the technical agronomics. However, in developing the curriculum for the Applied Science degree, I would suggest that it be in a format which would allow the student to finish a two-year Associates degree and then have the option to continue to pursue the four-year Bachelor of Applied Science degree. Be sure class schedules afford the student an on-going option. If the combination is not feasible, however, then I would hope ABAC's energy would just stay focused on the two-year program for now.

I appreciate your institution's desire and commitment to better educate and prepare students for their place in turf management.

Sincerely,

William Marsh Benson
Senior Director Golf Course
Operations and Development

jab



Sea Island

February 7, 2003

President Michael Vollmer
ABAC 1
2802 Moore Highway
Tifton, GA 31793-2601

Good Afternoon, President Vollmer:

I am writing to encourage the development of a Bachelor of Applied Science in Turfgrass degree at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

As you are well aware, the responsibilities of Golf Course Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents (as well as turfgrass managers whose positions are not golf related) have expanded in recent years to such a degree that they now exceed the level of ability achieved in a two-year degree program.

Graduates in turfgrass need to be prepared at a higher level of education that exposes them to a more expanded curriculum better preparing them especially with regard to management skills.

Due to this evolving roll in turfgrass management, many employers, when hiring, are now giving priority to graduates with a four year degree over those with only two years. Offering a four-year program at ABAC would make graduates more marketable in this rapidly changing work environment. Current research indicates it is important for turfgrass managers to pursue a four-year degree in order to be adequately prepared for the job both now and in the future.

It is my sincere hope that you will consider developing a four year degree - - and in doing so that you will plan the curriculum in such a manner that a two year graduate would be able to continue his or her training with no loss of credits. I appreciate what you have done thus far with the Associate of Applied Science in turfgrass, and look forward to the day when you offer the Bachelor of Applied Science in turfgrass as well. Thank you for your desire and strong commitment to educating and preparing students for turf management careers.

Sincerely,

Berry Collett
Director of Golf Course Maintenance

February 7, 2003



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RENAISSANCE
PINEISLE RESORT

President Michael Vollmer
ABAC I
2802 Moore Highway
Tifton, Ga. 31793-2601

President Vollmer,

I am writing to express my support for the development of a Bachelor of Applied science in Turfgrass degree at ABAC. This support is based upon several factors which directly influence the level of education and employment positions available in turfgrass now and in the future. As an ABAC ALUMNI and Certified Golf Course Superintendent, I feel that this degree option will better prepare students for success in the Golf/ Turf industry.

The responsibilities of the position have grown in the last few years to a level that exceeds the capabilities of many two-year graduates. What this means is that graduates in turfgrass are going to have to be prepared at a higher level of education and expose them to an expanded curriculum including more management preparation.

As a result, I am finding out that many employers in this field are hiring graduates with a four-year degree with a priority over those with a two-year degree. If ABAC were to offer a four-year degree in turfgrass, this would help to assure the graduates that they will be more marketable in a constantly-changing work force. Current research has indicated the importance of turfgrass managers pursuing a four-year degree so that they will be prepared for the jobs of now and the future.

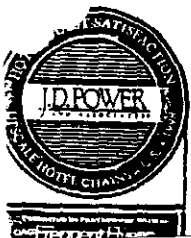
However, in your development of such a degree, I suggest you consider a curriculum that would allow the two-year turfgrass graduate to proceed into the new degree program without any loss of credits. Thank you for what you have done with the Associate of Applied Science in turfgrass and possibly will do with the Bachelor of Applied Science in turfgrass. I appreciate your institution's interest, desire and commitment to better educate and prepare students for careers in turf management.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anthony Williams".

Anthony Williams, CGCS, CGM

Director of Grounds



Renaissance is ranked highest upscale hotel chain in guest satisfaction by Frequent Flyer Magazine/J.D. Power and Associate.

9000 Holiday Road, Lake Lanier Islands, Georgia 30518 Telephone 770-945-8921 Fax 770-945-1004



February 14, 2003

Michael Vollmer, President
ABAC 1
2802 Moore Highway
Tifton, GA 31793

In response to a request from Dr. Eddie Seagle, I am writing this letter to express Reynolds Plantation's interest and continued pursuit of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College's turf management students.

We have been recruiting golf maintenance student interns from ABAC for several years and have had huge success with the current two-year program. However, we do actively recruit students from other two and four year programs, colleges and universities. Therefore, we certainly see the value of adding a four-year option to the program you currently have in place at ABAC.

We recruit interns, spray technicians, assistant superintendents, and superintendents based on experience in the industry and a pursued education in the field of turf grass management or related degrees. While a two-year degree or technical degree is required of our assistant superintendents and our superintendents, this is the minimal requirement. A four-year bachelor's degree would also be considered a valuable accomplishment for those pursuing a career in turf grass management.

The responsibilities of golf course maintenance professionals, as in many industries, continue to expand into areas other than specifically turf and agriculture. Many GCM professionals could benefit from a more extensive educational program that includes business management coursework in addition to turf studies. In the future, graduates of four-year programs with additional management curriculum would certainly be considered more prepared for the work force than those with only a two-year degree.

Please let me know if you need any additional information from Reynolds Plantation regarding our position in the industry. We have enjoyed our relationship with Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, and we hope it continues to be a success in the future.

Sincerely,

Donna Connolly
Human Resources Specialist

From: "Dennis Echols" <dennisechols@portarmor.com>
To: <mvollmer@abac.edu>
Subject: I support the new Bachelor programs
Date: Thu, 6 Mar 2003 09:30:56 -0800
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook IMO, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2910.0)
Importance: Normal

President Vollmer,

I apologies for this tardy and short message, but I felt compelled to voice my approval of the proposed Bachelor of Applied Science in Turfgrass degree at ABAC.

In 1990 I graduated with high honors with an AAS degree in Horticulture from ABAC. As I felt a need to continue my education in pursuit of a four degree at UGA, it became clear the curriculum needed for my AAS degree did not benefit me greatly in UGA's BS program. Although I feel a generous compromise was made. I would have benefited more if ABAC had offered a Bachelor program during my attendance.

In light of all professions, it is clear that a four year degree is becoming more necessary for advancement. Please consider this BAS program which would greatly benefits future professionals who pursue further education after their Associate degree. I appreciate you institution's interest in this matter, and your time to read my plea.

Sincerely,
Dennis Echols. CGCS
Port Armor Country Club
Greensboro. GA 30642



The Landings Club, Inc.

February 27, 2003

President Michael Vollmer
ABAC I
2802 Moore Highway
Tifton, GA 31793-2601

President Vollmer,

I am writing to express my support for the development of a Bachelor of Applied Science in Turfgrass degree at ABAC. This support is based upon several factors that directly influence the level of education and employment positions available in turfgrass now and in the future.

The responsibilities of the position have grown in the last few years to the level that exceeds the capabilities of many two-year graduates. What this means is that graduates in turfgrass are going to have to be prepared at a higher level of education and expose them to an expanded curriculum including more management preparation.

As a result, I am finding out that many employers in this field are hiring graduates with a four-year degree with priority over those with a two-year degree. If ABAC were to offer a four-year degree in turfgrass, this would help assure the graduates that they will be more marketable in a constantly changing work force. Current research has indicated the importance of turfgrass managers pursuing a four-year degree so that they will be better prepared for the jobs of now and the future.

However, in your development of such a degree, I suggest that you consider a curriculum that would allow the two-year turfgrass graduate to proceed into the new degree program without any loss of credits. Thank you for what you have done with the Associate of Applied Science in turfgrass and possibly will do with the Bachelor of Applied Science in turfgrass. I appreciate your institution's interest, desire, and commitment to better educate and prepare students for careers in turf management.

Sincerely,

Allan H. Pulaski, Director
Golf and Grounds Maintenance

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
n = 53

Classes surveyed:

- *HORT 2231 Turfgrass Science and Technology at 8:00 am – 13 students*
- *HORT 2231 Tufrgrass Science and Technology at 9:30 am – 21 students*
- *ARGP Fundamentals of Plant Protection – 6 students*
(remaining students had completed questionnaire in 2231)
- *HORT 2239 Groudns Irrigation systems - 13 students*
(remaining students had completed questionnaire in 2231)

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. The purpose is to identify an interest in bachelor's degree at ABAC. Please check in the appropriate space. A place for comments is also listed.

Questions:

1. Would you consider pursuing a bachelor's degree?
(47) Yes (6) No

2. If ABAC were to offer a Bachelor of Applied Science in Turfgrass and Golf Course Management, would you consider applying for admission into that program?
(38) Yes (15) No

3. Would you be admitting as a full time student?
(45) Yes (8) No