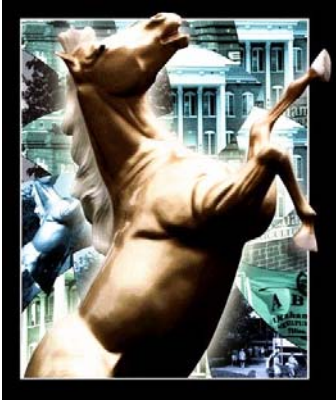


April 22, 2004

# President's Update



## Chancellor Opens Ag Sciences Building

Chancellor Thomas Meredith praised the forward thinking of ABAC during his remarks at the grand opening of the new \$7.1 million Ag Sciences Building on Jan. 27.

"Every time I come to ABAC I get excited about what is happening here," Meredith said. "And something always seems to be happening here. I want to congratulate the leadership of ABAC. This is a college on the move."

Other speakers at the ceremony included ABAC President Mike Vollmer, Regent Julie Ewing Hunt, Ag Division Chair Larry Allen, and sophomore ag economics major Bo Dotson. Hunt, an ABAC alumnae, has just been appointed to a new seven-year term on the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

The ABAC Ambassadors served refreshments at the gathering, which attracted almost 200 people in the lobby of the 39,000 square-foot building. Green ABAC banners hung on the wall behind the speakers, and Lorie and Jimmy Felton and their horticulture students provided ferns to highlight the area. When Meredith cut the green and gold ribbon, he did it with oversized scissors with plow points on the handles. Farm Manager Garvie Nichols furnished the hardware.



*President Mike Vollmer, Ag Division Chair Larry Allen, and Regent Julie Ewing Hunt assist Chancellor Thomas Meredith in cutting the ribbon on the new Ag Sciences Building.*

"This really is a great day for ABAC," Allen said as he enthralled the audience with how he and former President Harold Loyd traveled to Atlanta to present the proposal for the building to

the Board of Regents, whose numbers at that time included the late John Hunt.

Allen said Hunt assured him this building was going to become a reality. He was right.

## ABAC #1 in the University System In Graduates

Based on data for all of the two-year colleges in the University System of Georgia, ABAC is among the leaders in the percentage of students who graduate with associate degrees.

In terms of associate degree graduation rate, meaning the percentage of full-time students who graduate within three years, ABAC ranks first. ABAC is also first in the number of career associate degrees awarded and second in total degrees and certificates awarded.

Dr. Caroline Helms, Vice President of Academic Affairs, said these rankings are impressive because ABAC is being compared to several schools with larger enrollments.

"Our graduation rate reflects well on our students and on our faculty and staff," Helms said. "Most of our students are serious about their studies, and the faculty and staff do an excellent job of advising and guiding them through their academic programs."

ABAC's career programs are a popular choice among students. These programs, which are offered in four of ABAC's divisions, including Nursing, Agriculture and Forest Resources, Business, and Social Science, prepare students for immediate entry into the workforce.

An alltime record of 3,157 students are enrolled at ABAC this spring, and almost half of these students are in career programs.

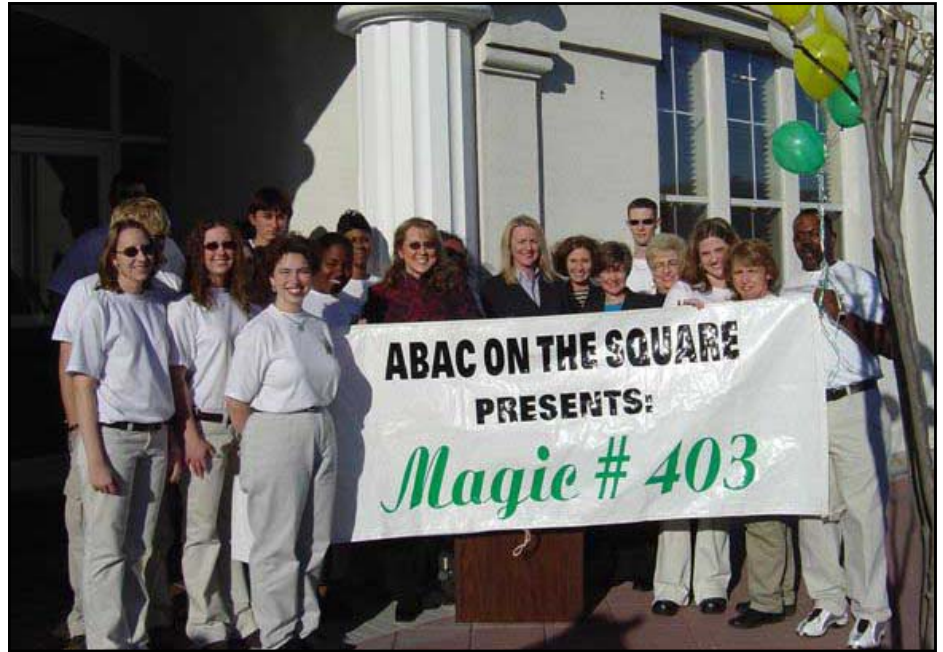


### Hunt Appointed

Julie Hunt has been appointed to a full seven-year term on the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia by Governor Sonny Perdue. In 2003 Hunt was appointed by the Governor to complete the term of her late husband, John.

### Scholarships Worth \$52,700 Awarded

Sixty-three scholarships totaling \$52,700 were awarded to ABAC students during the Honors Day ceremony April 7. The awards, provided through the ABAC Foundation, were based on a number of criteria such as leadership ability, character, academic excellence, and financial need.



### A Record for ABAC on the Square!

ABAC on the Square in Moultrie enrolled a record 403 students for the spring term. Stephanie Withrow was recognized as the 400<sup>th</sup> student at the Magic 400 Celebration on Feb. 18. Participants included the new ABAC on the Square Leadership Society, the ABAC Ambassadors, Tom Call, Dr. Gail Dillard, Kay Powell, and Mike Chason.

## Stafford Foundation Donates Steinway for Howard

The Stafford family through the Stafford Foundation has donated a nine-foot concert grand Steinway piano for use by Abraham Baldwin in Howard Auditorium.

Mrs. DeNean Stafford, Jr., and her children, DeNean Stafford, III, Sally Perez, and Mary Jane Theden, were present for the unveiling of the piano on the recently renovated Howard Auditorium stage.



President Mike Vollmer thanks the Stafford family for their Steinway contribution. Pictured are (l-r) Mary Jane Theden, DeNean Stafford, III, Vollmer, Mrs. DeNean Stafford, Jr., and Sally Perez.

ABAC President Mike Vollmer said the \$80,000 gift will be put to good use.

"We appreciate so much what the Stafford family and the Stafford Foundation have done for ABAC," Vollmer said. "They do so much for this com-

munity, and we certainly appreciate all they do for our college. It is a wonderful gift which is going to allow us to make beautiful music for many year into the future."

DeNean Stafford, III, said, "We wanted to support ABAC and the arts in conjunction with enhancing Howard Auditorium."

His sister, Mary Jane Theden, said, "We grew up in a home where music was important. I started playing the piano, mainly classical music, and my dad loved opera. My mother plays the piano, and I gave my very first senior piano recital on this stage. We wanted the community to have a wise and wonderful investment to listen to. This is quite a quality instrument, and even after many years of use, it can be totally rebuilt."

Wayne Jones, who directs the Abraham Baldwin Arts Connection, said some special concerts are planned to showcase the new piano.

## ABAC Place Now Officially Open!

On a cold, wet January morning at Abraham Baldwin, seventy-five students loaded down with clothes and hair dryers became a part of history when they moved into the largest privatized campus apartments project at a two-year college in the United States of America.

ABAC President Mike Vollmer said students began moving into over 200 rooms in the \$32 million ABAC Place apartments on Jan. 9. The students consisted primarily of the females who lived in Chandler Hall during fall semester and a few females from Fulwood Hall. The move-in process continued over the weekend in preparation for the first day of spring term classes Jan. 12.

"This is a project that has really taken off," Vollmer said. "It's incredible that it was only on June 23 that we broke ground, and now students are actually living in the most modern apartments on any college campus in America.

"I have to say a big thank-you to the Board of Trustees of the ABAC Foundation for supporting this project and making it possible. Without them, these students would still be living in



*Ashley Jacobs and Melissa Martin move into their new ABAC Place apartment*

Chandler Hall."

Funded by private bonds and supported by the ABAC Foundation, the massive project will continue until 835 rooms are completed and ready for use when the fall semester begins on Aug. 23.

Vice President for Student and Enrollment Services Tom Call said ABAC Place will be open for males and females at that time. Most of the units in the complex are four-bedroom, two-bath with a complete kitchen and living area. All units are completely furnished.

Students have individual bedrooms complete with cable, internet, and phone line access. All utilities are included in the monthly rent which runs from \$345 to \$360 per month.

Each bedroom is equipped with a double bed, desk, chair, chest of drawers, extra storage space, closet, and ceiling fan. The kitchen includes a microwave, stove, oven, refrigerator, and garbage disposal. Beginning with the fall term, students will not have to purchase a meal plan but optional meal plans will be available in the Donaldson Dining Hall.

## ABAC Receives \$500,000 Goizueta Foundation Grant

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, in its quest to maintain its status as a leader in providing educational opportunities to Hispanics/Latinos—the nation's fastest growing population according to the U. S. Census Bureau—has announced that The Goizueta Foundation of Atlanta, has selected the

college to receive a grant in the amount of \$500,000 to provide financial assistance and educational resources for Hispanic students.

The grant will provide \$425,000 to establish and endow The Goizueta Foundation Scholars Fund to offer need-based scholarship assistance

annually for Hispanic/Latino students whose families currently reside in the United States. An additional \$75,000 will provide immediate need-based scholarship assistance annually over three years to Hispanic/Latino students whose families currently reside in the United States.



### **ABAC Place Town Hall is Open**

*If you haven't seen the new Town Hall at ABAC Place, you have missed a treat. The Town Hall opens at 10 a.m. each day so stop by and check out the exercise room, the plasma television, the meeting room, the game room, the computer lab, and the white sand volleyball court. A stallion weather vane is on the way.*

## Fifteen New Members Inducted Into President's Club at Abraham Baldwin

Fifteen new members are now a part of the President's Club at ABAC.

The inductees include Colonel and Mrs. Lloyd F. Fields, Hahira; Mr. and Mrs. James M. Floyd, Jr., Hinesville; Mr. and Mrs. Leon O. Gaskins, Tifton; Dr. Caroline S. Helms, Tifton; Dr. and Mrs. Darrell W. Jordan, Tifton; Mr. and Mrs. Alan Myers, Ashburn; Mr. and Mrs. William H. Newberry, Jr., Louisville; Mrs. Catherine Tift Porter, Atlanta; Mr. and Mrs. Elias R. Rigsby, Camilla; Representative J. Austin Scott, Tifton; Mr. and Mrs. Jack Stone, Tifton; Mr. and Mrs. Carden H. Summers, Cordele; Mr. and Mrs. Leon Sutton, Tifton; Mr. and Mrs. Drew Wilson, Tifton; and Mr. and Mrs. Jason J. Wisenbaker, Jr.,

Valdosta.

Basic criteria for President's Club membership includes pledging or contributing a total of \$10,000 or more to the ABAC Foundation. Real estate, stock, life insurance, trusts, and bequests are also accepted in lieu of cash. The funds are designated toward many projects at the college as well as student scholarships. Membership in the President's Club is open to all alumni, ABAC personnel, and friends of the college.

The President's Club provides financial backing, as well as volunteer assistance to the ABAC Foundation. The members become representatives of the college and help to promote the growth of ABAC.



### The Governor!

*ABAC President Mike Vollmer presented Governor Sonny Perdue with an ABAC sledge hammer at the recent Homecoming Awards Luncheon. Perdue hinted he might have to use it on legislators to get funding for the Health Sciences Building.*

## ABAC Lab in Moultrie Now Serves Students

The Colquitt Regional Medical Foundation has purchased nearly \$50,000 worth of laboratory equipment for use by students enrolled in nursing and other medical training programs at Abraham Baldwin's Moultrie campus and Moultrie Technical College.

Students attending nursing classes at ABAC on the Square in Moultrie previously had to travel to Tifton for lab classes. The new lab is located on the Moultrie Tech campus and will be utilized by students from both institutions. Moultrie Tech offers a practical nursing program. A registered nursing program is offered at ABAC. Other Moultrie students who are required to take lab courses will also be able to utilize the equipment.



### Concrete Cracking Phase III

*President Mike Vollmer, Landscape Designer Stephen Rakestraw, Miss ABAC 2004 Pippa Mpunzwana, and Miss ABAC 1954 Martha Spell Lee opened Phase III of the Pedestrian Mall project during recent Homecoming activities.*

## ABAC on the Square Hosts President Vollmer

*Abraham Baldwin President Mike Vollmer spoke to over 30 business and community leaders at a "Mornings With Mike" breakfast in Moultrie on April 13 at ABAC on the Square. The breakfast was sponsored by the South Georgia Banking Company, the ABAC Foundation, and the Public Service and Business Outreach Center at the college. The concept of "Mornings with Mike" grew out of the University System of Georgia's Knowledge is Power Tour which ABAC hosted in October, 2002. A similar event was held in Tifton on Jan. 7.*

