



# FOCUS

## ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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### Icy Monday at ABAC

Freezing rain left ice droplets on all the ABAC trees today. Because of the inclement weather, the first day of classes for the spring semester will now be Tuesday. When unsure of the status of campus closures and classes, interested persons can call the ABAC weather hotline at 229-391-5225 for up to date information.

### Baldwin Players Auditions Set for Jan. 18-19 at ABAC

The Baldwin Players at ABAC will offer a new twist on this spring's production with "An Evening of Storytelling" directed by Dr. John Galyean, Associate Professor of Humanities in the School of Liberal Arts.

Auditions will be held on Jan. 18-19 at 7 p.m. in Conger Hall 319. All ABAC students and citizens of the area are welcome to try out. Auditioners are asked to perform a brief one to two minute interpretation of a story or portion of a story.

Possible story types can include fairy tales, mythology, folk tales, childhood memories, family stories, stories specific to a culture or region of the world, or stories accompanied by music. Stories can be from six to ten minutes in length.

Production dates for "An Evening of Storytelling" are March 3 - 5 so the rehearsal period will be short and intense. For more information on auditions, contact Galyean at 229-391-4960 or via e-mail at [jgalyean@abac.edu](mailto:jgalyean@abac.edu).

### ABAC will be closed Jan. 17 in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr., holiday.

### ABAC Fitness 5K Scheduled for Jan. 22

A Fitness 5K race and one-mile fun run will be held at ABAC on Jan. 22. Registration is at 7:45 a.m., and the race begins at 9 a.m. Proceeds benefit community and campus service projects of the ABAC Physical Education Majors Club.

To participate in the 5K, there is a registration fee of \$20. Family registration is \$45 for up to a family of four (parents and their children only). High school teams wearing school colors will receive a special group rate if pre-registering as a group. Registration forms are available at [www.abac.edu/club/fhc/abac%205K%20sign%20up%20sheet.pdf](http://www.abac.edu/club/fhc/abac%205K%20sign%20up%20sheet.pdf)

The race will be held on the campus of ABAC, beginning and ending at the Red Hill tennis complex. The course



will be a single loop through the college campus.

Awards will be given to the top overall male/female, most distinguished, and age group awards. Participants under 16 who complete the mile race will receive a finisher's medal. All pre-registered runners will receive a t-shirt.

For more information on this event, interested persons can contact ABAC Soccer Coach Jimmy Ballenger at 391-4939 or Joe Wilson at 392-6587.

### MLK Breakfast at ABAC On Jan. 17

The annual breakfast honoring the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be held at the ABAC Dining Hall on Jan. 17 at 8 a.m. Tickets are available from Ella Pettiford at 386-7921 for \$8 each.

Other activities include the opening ceremony at 11 a.m. on Friday at City Hall, a concert on Sunday at 7 p.m. at Tift Ave. Church of God, a service on Jan. 17 at 10:30 a.m. at Springfield Baptist, a parade at noon on Jan. 17, and high school basketball at the TCHS arena on Jan. 17 beginning at noon.

### Cunha to Speak on Brazil Wednesday at 3 p.m.

Dr. Aercio Cunha will speak on life in Brazil Wednesday at 3 p.m. The lecture from the Fulbright Scholar will take place in the Lakeside Multipurpose room. Cunha is from the University of Brasilia. He came to ABAC in August, 2010 and will teach through the spring semester.

# ABAC Expands To Include Museum of Agriculture & Historic Village In 2010

The campus of ABAC expanded by 95 acres in the calendar year 2010 when ABAC took over the operation of the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village on July 1. That was just one of the many achievements for the college during a year when more ABAC graduates than ever before walked across the commencement stage with bachelor's degrees in hand.

Other 2010 calendar year highlights were as follows:

- Professional golfer Thomas "Boo" Weekley headlined the inductees into the third class of the ABAC Athletics Hall of Fame. Other inductees were Joseph Crist, Harley Klepfer, Jim Sparks, and the 1991 national championship women's softball team.
- Cain Thurmond, an agricultural business major from Jefferson, was selected as Mr. ABAC.
- The ABAC student newspaper, "The Stallion," received the top honor for all papers in its class at the Georgia College Press Association convention. The paper also captured the top award from the Southern Regional Press Institute.
- The Public Service and Business Outreach Center celebrated 70 years of service at the Celebrate ABAC alumni weekend. The late Tom Cordell started the program in 1940.
- Savannah Brown, a science major from Wray, was crowned Ms. ABAC 2010.
- Dr. Paul Newbern and Dr. James Newbern received the Distinguished Alumnus award from the ABAC Alumni Association at the Celebrate ABAC weekend. Other award winners were Nancy Coleman, Helen Brown Sasser award; Dr. Jay Phillips, Outstanding Health Care Professional; Louis Perry, Jr., J. Lamar Branch Award; Beth Bland, Outstanding Young Alumnus; Rodney McDonald, Outstanding Business Leader; John Harrell, Master Farmer; Lynn Barber, Outstanding Educator; and Dr. Eddie Seagle and Ann Hammons, Honorary Alumni.
- The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia approved a new Associate of Fine Arts degree for ABAC, the first one to be offered in the University System.
- David L. Chapman, an agricultural education major from Jasper, received the J.G. Woodroof Award at the Honors Day ceremony. He was also named the Donaldson Award winner at the spring commencement ceremony. Other winners included Melanie Partlow, W. Bruce and Rosalyn Ray Donaldson

Award for Teaching Excellence; Judy Perry, Roy R. Jackson Sr., Award for Staff Excellence; Dr. Chrystle Ross, E. Lanier Carson Leadership Award; and Dr. Shelley Fandel,

W. Bruce and Rosalyn Ray Donaldson Award for Excellence in Advising.

- The ABAC Fillies' tennis team won the NJCAA Region XVII title for the 17<sup>th</sup> year in a row. The men's team also won the men's title behind the efforts of MVP Rasid Winklaar. Alan Kramer was named the Coach of the Year for both men and women.
- Dr. Niles Reddick, Vice-President for Academic Affairs, had his second book published, "Lead Me Home."
- The Agricultural Business club at ABAC was named the National Outstanding Student Chapter by the National Agri-Marketing Association in Kansas City, Mo. Dustin Bass is the club advisor.
- ABAC placed second in the National Hispanic Quiz Bowl competition in Chicago.
- Dr. Robert G. Anderson was the guest speaker at the spring commencement ceremony.
- Alpha Gamma Rho and Kappa Sigma became the first Greek organizations on the campus.
- ABAC Athletics Director and Tennis Coach Alan Kramer was named to the National Junior College Athletic Association Women's Tennis Hall of Fame. Kramer was also named the Southeast Region Under Armour Athletic Director of the Year by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics.
- The ABAC Jazz Ensemble was selected to perform at the Jazz Education Network International Conference in St. Louis.
- The Stallions finished seventh and the Fillies finished 17<sup>th</sup> in the national tennis tournament. Rasid Winklaar was named the International Tennis Association Region IV Player of the Year. Dale White from ABAC was named the ITA Region IV Assistant Coach of the Year.
- Governor Sonny Perdue and state lawmakers included \$4.75 million in the FY2011 state budget toward the rehabilitation of the ABAC front campus.
- Noted author Janice Daugharty joined



the campus as the Writer-in-Residence on July 1. She was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in Fiction in 1997 for her novel, "Earl in the Yellow Shirt."

• Vice President for External Affairs and Advancement Keith Barber said Herbert

Bynum was an ABAC alumnus "who never forgot his ABAC roots." The ABAC Foundation received a gift of \$1 million from the estate of Herbert and Meade Bynum to be used as a student enhancement endowment for the bachelor's degree program in Rural Studies.

- ABAC received a \$600,000 National Science Foundation grant to provide scholarships for students interested in pursuing careers in science and mathematics.
- ABAC athletes Kenneth Bragg, Winston Gibbs, and Alyssa Simmons were selected for NJCAA Academic All-America honors.
- ABAC had a total economic impact of \$251,799,738 in 2009 on Tifton and the surrounding area, according to a study from the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.
- Assistant Director of Housing Chris Kinsey and the entire Student Financial Services (SFS) team were selected as recipients of the Governor's Commendation for Excellence in Customer Satisfaction quarterly award. Members of the SFS team were Dr. Chrystle Ross, Gay Ann Hodge, Stefane Whiddon, and Krystle Williams.
- ABAC received a \$204,435 grant from the National Science Foundation to transform the J.G. Woodroof Farm into an Agricultural Learning Laboratory with the aid of real time sensor and monitor technologies.
- Distinguished alumnus George T. Smith passed away on Aug. 23 at the age of 93. Class of 1940 at ABAC, he was the only person in the history of the State of Georgia to win contested elections to all three branches of state government.
- The 2010 freshman class had the highest grade point average of any freshman class in the recent history of ABAC. The GPA was 2.97 on a 4.0 scale.
- ABAC received a \$234,000 ICAPP grant that allows teaching faculty to go

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## Christmas Calf at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture

Just in time for Christmas, this Pineywoods calf was born Dec. 21 at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC. Pineywoods cattle are descended from the original Spanish stock left along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, and Alabama by the Spanish explorers in the early 1500s. The short horns are used to ward off predators.



*Continued from page 2*

back to college to receive a master's

- degree in nursing and then return to ABAC as instructors.
- ABAC signed an articulation agreement with the University of Florida to help ensure a smooth transition for Florida students who want to begin their academic careers at ABAC and then return to their home state.
- The ABAC women's soccer team compiled a 15-7 record, the most wins in Fillies' history. ABAC also beat South Georgia 2-1 in the only state playoff soccer game ever held on the ABAC campus.
- Cody Seagraves, a forest resources major from Hull, won the George P. Donaldson award at the fall commencement ceremony. Board of Regents' member William H. "Dink" Ne-Smith was the guest speaker. Seventeen students received bachelor's degrees at the ceremony, the most in the history of ABAC.
- Public Relations Director Mike Chason received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Georgia Education Advancement Council.
- Thanks to years of work by many including ABAC Public Relations Assistant Ashley Williamson, ABAC now has an official license plate issued by the state of Georgia.
- ABAC and Tift County High School received a grant from the University System of Georgia to develop a Near Peer Service Learning Program.
- Melanie Partlow, assistant professor of mathematics and Quality Enhancement Plan Director at ABAC, was selected as one of the recipients of the 2011 Regents' Teaching Excellence Awards.

## Save Money On Trip To London and Paris

All travelers can save \$200 a person if they book their ABAC trip to London and Paris by Jan. 15.

Diane Kilgore from the Educational Outreach office said the trip is planned for July 7-14. The cost is \$3,829 for double occupancy. Experience Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, Notre Dame Cathedral, dinner at the Eiffel Tower, and a cruise on the Seine River. Call 391-5065 for more information. Also, check out other ABAC trips to the South Pacific, the Badlands and many more at

[www.abac.edu/psbo/travel](http://www.abac.edu/psbo/travel)



## Fillies Annual Pancake Breakfast Jan. 22

The Fastpitch Fillies softball team at ABAC will hold its 10th annual Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's on Jan. 22 from 8 - 10 a.m. Take-out orders will also be available. Tickets for the breakfast are \$6 each.



Interested persons can purchase a ticket from Coach Donna Campbell or any Fillies' softball player. Menu items will include pancakes and a choice of beverage.

For more information or to purchase a ticket, contact Campbell at 391-4929 or via e-mail at [dcampbell@abac.edu](mailto:dcampbell@abac.edu).

## ABAC Family

Amy Warren and Dr. Darby Sewell attended the Tift County Board of Education meeting on Dec. 14 to talk about the Near Peer Service Learning Program Grant awarded to ABAC and TCHS.

Dr. Maggie Martin participated in the USG's Violence Against Women Task Force meeting on Dec. 16-17 on Jekyll Island.

## Spring Stallion Day February 12

### ABAC Birthdays

- 10 Wayne Jones
- 10 Amanda Lundy
- 11 Diane Owens
- 12 Anita White
- 13 Adam Story
- 14 Rhonda Lewis

## Handcox Moving To North Carolina

Jenelle Handcox has accepted the Director of Financial Aid position at the University of North Carolina-Pembroke. Friday will be her last day at ABAC. She joined the staff here on July 1, 1998. We thank her for her time at ABAC and wish her well in her new endeavor.