



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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Selections Made For Third Annual ABAC Athletics Hall Of Fame

Professional golfer Thomas "Boo"

Weekley headlines the list of inductees to be honored at the 2010 Athletics Hall of Fame luncheon on March 6 at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

Weekley, a member of the ABAC golf team in 1992-93, plays on the PGA tour and was a member of the United States victorious Ryder Cup Team in 2008. A native of Milton, Fla., Weekley won the Verizon Heritage Classic in 2007 and 2008.

Through the Play Golf America Foundation, Weekley designated \$30,000 for ABAC in 2008 through his participation in the Ryder Cup matches. His nickname came from Yogi Bear's sidekick, "Boo Boo."

Other inductees include the 1991

ABAC national championship softball team, which was the first women's team from ABAC to win a national title; Joseph Grist, who led the 1949 Stallion basketball team to the national tournament; Harley Klepfer, an avid booster of the ABAC tennis team; and Jim Sparks, who was the number one golfer for ABAC from 1981-1983.

Tickets are now available at a cost of \$30 per person for the luncheon on March 6, which is a part of the Celebrate ABAC alumni weekend. Tickets can be purchased from the ABAC Athletics Office by calling Shirley Wilson at (229) 391-4930.



Coach Ellen Vickers and the **Fillies Softball Team**

started the 1991 season on a rocky note. Injuries and



illnesses kept the Fillies on shaky ground. In fact, the team had a record of only 8-7 after the Pete Austin and Gulf Coast tournaments. After shuffling the lineup and getting some players healthy, the Fillies won 23 of their last 24 games to finish the regular season 35-9.

At the national tournament played at the E.B. Hamilton Complex in Tifton, the Fillies lost the first game 8-2 in the title round to Lake City Community College but rallied in the finale, defeating Lake City 9-3 to win the title. Five Fillies were named to the All-National Tournament Team.

Grist grew up in Rabun Gap and attended ABAC from 1947-1949. He played for the Stallions under Coach Bob Gressette, who was inducted into ABAC's inaugural Athletics Hall of Fame in 2008. In Grist's sophomore year, the Stallions became state and regional basketball champs and made it to the national tournament in Hutchinson, Kans. He was voted Best Male Athlete at ABAC.

Grist then attended the University of Miami on a basketball scholarship where he had a great career, once scoring 28 points against national power Western Kentucky. After serving in the Army, he also played basketball for Piedmont College and scored 50 points against North Georgia. He also played basketball for the legendary House of David professional team in 1954 and 1955. They won 124 of the 127 games they played. Grist retired in 1999 as supervisor and director of the athletic department of Washington and Lee University.

Klepfer, an auto dealer originally from Buffalo, N.Y., came to Tifton in 1991 when he was 71 years old. He introduced himself to Coach Norman "Red" Hill and asked him if he knew of any 71-year-olds who would like to play

tennis.

Klepfer found a partner and played almost every Saturday and Sunday at the ABAC courts for the next 12 years. During that time he became a faithful supporter of the Stallions' tennis program under the direction of Coach Hill and Coach Alan Kramer. He has been a staple on the courts of ABAC ever since.

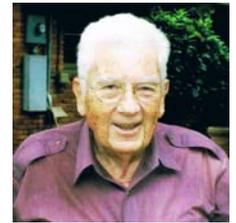
He is more commonly known to the tennis players as "Grandpa Harley." He has dedicated time and energy to tutoring and drilling the tennis team. He has been the man behind the scenes for the ABAC tennis teams, always on the lookout for new recruits. He joined the ABAC Foundation's President's Club in 1996 and reached the prestigious Silver Level in giving in 2007.

Sparks was the top player on the ABAC golf team from 1981-1983. A year after his eligibility ended, he was the student assistant coach for Coach Wayne Cooper. In 1982, he and the ABAC team finished 10th in their first trip ever to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) tournament. In 1983, the team finished eighth in the national tournament, and Sparks was selected for NJCAA All-America honors.

Sparks has been very successful in the business world since he left ABAC. He has been the owner of Highland Lake Golf Club in Hendersonville, N.C., since 1994. He also owns the Course Doctors Golf Course Construction Company in Flat Rock, N.C. Sparks has often visited ABAC to make presentations to students in the turfgrass program.

On May 7, 2009, Sparks returned to ABAC to be the spring commencement speaker. He also received his associate's degree in Turf Management from

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Joe Grist

Hall of Fame cont'd from page 1

ABAC in the same ceremony. Sparks helped to sponsor the ABAC Turf Team's trip to China and the ABAC Ag Classic Golf Tournament in 2009.

ABAC initiated the Athletics Hall of Fame during the 100th birthday celebration in 2008. This year represents the third class to be inducted. The first class included Orion Mitchell, Bruce Gressette, Thomas Cheney, Philip Simpson, Norman "Red" Hill, and Milena Stanoytcheva.

The 2009 class included the 1984 national championship men's tennis team, Ellen Vickers, Cook Holliday, P.W. Bryan, Jr., Dorsey Brooks, and Newell "Sarge" Dorsey.

Variety of ABAC Events Planned for 2010

Mark your calendar for the Winter Stallion Day for prospective students on Feb. 13, the Mr. ABAC competition on Feb. 18, the regional science fair on Feb. 19, the Baldwin Players performances on March 4-6, the Celebrate ABAC alumni weekend on March 5-6, an Evening For ABAC on March 6, Honors Day on April 14, and the Spring Stallion Day for high school juniors on April 17.

There will also be First Tuesday Concerts on Feb. 2, March 2 and April 6. The spring choral concert is April 15, and the spring band concert is April 27. April 22 has been set aside for George Scott Day and the Arts and Entertainment Series performance from Michael Philip Mossman.

Athletic events include softball and baseball games, tennis matches, and golf tournaments as five of the six intercollegiate sports teams at ABAC swing into action.

The ABAC Public Service and Business Outreach Center offers a variety of continuing education classes during the spring term at a very low cost as well as a number of trips including a visit to California and the Pacific Northwest, New England, and Costa Rica. Interested persons can call (229) 391-5070 for more information.

Classes will continue through April 30 with final exams set for May 3-6. Graduation will be held at 6 p.m. on May 7. The only time during the term when the entire campus will be closed is on Jan. 18 for the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday. Faculty and students will be away for spring break on March 15-19.



Sign Up Now for Spring PSBOC Classes

Diane Kilgore assists Ina and John Woodruff in deciding on which class to take first during the Open House Thursday. The ABAC Public Service and Business Outreach Center has lots of exciting classes beginning as early as this week. Visit their website at www.abac.edu/psbo for a complete list of classes or call 391-5070.

Protect Yourself From the Flu

Protect yourself from the seasonal flu and H1N1 flu by getting your flu shot today. Seasonal flu shots are \$20 and H1N1 vaccines are FREE. The H1N1 vaccines are available for anyone who wants one. Please come by the Student Health Center Mon-Thurs 9-12 or 1-4:30 or Friday 9-12 or 1-2.

ABAC Closed Jan. 18

The college will be closed Jan. 18 in observance of the MLK, Jr., holiday. The college will reopen at 8 a.m. in Jan. 19.

ES Open House Thursday

Enrollment Services (ES) invites ABAC Faculty and Staff to an open house on Thursday from 2-4 p.m. in their office located on the 2nd floor of the Student Center. Please join them for light refreshments as you see the new layout and where ES staff are currently located.

Nominations for Alumni Awards Due January 15

Nominations are now being accepted for the awards to be presented by the ABAC Alumni Association at the Celebrate ABAC alumni weekend on March 6, 2010 at ABAC. Nominations are due by Jan. 15, 2010.

All awards are based on professional achievement, community service, and service to the college. Anyone who has attended ABAC for one full year and has 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours of credit is eligible for nomination.

Nomination forms may be obtained by contacting the Office of College Advancement at (229) 391-4900 or by logging onto www.abac.edu/alumni and clicking on the "Alumni Awards" link. Completed nominations can be mailed to the ABAC Alumni Office, ABAC 13, 2802 Moore Highway, Tifton, GA 31793-2601, or returned as an e-mail attachment to kbarber@abac.edu no later than Jan. 15.

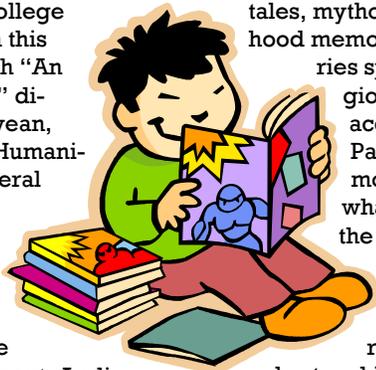
Nominations should provide specific details about the person being nominated. Nominations may be made by alumni, friends, family members, or ABAC faculty and staff.

For more information about the nomination process, contact Keith Barber.

Baldwin Player Auditions Set for January 19-20

The Baldwin Players at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College 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. 19-20 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. Participants can stand, sit, move, dance, mime, or do whatever is appropriate to the story.

Production dates for "An Evening of Storytelling" are March 4 - 6 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.

Former Registrar Passes Away on Christmas Day
Former ABAC Registrar Paul Gaines passed away on Christmas Day. He was 89. Gaines was employed by ABAC from 1946 until 1982. He actually taught classes for ABAC at Spence Field in Moultrie for service men returning from World War II. Spence Field is now the site for the Sunbelt Expo.

ABAC Returns to Regular Operating Hours

Happy New Year! With the six required furlough days behind us, the regular operating hours of ABAC return to an 8 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. basis Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Friday. Have a great spring term.



Chinese Government Ag Dignitaries Visit ABAC

Sixteen members of a Chinese delegation from Suining City, Sichuan Province, P.R. China recently visited ABAC as part of Modern Livestock Industry Training that will take place in the United States over the course of a couple of weeks. While in Tifton, the group also visited the Experiment Station.

ABAC Birthdays

January

- 11 Diane Owens
- 12 Anita White
- 13 Adam Story
- 14 Rhonda Lewis
- 15 Adrian Wilson



Job Opportunities

- Lieutenant – Assistant Chief of Police
- Part-time Clinical Instructor, School of Nursing & Health Sciences
- Part-time Credentialed Faculty

The FOCUS is a weekly electronic publication produced by the ABAC Public Relations Office.

Ashley Williamson Writer and Layout
Mike Chason Writer & Editor

Please submit any information to Ashley Williamson at awilliamson@abac.edu by **Thursday at noon** for inclusion in the next FOCUS.

ABAC Family

Mike Chason appeared on the WTIF Morning Show on Jan. 4 to talk about the upcoming spring term.

Terasita Smith appeared on the WTIF Morning Show on Jan. 7 to talk about the PSBOC Open House. **Dr. David Bridges** was the fall commencement speaker for Georgia Southwestern College and State University in Americus on Dec. 12.