



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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Bobcat Donates Use of Equipment To ABAC

The School of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College will have the use of a Bobcat S250 large frame skid steer loader for one year, thanks to Bobcat North America and Bobcat of Thomasville.

Dr. Tim Marshall, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, said the machine will have many uses for students in his area.

"It's a basic piece of equipment that all of our students in several different areas need some time on," Marshall said. "A machine like this rents for \$1,800 a month so I can't tell you how much I appreciate Bobcat allowing us to



Bobcat Thomasville Equipment Specialist Robby Kee, Lorie Felton, Bobcat District Sales Manager Jim Papczynski, and Dr. Tim Marshall were on hand for the unloading of a Bobcat S250 large frame skid steer loader at the Agricultural Sciences Building.

use it." Marshall said the machine will be used on ABAC's Forest Lakes Golf Club, the J.G. Woodroof Farm and in the Power Equipment classes. Bobcat of Thomasville Equipment Specialist Robby Kee said the machine can use over 70 different

attachments to handle a variety of jobs. Bobcat North America District Sales Manager Jim Papczynski said the original three-wheel version of the machine was used for cleaning out turkey barns in Minnesota.

Greek System May Be Coming To ABAC

Greek social organizations have flourished on college campuses for years. Since ABAC is now a State College, the Greek system of fraternities and sororities will have a chance to become a part of campus life, according to an announcement by Dr. Gail Dillard, Student Affairs Vice President.

"Our students have expressed an interest in the Greek system on campus, and we want to follow up on their request," Dillard said.

Dillard said an ABAC Greek Life Task Force has set up a policy for recognition and chartering of Greek social organizations. ABAC will consider proposals for the establishment of social fraternities and sororities from Feb. 1 to April 2. A formal letter of interest must be submitted to Dillard to begin the process.

At the end of the proposal period, Greek organizations who have met the criteria will be invited to the campus for a presentation to the Greek Life Task Force. That Task Force will then recommend to Dillard how many and which organizations should be invited to establish on campus. The final approval will rest with ABAC President David Bridges and his Cabinet.

Interested persons may contact Dean of Students Bernice Hughes at bhughes@abac.edu

Former ABAC Professor On PBS Tonight at 9

According to a Tifton Gazette story, former ABAC Professor Gary Roberts is scheduled to be on PBS tonight at 9, talking about his latest book on Doc Holliday.

Contestants Needed For Ms. and Mr. ABAC Events

Contestants are needed for the upcoming Mr. ABAC and Ms. ABAC events in February. The Family and Consumer Sciences Club is sponsoring the 19th annual Mr. ABAC contest on Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. The 41st Ms. ABAC competition will take place on Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. sponsored by the Ag Business Club.

All applications for the Mr. ABAC contest must be submitted by Jan. 28 by 4 p.m. to Bowen Hall, Room 202. Contestants can obtain an application at www.abac.edu/dsewell. All applications must be typed.

Those interested in participating in the Ms. ABAC Pageant can go to

www.abac.edu/agbiz to obtain an application packet. The entry fee is \$60 for a club member and \$75 for a non-club member. Space is limited to 40 contestants. The application packet and entry fee must be submitted to Nicholas Urquhart in the Office of Enrollment Services by 4 p.m. on Feb. 4. No late entries will be accepted.

For more information on the Mr. ABAC contest, contact Dr. Darby Sewell at dsewell@abac.edu. For information regarding the Ms. ABAC competition, call (229) 391-4917 or (229) 391-4807.





From ABAC to Haiti

The Student Government Association at ABAC is coordinating an effort by student clubs to raise money for the Haitian relief effort. One club per week will set up a table at the entrance of the Donaldson Dining Hall to provide information about Haiti and collect monetary donations.

Donations will be received each Thursday from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. through February 11. All proceeds will

be donated to the American Red Cross for distribution.

ABAC has one student from Haiti. He has connections with friends and family in Haiti and will keep the campus apprised of specific needs to which we can respond.

For more information, contact Dr. Gail Dillard, Vice President for Student Affairs, at (229) 391-5130 or e-mail her at gdillard@abac.edu

Staff Forum Meeting Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

The first Staff Forum meeting of spring term will be held on Wednesday in the Health Sciences building in rooms 237 and 238. The meeting will take place at 3:30 p.m.

Staff will learn how to reserve facilities on the campus. The scheduling of a facility at ABAC is a part of the new training requirements. Changes within the scheduling process when requesting a facility warrant this training.

Food will be served at the training session. Please take this opportunity to encourage all staff members to attend.



The ABAC Alumni Association Board of Directors will meet at ABAC on Friday at 10 a.m. Please welcome these former students to campus.

ABAC Athletics Hall of Fame Tickets on Sale Now

Tickets for the third annual ABAC Athletics Hall of Fame on March 6 are on sale now. Tickets for the induction ceremony and lunch are \$30. Don't miss the induction of Boo Weekley, the 1991 ABAC national title softball team, Joseph Grist, Harley Klepfer, and Jim Sparks! Contact Shirley Wilson at swilson@abac.edu for tickets.

Mark your calendar for Celebrate ABAC Weekend on March 5-6!

Visit www.abac.edu/celebrate_abac to see a schedule!

First Tuesday Concert at ABAC on February 2

The First Tuesday Concert at ABAC on Feb. 2 will feature guitarist Francois Fowler. He will perform both original pieces and selections from Carlo Domeniconi, Paulo Belinati, Nikita Koshkin, and others.

The concert will take place at 7 p.m. in the ABAC Chapel of All Faiths. Tickets for the performance can be purchased at the door. The cost is \$3 for adults and \$1 for students. ABAC students are admitted free with ID. Patrons of the Arts and Entertainment Series can attend at no charge. An art exhibit will be held in the ABAC music building immediately after the concert.

Fowler has performed all over the United States and Canada. In 2002, he released his world premiere recording of Canadian composer Jacques Hetu's "Concerto pour guitar et orchestre a cordes, Op. 56". He has a new release

titled "Nocturne", which features selections by Hetu, Swiss composer Hans Haug, and American composer Brian Head.

He received his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Ottawa in 1996, where he was the first guitarist to be awarded the Isobel Firestone Performance Scholarship. In 2002 he received his Doctorate in Music from Florida State University.

In the summers of 1992 - 1996, Fowler attended the renowned Domaine Forget Academie de Musique in Quebec. He now serves as

a faculty member at the Dana School of Music at Youngstown State University. He is a former faculty member at Darton College in Albany.

The First Tuesday Concert Series takes place on five selected first Tuesdays during the academic year. Dr. Susan Roe, associate professor of voice at ABAC, directs the series. For more information, contact Roe at 391-4943.



Fowler

Assistant Police Chief Retires From ABAC After 20 Years

Billy Purcell, assistant chief of police at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, retired on Jan. 15 after serving the college for 20 years. Purcell first worked for the college as an instructor at the Police Academy. He was then promoted to Assistant Director of the ABAC Police Academy.

After serving as assistant director for five years, Purcell got back into uniform with the ABAC Police Department.

During his tenure at the college, he has been honored three times as Police Officer of the Year.

"My greatest accomplishment that I received was when I went to Israel to train with the Israeli police," Purcell said. "I talk to a lot of them, and I hope to go back to visit and carry my wife,



Purcell

Nancy, with me." As far as his other retirement plans are concerned, he has a "Honey Do" list to take care of and he hopes to do some training for agencies or work part-time as a police officer near Rabun Gap.

"My wife and I have a cabin in Rabun Gap that we used to use as a vacation home but it is now where we will live," Purcell said. "It is right on the edge of a national forest and only a few miles away from the Carolinas."

An employment ad in The Tifton Gazette for a patrolman position got him into the law enforcement field with the

City of Tifton. He began taking every educational opportunity he could find to further his career as a police officer, including taking evening and Saturday classes at ABAC.

In 1989, he underwent the training program at the FBI National Academy at Quantico, Va., and was promoted from patrolman to lieutenant, bypassing the rank of sergeant. His duties became more instructional in nature over time. He offered community training in a variety of topics including training in neighborhood watch, rape prevention, defense tactics, and more.

Before becoming a police officer, he worked as a journeyman lineman building electric power lines and a welder fabricating ignition systems and repairing wrecked railroad cars. He is a Vietnam War veteran, earning the Purple Heart in the Tet Offensive.

Memorial Hospital of Adel On Campus Tuesday

Please join Memorial Hospital of Adel for a seminar on gastric banding surgery (weight loss surgery) on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Bowen Hall Room 213.

Dr. Jesse B. Moskowitz is a fellowship trained, LAP-BAND certified surgeon who is dedicated to helping people lose the weight and keep it off. Dr. Moskowitz will discuss the LAP-BAND procedure, what qualifies patients for the procedure, the results that a patient can expect to see, and payment options for the surgery.

For more information, contact Megan Powell, Marketing Manager, at megan.powell@sunlinkhealth.com.

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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.

Job Opportunities

- Director of Student Activities
- Comptroller

Don't Forget the Winter Edition of Stallion Day is Feb. 13. Clubs can reserve tables now by contacting Meredith Rutland at 391-5015 or mrutland@abac.edu

ABAC Birthdays

- 25 Mike Chason
- 26 Olga Contreras-Martinez
- 26 Ken Newkirk
- 26 Sarah Gibbs
- 27 Clarissa Butler
- 27 Jeremy Dye
- 27 Stefane Whiddon
- 30 Patricia Purvis
- 31 Shelly Fandel
- 31 Frances Wilson



Runners Brave Rain to Run First Ever ABAC Fitness5K

Over 75 runners participated in the first ever ABAC Fitness5K sponsored by the newly chartered Fitness and Health Club. The event included a 5K and a one mile fun run. Brooke and Cheyenne Reese tied for first place in the 5K race for the 9& under category. Other winners included Austin McDonald, overall for men, and Caitlyn Asbell, overall female winner. For the one mile fun run, Bailey Alexander was the overall winner for males, and Susie Peters won for females. Coach Jimmy Ballenger advises the club, and club member Joe Wilson coordinated the event.