



# FOCUS

## ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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### Campus Open to Students at Stallion Day February 12

High school students will have an opportunity to experience all the sights and sounds of the campus of ABAC on Feb. 12 at Stallion Day. Registration begins at 8 a.m. in the Donaldson Dining Hall.

“Stallion Day provides an exciting opportunity for both students and parents in their search for a college,” said Brooke Jernigan, admissions counselor in the Office of Enrollment Services. “Interactive classes, on-the-spot admissions, and Conversation Corners are just a few things that set us apart from other open campus days.”

Visitors can take tours guided by the ABAC Ambassadors before perusing the exhibits at the Stallion Marketplace located in Gressette Gym from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. The Stallion Marketplace offers a glimpse at over 50 programs of study including on-campus bachelor’s degrees in Rural Studies, Diversified Agriculture, Turfgrass and Golf Course



Paxton Gordon talks with a prospective student and her mother during the fall Stallion Day.

Management, Early Childhood Education, Management, and Accounting. Conversation Corners will take place from 10:45 – 11:50 a.m. in the Health Sciences Building. This activity allows students to choose two detailed information sessions

focusing on areas such as learning communities, music, housing, student involvement, and the Honors Program. Parents are also welcome to attend.

“Two unique Conversation Corners that are new this year will focus on home school and transfer students,” said Jernigan. “We are excited about reaching these students.”

A free lunch for the visiting students in the Donaldson Dining Hall will be provided from noon – 1 p.m. Meals are available for parents at a cost of \$6 per person. During the noon hour, high

school seniors will have a chance to win waivers for housing, a one-semester meal plan worth over \$1,000 and a \$500 tuition grant.

Students who have submitted official transcripts and official SAT/ACT scores will also receive on-the-spot admission to the college at the event.

From 1 – 1:45 p.m., parents will remain in the dining hall for an information session while students take part in interactive classes from the six schools of study at ABAC.

Students and parents will reunite from 2 – 3:30 p.m. to take advantage of sessions on financial aid and housing and to tour the ABAC Lakeside freshman housing complex.

“We hope that when students leave Stallion Day, they will be certain that ABAC is their state college of choice,” said Jernigan.

Prospective students should sign up ahead of time for the Stallion Day event at [www.abac.edu/stalliondays](http://www.abac.edu/stalliondays) or call 391-5004. If there are any questions regarding Stallion Day, prospective students can contact Enrollment Services via e-mail at [abacinfo@abac.edu](mailto:abacinfo@abac.edu).



### Fillies Flip Flapjacks

Maggie Davidson (left), from Moultrie, and Olivia Moffett, from Nashville, serve up some hot pancakes to the Moffett family at the 10th annual Fillies’ Softball pancake breakfast.

## See the Maharlika Trio Tuesday at 7 p.m.

The Maharlika Trio from Valdosta will be the featured performers on Tuesday in the First Tuesday Concert at ABAC. Founded in 2005, the trio is comprised of Joren Cain, saxophone; David Springfield, trombone and piano; and Maila Gutierrez Springfield, piano. All three musicians are professors at Valdosta State University (VSU).

The performance will take place in the ABAC Chapel of All Faiths at 7 p.m. There is no fee for this event.

The First Tuesday Concert Series takes place on five selected first Tuesdays during the year. Dr. Susan Roe, associate professor of voice at ABAC, directs the series. She said there will be no fee for any of the First Tuesday Concerts this year as the ABAC School of Liberal Arts presents "a gift to the community."

Roe said that persons who want to support the First Tuesday concerts can make contributions to the ABAC Foundation and designate them for the First Tuesday Concert Series. For more information, interested person can contact Roe at (229) 391-4943.

## Polar Bear Plunge Thursday at 4 p.m.

On Thursday students can participate in the Polar Bear Plunge at ABAC. The plunge will be held at the ABAC Pool beginning at 4 p.m. All students can take part in this cold weather tradition.

"The Polar Bear Plunge is more commonly done in the north with a frozen lake," said Kris Liebegott, Director of Student Activities and Greek Life. "Participants will break the ice on the lake and then jump in. It is a typical way to say goodbye to the winter and usher in the spring season."

All students who want to participate in the Polar Bear Plunge must be able to swim. Lifeguards will be on hand. This event is a part of the continuing effort of

of the College Activities Board to bring diversified activities to

the students of ABAC.

For more information on the Polar Bear Plunge, contact Liebegott at [kliebegott@abac.edu](mailto:kliebegott@abac.edu).



## ABAC Spring Sports Ramping Up For Strong Year

A variety of sports will take place this week on the campus of ABAC. Students and the local community can come and enjoy competitions in both men's and women's tennis and baseball this week. All sporting events at ABAC are free of charge.

On Friday, the Stallions and Fillies tennis teams will play the University of South Carolina – Aiken at 4 p.m. at the Red Hill Tennis Complex.

"The USC – Aiken team has become a good match for us," said Alan Kramer, Athletic Director and Head Coach of the ABAC tennis teams. "It is good competition, and both teams learn a lot. They are a team we enjoy competing with."

The Stallions baseball team will also

compete in a double-header beginning at 2 p.m. against George Wallace Community College on Friday at the ABAC baseball field.

The ABAC tennis teams will take to the courts again on Saturday at noon to play against the Georgia Perimeter Jaguars.

"Georgia Perimeter has always been a rival of ours and will continue to be," said Kramer. "We will have good play, and they are a good team to compete against, but it is a different extreme compared to the USC – Aiken team."

For more information on upcoming sporting events at ABAC, contact Shirley Wilson at 391-4930.



## Moormans Continue Support of Forest Lakes

Dr. Larry Moorman and his wife, Debra, observe a representative from Clark Bait Company in Cordele release grass carp at the Forest Lakes Golf Course. The Moormans provided a gift to ABAC for the purchase of grass carp as one part of a lake management program at Forest Lakes. The Moormans have continued their support of the college since their donation of Forest Lakes Golf Course in 2002 and the Clubhouse in 2009.

# Rodeo, Concert Highlight Celebrate ABAC

From a rodeo to a concert by a member of the Grand Ole Opry, all alumni, students, and friends of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College will get a wide variety of activities to choose from during this year's Celebrate ABAC on March 4-5.

Due to popular demand, ABAC is bringing back the "Gee Haw Whoa Back", two sanctioned rounds of rodeo competition. The preliminary round will be on March 4, followed by the finals on March 5.

Both rodeo events begin at 7 p.m. at the ABAC Rodeo Arena with gates opening at 6 p.m. Admission is \$10 for general admission, \$5 for children 6 - 12 years old and ABAC students with their Gold Card, and free to children under six. The rodeo will also include pony rides, carnival games, food, and more.

Grand Ole Opry member Mike Snider will headline "An Evening for ABAC" beginning with a dinner at 6 p.m. on March 4 followed by the concert at 7:30 p.m. at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture, now operated by ABAC. The \$75 per person event includes the dinner and entertainment provided by the former "Hee Haw" performer and his String Band. Reserved tables are

available for \$1,250, and a portion of the ticket price for reserved tables is tax deductible. Concert only tickets are \$30. All proceeds go to student scholarships. This event is ABAC's premier student scholarship fundraiser and was formerly known as "Dollars for ABAC Scholars."

The Golden Alumni Luncheon at noon on March 4 will feature the induction of the Class of 1961. The ABAC Bluegrass Band will provide the entertainment. Afternoon activities include campus tours, stories of days gone by, and a "Travel With ABAC" presentation where information will be provided on upcoming ABAC trips to South Dakota, Alaska, London, Paris, Australia, and New Zealand.

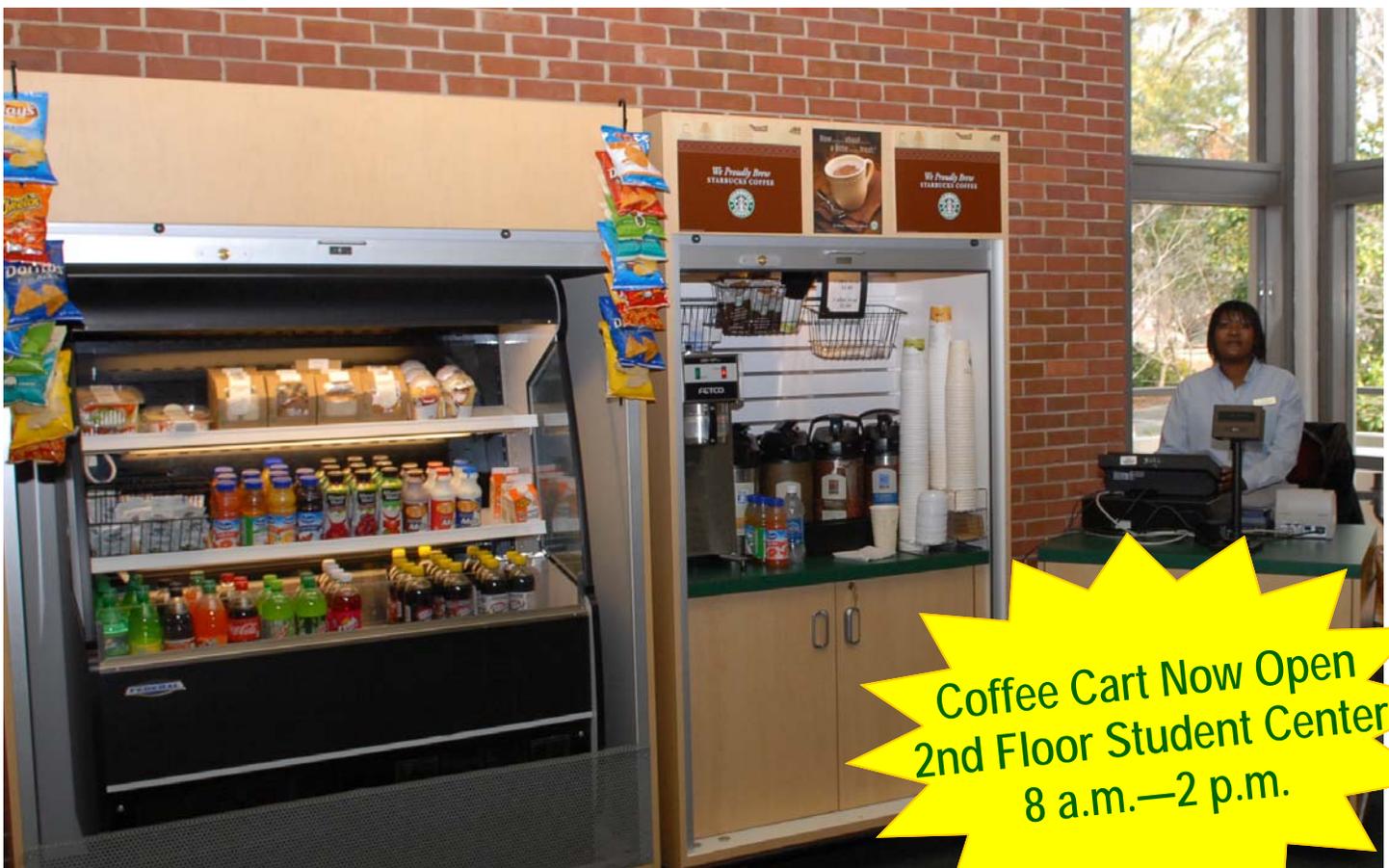
A candlelight memorial service will be held at the Chapel of All Faiths at 4 p.m. to honor ABAC alumni, students and faculty and staff who have passed away, as well as to recognize those in military service. The Baldwin Players will also present "An Evening of Storytelling" on March 3-5 in Conger 319 at 7:30 p.m. each night.

On March 5, the annual ABAC Alumni Association awards ceremony will

honor former ABAC students for their achievements at 10:30 a.m. at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture. Tickets to the brunch ceremony are \$20 each and must be purchased in advance. At noon, the ABAC Family Day and the opening of the "Needles and Pins" quilting exhibit will be the showcased events at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture Atrium and Gallery. Alumni can also choose to attend the Agriculture and Family and Consumer Sciences Alumni Cookout at noon at the Agricultural Sciences building.

From 1 - 4 p.m. on March 5, alumni will tour the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village. Opportunities will include steam train rides, an old-fashioned spelling bee, sack races, and more. Talented alumni can sign up for the talent show by contacting Vonda Fenn at (229) 391-5070 or [vfenn@abac.edu](mailto:vfenn@abac.edu). The deadline to sign up for the talent show is Feb. 4.

For more information on Celebrate ABAC, interested persons can contact the Office of College Advancement at (229) 391-4900 or visit the web site at <http://www.abac.edu/celebrate>.



## Author Keith Brown to Speak February 8 at ABAC

Author and motivational speaker Keith L. Brown will speak on Feb. 8 to ABAC students on “not impossible – I’M POSSIBLE”. The speech will take place in Howard Auditorium from 7 – 8 p.m. with a reception to follow in Thrash Gym from 8 – 8:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided by the Office of Student Success.

The event is sponsored by the Office of Human Resources, the College Assistance Migrant (CAMP)/High School Equivalency Program (HEP), and the Office of Student Life and Housing. This program is open to all ABAC students at no charge.

Brown speaks to over 300,000 people each year. He was named as one of the top speakers and consultants in education by Insight Publishing. He is a mem-



Motivational speaker and author Keith L. Brown will be on the campus of ABAC on Feb. 8 to give his uplifting speech “not impossible – I’M POSSIBLE” at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium.

ber of the National Speakers Association, a professional speechwriter, and a legislative liaison. Some of his clients include Brown University, Savannah State University, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Emory University, and the American Cancer Society. Brown is also the author of the award-winning book

“Chitlins” and “not impossible – I’M POSSIBLE”. He is the co-author of the 303 Solutions series that include “303 Solutions to Reaching your Goals and Living Your Dreams”, and also co-author of “Conversations on Success” with Jack Canfield, co-founder of “Chicken Soup for the Soul”.



## Mike Snider String Band to Play at Evening for ABAC

The Mike Snider String Band will be the featured performer at an Evening for ABAC as part of the Celebrate ABAC festivities at ABAC on March 4. Formerly known as Dollars for ABAC Scholars, this event is the premier fundraiser for the ABAC Foundation for student scholarships at ABAC.

The Evening for ABAC event begins with a dinner at 6 p.m. followed by a 7:30 p.m. performance. Both the dinner and entertainment will be held at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture, now operated by ABAC.

Tickets for the Evening for ABAC are \$75 per person or \$1,250 for a reserved table. Tax advantages for reserved tables and sponsors are available. Concert only tickets are available for \$30 each. Tickets can be ordered online at [www.abac.edu/celebrate/](http://www.abac.edu/celebrate/).

## Keen Hopes To Make A Difference with ABAC Degree

Matthew Keen has always had a passion for art and literature, so when he heard that ABAC offered a degree in Rural Studies that tied in with his interests, he knew the new bachelor’s degree program was for him.

“I was particularly interested in the uniqueness of the Rural Studies program, specifically on how rural culture might be examined through a broader scope,” said Keen. “The diversity of the curriculum has allowed for an expansive examination of both the richness of resources available in rural environs and has provided insight into the dynamic complexities of issues facing rural societies in an ever-changing global paradigm.”

Keen, who will receive his degree with an emphasis in arts and culture, has worked with a few historical societies in the area and has been asked to sit on a tourism committee.

When his education is complete, he hopes to transition into a Rural Studies program on the graduate level.

“I am particularly interested in further studies of how rural art and culture could be harnessed and highlighted as



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Please submit any information to Ashley Williamson at [awilliamson@abac.edu](mailto:awilliamson@abac.edu) by **Thursday at noon** for inclusion in the next FOCUS.

## ABAC Birthdays

**31 Shelley Fandel**  
**February**  
**2 Jill Mash**  
**2 Eun-Kyung You**  
**3 Patti Barber**  
**5 Randy Carter**

## ABAC Family

**Dr. Tim Marshall and Donna Webb** attended the Georgia Young Farmers Association Convention in Savannah Jan. 28 – 29.

**Polly Huff** attended the ribbon cutting, opening ceremonies and preview of the newly renovated Georgia Museum of Art and its Morehead Wing as a guest of ABAC alumnus C.L. Morehead, Jr.

**Don Coates, Woody Leonard, Dr. Susan Roe, and Donna Webb** attended the Georgia Music Educators Association Conference in Savannah Jan. 27—29.

an impetus for positive change,” said Keen.

He would like to put his education in Rural Studies to good use.

“I hope to use my education in thoughtful, meaningful applications in an educational backdrop and would ultimately hope to expand this knowledge to assist in philanthropic endeavors,” said Keen.

The bachelor’s degree in Rural Studies is the only undergraduate degree of its kind offered in the United States. The four major areas of concentration include social and community affairs, arts and culture, writing and communication, and business and economic development.

For more information on the Rural Studies degree, interested persons can visit the ABAC web site at [www.abac.edu/ruralstudies](http://www.abac.edu/ruralstudies).