Stallion Day at ABAC

Over 500 visitors included prospective students and their parents toured the campus of ABAC on Saturday for the Winter Stallion Day event. Many of the students said their plans are to enroll for the 2011 fall term. One highlight for the visitors was the announcement of the new bachelor's degree in Natural Resource Management with majors in forestry and wildlife.

Rodeo Returns!

Get out your jeans, cowboy hats, and spurs because a genuine, bona fide “Gee Haw, Whoa Back” rodeo is coming to the ABAC campus on March 4-5 as a part of the Celebrate ABAC Alumni Weekend activities. The gates open at 6 p.m. each night at the ABAC Rodeo Arena with action beginning at 7 p.m. 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.

Regional Science Fair Friday in Thrash Gym

The School of Science and Mathematics at ABAC will host the Regional Science and Engineering Fair on Friday in Thrash Gym. Students in grades 6-12 who have participated in a local science fair in their county or school and have been chosen to participate at the regional level will be involved. Projects will be entered in one of 16 different classifications such as behavioral and social sciences, physics and astronomy, animal sciences, plant sciences, and chemistry.

Displays will be available for viewing by the public from 3 – 4 p.m. The awards ceremony will be held at 3:30 p.m. in Howard Auditorium. Awards will be given to the top two finishers in both the junior and senior divisions.

For more information, contact Dr. Ray Barber, Dean of the ABAC School of Science and Mathematics, at 391-5100.
A brand new bachelor’s degree at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College was unveiled Thursday when President David Bridges announced that ABAC will offer a Natural Resource Management degree with majors in Forestry and Wildlife Management beginning with the 2011 fall semester.

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia approved the degree for ABAC at its meeting in Atlanta on Wednesday.

“This is a degree we have been working on for a very long time,” Bridges said. “Natural Resource Management really completes the foundation of bachelor’s degrees in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources that we have been building on for a while. I believe it will be one of our most popular programs.”

ABAC began offering bachelor’s degrees in Diversified Agriculture and Turfgrass and Golf Course Management in 2008. The Rural Studies bachelor’s degree was added in 2009. The only degree of its type in America, Rural Studies offers majors in Social and Community Affairs, Arts and Culture, Writing and Communication, and Business and Economic Development.

Dr. Tim Marshall, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, said the new Natural Resource Management degree elevates ABAC to a “state of maturity” in its role as a bachelor’s degree-granting institution.

“We now have bachelor’s degrees to support the needs of employers who are hiring in agriculture, the green industry and natural resources,” Marshall said. “Georgia is a net importer of professionals in forestry and wildlife careers, and the southeastern U.S. will continue to play a major role in supplying our country with forest resources. We have many current students and alumni who plan to enroll, graduate and pursue their dream of being a professional in Natural Resource Management.”

Bridges said that Georgia’s forest resources have a direct economic impact of $16 billion annually and a total impact of $26 billion. He said graduates of the program will find employment in government and private sector organizations that deal with the state and the region’s natural resources. “This program will enhance ABAC’s ability to recruit statewide, throughout the region, and around the nation and world,” Bridges said. “Our objective is for the graduates of this program to fill important roles in the timberland industry, the plantation industry, and other related tourism industries. It will also allow us to better serve the needs of businesses and taxpayers in this state.”

ABAC already attracts students from 151 Georgia counties, eight states, and 19 countries. Enrollment in the bachelor’s degree programs at ABAC has quadrupled since the programs began on Jan. 7, 2008.

Marshall said prospective students who are interested in the new Natural Resource Management program should contact his office at (229) 391-4790.

ABAC To Offer Natural Resource Management Degree This Fall

Evening for ABAC March 4

The Mike Snider String Band will perform at this year’s “Evening for ABAC” on March 4. The event begins with a dinner at 6 p.m. followed by the show at 7:30 p.m. The cost for the ABAC Foundation sponsored event is $75 per person. All proceeds benefit student scholarships. Get your tickets by Feb. 24 by calling (229) 391-4900.
Happy Birthday ABAC!

ABAC will celebrate its 103rd birthday on Sunday. On Feb. 20, 1908, the Second District Agricultural and Mechanical School opened when 27 students walked up the front steps of Tift Hall.

Opening day was declared a holiday by Tifton. Stores and the public school were closed. A special train ran from Tifton to the campus, and over 1,200 people attended the ceremony.

Tift Hall served as the academic and office building in 1908. Lewis Hall and Herring Hall were dormitories. All three buildings are now undergoing renovation. During the 100th birthday year in 2008, the public relations office compiled a book titled “100 Years of Memories”, which detailed important happenings during the life of the college. Copies of the book are still available by calling public relations at 391-5055.

Twenty-Eight Coeds Compete for Ms. ABAC Title February 23

Ms. ABAC 2011 will be crowned on Feb. 23 at the 42nd annual contest at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. The pageant is sponsored by the ABAC Ag Business Club.

The event will feature 28 contestants who will compete in casual wear and evening gowns. They will also be judged on a written essay and an interview with the judges. The pageant begins at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium. Admission is $5. Because of limited seating, advance ticket purchase is advised by calling (229) 391-4807.

The coeds competing for Ms. ABAC are (Top Row L-R) Dakota Davis, Nadine Loitz, Kristen Evans, Ashley Morris, Keaton Griner, Erin Holliman, and Holly Lovell. (2nd Row L-R) Jamilla Sharpe, Brittany Hering, Breanna Coursey, Mollie Roberts, Jazmin Thomas, and Katie Thigpen. (3rd Row L-R) Ana Ingram, Ashley Faison, Erika Bloodgood, Allison Gordy, Tiffany Smith, Kristen Ray, and Cara Fussell. (Bottom Row L-R) Kayla Alderman, Brooke Justice, Mary Porter, Camille Odom, Laurel Higginbotham, Brittany Trotter, Margarita Moreno and Andrea Sweeney.

Ashley Morris, a rural studies major from Newnan, sponsored by the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity; Camille Odom, an agribusiness major from Bishop, sponsored by 4-H; Mary Porter, an animal science major from Jesup, sponsored by the ABAC College Agriculture Cattlemen; Kristen Ray, a family and consumer sciences major from Tifton; Mollie Roberts, a communications major from Enigma, sponsored by the ABAC Ambassadors; Jamila Sharpe, a physical therapy major from Valdosta, sponsored by the College Activities Board; Tiffany Smith, a diversified agriculture major from Camilla, sponsored by the Agricultural Engineering Technology (AET) Club; Andrea Sweeney, an animal science major from Eatonton, sponsored by the Student Government Association (SGA); Katie Thigpen, an agricultural communications major from Folkston, sponsored by ABAC’s student newspaper, “The Stallion”; Jazmin Thomas, an agricultural communications major from Perry, sponsored by the ABAC Turf Club; and Brittany Trotter, a family and consumer sciences major from Clarkesville, sponsored by the Family and Consumer Sciences Club.

ABAC Director of Public Relations Mike Chason will serve as master of ceremonies. All proceeds from the Ms. ABAC pageant will benefit the Ms. ABAC Scholarship and the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.
Participants interested in signing up for the 2011 ABAC Relay for Life team can do so now at www.abac.edu/r4l/.

Richard Spancake, ABAC Director of Human Resources, has agreed to be the Captain of the ABAC 2011 Team. Clayton Riehle and Donna Webb are both leaders and involved at the county level for Tift County, and will be actively participating on the ABAC Team.

Almost all of the ABAC Family has been touched in some way by cancer including family, friends, and coworkers. ABAC has a long history of being a strong supporter of the American Cancer Society’s annual Relay For Life Event, and each ABAC employee and student should consider becoming involved and supporting the 2011 ABAC Relay For Life Team.

Relay for Life is about a community coming together in the fight against this disease. Join the 2011 ABAC campus Relay For Life Team as it supports the larger Tift County Relay For Life and the American Cancer Society.

If you have any questions, contact Spancake at 391-4887.

Visit London & Paris With
ABAC July 7-14
Travel with ABAC to London and Paris this summer! See Buckingham Palace. Have dinner on the Eiffel Tower. The trip is scheduled for July 7-14. The price of $3,829 includes bus transportation from Tifton, airfare, lodging, 10 meals, and several guided tours. See all the information on the trip at www.collettevacations.com/group-page/index.cfm~ID~425315. Call Diane Kilgore today at 391-5065. Space is limited.

Diane Kilgore of the Educational Outreach Office at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Federal Credit Union (FCU).

Kilgore retired from ABAC on March 31, 2010 as Director of Public Service and Business Outreach, but has continued to work part-time, directing ABAC’s travel programs and working on special projects.

She has been actively involved in the community through the Kiwanis Club, the Tifton-Tift County Chamber of Commerce, the Moultrie-Colquitt County Chamber of Commerce, Tifton/Tift County Tourism Association Board, Tift County Literacy Advisory Board, and many other civic organizations.

All board members are volunteers who give freely of their time in guiding the general direction of the Credit Union. These individuals are members of the Southeastern FCU and are elected by the members of Southeastern FCU. Each board member serves a three-year term.

ABAC Offers Early Bird Discount on Fall Trip

The Educational Outreach office at ABAC is offering an early bird discount for the South Pacific Wonders trip scheduled for Sept 5 - 19. All travelers who sign up by March 1 will save $600 per couple.

Travelers will depart Sept. 5 and arrive in Cairns on Sept. 7. Tourists will experience the best of what Australia and New Zealand have to offer on this 15-day excursion priced at $5,199 per person double occupancy. Travelers also have the option to take a three-night Fiji post-tour extension.

The South Pacific tour will feature stops in the cities of Cairns, Sydney, Christchurch, Queenstown, and a cruise on the Milford Sound. There will also be points of interest that include the Great Barrier Reef, Mount Cook National Park, a guided tour of the Sydney Opera House, the Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Center, and the Riccarton House mansion.

For more information on the trip, visit the ABAC Educational Outreach web site at www.abac.edu/psbo/Travel/index.cfm, contact Diane Kilgore at dkilgore@abac.edu, or call (229) 391-5065.

ABAC Birthdays
15 Chrissy Dent
15 Andrea Jackson
17 Midge Galentine Steis
18 Doug Waid
19 Ricky Johnson
19 Eric Lawson
19 Sherin Nixon
20 Rena Patel

Ashley Williamson and ABAC Ambassador Paxton Gordon appeared on the FOX 31 Morning Show on Feb. 8 to talk about Stallion Day. Williamson also spoke on Stallion Day to two different radio station morning shows in Valdosta on Feb. 9.

Mike Chason spoke on Stallion Day on the WALB-TV noon show Feb. 9.

Dr. David Bridges spoke on the new Natural Resource Management degree on the Kyle Dean Morning Show on WTIF on Feb. 11.