



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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ABAC Birthday This Saturday!

Happy Birthday ABAC! On Feb. 20, 1908, twenty-seven students walked up the steps of Tift Hall to attend the Second District A&M School. On Feb. 20, 2010, 102 years later, over 3,000 students attend Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College on the same site.

Tift Hall is getting a makeover, and Lewis and Herring, the other two original buildings, are waiting their turn. The College is not an area high school anymore, having undergone the transition to South Georgia A&M College in 1925 and then to Georgia State College For Men in 1929.



But since 1933 it has been ABAC, and for thousands of alumni and the students of today from 17 states, 11 countries, and 152 Georgia counties, that's been quite enough. Happy Birthday ABAC! May you live longer and prosper even more.

'An Evening for ABAC' Will Raise Scholarship Funds

The ABAC Jazz Band and Jazz Choir will be the featured performers for "An Evening for ABAC" as part of the Celebrate ABAC festivities on March 6. The internationally-recognized Jazz Band and Jazz Choir will be joined by special musical guest and former ABAC student, Kenyon Carter.



The ABAC Jazz Choir and Jazz Band will be the featured performers at 'An Evening for ABAC' on March 6. Call 391-4900 for info.

"An Evening for ABAC" will take place at 6:30 p.m. on March 6 at the Tifton Campus Conference Center Ballroom. The event will feature a night of jazz standards, dinner, and dancing.

Tickets are \$125 per person or \$1,250 per table and will benefit Dollars for Scholars of ABAC. Each \$125 ticket will

qualify for a charitable tax donation of \$80 and each \$1,250 reserved table will qualify for a charitable tax deduction of \$890.

Tickets for the Evening for ABAC can be ordered online at www.abac.edu/celebrateabac/, via mail, or by calling the ABAC Foundation at (229) 391-4900. The deadline to purchase tickets is Feb. 24.

Mr. ABAC Goes 'Overboard' Thursday



Don't miss Mr. ABAC Thursday at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium. Contestants participating in the 19th annual Mr. ABAC competition are (kneeling, l-r) Tanner Newhouse, Cody Thrift, Felipe Pedraza, Stephen Aaron, Cody Seagraves, Cain Thurmond, and Tremaine Dupree. (standing l-r) are Chris Estes, Ryan Wetherington, Lloyd Black, Andrew Cruz, Colton Farrow, Michael Gill, Robby Tillman, and Lauren Woods. Not pictured are Jimmie Spurlin and Thomas Turcotte.

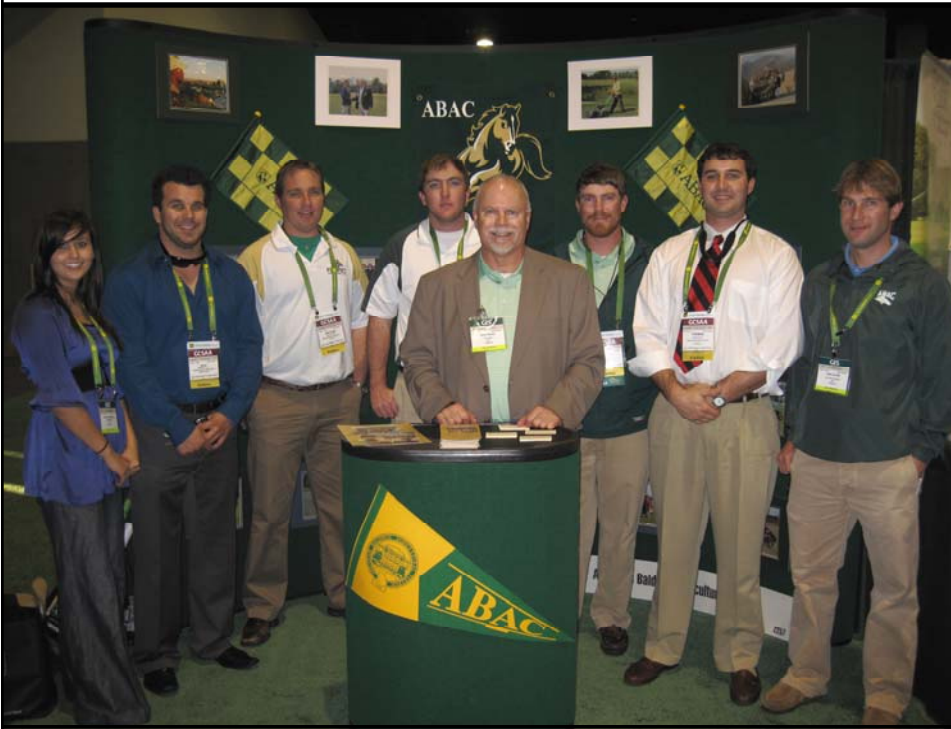
ABAC Athletics Hall of Fame Tickets on Sale Now

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.

Turf Team Represents ABAC at the Golf Industry Show



The Turf Team represented ABAC at the 2010 Golf Industry Show (GCSAA, GCOAA, CMAA) in San Diego. Pictured left to right are Jennifer Crumpton, Neal Torley, Matt Parks, Cole Waller, Dr. Eddie Seagle, Michael Simons, Thomas Davis and John Layton. The students also competed in the Turf Bowl, the college student academic competition.

Discount Ends Today On Pennsylvania Excursion

The Public Service and Business Outreach Center at ABAC will offer local travelers the opportunity to visit historic Pennsylvania on May 17 – 21 for a five-day excursion focusing on the state's most notable points of interest.

The package price for this trip is \$1,179 per person (double occupancy). There is a \$300 reservation fee. Register TODAY and save \$50. Final payment for this trip is due by April 1.

Participants will depart from ABAC and travel to Jacksonville for a direct flight to Philadelphia. Travelers will head to Brandywine Valley, home of Winterthur, a museum and naturalists garden founded by Henry Francis du Pont.

The Brandywine tour will continue the next day with a visit to the Longwood Gardens, the world's premier horticultural display garden that features 11,000 varieties of plants and 1,050 acres of gardens, fountains, and woodlands. Longwood also features discovery stations, gardening demonstrations, plant walks, history talks, and behind-the-scenes tours.

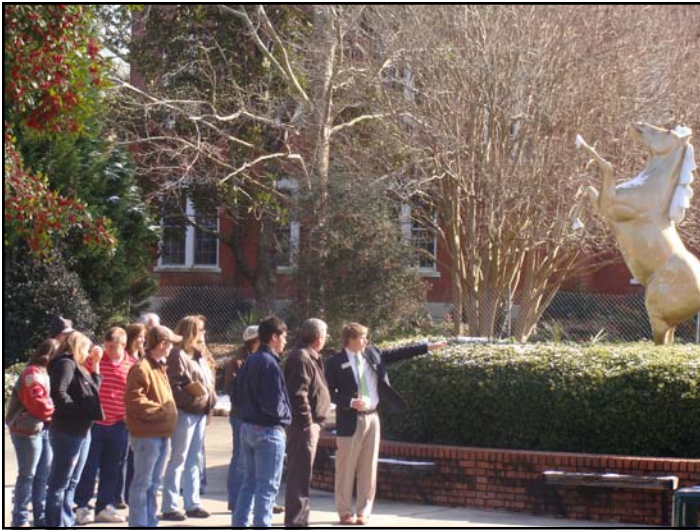
Mansions Along the Delaware will be on the agenda for the third day of this trip. Many of Philadelphia's first families built country estates on the banks of the Delaware River. Mansions showcased will include Andalusia, Grundy Mansion, and Pennsbury Manor. Travelers will then enjoy lunch at the King George Inn.

On the fourth day, visitors will tour historic Gettysburg. It is the largest battlefield shrine in America with over 1,000 monuments and cannons. Participants will see the spot where President Abraham Lincoln gave his famous Gettysburg Address and received a guided tour through the national park. Travelers will then return to Brandywine via Pennsylvania Amish Country and enjoy a tour and dinner at an Amish family home.

One of the highlights of the trip will be an historical tour of Colonial America in downtown Philadelphia, including Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell and the new National Constitution Center. Participants will have lunch in Philadelphia before meeting the shuttle to head back home.

For more information on this or any other trip offered through ABAC's Public Service and Business Outreach Center, contact Diane Kilgore at (229) 391-5070.

ABAC On the Square in Moultrie Hosts Evening on the Square
Come and see what ABAC on the Square in Moultrie, Georgia has to offer during An Evening on the Square! Join us for a night of information sessions, financial aid assistance, and on the spot admissions! February 23 at 6 p.m. Register Online at www.abac.edu/moultrie



Stallion Day Attracts Prospective Students And Families to the ABAC Campus

Prospective students and their families fell in love with ABAC on Saturday as they visited the campus on the Winter Stallion Day. Thanks to the entire campus community for pitching in and making it a very successful recruitment day for the College.

ABAC Open House for Center for Teaching and Learning on Thursday

An open house will take place on Feb. 18 for the new Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) at ABAC located in the Carlton Center, Room 202. The event will be held from 2 – 4 p.m., featuring a welcome from President David Bridges and light refreshments afterward provided by the CTL Leadership Team.

The Center will have information on current faculty and staff development programs, as well as new CTL programs. Faculty and staff can see the new facility and discuss the new CTL programs with the CTL Leadership Team.

The role of the Center for Teaching and Learning at ABAC is to promote institutional effectiveness through professional development for faculty and staff. The Center strives to enhance student learning by encouraging innovative teaching, promoting instructional excellence, providing an environment

for sharing talents throughout the college, and fostering professional growth for all employees.

“We are in the process of starting Professional Learning Communities starting with faculty learning communities. The first faculty learning community topic will be learner-centered teaching,” said Joy Godin, Faculty Development Coordinator and an assistant professor of information technology. “The CTL is a place where faculty and staff can gather to collaborate and explore new and innovative teaching and learning ideas.

“In Carlton 202, the new Center for Teaching and Learning will also offer a space for groups of faculty and staff to meet who would like to conduct professional development workshops.”

The 2010 CLT Leadership Team are Jo Ann Brannen, School of Business; Geoff Clement, School of Science and

Math; Tami Dennis, School of Nursing and Health Sciences; Todd Hicks, School of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Diane Kilgore, Director of Public Service and Business Outreach; Kathy Moreno, School of Business; Dr. Maggie Martin, Director of Student Development; Katrina McCrae, School of Science and Math; Dr. Donald Parks, Director of Student Success; Melanie Partlow, School of Science and Math; Dr. Brian Ray, School of Liberal Arts; Cathy Rogers, School of Liberal Arts; Terasita Smith, Program Coordinator of Public Service & Business Outreach; Janet Weaver, OITS Client Support; Dr. Gerald Williams, Director of TRiO Student Support Services; and Melissa Willis, Academic/Career Counseling Specialist.

For more information and resources on the Center for Teaching and Learning, go online at www.abac.edu/ctl.

Winter Weather Brings Snow to Campus on Friday



Twenty-Five Coeds Compete for Ms. ABAC Title Feb. 25

Ms. ABAC 2010 will be crowned on Feb. 25 at the 41st annual contest at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. The pageant is sponsored by the ABAC Agribusiness Club.

The event will feature 25 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.

Students competing in this year's event include **Brittany Ayers**, a family and consumer sciences education major from Dacula, sponsored by the Family and Consumer Sciences Club; **Samantha Barrett**, an agriculture education major from Richland, sponsored by the Racooners Club; **Olivia Bennett**, a family and consumer sciences major from Alma; **Cynthia Bivins**, a music major from Valdosta, sponsored by Christian Student Fellowship; **Savannah Brown**, a science major from Douglas, sponsored by the ABAC Men's Tennis Team; and **Kristen Card**, a pre-medicine major from Cordele, sponsored by Crenshaw Jewelers.

Other coeds competing for the crown are **Carrie Collier**, a middle grades education major from Blakely, sponsored by the Student Professional Association of Georgia Educators; **Courtney**



The coeds competing for Ms ABAC are (Front Row L-R) Carrie Collier, Katie Thigpen, Laurel Higginbotham, Cynthia Bivins, Courtney Collins, Jessica Robinson, Conny Davidson. (2nd Row L-R) Shiree Dominy, Kristen Card, Brittany Ayers, Nikki Thompson, Blake Williams, Sarah Papsen. (3rd Row L-R) Brittany Smith, Kendall Vance, Olivia Bennett. (4th Row L-R) Samantha Barrett, Haley Thigpen, Holly Lovett, Savannah Brown, Jazmin Thomas. (Top Row L-R) Whitney Mitchell, Jessica Padgett, Nadine Loitz, Ashley Morris.

Collins, a family and consumer science major from Villa Rica, sponsored by the Baptist Collegiate Ministries; **Conny Davidson**, a pre-veterinary medicine major from Waycross, sponsored by the Agricultural Engineering Technology Club; **Shiree Dominy**, a rural studies major from Tifton, sponsored by the Rural Studies Club; **Laurel Higginbotham**, a pre-dentistry major from Baxley, sponsored by the ABAC Ambassadors; **Nadine Loitz**, an agri-

cultural education major from Sylvania; **Holly Lovell**, a biology major from Sylvester, sponsored by the ABAC Honors Club; **Whitney Mitchell**, an agricultural education major from Nashville, sponsored by the ABAC FFA; and **Ashley Morris**, a political science major from Newnan, sponsored by the ABAC Student Government Association.

Other contestants are **Jessica Padgett**, an agricultural communications major from Sylvester; **Sarah Papsen**, a pre- veterinary medicine major from Saint Simons Island, sponsored by the Pre-Vet Club; **Jessica Robinson**, an early childhood education major from Ashburn, sponsored by the Residence Hall Association; **Brittany Smith**, an agricultural education major from Cooledge, sponsored by the ABAC Cattle-men's Club; **Haley Thigpen**, a pre-medicine major from Waycross, sponsored by the ABAC Forestry and Wildlife Club; **Katie Thigpen**, an agricultural communications major from Folkston, sponsored by 4-H; **Jazmin Thomas**, an agricultural communications major from Perry, sponsored by the ABAC Turf Club; **Nikki Thompson**, a nursing major from Fitzgerald, sponsored by the Physical Fitness and Education Club; **Kendall Vance**, a history major from Enigma, sponsored by the ABAC Women's Soccer Team; and **Blake Williams**, a pre-veterinary medicine major from Baxley.

ABAC Director of Public Relations Mike Chason will serve as master of ceremonies.

ABAC Birthdays

- 15 Christina Dent
- 15 Samuel Golden
- 15 Andrea Jackson
- 16 James Jackson
- 17 Midge Galentine-Steis
- 18 Doug Waid
- 19 Eric Lawson
- 19 Sherin Nixon
- 20 Rena Patel



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.

Actor Carl Ray Performing Feb. 24

Carl Ray will perform in the ABAC Chapel for Black History Month Feb 24 at 6 p.m. The event is sponsored by Student Life & Housing.

ABAC Family

Whitney Lightfoot and ABAC Ambassador **Elizabeth Dukes** spoke on the WTIF Morning Show on Feb. 9 about Stallion Day.

Mike Chason spoke on "The Eagle In You" to the top students at the Northeast Campus of TCHS on Feb. 4. He also gave an ABAC update to the Tifton Lions Club at their meeting on Feb. 9.

Keith Barber spoke on Celebrate ABAC at the Tifton Kiwanis Club meeting on Feb. 12.

Fillies At Home On Tuesday For Softball

The softball Fillies will host Darton on Tuesday for a 2 p.m. twin-bill at Fillies Field.

The Stallions' baseball team will be at home on Thursday for a 4 p.m. double-header with Brewton Parker. The Stallions will also be at home on Sunday for a 2 p.m. game against St. John's River.

The tennis teams will be at the Red Hill Athletic Center on Friday for 3:30 p.m. matches against Young Harris.

The Golden Stallions' golf team will be in Montgomery, Ala., on Feb. 21-23 for the Huntingdon Invitational.

In action last week, the men's tennis team lost to Augusta State 7-2, and the baseball team split with Wallace-Dothan, losing 11-1, and winning 10-4.

Catch these spring sports in action!