



# FOCUS

## ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

VOLUME XLVIII

ISSUE 27

FEBRUARY 1, 2010

### Haitian Student Asks for Help In Home Country After Earthquake

Fredo Selbonne, a civil engineering major from Haiti, was sitting in class at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College when a friend texted him the news that his home country has been struck by a destructive 7.0 earthquake.

"I went into the Academic Assistance Center after I saw the text, turned on the TV and found CNN," Selbonne said. "I was shocked when I saw the news. I know how the houses are built there, and I knew it was devastating. I was so sad."

He immediately began contacting family and friends, including his mother who now resides in Miami, but is originally from Acahaie, Haiti. He tried to inform others of the earthquake as well. Over a period of weeks, he found out that all of his family and friends were safe, except for one. There is still no word on the missing friend.

"In Haiti, family is not the same as in the United States," Selbonne said.



Fredo Selbonne

"Family in Haiti can be cousins, friends – anyone that has helped you – that is family."

Selbonne was born in the former French colony of Guadeloupe. He attended school in Port-au-Prince, the epicenter of the quake. He lived in Haiti until age 19 when he came to the United States.

"I went from kindergarten to eleventh grade in Port-au-

Prince," Selbonne said. "I found out after talking to friends in Haiti that my school was gone. My friends say that the country is destroyed. There's no value in Haiti anymore."

At ABAC, Selbonne tutors mathematics at the Academic Assistance Center and is a Community Assistant on the campus. He plans to graduate this summer. He has applied to Georgia Tech and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

Selbonne hopes to work in the United States while establishing an organiza-

tion to help his home country.

"I would like to have an organization where students come to Haiti for a semester and work on projects to help the people there," Selbonne said.

He is encouraging everyone to help in the Haiti relief efforts.

"The best thing people can do right now is to support Haiti and try to help," Selbonne said. "There is lack of food, water, and medical supplies so any support is helpful."

In response to the tragedy Haiti is still undergoing, the Student Government Association at ABAC will be coordinating an effort by student clubs to raise money for the Haitian relief effort. One club per week will have a table set up at the entrance of the Donaldson Dining Hall to provide information about Haiti and collect donations. Donations will be received each Thursday from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. until Feb. 11. All proceeds will go to the American Red Cross for relief in Haiti.

### ABAC Students Can Take Advantage of Summer Abroad in Greece

Students from ABAC will now have the opportunity to participate in a summer abroad program in Greece thanks to a new partnership between ABAC and Perrotis College from Thessaloniki, Greece.

ABAC President David Bridges met with Dean Don Schofield of Perrotis College to announce the partnership between the two institutions. ABAC students will be able to take academic classes including Greek Culture and work in a paid internship.

Other academic selections include Introduction to the European Union, Marketing Management, and Agro-Tourism Principles and Practices. Students also have the option to work full-time or part-time in one of the departments of the American Farm School and

Perrotis College's educational farm.

"I think this is a tremendous opportunity for students interested in doing a Study Abroad program," said Dr. Niles Reddick, Vice President of Academic Affairs.

The summer program runs from June 21 – Aug. 4. Fees for this program cover on-campus room and board; use of facilities; instruction in Greek language, cuisine, history, and dance; academic credit for courses and internship; organized weekend trips and excursions; and a final four-day trip.



Students will live in Thessaloniki, the largest "University City" in Greece. Once there, students will immerse themselves in the culture of Greece with weekend trips to Mt. Olympus, St. Paul's Footsteps, and the Aegean Islands and Halkidiki beaches. Students can also follow the path of Alexander the Great's conquests. For more information on the summer abroad

program in Greece, contact Brenda Doss in the Office of Academic Affairs at (229) 391- 4782.

## Celebrate ABAC Weekend on March 5-6

Alumni, students and friends of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College will come together on the ABAC campus on March 5-6 for the annual Celebrate ABAC week-

end. This year's homecoming activities will focus on student/alumni interaction and also incorporate the very popular "Dollars for ABAC Scholars", the College's premiere student scholarship fundraising event.

The festivities will kick off on March 5 with the Golden Alumni Luncheon in the Health Sciences building. Members of the Class of 1960 and all those alumni who attended prior to that date are invited to visit with friends during the luncheon. (There are costs associated with some of the events. Visit [www.abac.edu](http://www.abac.edu) for details and registration information.)

A memorial service will be held at the Chapel of All Faiths at 4:30 p.m. to honor ABAC alumni, students and faculty and staff who have passed away, as well as to recognize those in military service.

Alumni can help celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the continuing education program, now called Public Service and Business Outreach (PSBO) with the "Whoa Back With ABAC" event at 5:30 p.m. on March 5. This will be a full barbeque meal with students in the Donaldson Dining Hall.

Immediately following the dinner, join former students for club reunions. Some of those student organizations who will meet are the Goldbusters, Ambassadors, Family and Consumer Sciences alumni, CAMP, SGA, and Ag Clubs.

On March 6, ABAC's Jazz Choir will begin the day with a mini-concert from 9:30 - 10 a.m. in Howard Auditorium. The annual ABAC Alumni Association awards ceremony will follow at 10 a.m. in the same location. Former ABAC students will be honored for achievements in a variety of fields including education, agriculture, business, and health care.

At noon, the Athletics Hall of Fame Lunch and Induction Ceremony will take place at the Athletics Complex. Inductees include the 1991 Champion



The ABAC Jazz Band will be the featured performers for An Evening for ABAC on March 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Softball Team, Joseph Grist, Harley Klepfer, Jim Sparks, and Thomas "Boo" Weekley. The Alumni Luncheon will also be held at noon in the Donaldson Dining Hall. The Ag and Family and

Consumer Sciences Luncheon will take place in the Ag Sciences building from noon - 1:30.

From 1 - 4 p.m. on March 5-6, alumni will have the opportunity to take a tour of the campus or attend a class with "Forever a Student". Both activities are free of charge. For participants who would rather take to the links, ABAC's Forest Lakes Golf Course will be open for play at a cost of \$15. Each evening, the Baldwin Players will perform "An Evening of Storytelling" at 7:30 p.m. in Conger 319 as a part of Celebrate ABAC.

Kids are welcome to participate in Celebrate as well. On March 6, a Kids College program will offer fun for those future Stallions who are ages 5-12. Science experiments, arts and crafts and other activities will be available. A Fillies Softball doubleheader will begin at 3 p.m. against Central Florida at Fillies Field. Celebrate ABAC will conclude with "An Evening For ABAC", benefiting dollars for scholars, at 6:30 p.m. at the UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center.

"An Evening for ABAC" includes a dinner with entertainment from the ABAC Jazz Band and ABAC Jazz Choir from 6:30 - 10 p.m. Proceeds from the \$125 per person event go toward student scholarships. A portion of the ticket price is tax deductible. This event is ABAC's premiere student scholarship fundraiser and was formerly known as "Dollars for ABAC Scholars."

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 [www.abac.edu/ca/alumni/CelebrateABAC/](http://www.abac.edu/ca/alumni/CelebrateABAC/).

## First Tuesday Concert This Week

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



The concert will take place at 7 p.m. Tuesday 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.

## 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](mailto:swilson@abac.edu) for tickets.

## School Of Liberal Arts Finds Creative Way to Lower Costs

During the fall semester Dr. Bobbie Robinson, Dean of the School of Liberal Arts, challenged her faculty to cut down on the expense of copy paper by exchanging as little paper as possible with their students in an effort to reduce costs. As a result, copy consumption decreased by 60,000 sheets.



"Nearly everyone has gotten on board with this project," Robinson said. "The faculty were generous with reports of unexpected but highly desirable by-products such as their own organization, the high level of student participation, etc."

Three faculty members - Dr. Erin Campbell, Donna Hatcher, and Gwynda Shields - did not exchange any paper with their students the entire semester.

Shields received the first Kindle reader, offered to the top finisher in the challenge by Robinson. The School of Liberal Arts is continuing the project this semester, and a new Kindle reader will be awarded at the end of the term.

## ABAC Students Participate In GMEA All College Band, Chorus, and Orchestra

Eighteen students from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College's music program recently participated in the 2010 Georgia Music Educators Association (GMEA) In-Service Conference in Savannah. GMEA is comprised of over 4,100 teachers in the areas of band, orchestra, chorus, general music and piano from elementary to college level.

Students participated in the all college band, choir, and orchestra, based upon their respective talents. These students had the privilege to attend workshops as well as view exhibits. The workshops focused on such areas as music business, education, performance, conducting and many other aspects of the disciplines of music. The students who attended the conference included Brian Holland, an early childhood education major from Fitzgerald; Spencer Argo, a business administra-

tion major from Moultrie; Michael Johnson, a music major from Ashburn; Justin Lott, a music major from Lenox; Cameron Bell, a music major from Tifton; Kody Jones, a music major from Tifton; Ronnie Hall, an agriculture major from Tifton; and David Poole, a psychology major from Tifton.

Other participants were Thomas Atkins, a music major from Hahira; Jake Thompson, an agriculture engineering major from McDonough; Clay Harris, a music education major from Moultrie; Josh Moody, a business administration major from Thomasville; Terry Stevens,



a music major from Baconton; Cynthia Bivins, a music education major from Valdosta; Ashley Williams, a music major from Tifton; Margaret Huckaba, a music major

from Coolidge; Tori Bozeman, an early childhood education major from Moultrie; Raina Stephens, a nursing major from Omega; Scarlett Eirish, a psychology major from Tifton, and Erlencia Mumphery, a music major from Albany.

For more information about the conference, or GMEA, visit the website at [www.gmea.org](http://www.gmea.org).

## Stallion Day February 13

Contact Meredith Rutland at [mrutland@abac.edu](mailto:mrutland@abac.edu) to reserve your table for the Stallion Marketplace.

| TIME  | ACTIVITY   | LOCATION   |
|---|--|--|
| 8:00 – 9:00   | Check-in & Tours   | Donaldson Dining Hall  |
| 9:00 – 9:30   | Welcome & Overview of the Day  | Donaldson Dining Hall  |
| 9:30 – 10:30  | Stallion Marketplace & Tours   | Student Center   |
| 10:45 – 11:50   | Conversation Corners   | Health Sciences Building <i>rooms:</i><br>108–Student Involvement / Intramurals / Athletics<br>114– Learning Communities<br>237– Housing<br>249– Honors<br>254– Music<br>259– Choosing a Major |
| <b>Pick 2 sessions to attend</b><br>✦ 10:45-11:15<br>✦ 11:20-11:50    | Join the experts and have your questions answered on these areas from faculty, staff, and students.  |  |
| 12:00 – 1:00  | Lunch  | Donaldson Dining Hall  |
| 12:45 <b><u>High School Seniors Only – must be present to win</u></b> | Drawing for a \$500 tuition grant, a meal plan for one semester, and two housing application fee waivers   | Donaldson Dining Hall  |
| 1:00 – 1:45 <b><u>STUDENTS</u></b>                                    | <b>Interactive Classes</b><br>Ag & Natural Resources<br>Business<br>Human Sciences<br>Liberal Arts<br>Math and Science<br>Nursing  | Various Classrooms   |
| 1:00 – 1:45 <b><u>FAMILIES</u></b>                                    | Information Session  | Donaldson Dining Hall  |
| 2:00 – 3:30   | Financial Aid Sessions<br><b>Choose One – 2:00, 2:30 or 3:00</b><br><b>2:15, 2:45, or 3:15</b><br>Additional Housing Conversation Corners - <b>2:30 or 3:15</b><br>Lakeside Tours – <b>Continuous starting at 2:00</b> | Ag Sciences Building <i>rooms:</i><br>131 and 137<br>Lakeside Multipurpose Room<br>Lakeside Lobby  |
| 3:00  | COMPASS Placement Test   | Student Success Center   |
| Optional (3:00)   | Macon State vs. ABAC   | ABAC Baseball Field  |

# Spend an Evening With Lucille Ball on February 16

*An Evening With Lucille Ball: "Thank You for Asking,"* is coming to Tifton as part of the South Georgia Arts Alliance's Arts and Entertainment Series. Produced by TYFA LLC & Sunshine Productions and directed by Lucie Arnaz, this touching, funny and uplifting one-woman play will be performed at Tift County High School Performing Arts Center on February 16. Read more about the show and see a preview at [www.aneveningwithlucilleball.com/](http://www.aneveningwithlucilleball.com/)

A celebration of the first lady of television, *An Evening with Lucille Ball: "Thank You for Asking"* is created and performed by Suzanne LaRusch, and written by LaRusch and Lucie Arnaz. Crafted in the spirit of the amusing lectures Lucy enjoyed giving throughout her career, the evening recreates the

comic genius and the magic behind the "Queen of Comedy."

"Lucy" guides us through the lifetime of personal memories inspiring her timeless sketches on "I Love Lucy," her 30-year television career and some never-before heard personal recollections about her tempestuous and complicated marriage to Cuban bandleader turned impresario, Desi Arnaz. It's the Lucy the whole world loved – from "Ricardo" to *Mame* – but, more importantly, it's an evening with the REAL Lucy, as you've never seen her before.

Single tickets for *Evening with Lucille*



*Ball: "Thank You for Asking"* are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students. For tickets, call the ABAC Arts Connection at 229-391-4820 or go to [www.southgaarts.com](http://www.southgaarts.com). Advance ticket purchases are recommended due to the popularity of this event.

This performance is brought to South Georgia through a partnership of the ABAC Arts Connection and the South Georgia Arts Alliance, a collaborative effort of the arts councils of Tift and Turner Counties. It is supported in part by the Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA) through appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. GCA also receives support from its partner agency, the National Endowment for the Arts.

## Campus Should Update Phone Numbers in ADP

Faculty and Staff please update all your information in ADP, particularly your phone numbers. These phone numbers will be used as your contact numbers in the Connect Ed/Campus Alert system. This system was utilized several times last spring because of severe weather. The emergency system will now include faculty and staff members of the College. Students are also encouraged to update their contact information in Banner. Please complete all updates by Wednesday at 5 p.m.

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](mailto:awilliamson@abac.edu) by **Thursday at noon** for inclusion in the next FOCUS.

## Job Opportunities

- Director of Student Activities
- Comptroller
- Part-time Clinical Instructor, School of Nursing & Health Services
- Accountant—Scholarships, Grants and Fees

**Greeks at ABAC Information Sessions**  
Monday, Feb. 1 at 7:00 pm  
Lakeside Multi Purpose Room  
OR  
Wednesday, Feb. 2 at 12 noon  
Bowen Hall Room 100  
Please respond to [bhughes@abac.edu](mailto:bhughes@abac.edu) for details.

**ABAC Birthdays**

- 5 Randy Carter
- 7 Ernest Kelly
- 7 Quantavious Lawton

## ABAC Family

President David Bridges was a guest on the Chris Beckham Morning Show on WTIF on Jan. 29 to talk about the Agrirama and ABAC.

## Georgia Southwestern University Representatives on Campus Feb. 8

Representatives from GSW's School of Education will be on hand to answer questions on Feb. 8 from 2-3 p.m. The meeting will take place in Health Sciences 108.

## Spring Sports Kick off at ABAC

The Golden Stallions baseball team of Coach Steve Janousek will have a home park doubleheader on Sunday at 1 p.m. against East Georgia. Come out and enjoy baseball at Stallion Field.

In action the week-end, the Stallions lost to Tallahassee Community College 6-3, and defeated Andrew College in a double-header, 3-2 and 7-4.

The softball Fillies of Coach Donna Campbell were scheduled to open their season on Saturday against Middle Georgia but those games have been moved to Feb. 23 because of the rain on Saturday.

Coach Alan Kramer's women's tennis team traveled to Jacksonville, Fla., over the weekend. The Fillies lost to St. Pete 7-2 on Friday, and Saturday's match against Central Florida was rained out.

On Friday, the ABAC Stallions' tennis team will open its season at the ABAC Tennis Center against USC-Aiken, and the Fillies will take on Hillsborough Community College-Tampa. Both matches will begin at 3 p.m. Be sure to support our spring sports athletes at ABAC.

