ABAC Celebrates 104th Birthday

On Feb. 20, 1908, a total of 27 students walked up the front steps of Tift Hall to attend classes at the Second District Agricultural and Mechanical School. That school eventually became ABAC. On Monday, ABAC turns 104 years old.

“It’s a great day to look back, remember our roots, and appreciate the excellent foundation established by the Agricultural and Mechanical School students, faculty, and administration,” ABAC President David Bridges said.

“ABAC today is a lot different than it was in 1908. But we still maintain those core values and the promise of a quality education for every student who walks in a classroom building on our campus.”

During the fall term, ABAC enrolled 3,248 students from 149 Georgia counties, 17 states, and 22 countries. Over 1,200 of the students live on campus in modern housing complexes at ABAC Place and ABAC Lakeside.

The Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village is now a part of the ABAC campus as well as the Forest Lakes Golf Club. ABAC also enrolls almost 200 students for classes at ABAC on the Square in downtown Moultrie. A recent study showed the impact of ABAC on the south Georgia economy to be over $241 million on an annual basis.

ABAC offers bachelor’s degrees in Diversified Agriculture, Turfgrass and Golf Course Management, Biology, Forestry, and Wildlife Management as well as Social and Community Affairs, Arts and Culture, Writing and Communication, and Business and Economic Development under the broad umbrella of Rural Studies.

Tift, Lewis, and Herring Halls were showplaces when they opened in 1908. Today, all three buildings are undergoing a rehabilitation process so they will again become a part of the heartbeat of the ABAC campus.

The beginnings of the Second District A&M School actually took place on Aug. 18, 1906 when the Georgia General Assembly enacted Public Law 448. This bill established a state-run Agricultural and Mechanical School in each of Georgia’s 12 congressional districts.

The schools were designed by a single architect so the main campus build-

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ABAC Commemorates Georgia Arbor Day With a Tree Planting

Students, faculty and administrators celebrated Georgia Arbor Day with the planting of a Nuttall Oak, which was selected as Georgia’s Gold Medal Tree winner species for 2011, on the campus of ABAC. This event also celebrated ABAC becoming a Tree Campus USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. On hand for the planting were several ABAC forestry and horticulture students, Al Potts from the Georgia Forestry Commission (second from right), Dean of the School of Agriculture and Natural Dr. Tim Marshall (right), Associate Professor of Forestry Dr. Rod Brown (third from right), ABAC Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Niles Reddick (fifth from left) and Sodexo Grounds Manager Brad Barbee (fourth from left).
Ms. ABAC Competition Thursday at 7 p.m.

Ms. ABAC 2012 will be crowned on Thursday at the 43rd annual contest at ABAC. The pageant is sponsored by the Ag Business Club.

The contest will feature 21 contestants who will compete in casual and evening wear. They will also be judged on a written essay and an interview with the judges.

The event begins at 7 p.m. in ABAC’s Howard Auditorium. Admission is $10. Because of limited seating, advance ticket purchase is advised by calling Ray Smith at (229) 391-4809. Ag Business Club members will also be selling tickets.

Students competing in this year’s pageant include Lindsey Abernathy, a diversified agriculture major from Ft. Myers, sponsored by the ABAC Equestrian Club; Luz Aguilar, a biology major from Moultrie sponsored by Gabby Ramirez; Brock Bailey, a sports medicine major from Bainbridge; Erika Bloodgood, an animal science major from Rustin, Fla., sponsored by the Sigma Alpha sorority; Savannah Carter, a communications major from Baxley, sponsored by the Stallion Society; Heather Center, an early childhood education major from Warner Robins, sponsored by the Campus Activities Board; Rae Evans, an early childhood education major from Hawkinsville, sponsored by family and friends; Amanda Freeman, a rural studies major from Valdosta, sponsored by the ABAC Shooting Sports Club; and Casey Graham, a wildlife technology major from Tifton, sponsored by the Forestry and Wildlife Club.

Other coeds competing for the crown are Melissa Gonzales, an early childhood education major from Willacoochee, sponsored by the Student Professional Association of Georgia Educators (SPAGE); Keaton Griner, an agricultural communications major from Moultrie, sponsored by the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity; Holly Lovell, a biology major from Sylvester, sponsored by the ABAC Fillies softball team; Alyssa Mills, a biology major from Lilburn, sponsored by the Student Government Association; Jem Sharpe, a physical therapy major from Valdosta, sponsored by the Family and Consumer Sciences Club; and Kendall Singleton, an animal science major from Thomasville, sponsored by the ABAC Cattlemen’s Association.

Other contestants are Mackenzie Sirmans, a rural studies major from Douglas, sponsored by the ABAC Golf Team; Ashley Smith, a pre-law major from Tifton, sponsored by the ABAC Honors Club; Lacy Stephens, an early childhood education major from Buford, sponsored by the ABAC Ambassadors; Jesse Still, a journalism and mass media major from Blakely, sponsored by the Collegiate FFA, Jazmin Thomas, an agricultural communications major from Perry, sponsored by the Minority Academic Social Development Association; and Morgan White, a wildlife management major from Rome, sponsored by the Forestry and Wildlife Club.

Mike Chason will serve as master of ceremonies. The pageant will benefit the Ms. ABAC Scholarship Fund and the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.

ABAC Turf Club Spaghetti Dinner Wednesday 6-9 p.m. in Ag Sciences

Support the ABAC Turf club their Spaghetti Dinner Wednesday from 6-9 p.m. in the Ag Sciences building. Tickets are $5 ahead of time or $7 at the door. The club will also host $2 bingo with lots of prizes. The event will help send students to the Annual Golf Turf Quiz Bowl Competition. For tickets, contact Alex Kowalewski at akowalewski@abac.edu or 229-391-4801.
Seventeen ABAC Students Selected For All-College Band and Chorus

Seventeen students from the ABAC music program were recently selected for 2012 All-College Band and Chorus honors as well as participation in the Georgia Music Educators Association (GMEA) In-Service Conference in Savannah.

ABAC Music Program Director Don Coates said Kwame Paige, a music major from Valdosta, serves as president of the ABAC student chapter of the GMEA and was one of the All-College selections. GMEA includes over 4,100 teachers in the areas of band, orchestra, choir, general music and piano from elementary to college level.

Other ABAC students selected for All-College honors included Maria Barber, a music major from Tifton; Lindsey Beach, a music major from Tifton; Joseph Bishop, a music major from Fitzgerald; Ashley Connolly, a music major from Tifton; Scarlett Eirish, a music major from Tifton; Kevin Frizell, a chemistry major from Tifton; Daniel Gibson, a music major from Ty Ty; and Kezia Green, a music major from Sylvester.

Other students selected were Chandler Hill, a music major from Adel; Brian Holland, a music major from Fitzgerald; Margaret Huckeba, an early childhood education major from Coolidge; Patrick Ireland, an English major from Tifton; Katelyn Payne, a music major from Moultrie; Alena Phillips, a music major from Richmond Hill; Bri Rogers, a music major from Tifton; and Ethan Smith, an undeclared major from Sylvester.

Apply to ABAC and FA Night Tuesday at 6 p.m.

Join representatives from Admissions and Financial Aid Tuesday from 6-9 p.m. in the Ag Sciences building. Participants can drop-in and get assistance applying to ABAC or for financial aid. Students seeking financial aid assistance must have their Personal Identification Number (PIN) from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) web site and a copy of their 2011 tax returns for parents and students, if applicable. For more information contact Brooke Jernigan at 229-391-5018 or bjernigan@abac.edu

ABAC Birthdays

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Fillies’ Pancake Breakfast Saturday at Applebee’s

Support the ABAC fillies softball team at their annual Pancake Breakfast at Applebee’s. Contact Donna Campbell or a softball player for tickets. Breakfast consists of pancakes, sausage, and a variety of drinks. The cost is $6.00 per ticket.

“Tea For Three” Exhibit Open at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village

The “Tea For Three” exhibit will remain open until March 21. Exhibit hours are 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.