



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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ABAC Celebrated 107th Birthday with Cupcakes Last Week

It was 107 years ago on Feb. 20, 1908 when a special train rolled up the railroad tracks from downtown Tifton for opening day ceremonies at the Second District Agricultural and Mechanical School. Today that school is known as Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.



ABAC Ambassador CiCi Arriaga served birthday cupcakes in the Donaldson Dining Hall to celebrate ABAC's 107th birthday on Friday. Sodexo, Inc. graciously donated the cupcakes in celebration.

"It's always great to celebrate another birthday," ABAC President David Bridges said. "ABAC today is much different than it was in 1908 but let's give the faculty, staff, administration and students of the Agricultural and Mechanical School credit. They set the foundation for the success story that ABAC is today."

Downtown stores and the public school were closed on that special day in 1908. City officials even

declared a holiday. Some 1,200 people attended the opening day ceremony. A total of 27 students walked up the Tift Hall steps to attend classes. Lewis Hall and Herring Hall were the dormitories for boarding students.

Residents of Tifton started getting excited about the new area high school all the way back on Nov. 23, 1906 when Tifton won the bidding process for the site of the school over Albany, Pelham, Camilla, and Ashburn. Captain Henry Harding Tift, founder of Tifton, led the delegation and personally financed a portion of the bid, which was successful on the eighth balloting. The Tifton Gazette proclaimed "The Hallelujah Day

Has Come, Tifton Lands the A&M School."

"It has been a record-setting year for ABAC with our increase in enrollment over the past four semesters and more bachelor's degree graduates than ever before," Bridges said. "We still maintain those core values from 1908 and the promise of a quality education for every student who walks in a classroom building on our campus."

Bridges, who took office on July 1, 2006, speaks from a unique historical perspective since he is the only ABAC president who is also an ABAC graduate (Class of '78).

Professor W.W. Driskell was the first principal of the Second District A&M School. The first class to

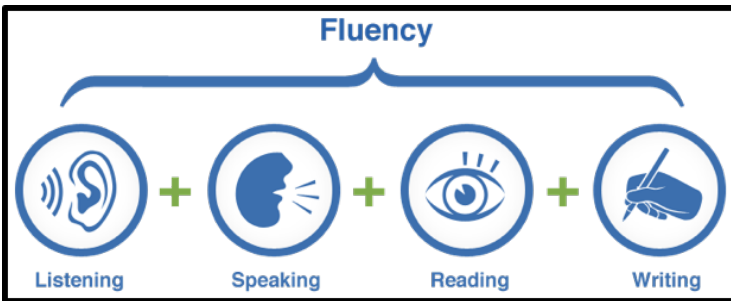
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Georgia Arbor Day Celebrated with Tree Planting On Campus



ABAC, one of the Arbor Day Foundation Tree Campus USA schools, planted a live oak tree in observance of Georgia Arbor Day last Friday. The live oak is the state tree of Georgia and was planted to replace a water oak that formally stood. The tree was planted by forestry students near Bowen Hall and was donated by Sodexo, Inc. In addition to this, ABAC Tree Campus USA committee members were excited to announce the future plans for an ABAC silvicultural arboretum. The arboretum will provide an invaluable learning tool for many students on campus and strive to maximize diversity of species native to the region.

Join the Center for Teaching and Learning on Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in the President's Dining Room for a *Fulbright Scholar Presentation*. For more information, contact Dr. Hans Schmeisser at hschmeisser@abac.edu.



Conversation Corners Begin at AAC

Beginning Wednesday, the Academic Achievement Center (AAC) will offer Conversation Corners for ABAC students with English as a foreign language who would like to practice their conversation skills. Individuals who would like to participate can swing by the bottom floor of the Carlton Center to chat on Wednesdays from 10 - 10:45 a.m. and 4 - 5 p.m. Contact Wendy Harrison at wharrison@abac.edu for more information.

Purchase BBQ Tickets to Support the ABAC Cattlemen's Association

Let the ABAC Cattlemen's Association take care of the cooking for supper on Wednesday, March 11! Tickets for a beef BBQ plate are on-sale now. Plate includes: 1/2 pound beef BBQ, baked beans, potato salad, bread and a slice of cake. Tickets are \$10 per plate and the plates can be picked up on March 11 from 5 - 7 p.m. in the Ag Science Building. Contact Dr. Mary Ellen Hicks at mhicks@abac.edu to purchase your tickets.



There is something for everyone to do in the Library on Friday from 6 until 10 p.m.



Come out for a fun-filled night of Knitters & Fiber Artists, Game Night and Readers Unite. Contact Marie Davis at mdavis@abac.edu for more information.

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graduate on June 14, 1910 included Joel Davis and Maude Paulk from Tift County and Charles Hinson from Grady County.

Today, Tift Hall houses the History Room of the college which is open for daily viewing as well as administrative offices. Lewis Hall is home to the Stafford School of Business. Herring Hall is the location for the admissions office and business office.

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.

The roots of ABAC extend to 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 buildings statewide were almost identical. They were actually college

preparatory boarding schools and included students from 14-21 years old.

The course work contained agriculture classes for boys and home economics classes for girls. At the Second District A&M School, only boys were allowed to board during the first term. Students lived in Herring Hall and Lewis Hall and attended classes in Tift Hall.

In 1924, a bill passed the Georgia legislature to change the Second District A&M School to a college called the South Georgia A&M College. S.L. Lewis, who had been the principal at the high school on two different occasions, was selected as the first president of the college.

In 1929, the name of the college was changed to the Georgia State College for Men. Dr. Frank G. Branch was the first and only president. GSCM had a broad range of athletics including a football team which recorded back to back wins over the University of Miami, 13-12 in 1931 and 19-6 in 1932.

In 1933, the Board of Regents of

the University System of Georgia was formed and changed the name of the college again, this time to Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. It became a two-year college named after Abraham Baldwin, one of only two Georgia signers of the U.S. Constitution. Dr. J.G. Woodroof was the first president of ABAC.

ABAC returned to four-year college status on May 16, 2006 when the Board of Regents named it a State College of the University System of Georgia. Junior and senior level bachelor's degree classes returned to the campus curriculum in January, 2008 with 41 students. Today, over 1,100 students major in bachelor's degree programs.

During the fall term, ABAC enrolled 3,458 students, marking it as the only college or university south of Macon in the University System of Georgia to increase its enrollment in both the 2013 and 2014 fall semesters. Over 1,300 students live on the ABAC campus in modern housing complexes at ABAC Place and ABAC Lakeside.

Black History Month Events Continue Tuesday

Students can perform an original or borrowed song, poem, or speech at the Wording Word on Tuesday at 5 p.m. in the Nickelodeon. This event will be followed by a Peace Circle of Hope. The month's events will culminate with a cookout and candlelight vigil on Friday at 5 p.m. at the Town Hall. Contact Bernice Hughes at bhughes@abac.edu for more information.

First Tuesday Concert Features Violin/Guitar Duo on March 3

The First Tuesday Concert Series will feature "A Night of a Classical String Duet" on March 3 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel of All Faiths at ABAC. This concert is open to the public at no charge.

"A Night of a Classical String Duet" spotlights "Nephina," a duo comprised of violinist Nina Lutz and guitarist Nephtali Santiago. The duo's programming features the music of Bach, Nin Culmell, Albeniz Lauro, and Astor Piazzolla, as well as arrangements for guitar and violin works from the "Great American Song Book."

Lutz is the string area chair at Valdosta State University and has been concertmaster of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra and first violinist of the VSU Faculty String Quartet since 1992. She also teaches applied violin, music theory and functional piano at VSU. Lutz maintains a thriving private studio, teaching violin and piano.

A graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy, Lutz received her

B.M. in Performance degree from the University of Illinois and her M.M. in Violin Performance and Literature degree from the Eastman School of Music.

Lutz has performed with a number of symphonies and orchestras including the Chicago Ballet Orchestra, the Savannah Symphony, and the Jacksonville Symphony. She also spent time in Germany studying with Angela Sinell and working with German composer and string player Bertold Hummel, subsequently performing at the American premiere of his Solo Violin Sonata. Lutz has also performed with the Würzburg State Theatre and toured Spain extensively with the Bamberg Symphony.

Santiago's first teachers included Harold Cobo and Bill Viola. He received a bachelor's degree in guitar performance at Temple University, where he studied with Peter Segal and was active as a teacher and performer.

He was also the first Temple guitarist to win the Concerto Soloists Competition.

Santiago earned a Master of Music degree at Yale University where he studied with Benjamin Verdery. He served as a Yale teaching assistant and was awarded the Charles H. Ditson Scholarship for outstanding scholarship and performance. Santiago was also a teaching assistant at Florida State University, where he studied with the renowned guitar master teacher Bruce Holzman, and was twice awarded the FSU Fellowship. During this time he was also a prize-winner at the International Guitar Competition in Puerto Rico.

Santiago has performed in master classes for Oscar Gighlia, Sharon Isbin, Elliot Fisk, Jaap Shroder, and Manuel Barrueco. He teaches guitar in the VSU Department of Music.

For more information, interested persons can contact Dr. Susan Roe at sroe@abac.edu.



Learn More About 'Art and the Food We Eat'

The School of Liberal Arts, the Rural Studies Program, the Wiregrass Creative Co-op, and Mark's Mud invites is hosting a presentation entitled "Art and the Food We Eat" on Friday at 6 p.m. at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture's Peanut Museum. Lindsay Rogers, a nationally known artist and the Studio Potter at the Professional Craft Program at Haywood Community College in Asheville, NC, will provide a presentation and conversation on the how art can help us reconnect to our food in new ways. For more information, contact Dr. Russell Pryor at rpryor@abac.edu.

Please submit information by **Thursday at noon** to Lindsey Roberts at lroberts@abac.edu for inclusion in the next edition of the FOCUS.

ABAC BIRTHDAYS

23 Jessica Swords 25 Audrey Luke - Morgan
27 Bernard Green 28 Rickey Gibbs 28 Chris Stephens