



# FOCUS

## ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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### Baxley Student Takes Ms. ABAC Crown

Laurel Higginbotham, a pre-dentistry major from Baxley, captured the Ms. ABAC 2011 title at the 42<sup>nd</sup> annual event on Wednesday at ABAC.

Sponsored by the men's golf team at ABAC, Higginbotham is a sophomore who is the parliamentarian of the ABAC Ambassadors, a Buddy Ball volunteer, a 4-H Rock Eagle summer counselor, and participates in the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program.

"This means so much to me," Higginbotham, who hopes to be an orthodontist, said. "I love ABAC. I knew when I came here that I would get the support from the professors that I might not get at a larger college. I want to be a great representative for ABAC."

Other finalists were Mary Porter, an animal science major from Jesup, first runner-up; Keaton Griner, an agricultural communications major from Moultrie, second runner-up; Brittany Trotter, a consumer journalism major from Clarkesville, third runner-up; and Brooke Justice, a business major from Tifton, fourth runner-up.



Laurel Higginbotham (center) of Baxley was crowned Ms. ABAC 2011 on Feb. 23. Other contestants who placed in the pageant included (l-r): Brittany Trotter, third runner-up; Mary Porter, first runner-up; Keaton Griner, second runner-up; and Brooke Justice, fourth runner-up.

Higginbotham also won the interview portion of the competition. Jazmin Thomas, an agricultural communications major from Perry, won the essay competition, and Mollie Roberts, a communications major from Ocilla, was named Miss Congeniality by the other contestants.

The People's Choice winner was Ana Ingram, a mass communication and journalism major from Blakely. Funds raised by the People's Choice award were donated to the American Cancer Society Relay for Life and the Ms. ABAC Scholarship fund.

A total of 28 contestants competed in the event, which was sponsored by the Agricultural Business Club at ABAC.

### Baldwin Players Perform Thursday Thru Saturday

The Baldwin Players will present "An Evening of Storytelling" on Thursday—Saturday at ABAC. Directed by Dr. John Galyean, Associate Professor of Humanities in the School of Liberal Arts, the production will take place in Conger Hall, Room 319 at 7:30 p.m. each night.

Tickets to the production are free to all ABAC students, staff, and faculty and \$5 for the community. All tickets can be purchased at the door before the event.

Possible stories include anecdotes, a contemporary horror story, a Native American tale, retellings of "The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein; and two nonsensical British works, "Jabberwocky" and "Nine Cats".

For more information, contact Galyean at 229-391-4960 or via e-mail at [jgalyean@abac.edu](mailto:jgalyean@abac.edu).



The "Needles & Pins" exhibit will open at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture Gallery on Saturday and run through April 12. Classes and group tours are welcome. To arrange a private tour, contact Polly Huff at (229) 391-5222 or [phuff@abac.edu](mailto:phuff@abac.edu).

### Lewis Presenting Today at 3:30 p.m.

Michael Lewis will be presenting "Working with Difficult Texts in the Composition Classroom" today from 3:30-4:45 p.m. in Carlton 202. His presentation is part of the monthly Center for Teaching and Learning Colloquium Series.

# ABAC Rodeo Friday and Saturday

From bull riding to steer wrestling, the popular “Gee Haw Whoa Back” rodeo will be the highlight of this year’s Celebrate ABAC Alumni Weekend on Friday and Saturday at ABAC.



Cowboys will participate in events including saddle bronc riding, bare-back riding, bull riding, team roping, calf roping, and steer wrestling. Cowgirls will compete in break-away roping and barrel racing.

The rodeo will offer a variety of family-friendly attractions outside the arena as

well including a mechanical bull, rock climbing wall, and face painting. Vendors will be on site selling food, t-shirts and rodeo-themed items.

The rodeo will hold two sanctioned rounds of competition with the preliminary round on March 4 and the finals on March 5. Both rounds start at 7 p.m. each evening at the ABAC Rodeo Arena.

For more information on the rodeo, contact Keith Barber, Vice President of External Affairs and Advancement in the ABAC Office of College Advancement at (229) 391-4900.



## Evening for ABAC Friday at the Museum

The Mike Snider String Band will perform at this year’s “Evening for ABAC” on Friday. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. The cost for the ABAC Foundation sponsored event is \$75 per person. Get your tickets by calling (229) 391-4900.

## Exciting Schedule for Celebrate ABAC This Weekend

For more details on the schedule of events or for more information, visit the Celebrate ABAC website at [www.abac.edu/celebrate](http://www.abac.edu/celebrate)

### Friday, March 4

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.	Golden Alumni Class of 1961 Induction Lunch & Ceremony
1:30 – 2:00 p.m.	Campus Tours
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Golden Alumni Story Time - ABAC Lakeside Multipurpose Room
3:00 – 3:30 p.m.	“Travel with ABAC” Presentation with Refreshments – ABAC Lakeside Multipurpose Room
4:00 p.m.	ABAC Candlelight Remembrance Service – ABAC Chapel of All Faiths
6:00 p.m.	Evening for ABAC Dinner - Georgia Museum of Agriculture
7:00 p.m.	“Gee Haw Whoa Back” Sanctioned Rodeo Preliminary Round - ABAC Rodeo Arena
7:30 p.m.	Evening for ABAC Concert benefiting Dollars for ABAC Scholars featuring the “Mike Snider String Band” - Georgia Museum of Agriculture

### Saturday, March 5

8:00 a.m.	Alumni Board - Donaldson Dining Hall
9:00 a.m.	Ag Alumni Council - Donaldson Dining Hall
10:30 a.m.	Alumni Awards Ceremony and Brunch – Georgia Museum of Agriculture Conference Rooms
Noon	Welcome” to ABAC Family Day at the Museum & “Needles and Pins” Exhibit Opening - Georgia Museum of Agriculture Atrium & Gallery
Noon	Agriculture and Family & Consumer Sciences Alumni Cookout - Ag Sciences Building
1:00 – 4:30 pm	ABAC Alumni Day – Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village
7:00 pm	“Gee Haw Whoa Back” Sanctioned Rodeo Finals (pony rides, carnival games, and more) - ABAC Rodeo Arena

## First Tuesday Concert On March 1

The Valdosta State University Faculty Jazz Combo will be the featured performers on March 1 in the First Tuesday Concert at ABAC. The combo is comprised of Kenneth Kirk, trumpet and flugelhorn; Joren Cain, tenor saxophone; Doug Farwell, trombone; David Springfield, piano; Tod Leavitt, bass; and Paul Campiglia, drums.

The performance will take place in the ABAC Chapel of All Faiths at 7 p.m. There is no fee for this event.

The combo will play selections including "Tell It Like It Is" by Wayne Shorter, "Miss M" by Springfield, "When Love Is New" by Cedar Walton, "Slings and Arrows" composed by Michael Brecker, "Petulia" by John Barry, "May" by Cain, and "Priestess" composed by Billy Harper.

The First Tuesday Concert Series takes place on five selected first Tuesdays during the year. Dr. Susan Roe, associate professor of voice at ABAC, directs the series. She said there will be no fee for any of the First Tuesday Concerts this year as the ABAC School of Liberal Arts presents "a gift to the community."

Roe said that persons who want to support the First Tuesday concerts can make contributions to the ABAC Foundation and designate them for the First Tuesday Concert Series. For more information, interested person can contact Roe at (229) 391-4943.

## ABAC Family

Becca Turner, Dr. Kay Weeks, Dr. John Galyean and Keith Perry gave a panel presentation on Feb. 18 titled "Public Perception of Public Speaking Anxiety" at the 80<sup>th</sup> annual Georgia Communication Association Conference at Brenau University in Gainesville. Vonda Fenn and Polly Huff appeared on the WALB-TV noon show on Feb. 24 to discuss Celebrate ABAC.

Vonda Fenn and Ashley Williamson appeared on the WTIF Kyle Dean morning show on Feb. 22 to discuss Celebrate ABAC Weekend and upcoming events at the Museum. Mike Chason appeared on the Fox 31 TV morning show in Albany on Feb. 22 to discuss Celebrate ABAC.

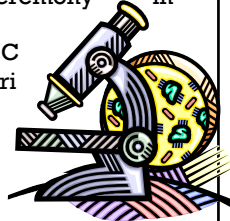
## Science Olympiad Saturday at ABAC

The School of Science and Mathematics at ABAC will host the Regional Science Olympiad on Saturday. The event will take place from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at various locations on campus, culminating with an awards ceremony in Gressette Gym.

"This is a Division C tournament," said Lori Pearman, Assistant Professor of Mathematics in the School of Science and Mathematics and Co-Director of the Science Olympiad. "This Science Olympiad is for high school students. We have 18 teams competing from the South Georgia area."

Students will compete in science fields including physics, astronomy, chemistry, biology, and anatomy. They will also take part in device events where students have to create items including a mouse trap vehicle.

For more information on the Science Olympiad, contact Pearman at (229) 391-5118.

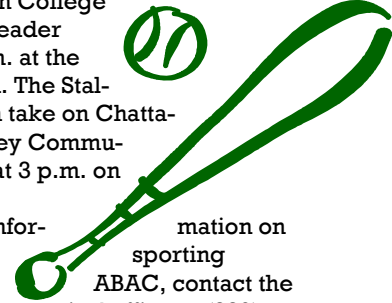


## Baseball Team Gears Up For Games This Week

The Stallions' baseball team will play two home games this week.

The Stallions will square off against Lake Michigan College in a double-header today at 4 p.m. at the baseball field. The Stallions will then take on Chathahoochee Valley Community College at 3 p.m. on Tuesday.

For more information on upcoming events at ABAC athletics' office at (229) 391-4930.



For more information on sporting events at ABAC, contact the athletics' office at (229) 391-4930.

## ABAC Birthdays

28 Betty Johnson  
March

- 1 Jason Kennedy
- 4 Diane Kilgore
- 5 Kelsie Mitchell
- 5 David King
- 5 Otis Wright



## ABAC Bass Fishing Team Places in Top Ten

The ABAC Bass fishing team had two teams place among the top 10 teams in the recent Lake Seminole Bass Tournament. Matt O' Dillon and Jake Hall placed 5<sup>th</sup> while David Sherry and Jason Hardy placed 10<sup>th</sup>. A total of 20 teams competed in the event. The team will represent ABAC on Saturday at a tournament at West Point.