



# FOCUS

## ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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## Green & Gold Glitter at ABAC All Weekend



Photo by Wes Sewell/Wes Sewell Photography



Green and gold confetti rained down at Tift Hall at ABAC during the Historic Front Campus Rededication Ceremony on Friday. ABAC re-opened the three original buildings, which were opened in 1908 as part of the Second District A&M school. The celebration continued Friday night with fireworks on the front of campus and many celebrate ABAC event throughout the weekend. Thank you to everyone that came out for this historic events.

### Kappa Sigma Presents 'My Brother's Keeper'

The Rho-Rho Chapter of Kappa Sigma fraternity, along with ABAC, the grant from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS), and the Tifton and Tift County Public Safety Departments are joining forces to combat alcohol abuse, including underage drinking and impaired driving with "My Brother's Keeper" today in the Meadows. The event began at 11 a.m. and continues until 2 p.m.

Through GOHS, ABAC has received a \$6,000 grant to participate in the Georgia Young Adult Program. Designed for colleges and universities in the state, the Georgia Young Adult Program focuses on peer education in order to promote and bring awareness to highway safety issues including alcohol education, alcohol abuse prevention, impaired driving, underage drinking, safety belts, speeding, risk reductions and other destructive decisions.

"My Brother's Keeper" is a program

that will take place to help raise awareness of the many dangers that students face while driving under the influence. The event will be held from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. featuring demonstrations and scenarios of irresponsible driving before students leave campus for Spring Break. The mission of this event is to educate students on the dangers of driving under the influence, texting while driving, not wearing a seatbelt, and other safety issues behind the wheel. It is the simple decisions while operating a motor vehicle that could save the lives of you, family members, and the others that are around you.

The long-term goal of the program is to create safer, more-healthy campus environments. ABAC will use this Peer Education grant to help educate the students on the detriments to drinking and driving and other components of alcohol misuse. The grant runs from Oct. 1, 2012 thru Sept.30, 2013.

### ABAC Sports Recap

#### Softball:

The fillies won both games in the double header last week 4 -3 and 4-1 against Thomas University. They play TCC at home on Thurs. afternoon at 2 & 4 p.m.

#### Baseball:

The stallions split their double header with a 9-7 win and 0-4 loss. They play East Georgia Tues. at 1, and then again at home on Fri. at 7 p.m and Sat. at 1 p.m.

#### Tennis:

The men's tennis team lost to Berry last week 8-1. The women's team plays Albany State tomorrow at 2:30. Both teams travel to Orlando this weekend to play Jackson University on Sunday.

For more information visit  
[www.abac.edu/athletics](http://www.abac.edu/athletics)

# Waycross Native Kristen Ray Selected as Ms. ABAC 2013

A blue-eyed junior from Waycross who admits she has a "special place in her heart" for ABAC was crowned Ms. ABAC 2013 in the recent ceremony in Howard Auditorium.

Kristen Ray, a Rural Studies major with an emphasis in Social and Community Development, said that when her name was called by Master of Ceremonies Mike Chason, "I was in complete shock."

"I was out there just to have fun," Ray, a 20-year-old with a vivacious personality, said. "I was standing there and finally I told myself, 'you better walk up there and get that crown.'"

Ray also won the Essay Award in the competition, which was sponsored by the ABAC Ag Business Club. Other finalists were first runner-up Sara O'Neal, a freshman Rural Studies (Writing and Communication) major from Tifton; sec-



ond runner-up Jessie Still, a sophomore Journalism and Mass Media major from Blakely; third runner-up Kristen Card, a junior Biology major from Cordele; and fourth runner-up Erica Tucker, a freshman Middle Grades Education major from Tifton.

Card won the Interview Award, and Caitlyn Asbell, a

junior Early Childhood Education major from Gray, won the Ms. Congeniality Award. Rae Evans, a sophomore Early Childhood Education major from Hawkinsville, received the People's Choice Award.

Ray said she wants to represent ABAC "to the best of my ability and be a positive influence for other students on campus. I was going to transfer last year after I graduated with my associate degree but I just couldn't leave. I have a

special place in my heart for ABAC."

Ray plans to graduate from ABAC with her bachelor's degree in Rural Studies in May, 2014. She has lived on campus in ABAC Lakeside and ABAC Place her entire college career and loves the convenience of being in the center of all the activity.

"The rooms are nice, and I know all my roommates really well," Ray, who was sponsored by the Rural Studies Club, said. "They call me 'Paula Deen Junior' because she's my favorite cook. They swear I am in love with butter. I love some country cooking and Southern food. Mama is the one that taught me."

The daughter of Randy and Sharon Ray from Waycross said coming to ABAC was "one of the best decisions of her life."

Two months before she graduated from Bacon County High School in 2010, she planned to run cross country at another college. One trip to ABAC altered that course.

"Within 10 minutes of walking on the campus, I told my mom, 'let's go buy a t-shirt,'" Ray said. "Everyone here made me feel welcome."

## ABAC Bass Team Ranked 16th Nationally

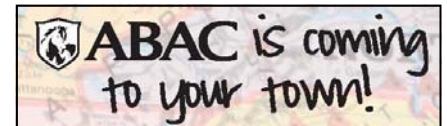


The ABAC Bass team in ranked 16th in the Cabella's Association of Collegiate Anglers (ACA) School of the Year Standings against over 100 Division I schools. The ACA has designed a multifaceted School of the Year program to both rank and reward collegiate fishing teams throughout the country. The program is built to reward teams that compete with the ACA in the BoatUS Collegiate Bass Fishing Championship Series, as well as Carhartt College B.A.S.S. Super Regionals, and National Guard FLW College Divisional/Regional Championships. The respective championship events for each series will count towards the School of the Year program as well. In addition to the three national collegiate fishing trails, the ACA will also award points for select ACA-sanctioned events throughout the season.

## "ABAC IN YOUR TOWN" CONTINUES

The regional recruiting receptions continue this week. Tuesday's event is in Colquitt County at the Federation of Women's

Clubs from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. and Thursday's event is in Coffee County at the Atrium from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. If you are interested in attending or helping recruit for the events please contact Donna Webb, Director of Enrollment Management, at [dwebb@abac.edu](mailto:dwebb@abac.edu) or by calling 229-391-5016.



## Purchase Your Tickets for Wiregrass Market Progressive Dinner March 22

Enjoy a five-course meal at a local food dinner on March 22 at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village. A benefit for the Wiregrass Farmers Market will feature foods grown locally and prepared by area chefs and cooks, along with local wine and beer, and live music.

Tickets are \$30 per person and must be purchased in advance (cash or checks accepted) for a specific departure time. Only 120 tickets will be sold for this event. Registration forms are available at Three Graces at Lankford Manor, Rockin' Joe Espresso, and the Museum Gallery, or by e-mail request. For more information, or to receive vendor guidelines and an application, contact [wiregrassmarket@gmail.com](mailto:wiregrassmarket@gmail.com) or call Polly Huff at 391-5222.

## Reserve Your Spot for Bottles & Brushes March 29

"Stained Glass Butterfly" by Brenda Rose will be the featured painting for the March 29 Bottles and Brushes session. The class will take place from 6-8 p.m. at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC.

"The March class marks two years of Bottles & Brushes classes at the Museum," said Polly Huff, GMA Gallery Coordinator. "We are excited to see returning students who have been with us since the beginning, and new ones who have joined us along the way."

Rose will guide participants through the process of recreating her original work, while students create their own interpretation before their eyes. Participants can bring their favorite beverage while enjoying an evening of creativity and fun. The Gallery at the Museum will provide the paint, canvas and brushes.

There is a fee of \$25 per person for the class or \$40 for a couple. Participants must register ahead of time by contacting Huff at (229) 391-5222 or by emailing her at [phuff@abac.edu](mailto:phuff@abac.edu). Space is limited so early registration is important.

Companies who are looking for a unique team-building experience or a way to reward exceptional employees can participate in the corporate edition of "Bottles and Brushes". The corporate painting will be custom-tailored to fit each company's mascot, theme, or idea.

Gift certificates are available for future classes.



## Nursing Information Session March 18

An information session on the associate degree nursing program at ABAC will be held in the Health Sciences building on March 18 from 4-5 p.m.

Associate Professor of Nursing Becky Arnold said prospective students will be provided with information about the nursing program, and faculty will be on hand to answer any questions regarding the program. The nursing program at ABAC prepares students to take the Registered Nurse (R.N.) licensure examination.

"Nursing faculty will be available to discuss the associate degree nursing program in both a group and a one-on-one setting," said Arnold. "The sessions are a great time to meet faculty and get your questions answered as you prepare to begin your nursing education."

For more information on this session, interested persons can contact the School of Nursing at (229) 391-5020. Summer term classes begin at ABAC on June 3.

## Stallion Day Saturday April 6

The final Stallion Day of the semester is April 6, help us make it the biggest event yet by recruiting students to attend! Contact Enrollment Management at 229.391.5004 with any questions about the event.



## Jackson Staff Award Nominations Due March 15

It's time to submit your nominations for the Roy Jackson Staff Award. Below is a list of the Eligibility and Guidelines to nominate someone for this award. You can find the nomination form, as well as a list of potential nominees on the website at <http://www.abac.edu/more/employees/staff-forum> under Roy R. Jackson, Sr. Award for Staff Excellence. You will need to click on the bar for Roy Jackson Award and the eligibility and guidelines will appear. Scroll down and you will see a link for the current eligibility list and a link for the past winners.

Each individual making a nomination must submit a minimum of 2 paragraphs of justification; otherwise, the nomination will not be accepted. The paragraphs should be written with enough detail so that anyone who does not know the nominee, will after reading the nomination. Recipients will be chosen based on their satisfaction of the above criteria.

The Staff Forum Scholarship and Awards Committee will select one of the nominated staff members to receive the Roy R. Jackson Award. Recipients of the Roy R. Jackson, Sr. Award for Excellence will be selected, awarded, and announced at the Honors Day ceremony and will receive a check for \$1,250 (provided funds are available) and plaque.

Nominations are due to Tracy Dyal ([tdyal@abac.edu](mailto:tdyal@abac.edu)) by March 15. Contact Tracy with any questions.

## Register for Run for the Nurses April 13

Join the School of Nursing and Health Sciences on April 13 for a 1 mile fun walk/run, 5K run, and ½ marathon to assist in the future education of nurses through scholarships at ABAC. Register by March 10 and pay \$15 for the 1 mile, \$15 for the 5K and \$25 for the 1/2 marathon. Contact Becky Arnold at [rar-nold@abac.edu](mailto:rar-nold@abac.edu) for more info.

The FOCUS is an electronic publication produced by the ABAC Public Relations Office. Please submit information by **Thursday at noon** to Ashley Mock at [amock@abac.edu](mailto:amock@abac.edu) for inclusion in the next FOCUS.

## ABAC Birthdays

- 4 Diane Kilgore
- 8 Billy Reynolds
- 9 Lynne Hoatson

