



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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What a Way to Celebrate!

Celebrate ABAC Weekend was a huge success with lots of celebration, activities, and reminiscing. The Mike Snider String band (top right) got lots of laughter and applause Friday night during an Evening for ABAC. The Grand Ole Opry performer not only had terrific musical talent but hilarious jokes as well. Alumni were the reason for the celebration, and 10 people (left) received honors during the Alumni Awards brunch Saturday morning. ABAC Alumni Association Award winners at the Celebrate ABAC Alumni Weekend on included (seated, l-r): Rob Irvin (accepting Honorary Alumnus Award for Tommy Irvin), Rossie McMillan, Family Legacy Award for the McMillan family; Jodie Rayl Snow, Outstanding Young Alumnus; Shirley Wilson (accepting Honorary Alumnus Award for Alan Kramer); Suellen Coleman Perry, Outstanding Educator; (standing, l-r): Dr. Jay Williams, Outstanding Health Care Professional; Terry Clark, Master Farmer; Dr. Jerry W. Johnson, J. Lamar Branch Award; Mark Mobley, Outstanding Business Leader; and Mack Crawford, Distinguished Alumnus.

ABAC Partners With Georgia Tech Regents' Engineering Transfer Program

The School of Science and Mathematics at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College has partnered with the Georgia Institute of Technology to allow engineering majors to continue their education at Georgia Tech through the Regents' Engineering Transfer Program (RETP). This opportunity is available immediately to all current engineering majors at ABAC.

Students involved in ABAC's engineering program who successfully complete the RETP requirements at ABAC are guaranteed acceptance as transfer students to Georgia Tech and are able to continue working toward completion of a Bachelor of Engineering degree.

Requirements for Georgia Tech's transfer program include maintaining a 2.7 grade point average for Georgia

residents or a 3.0 grade point average for non-Georgia and international residents and the completion of all classes required by the RETP.

This opportunity between ABAC and Georgia Tech enables students to stay closer to home for the first two years of college for less expense and have the smaller class sizes and more one-on-one instruction before transferring to Georgia Tech.

"With changes being made to the HOPE Scholarship program, ABAC will benefit from having this agreement in place," said Dr. Ray Barber, Dean of the School of Science and Mathematics. "It will serve as a great recruiting tool for ABAC's engineering program. It's a win-win for ABAC."

"A new math class in differential equations will be taught in the spring of next year. The math faculty developed this class to mirror the one that Georgia Tech offers to its students. With the addition of this class to ABAC's academic offerings, we were able to complete the agreement with Georgia Tech."

For more information on the RETP program and requirements for admission, prospective students can visit www.coe.gatech.edu/content/regents-engineering-transfer-program-retp. For information on ABAC's engineering program, interested persons should contact the School of Science and Mathematics at (229) 391-5100.

'Second Saturdays' Event Opens March 12 at Museum

Beginning this Saturday, the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College will feature "Second Saturdays", an event where one Georgia artist can demonstrate his or her craft, answer questions, and sell works every second Saturday of the month.



Pinckney, and groups of wool spinners, quilters, woodturners, and painters.

"Thanks to local artist Darlene Pilcher, several of our upcoming 'Second Saturdays' will be accompanied by a Plein Aire gathering of local artists from the southeast," Huff said.

"We are thrilled to offer such an exciting event and networking opportunity to artists and visitors from Tifton, the state, and beyond."

"The museum is the perfect setting for a Georgia artist or crafter to showcase their talent and engage with the community," Polly Huff, exhibit coordinator from the ABAC Arts Connection, said.

The first artist to take part in the "Second Saturdays" event is Fitzgerald native Ronald Goodman, who will showcase his talents on March 12 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Goodman's art provides glimpses of the beauty and behaviors of wildlife found in southern Georgia. He utilizes a variety of mediums including acrylics, oils, pen and ink, and colored and graphite pencils.

After suffering a spinal cord injury in 1985, Goodman completed his formal education in art from ABAC. He creates his works using special arm and hand braces and has all terrain tires for his wheelchair in order to study his subjects. He then transfers his observations to drawings or paintings by bending over a special easel and guiding one hand with his other arm.

"I am excited to premiere 'Second Saturdays' with Ronald Goodman," said Huff. "He is not only one of the best Georgia wildlife artists, but also an ABAC alumnus. Ronald has been instrumental as an arts advocate in the southeast, and his works are well-known, loved, and collected by many. He has a special way of connecting to children and adults alike, and it is fascinating to watch him as he works."

Goodman's pieces have helped to spotlight the issue of wildlife conservation and have been used by a number of charitable organizations for fundraising including Ducks Unlimited, Wheelin' Sportsmen, Easter Seals, and the American Cancer Society. His paintings have been featured in the National Wildlife Federation gallery in Vienna, Va.

Throughout the year, 'Second Saturdays' will feature a well-known southern fiddle maker, a potter from Thomasville, glass artist Tadashi Torii of Sandy Springs, Athens metalsmith Charles

For more information on "Second Saturdays" and a full calendar of events, please contact Huff at (229) 391-5222 or phuff@abac.edu.



The "Needles & Pins" exhibit is now open at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture Gallery and will run through April 12. Contact Polly Huff at (229) 391-5222 or phuff@abac.edu for group tours.

See ABAC Chamber Singers Perform in NYC

In one of their most prestigious appearances ever, the Chamber Singers



of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College will perform at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall in New York City on May 30. As a special bonus, the ABAC travel program is offering a trip to New York on May 28-31 which includes the performance.

Under the director of Dr. Susan Roe, associate professor of voice, the ABAC Chamber Singers will join other invited outstanding choristers to form the Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY) to perform Faure's "Requiem".

"The Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College Choirs received this invitation because of the quality and high level of musicianship demonstrated by the singers and the exceptional recommendations given by Dr. Roe's colleagues," said Dr. Jonathan Griffith, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of DCINY.

In conjunction with the ABAC Chamber Singers performance, ABAC is offering a trip to New York City from May 28 – 31. The four-day package includes the performance of the ABAC Chamber

Singers, as well as visits to Grand Central Station, Times Square, Central Park, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and a choice of a Broadway show, either "Wicked" or "Jersey Boys".

The ABAC Chamber Singers are a group of 25-35 singers, selected by audition, who perform acapella choral literature from the Renaissance period to more contemporary selections. Members are selected from within the concert choir and frequently perform for campus activities as well as other community functions.

Dr. Paul Neal of Valdosta State University will be the guest conductor for the performance and will serve as the clinician for the residency. The DCINY allowed Dr. Neal to choose the choirs that will perform with his chamber singers for this event.

For more information on the ABAC trip, visit the ABAC travel web site at www.abac.edu/psbo/Travel/, contact Diane Kilgore at dkilgore@abac.edu, or call (229) 391-5065.

ABAC Selects Athletics Hall of Fame Inductees

Former student athletes, coaches, and supporters of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College will be honored at the annual 2011 ABAC Athletics Hall of Fame ceremony and luncheon on April 2 at noon at the ABAC softball field.

Inductees include the 1995 ABAC national championship women's softball team; Kyle Farnsworth, pitcher for the 1994 Stallions baseball team; Benny Dees, basketball coach of the ABAC Stallions from 1962-1967; Harley Stewart, player for the Stallions basketball team from 1968-1970; and the late A. B. Malloy, loyal supporter of the Fillies softball team from 1985 - 2005.

Tickets are now available at a cost of \$30 per person for the luncheon on April 2. Tickets can be purchased from the ABAC Athletics Office by calling Shirley Wilson at (229) 391-4930.

Coach Greg Tanner and the Fillies Softball Team began the 1995 season with eight returning players fresh off a win in the 1994 Region XVII championship game and a fourth place finish in the national tournament. Six additional players were added to complete the 1995 roster. Injuries plagued the team, sidelining two players during the season.

The team's experience helped it win the state tournament and move on to the national tournament that was hosted in Tifton that year. The Fillies won the national title in an 8th-inning rally for a 5-4 victory over Meridian Community College. Tanner received the Region XVII Softball Coach of the Year and National Invitational Women's Softball Slow Pitch Championship Coach of the Tournament in 1995.

Farnsworth is a major league baseball relief pitcher, currently playing for the Tampa Bay Rays. He graduated from Milton High School near Atlanta. During high school, he played baseball, basketball, and football. He continued to play baseball as an ABAC Stallion in 1994. He was selected by the Chicago Cubs in the 1994 amateur draft and played for them until 2004. He has also played for the Detroit Tigers, New York Yankees, Kansas City Royals, and Atlanta Braves.

Dees served as coach of the ABAC basketball team from 1962 - 1967. In the 1966-67 season, ABAC was ranked 13th in the nation and was undefeated in league play. He was also successful as a

coach at the NCAA Division 1 level, coaching at Virginia Commonwealth, the University of New Orleans, the University of Wyoming, and Western Carolina. He was also an assistant coach at the University of Alabama, Georgia Tech, and Western Kentucky.

In 1987, Dees' New Orleans team won its NCAA tournament first round game and was ranked 16th in the nation

won the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) District 25 Tournament and earned the college's first trip to the NAIA National Tournament. He was inducted into the Coweta County Sports Hall of Fame in 2007.

Malloy was an avid fan and supporter of the ABAC Fillies softball team for 20 years. He served as a dugout coach and mentor to both the coaches and the

players. He drove the ABAC van to away games and was present at every home game. He was at every practice helping out the team, and he and his wife, Dot, hosted cookouts for the Fillies for years. Malloy supplied the Fillies with boiled peanuts for every game and a cooler of drinks for the coach. He umpired for the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) for over 60 years, umpired with the South Georgia Umpire Association from 1985 - 2002,



The 2011 Athletics Hall of Fame inductees will be inducted on April 2 at noon in a luncheon next to Fillies' Field. Here is a picture of the 2010 class, which included the 1991 ABAC national championship softball team, Thomas "Boo" Weekley, Joseph Grist, Harley Klepfer, and Jim Sparks.

– the highest ranking ever for the Privateers. During a 10-year span from 1985 - 1995, he compiled a 172 - 123 record in two seasons at New Orleans, six seasons at Wyoming, and two seasons at Western Carolina. His mother, Pearl Dees, was a longtime house mother at ABAC and his brother, Peter, played and coached at ABAC.

Stewart played for the Stallions basketball team from 1968 - 1970. Under the coaching direction of Van Bracken and Lowell Mulkey, he received the Athlete of the Year award and was named as ABAC Basketball's Most Valuable Player in 1970. Outside of the campus, he was selected as part of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) District 17 All Tournament 1st Team, the Georgia Junior Collegiate Athletic Association (GJCAA) 1st Team All Tournament, and the GJCAA All State Team in the same year.

After his ABAC career, Stewart completed his playing days at West Georgia College, where he played in two national tournament games and averaged 24 points and 15 rebounds per game. While at West Georgia, he and his team

played for the men's fast pitch softball team, Sing-Oil, for 25 years, and served on the Tift County Board of Recreation. He received numerous honors for his contributions including a certificate of merit from the Women's Major Slow Pitch Tournament in 1989; an induction into ASA's Umpire Hall of Honor in 1994; and recognition for 25 years of dedicated umpire service from the Georgia High School Association in 2001.

ABAC initiated the Athletics Hall of Fame during the 100th birthday celebration in 2008. This year represents the fourth class to be inducted. The first class included Orion Mitchell, Bruce Gressette, Thomas Cheney, Philip Simpson, Norman "Red" Hill, and Milena Stanoytcheva.

The 2009 class included the 1984 national championship men's tennis team, Ellen Vickers, Cook Holliday, P.W. Bryan, Jr., Dorsey Brooks, and Newell "Sarge" Dorsey.

The 2010 class included the 1991 ABAC national championship softball team, Thomas "Boo" Weekley, Joseph Grist, Harley Klepfer, and Jim Sparks.

Campus Sports Abound This Week at ABAC

A number of home games will be on tap this week at ABAC including baseball, softball, and men's and women's tennis.

The Stallions baseball team will kick off the week's competitions with a double-header against Brewton Parker today at 4 p.m. at the baseball field. The Stallions will also face off against Gloucester Community College in another double-header on Thursday at 3:30 p.m.

On the courts, the men's and women's tennis teams will confront Coastal Georgia on Thursday at 2 p.m. at the Norman "Red" Hill Tennis Complex. The men's team will also take on Gardner-Webb University on Sunday at 2 p.m.

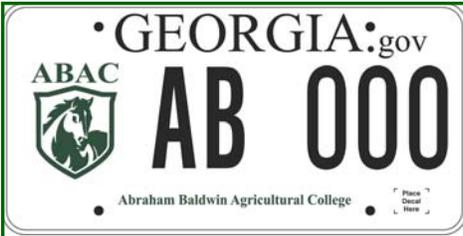
The Fillies softball team will meet Georgia Perimeter in a double-header beginning at 4 p.m. at Fillies Field on Friday. On Saturday, the Fillies will step up to the plate to challenge Gordon College in a double-header at 1 p.m.

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

Stallion Day For Juniors April 16



ABAC Students & Faculty will enjoy Spring Break March 14 - 18.



You can still show your ABAC Pride by purchasing an ABAC License Plate at your local tag office!

Yard Sale on March 26 At the Museum of Ag

A yard sale will be held at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC on March 26 from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. The yard sale will take place in the parking lot of the Museum's Country Store.



Interested persons can rent a table for \$20. The deadline to reserve a place is March 23 at 5 p.m. To reserve a spot for the yard sale, interested persons can contact the Museum's Country Store at (229) 391-5205.

ABAC Family

Dr. Gail Dillard spoke to a group of Tift County High School students and parents about joint enrollment opportunities at ABAC March 3.

- ### ABAC Birthdays
- 7 Sandra Langford
 - 8 Delmar Bullington
 - 8 Jokabeth Gutierrez
 - 10 Monty Spinks
 - 11 Bonnie Asselin
 - 11 Richard Spancake
 - 11 Charla Sutton
 - 13 Stacie Donaldson

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Please submit any information to Ashley Williamson at awilliamson@abac.edu by **Thursday at noon** for inclusion in the next FOCUS.

Gee Haw Whoa Back, The ABAC Rodeo Came Back!



The ABAC rodeo proved to be a fun time for ABAC students, alumni and their families as well as for the community. With exciting events like barrel racing, bronc busting, calf roping and bull riding, the ABAC arena was hopping Friday and Saturday nights with the long-time tradition of the ABAC rodeo returning to the campus.