



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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ABAC Honors Alumni at Celebrate ABAC

Front (Left to Right): Honorary Alumnus, Ann Hammons; Helen Brown Sasser Award, Nancy Coleman; Outstanding Health Care Professional, Dr. James T. Phillips; J. Lamar Branch Award, Schley Louis Perry, Jr. Back (Left to Right): Outstanding Young Alumnus, Sarah E. (Beth) Bland; Distinguished Alumni, Dr. Paul Newbern & Dr. James Newbern - *Represented by Virgil Newbern*; Outstanding Business Leader, Rodney McDonald; Master Farmer, John Harrell; Honorary Alumnus, Dr. Eddie D. Seagle. Not Pictured: Outstanding Educator, Lynn Barber.

Show Your Pride With An ABAC Tag

Commemorative license plates showcasing Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College are in the works through the Department of Motor Vehicles. In order for the ABAC commemorative license plate to be manufactured, 500 paid applications must be received before July 31, 2010.

"This is a great way to continue to spread the word about ABAC throughout the state," ABAC President David Bridges said. "Other colleges and universities have license plates, and I am confident that the alumni and friends of ABAC will make this happen."

In order to request an ABAC license plate, interested persons should complete the form located at

www.abac.edu/tag, print it out, and submit the paper form to: Department of Motor Vehicles, Attn: Special Tags, P.O. Box 740384, Atlanta, GA 30374 with a \$25 manufacturing fee for each license plate being requested. Persons can also go to their local county tag office with the form and the \$25 fee. For more information, contact the ABAC Office of College Advancement at (229) 391-4900 or email kbarber@abac.edu.



Budget Cut Rally Thursday At Noon in the Meadows

A budget cuts protest rally will be held at the Meadows between King and Bowen Halls of ABAC on Thursday from noon - 1:30 p.m., according to an announcement by Dr. Eric Cash.

This rally is sponsored by ABAC Student Media ("The Stallion", WPLH radio, "Pegasus" Literary Magazine) and the ABAC Student Government Association, and endorsed by the ABAC Faculty Senate.

All local news organizations have been invited to cover the event. Come to show the region that ABAC voices matter.

In addition to hearing from ABAC and local leaders regarding the cuts and how they might affect ABAC, Tifton, and the local region, attendees will be given the opportunity to take the stage and voice their opinions.

Please invite anyone and everyone to attend and show their support for ABAC and higher education in Georgia.

Budget Cuts May Cost 34 Jobs at ABAC

If Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College is forced to absorb its share of a proposed \$300 million budget cut for the University System of Georgia for the 2010-11 fiscal year, at least 34 people could lose their jobs at ABAC.

ABAC President David Bridges said University System Chancellor Erroll B. Davis asked him to submit a plan detailing how ABAC would slash \$2.4 million from its budget beginning July 1. If it comes about, this budget loss will be on top of a \$1.7 million ABAC budget shortfall already called for in Governor Sonny Perdue's budget recommendation.

Bridges said the ABAC plan was submitted to the USG on Feb. 27 at noon. The entire University System plan was passed on to legislators March 1. Now it's a waiting game as to how much, if any, of the ABAC cut will be called for when the actual budget-making process is over. Bridges said the layoffs will affect faculty, staff, and administrators.

"It has been a gut wrenching experience for me," Bridges said. "My first priority was to stay true to the academic mission of the institution. Even with that in mind, we could lose up to nine faculty members if we have to come up with the entire budget cut."

A total of 34 people at ABAC could lose their jobs if the entire cut is enacted. Bridges said that figure represents 10 per cent of the employees. Every phase of campus life from faculty

members to top level administrators will feel the impact.

Off-campus learning sites in Moultrie and downtown Tifton will be closed. ABAC has served students in Colquitt County since 1947. Closing ABAC on the Square will cost the college over 200 students per semester.

"ABAC's presence in Moultrie dates back to 1947 when ABAC professors taught classes at Spence Field for returning GI's," Bridges said. "Colquitt County sends more students to ABAC than any other county in the state except for Tift County. It is also home to more ABAC alumni than any other county except for Tift County."

Entire programs such as Continuing Education and the Arts Connection will cease to exist if ABAC is forced to absorb the entire cut. The ABAC Post Office will be closed, and positions will be lost in Advancement and Alumni.

To deal with previous budget cuts during the past two years, the college has left unfilled positions vacant, tightened travel allowances, reduced heating and cooling costs, demanded six furlough days for every faculty and staff member, and even dropped its men's and women's basketball programs.

"We really need a lot of folks to stand up for higher education in this state," Bridges said. "Higher education is a great investment in the future of Georgia."

Baseball Stallions At Home This Week

The ABAC Stallions will play baseball at home on Wednesday with a 5 p.m.

matchup against Three Rivers

Community College.

Coach Steve

Janousek's team

will also be at home

on Friday for a 7 p.m.

game against arch rival Middle Georgia.

Middle Georgia will again be the opponent for a 2 p.m. doubleheader on Saturday at Stallion Field.

Come out, enjoy the sunshine, and catch a baseball game or two.



Orientation Leaders Wanted

Leadership Experience, Optional Traveling, Resume Builder, Free

ABAC Gear, and

Endless Opportunities

Application online at:

www.abac.edu/admissions/

For more information contact

Rebecca Hamilton at

rhamilton@abac.edu

First Future's Fair Thursday in Bowen 100

The first Future's Fair will be held at ABAC on Thursday sponsored by the School of Human Sciences. The event will take place in Bowen Hall, Room 100 from 9 a.m. – noon.

This event is specifically related, but not limited to majors in the School of Human Sciences which include criminal justice, education, psychology, sociology, human services, physical education, and family and consumer sciences.

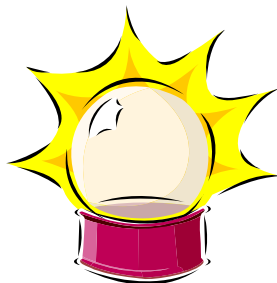
"The goal of the Future's Fair is to highlight the many options that ABAC students have upon graduation as they prepare to enter into the workforce, not-for-profit sector, or continue onto an institution of higher education," said Derek Sutton, Student Development Specialist for the School of Human Sci-

ences.

Participants include Big Brothers/Big Sisters of South Georgia, Coastal Plain Head Start, Fort Valley State University, Georgia Southwestern University, Thomas University, the University of Georgia, Valdosta State University, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Patticake House Children's Advocacy Cen-

ter, Ruth's Cottage Domestic Violence Prevention and Intervention Program, and more.

For more information on this event, contact Sutton as (229) 391-4916 or via e-mail at dsutton@abac.edu.



Relay For Life Team

Meeting Thursday

The ABAC Relay For Life team will meet Thursday at 11:30 a.m. in the President's Dining Room. You can join the team or make donations to help support the ABAC team by visiting www.tiftrelayforlife.com You can also buy luminaries and/or torches in honor or memory of people and/or pets who fought cancer. The relay is April 23-24 from 7 p.m. – 7 a.m. at EB Hamilton Friendly City Park. Call or e-mail Donna Webb if have questions.



ABAC Job Opportunities

- Part-time Clinical Instructor, School of Nursing & Health Services
- Complete job listings can be found on the Human resources website at www.abac.edu/hr.

ABAC Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 8 Scott Bullington | 11 Charla Shaw |
| 8 Billy Reynolds | 13 Betty Sams |
| 11 Bonnie Asselin | 14 Katrina McCrae |
| 11 Catherine Cronin | 14 Lori Pearman |
| 11 Phillip Mullins | 14 Barbara Sturdivant |

The FOCUS is a weekly electronic publication produced by the ABAC Public Relations Office.

Ashley Williamson Writer and Layout
Mike Chason Writer & Editor

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

Staff Appreciation Fair

March 16

11 a.m.—2 p.m.

Nickelodeon

ABAC Family

Kim Ascani, was elected President-Elect of the Georgia Tutoring Association (GATA).

Dr. David Bridges was the guest speaker at the Tifton Rotary Club on March 3.