



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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Regents Approve First AFA Degree in the State at ABAC

A new Associate of Fine Arts degree in Music from the School of Liberal Arts will be offered at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College beginning in the 2010 fall semester. The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia approved the degree on Wednesday.

"I believe this degree is going to make ABAC a destination college for music majors," ABAC President David Bridges said. "This new degree should make for a smooth transition to senior colleges and universities for these students."

Academic Affairs Vice President Niles Reddick said "it's the first one in the University System of Georgia, and it will benefit students who come here from all over by allowing for a seamless transfer and at the same time allowing students to spread core curriculum classes throughout their college experience."

"I believe the new associate's degree will be beneficial because most

students graduating from high school in South Georgia have not had the opportunity to study with

private teachers in their applied areas," said Dr. Susan Roe, associate professor of voice and director of choirs at ABAC. "ABAC will now have the chance to provide students who wish to become musicians a platform where their dreams will become reality."

The Associate of Fine Arts in Music degree will be awarded to students completing 60 credit hours of music and general education. This program is designed for transfer to a university to



The ABAC concert band has grown from 60 members to 90 members in the past five years. The choir has also grown from 60 to 80 members. This new AFA degree will allow for an easier transition for these students to larger institutions.

earn bachelor's degrees in Music, Fine Arts or Music Education.

The music program at ABAC has an international reputation with a Jazz Band that has toured Europe on several occasions, a Jazz Choir, a Concert Band, the Chamber Singers, the Thundering Herd pep band, and a Concert Choir.

For more information on the Associate of Fine Arts in Music degree, contact Roe at (229) 391-4943 or via e-mail at sroe@abac.edu.



Students Rally Against Budget Cuts

Students, faculty and staff were involved in a rally against budget cuts Thursday. The ABAC student media and Student Government Association organized a rally to empower fellow students and allow them to speak out about the budget cuts. Jacob McWhorter, editor of *The Stallion*, kicked off the event. For more information visit www.abac.edu/budget.

Staff Appreciation Fair Tuesday at 11 a.m.

A Staff Appreciation and Info Fair will be held on Tuesday from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. in the Nickelodeon. Everyone is welcome to attend. Door prizes and a light lunch will be provided during the event.

Representatives from financial institutions, insurance companies, the Social Security Administration, the Georgia Department of Labor and more will be on hand. Faculty and staff will also be able to purchase Atlanta Braves tickets, hotel accommodations to Florida, and more at a discount rate. A portion of all purchases will benefit the Roy Jackson Appreciation Staff Award and the Staff Forum Scholarship Fund.

For more information on this event, contact Nancy Anthony at 391-4886.

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.

ABAC Chosen to Compete in Quiz Show in Chicago

ABAC has been selected as one of eight schools in the nation to participate in the second annual "Know Your Heritage" Hispanic college quiz show that will be filmed April 10 in Chicago, IL.

Participants will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Chicago for the taping of the show. First place in the competition is \$10,000 in scholarship funds for all students on the winning team. Second place is \$5,000 in scholarship funds.

The five students from ABAC who have been selected to compete are Felipe Pedraza, an agricultural education major from Sylvania; Juan Rico, an engineering major from Adel; Leandra Gonzales, a computer science major from Pearson; Karina Guerrero, a business administration major from Omega; and Katia Arevalo, a pre-medicine major from Dalton.



Students Focus on their Futures

The School of Human Sciences held a Future's Fair Thursday to show students their education or employment options after leaving ABAC. Representatives from other four year institutions, employers and even graduate school programs gathered in Bowen 100 to show students possible opportunities.

Williams Retires From ABAC

Bertha Williams, Director of Human Resources, retired March 1 after serving Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College for 19 years.

Williams first set foot on the campus of ABAC as a student in 1974, receiving her associate's degree in criminal justice. She went on to earn a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Valdosta State University, along with 18 hours in sociology. She also earned a master's degree in criminal justice from Troy State University while working full time.

She spent the first half of her career working with the state merit system as a probation supervisor. Her experience in the field of criminal justice led her to become part owner of Professional Court Services with her brother, Darien Teals, in Tifton. Professional Court Services provides probation services throughout South Georgia.

Williams returned to ABAC in 1991 where she served as an instructor of criminal justice until she was promoted to assistant professor in 1995 and then to associate professor in 1999. Williams moved from the teaching ranks to the administrative side of the college by

serving as Director of College Services from 2001 – 2006 before moving to the Director of Human Resources' position in 2006.

"It was very special for me to be able to return to my alma mater," Williams said. "I am truly going to miss the people. They are irreplaceable."

She and her husband, Lorenzo, also recently retired, will be living in the Atlanta area, where they have bought a house. She will be close to her family that includes two sons, a daughter, one daughter-in-law, and her only grandchild.

"I am going to see how it feels to not work for a little while," Williams said. "I am also going to do some traveling and volunteer and if we want to work part-time, we may."

Williams hopes she made an impact on the college she so dearly loves.

"I hope that when I was teaching I was able to inspire and encourage my students to do their best and succeed," Williams said. "And as an administrator I hope I did the same, as well as to assist our employees whenever possible."



ABAC Athletics Hall of Fame Inducts 2010 Class

Inductees of the Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College 2010 Athletics Hall of Fame were honored March 6. Inductees included: (Front) Patty Beasley; (2nd) Kelly Britsky, Ellen Vickers, Harley Klepfer; (3rd) Kelly Burch, Dawn Lingo, Leanne Bennett, April Powell, Pam Crews, Edy Leverette; (Back) Jim Sparks, Joseph Grist; Not pictured: Thomas "Boo" Weekley.

The Stallion Wins First Place in Savannah

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College's "The Stallion" has for the second time this year been named the best two-year college newspaper in Georgia for 2009.

In addition to winning first place for Outstanding Two-Year Newspaper, the staff also brought home four individual category wins from the 69th Annual Southern Regional Press Institute Conference held Feb. 25-26 at Savannah State University.

This follows a first place win for General Excellence at the Georgia College Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest announced earlier in the month.

In the individual categories, first place wins went to Felicia Lockey of Waycross for Outstanding Column and Jacob McWhorter of Tifton for Outstanding Feature Story. Second place finishes went to Steven Stubbs of Rochelle for Outstanding Feature Story and Parker Ferren of Tallahassee, Fla., for Outstanding Sportswriting.

The awards spanned the Fall 2009

and Spring 2009 semesters. The Fall 2009 staff included Amelia Gutierrez of Clewiston, Fla., Managing Editor; Joseph Smith of Sylvester and Lockey, News Editors; Ashlee Davis of Tifton, McWhorter, and Michael J.

Austin of Brunswick, Lifestyles Editors; Josh Griffin of Tifton, Sports Editor; Hope Wood of Tifton, Business Manager; and Jake Borem of Tifton, Online Editor.

The Spring 2009 staff included Richie Knight of Covington, Managing Editor and Online Editor; Stubbs and Jessica Padgett of Tifton, News Editors;

McWhorter, Opinion Editor; Stephanie Dorrough of Tifton, Lifestyles Editor; Ferren, Sports Editor; Joanna Ware of Soperton, Business Manager, and Zebb Luster of Fort Myers, Fla., Advertising Representative.

Dr. Eric Cash, a faculty member in the School of Liberal Arts, advises the ABAC newspaper.



Science Career Leaders Forum at ABAC March 30

A Science Career Leaders Forum will be held at ABAC on March 30. The forum will take place in Bowen Hall, Room 100 from 5 – 6 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Student Development Center.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Free food and door prizes will be given away during the event.

Career professionals in the areas of veterinary medicine, physical therapy, pharmacy, and engineering will be on the campus to talk to students. This forum will help students gain more information about starting salary, job requirements, and skills needed to keep them ahead of the competition.

For more information, contact Annie Sims at (229) 391-5135.

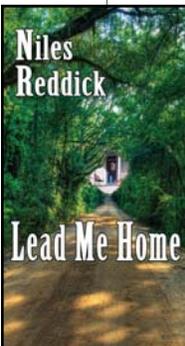
Reddick Releases Novel

Dr. Niles Reddick, VP for Academic Affairs at ABAC, introduces a story of self-discovery, spirituality and nostalgia in his new novel, "Lead Me Home."

The release of Reddick's novel recounts a young man's journey back to his roots with lots of humor, soul-searching, and surprises.

"Lead Me Home" is available in the ABAC bookstore, www.amazon.com and www.roseheartbook.com.

For more information on Reddick's writing, www.nilesreddick.com.



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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.

ABAC Birthdays

- 17 Heather Kinsey
- 18 Lorie Felton
- 19 Micheal Johnson

