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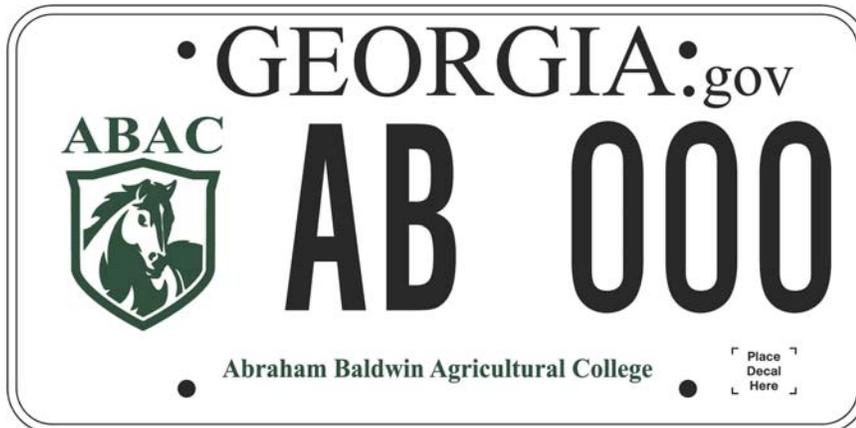
ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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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.

Fill Out Your Census Form

It's Census Awareness Month in Georgia, and census forms will soon be mailed to every household in the United States. The census is conducted every 10 years. The purpose of the Census is to count every person in the country to show state and national population counts, determine representation in the U.S. House of Representatives, and guide the annual distribution of more than \$400 billion in federal funds to state and local governments.

ABAC students who are living with their parents will get their form at their home. ABAC students who live at ABAC Place or ABAC Lakeside will receive a form on campus. It is important to remember that these students will be counted separately. The 2010 Census form only takes about 10 minutes to complete.

By law, the Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. Fill out your Census form when it arrives and encourage your students to do the same.

Mark Your Calendars for Spring 2010 Stallion Day on April 17. There will be a Stallion Marketplace where all schools of study and clubs will be able to exhibit.

Relay for Life Yard Sale Saturday

7 a.m.—noon

All proceeds benefit the ABAC Relay for Life Team!

1 table \$10 or 3 tables \$25

Email ewilcox@abac.edu or bhughes@abac.edu to reserve your table.



Softball at Home Today
Coach Donna Campbell's ABAC softball team will be at Fillies' Field today for a 4 p.m. double-header with Darton. Come on out and enjoy some great fast pitch softball.

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.

Arts in Black Festival This Weekend

The festival will kick off Friday night at the Tift Theatre with a talent show. Activities will run through the weekend in Fulwood Park. The ABAC choir will perform Saturday during the opening ceremony at 11 a.m.

ABAC is Blooming

Blue skies and warm weather graced the campus last week and the Bradford Pear trees are in full bloom.

Kilgore Will Retire From ABAC March 31

Diane Kilgore, Director of the Public Service & Business Outreach Center, will retire March 31 after serving Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College for 21 years.

In 1989, Kilgore became a member of the ABAC Family, working in the Office of Public Relations. That same year she was promoted to Coordinator of the South Georgia Research & Development Center. In 1995, Kilgore became only the fourth director of continuing education in the entire 70-year history of the ABAC outreach program. Under her direction, the program has grown to the third largest in the state and is widely recognized at one of the state's best. In 1999, Kilgore and the ABAC Public Service & Business Outreach Center were awarded the Georgia Economic Developers' T.E.R.R.I.F.I.C. award for outstanding achievement for colleges & universities.

Before joining ABAC, Kilgore taught 9th-12th grade business and math at North Florida Christian School in Tallahassee, Fla. She has also been on the staff at the University of Georgia's Computer Center and Registrar's Office in Athens.

Kilgore received her B.A. in Business Administration, Cum Laude, from Francis Marion University in Florence, S.C., and was named most outstanding business graduate. She went on to earn her MBA from Albany State College in 1992,



maintaining a perfect 4.0. Her other educational endeavors include additional graduate work from Florida State University; graduate work in accounting from Georgia Southwestern; the State of Florida Teacher's Certificate in Business Education; Leadership Tifton, the Georgia Academy of Economic Development, the Georgia Region 11 Leadership Program, and the UGA Fanning Institute for Leadership Instructor Preparation Workshop.

Kilgore has been actively involved in her community through the Kiwanis Club, the Tifton-Tift Chamber of Commerce, the Moultrie-Colquitt County Chamber of Commerce, Tifton/Tift County Tourism Association Board, Tift County Literacy Advisory Board, and many other civic organizations.

"I am most proud of receiving the E. Lanier Carson Leadership Award for Outstanding Administrator of the Year in 2005 from ABAC and the 2006 Athena Award from the Tifton-Tift County Chamber of Commerce," said Kilgore.

Once she retires, Kilgore will continue her involvement with ABAC's travel program and plans to spend more quality time with her husband, Wayne, who is retired from the University of Georgia; their two sons and their families; and her mother who lives in Athens.





Moultrie Students Collect Items for Veterans

The ABAC on the Square Leadership Society at the ABAC location in Moultrie kicked off its spring community service project with a day-long rock-a-thon on March 11. The students will be collecting much needed items for the Veterans Hospital in Lake City, Fla., through March 25.

Many members of the Moultrie community travel to the hospital each month on the veterans' bus for treatment. The hospital is in great need of white tube socks, disposable razors, toothbrushes, individual size shampoo, toothpaste, hand sanitizer, and body wash.

Any of these items can be dropped off at the front desk at ABAC on the Square from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. through March 25.

ABAC's Continuing Education Program Turns 70

At the ripe young age of 70 years old, the Continuing Education program at ABAC is still going strong.

Now called the Public Service and Business Outreach Center, the continuing education program at ABAC was established under the leadership of Tom Cordell in 1940. For 39 years, Cordell developed short courses, talked to farmers about what kind of information they needed, and spread the good word about how ABAC could help.

"Tom Cordell definitely belongs in the legends category when it comes to the history of ABAC," Public Relations Director Mike Chason said. "Not only did he put the continuing education program on the map, he served as acting president of the college at five different times."

The ABAC continuing education program was established with a grant from the Sears and Roebuck Foundation and was the first program of its type at a two-year college.

Classes were offered free to farmers



Current Public Service and Business Outreach Center Director Diane Kilgore (left) cuts the 70th birthday cake with former directors Bob Keith and Jane Tanner during Celebrate ABAC.

who came to the campus and stayed in the dorms. In the first year, 20 classes were attended by 1,049 farmers with the goal of improving the agricultural economy in South Georgia.

With the advent of World War II, the short course classes took a brief hiatus and resumed in 1946, where the classes

became a part of the college budget. Under college funding, the courses gradually increased until 1953, leveling off at 50 courses per year.

Cordell was followed in his role as the director of the continuing education program by Bob Keith, Jane Tanner, and Diane Kilgore. All the directors incorporated their own ideas into the program to meet changing times. Keith, Tanner, and Kilgore were present for a birthday cake cutting during the Celebrate ABAC weekend.

In 2009, the program offered 1,674 programs with over 19,000 participants. Continuing education now offers classes in the fields of career and professional development, technology, education, life and leisure, recreation and health, kids' classes, and travel opportunities, both home and abroad. The college also features a variety of online classes.

ABAC's program is currently the third largest in the state of Georgia in terms of the number of classes offered, trailing only UGA and Kennesaw State University.

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.

ABAC Birthdays

- 22 Katie Roberts
- 23 Brenda Bailey
- 27 Su Senapati
- 28 Traci Bryan
- 28 Patsy Hembree
- 28 Israel Saucedo

Employees Must Complete Ethics Course By March 31

The University System of Georgia Ethics Course must be completed by all employees, full and part time, by the end of March. If they need help completing it visit www.abac.edu/col, scroll down to miscellaneous, click on Ethics and select a PDF file of step-by-step directions or a demo video.