ABAC Celebrates Homecoming Week April 6-11

From current students being recognized for academic excellence during Honors Day to the “Gee Haw Whoa Back” rodeo, alumni and friends can help ABAC celebrate its week-long 2015 Homecoming activities on April 6-11.

ABAC Alumni Director Lynda Fisher said this year’s Homecoming festivities include the Alumni Awards and Athletics Hall of Fame Dinner, Stallion Day, the Alumni Cookout, the annual Remembrance Service in the Chapel of All Faiths, the fourth annual Run for the Nurses, the Golden Alumni Dinner, and a variety of athletic events and musical performances.

All event tickets except for the rodeo must be purchased in advance through the Office of College Advancement at (229) 391-4895. Rodeo tickets will be sold in advance and at the gate on the two days of the event on April 10-11. Separate tickets must be purchased for each night of the rodeo.

The celebration begins on April 6 with the Homecoming Kickoff for ABAC students from 4-5 p.m. “A Night of Broadway” performed by ABAC faculty and music students in the final First Tuesday concert of the year is set for April 7 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel of All Faiths. This event is open to the community and free of charge.

Students will be acknowledged for scholastic achievements from the 2014-2015 academic year during the annual Honors Day ceremony on April 8 at 3 p.m. in Gressette Gym. One of the highlights of Homecoming, the Alumni vs. Students Softball Game, will follow at 6:30 p.m. at the softball field. The Baptist Collegiate Ministries will provide free food for spectators.

The Concert Choir, under the direction of Dr. Susan Roe, professor of voice and director of choral music and the ABAC music program, will perform its Spring Choral Concert at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium on April 9. This performance is open to the community and free of charge.

The first day of the State Tennis Tournament on April 10 at the Red Hill Complex will begin the weekend’s events at 8 a.m., followed by the Homecoming Parade at 2 p.m. The Alumni Awards and Athletics Hall of Fame ceremony will be held in Gressette Gym at 6 p.m. Tickets for the awards dinner are $30 per person and must be purchased in advance.

Alumni can support the Fillies softball team as it plays a doubleheader against West Georgia Tech on the softball field at 5 and 7 p.m. on April 10. Also at 7 p.m., the Stallions baseball team will take on West Georgia Tech on the baseball field.

Pedal over to the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC on Friday at 6 p.m. to the “Bike-In Movie”. This event is sponsored by the GMA, ABAC Office of Student Affairs, and the Tiftarea Greenways Association (TAGA) and is held in conjunction with the YMCA’s Tour de Tifton on Saturday.

The “Bike-In Movie” will begin with a community mass bike ride at 6 p.m. starting and finishing in the front parking lot of the GMA.

Riders can meet in the circle drive in front of the ABAC campus to group bike to the GMA before the event. At 7 p.m., riders will return to the GMA to eat and watch the cycling favorite, “Breaking Away”. Food will be available for purchase at 7 p.m. prior to the showing of the movie.

The gate to the Museum will be closed to all vehicular traffic. Only bikes or pedestrians will be able to go to the back for the movie. Movie goers may bring a blanket or collapsible bag chair to watch the movie. All events within the “Bike-In Movie” are free of charge and open to local riders, the community, and all visiting Tour de Tifton cyclists.

For more information on this event, contact the Tiftarea YMCA at (229) 391-9622 or ABAC contact Chad Jerkins at (229) 391-5177.
Spring Break Takes Students All Over the World

Florida

33 auditioned singers of the ABAC Chamber Singers gave a tremendous performance in Orlando, Florida on EPCOT’s Melody Garden International Stage. They were able to visit some of the other parks such as Magic Kingdom and Animal Kingdom. This experience was a first for many of these students. The Chamber Singers have been invited to sing again in the future.

Belize

Students traveled to Belize as part of their Marine Biology and Marine Science classes. They went snorkeling, tubing, visited many landmarks in the area and much more.

France

Students traveled to Paris, France as part of the world literature class. They visited many historical places such as the Palace of Versailles (left), the Eiffel Tower and the Pere Lachaise Cemetary, where they visited the graves of Chopin, Gericault, Edith Piaf, Bernard Verlhac, Jim Morrison and many others.

Mississippi

Forestry students and faculty traveled to Starkville, Mississippi, for a chance to show off their forestry skills at the 58th annual Southern Forestry Conclave. The ABAC Student Chapter of the Society of American Foresters had two members place in events. David-Lee Bradford (left) took 2nd in the photogrammetry competition and Ben Rampy took 2nd in the axe throwing competition.

Nebraska

A group of students went on a beef industry tour through Iowa, Illinois, Tennessee and Nebraska. They were able to see the entire process of meat from pasture to plate during the trip. They toured feedlots, farms, processing centers. They met with farmers and ranchers that work endlessly to provide such a safe and wholesome supply of beef to the world.
Carry The Load is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit based in Dallas, TX, whose mission is to restore the true meaning of Memorial Day by connecting Americans to the sacrifices of our military, law enforcement, firefighters and rescue personnel. Carry The Load programs provide an interactive way for Americans to remember, honor and celebrate Memorial Day in dedication to those who sacrifice for us daily.

WHAT IS CARRY THE LOAD?

Carry The Load Step-off Rally. The event will take place April 23 from 12 – 6 p.m. The Step-off will occur prior to the start of the National Relay. Students, faculty, staff, and members of the Tifton community will have the opportunity to participate in a two mile route through the ABAC campus.

CARRY THE LOAD
STEP-OFF 2015
ABAC RALLY
APRIL 23, 2015
12 - 6 P.M.
ABAC CAMPUS

WHAT HAPPENED LAST YEAR?

More than 1,000 individuals participated in a six-hour relay through the ABAC campus and raised over $6,000. The walk served as a prelude to the 2,000 mile National Carry The Load Relay which began in West Point, N.Y., on April 29 and culminated in Dallas, Texas, on May 25. Seven ABAC students, along with Dill Driscoll, Dean of the Stafford School of Business, traveled the 2,000 miles to provide media support and to walk.

WHAT’S HAPPENING THIS YEAR?

For the second year, ABAC is hosting the Carry The Load Step-off Rally. The event will take place April 23 from 12 – 6 p.m. The Step-off will occur prior to the start of the National Relay. Students, faculty, staff, and members of the Tifton community will have the opportunity to participate in a two mile route through the ABAC campus.

Register for Step-off at: carrytheload.org/tifton

Register by following 1 of these 3 options:
1. Register as an individual – Just participate and raise money yourself
2. Start a team – Get your club or a group of friends together, decide on one team captain and register under the team name
3. Join a team – Join an already existing team to join your friends or club members for the cause

For more information, visit carrytheload.org/tifton, email tifton@carrytheload.org or call 229.391.5055
At 7:30 p.m. on April 10, the first day of the Professional Cowboy Association-sanctioned preliminary round of the Gee Hay Whoa Back Rodeo will be held at the ABAC Arena. The final round will be held on April 11. The rodeo will include saddle bronco riding, bareback riding, bull riding, team roping, calf roping, steer wrestling, break-away roping, and barrel racing. Rodeo tickets for the general public are $10 at the gate and $5 for children ages 6–13. Children five and under and ABAC students will be admitted free of charge.

The fourth annual Run for the Nurses will kick off the activities on April 11 at the Health Sciences building at 7:30 a.m. Those interested in participating in this event can go to www.abac.edu/nursing for a printable registration form through April 8. The annual Remembrance Service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on April 11 in the Chapel.

Prospective students can tour the campus on April 11 during Stallion Day, an all-day event that gives high school students the opportunity to experience college life. Stallion Day will run from 8 a.m.–2 p.m. at various locations across campus. Prospective students can register for Stallion Day at www.abac.edu/stalliondays.

The Folklife Festival will take place from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. on April 11 at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC, featuring demonstrations, food, and fun. Highlights of the festival include the season opener of the Wiregrass Farmers Market, a quilt show, sheep shearing, log hewing, and wool washing, spinning, and dyeing. Both the saw mill and the turpentine still will be running. Visitors can also take a ride on the 1917 Vulcan Steam Engine.

On the main campus on April 11, the Alumni Cookout will be held outside Gressette Gym at 11:30 a.m. This event is for alumni, students, faculty, staff, and prospective students. There is a $10 registration fee that must be paid in advance for the cookout. Faculty and staff can attend free of charge, compliments of the Alumni Association, but must register online. The second day of the State Tennis Tournament will be played at the Red Hill Tennis Complex, and the Stallions baseball team will play a doubleheader against West Georgia Tech at 1 and 3 p.m. at the baseball field.

The Stafford School of Business will offer “Yakking with the BOSS” kayak races at the pavilion on Lake Baldwin at 1:30 p.m. on April 11. There is a $20 charge to compete in this event if registered by Friday. The cost to register is $25 after March 27. The Homecoming festivities will come to an end with the finals of the Gee Hay Whoa Back Rodeo at 7:30 p.m. on April 11 at the ABAC Arena.

For more information on the 2015 ABAC Homecoming activities or to sign up for a particular event, interested persons can go to www.abac.edu/homecoming or call (229) 391-4900.
Alumni to be Honored During Homecoming

Former ABAC students will be honored at the annual ABAC Alumni Association awards ceremony as part of the 2015 Homecoming Week on April 10 at 6 p.m. at Gressette Gym.

The ceremony will recognize ABAC alumni who impacted the college and their communities in significant ways. Advance tickets are $30 per person. There will be no tickets sold at the event. Tickets can be purchased from the ABAC College Advancement Office at (229) 391-4885. For more information on the 2015 Homecoming Week, interested persons can visit the web site at www.abac.edu/homecoming.

ABAC Alumni Association award winners this year include Dr. Beverly Sparks of Athens, Distinguished Alumnus; Lauri Jo Bennett of Norman Park, Helen Brown Sasser Award; Tyler Harper from Ocilla, Outstanding Young women’s tennis team will be the inductees for the eighth class of the Hall of Fame. He said the group reaches deep into the ABAC history book.

Tickets are now available at a cost of $30 per person for the induction dinner in Gressette Gym at 6 p.m. on April 10, which is a part of the ABAC Homecoming Week activities. Persons who wish to attend the dinner can contact the Office of College Advancement at (229) 391-4885 for tickets. Tickets will only be sold in advance.

Interested persons can visit the ABAC web site at www.abac.edu/alumni.

ABAC Names New Inductees to Athletics Hall of Fame

Six individuals and one team covering the sports of baseball, tennis, golf, and basketball have been selected for the 2015 class of the ABAC Athletics Hall of Fame.

Athletics Director Alan Kramer announced that Ralph Bryant, Monika Lalewicz, Tommy Dial, Dr. Larry and Debra Moorman, Sonny Skinner, and the 1999 women’s tennis team will be the inductees for the eighth class of the Hall of Fame. He said the group reaches deep into the ABAC history book.

Tickets are now available at a cost of $30 per person for the induction dinner in Gressette Gym at 6 p.m. on April 10, which is a part of the ABAC Homecoming Week activities. Persons who wish to attend the dinner can contact the Office of College Advancement at (229) 391-4885 for tickets. Tickets will only be sold in advance.

Interested persons can visit the ABAC web site at www.abac.edu/alumni.

Merrill Retirement Reception on March 30 in Tift Hall

Please join us for a reception honoring Melvin Merrill on Monday, March 30 from 3:30-5 p.m. in the lobby of Tift Hall. Merrill is retiring on April 1 after 37 years of dedicated service to the college. Make plans to stop by and wish him well.

Contact Pam Leonard pleonard@abac.edu for more information

Fourth Annual ‘Run for the Nurses’ April 11 at ABAC

Future nurses will benefit from scholarship funds raised from the fourth annual “Run for the Nurses” event on April 11 sponsored by the School of Nursing and Health Sciences.

The event includes a 5K run and a one-half marathon. Both begin at 7:30 a.m. at the Health Sciences Building on the front campus. All proceeds benefit the Lisa Purvis Allison Spirit of Nursing Scholarship Fund which assists in the education of future nursing students.

The cost for the 5K is $30 and the one-half marathon is $40. Interested participants can register online at www.active.com or at http://www.abac.edu/academics/schools/nursing/outreach/run-for-the-nurses for a printable registration form. Online pre-registration ends on April 8. Runners can still register on race day.

Trophies will be presented in the 5K and one-half marathon to the overall and master overall male and female finishers, and medals will be given to the top three male and female finishers in five-year age groups. All one-half marathon runners will receive a finisher’s medal. Trophies will also be awarded to the first male and female ABAC alumni to cross the finish line in each race.

For more information on the “Run for the Nurses” event, interested persons can contact Becky Arnold at (229) 391-5024 or e-mail her at rarnold@abac.edu.

Please submit information by Thursday at noon to Lindsey Roberts at lroberts@abac.edu for inclusion in the next edition of the FOCUS.