



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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Honors Day Set For Wednesday

The annual Honors Day ceremony at ABAC will be held on Wednesday at Gressette Gym at 11 a.m. Classes will be dismissed for the event at 10:30 a.m. and will resume at 2 p.m.

Honors Day will acknowledge students who have excelled scholastically during the 2009-2010 academic year. Awards of Distinction will be presented to the top student from each school. Divisional Discipline awards will be handed out in specific fields of study by each school.

For more information, contact Brenda Doss at 391-4782 or via e-mail at bdoss@abac.edu.

Stallion Day Saturday

Hundreds of prospective students and their families will visit the ABAC campus Saturday for Stallion Day.

The Stallion Marketplace will take place in Gressette Gymnasium. Displays can be set up from noon-3 p.m. on Friday or from 8-9 a.m. on Saturday. Please contact Carlos Howard to reserve a table if you have not already done so.

Thanks for your support.

Concert Choir Presents Spring Concert Thursday

The ABAC Concert Choir, under the direction of Dr. Susan Roe, will perform a variety of choral music at the spring concert at 7

p.m. on Thursday in Howard Auditorium on the campus of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. This concert is open to the public at no charge.

The choir's selections for the evening will begin with "The Star Spangled Banner" arranged by John Stafford Smith, followed by "Antiphon" from Ralph Vaughan Williams, "Five Mystical Songs" and "I Carry Your Heart With Me" by David C. Dickau and the poem by e.e. cummings.

"Black Is the Color of My True Love's Hair" by Victor C. Johnson, will then be sung by the tenors and basses of the concert choir accompanied by Andrew Davidson, accompanist for all the choirs, and cellist, Betsy Sone Jones. The sopranos and altos will follow, singing Earlene Rentz's "Every Remem-



brance of You."

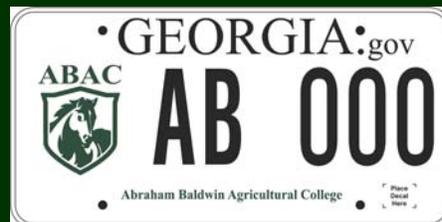
The ABAC Jazz Choir will perform Peter Blair's "Doctor Blues", "As Time Goes By" arranged by Jay Althouse, "Moonglow" arranged by Darmon Meader, and "Don't Get Around Much Anymore" arranged by Mark Hayes. The Jazz Choir will be followed by the ABAC Chamber Singers who will perform "Sing Me To Heaven" by Daniel E. Gawthrop.

Two spirituals, "Ride On, King Jesus" arranged by Moses Hogan, and "Praise His Holy Name" by Keith Hampton will be performed by the entire Concert Choir to conclude the evening's performance.

For more information, contact Roe at (229) 391-4943.

Show Your ABAC Pride!

Sign up today for your ABAC License Plate. For more information visit the tag website at www.abac.edu/tag.



Send In Your Census Form

Tift County has surpassed its 2000 census mark by one per cent but there are many returns still out there. Turn in your census form today. It's easy to complete. Tift County is currently at 59 per cent.



Former ABAC Student To Be Honored at NASDME

Amelia Gutierrez, a former College Assistant Migrant Program (CAMP) student at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC), will attend the National Migrant Education Conference sponsored by National Association of State Director of Migrant Education (NASDME) as an award winner in the category of CAMP/HEP Student. The ceremony will take place in Anaheim, CA on April 11 - 14.

"Amelia is an exemplary representative for the CAMP program and the college," said Dr. Doris Roundtree, CAMP Program Coordinator and Academic Counselor. "She is an intelligent and outgoing student who has love for her sports, her writing, and giving back to the community."

Gutierrez, a journalism major from Clewiston, Fla., became quite involved in the ABAC community. She was a member of the 2008 - 2009 ABAC Fillies



Gutierrez

tennis team and served as managing editor of the student newspaper, "The Stallion", in 2009. Her other journalistic pursuit while at ABAC was serving as Editor-in-Chief of "Logros", the HEP/CAMP newsletter that is published and distributed on a national level.

Although Gutierrez has completed her ABAC education, she has been contracted to manage "Logros" from her home in Miami, Fla., where she is attending Florida International University to pursue her bachelor's degree in journalism.

Her ABAC academic achievements included her acceptance into the Retention Scholarship Program at ABAC, recognition for making the Dean's List her freshman and sophomore years, and serving as an active member of the Hon-

ors Club. In the fall of 2009, she was selected as an ABAC Achiever, where her story of scholastic success was spotlighted on the front page of the college website.

Gutierrez's need to give back to her community gave her the opportunity to serve as a coach to the Omega Christian Soccer League, where she spent every Saturday during her two years at ABAC.

"With violence rising among children, more community activities need to be available for kids so they can stay out of trouble and be healthy," Gutierrez said. "Having kids play any sport helps them stay active, develop better manners and keep them out of trouble."

Gutierrez was recognized for her achievements at ABAC and its CAMP Program during the Opening General Session of the NASDME on April 11 at the Anaheim Marriott Hotel. The recipients will also be honored at an invitation-only reception today.



Duck for a Buck Raises Money For Relay

Student Life and Housing reached their goal of raising \$1,000 for Relay for Life with their annual lucky duck fundraiser. Bernice Hughes and Chris Kinsey coordinated the drawing. The lucky ducks included Earl Denham winning \$50, Etta Lee winning \$100, and Tami Dennis with the top prize of \$200. Kedi Magakagala, a community assistant (CA), sold 350 ducks, two of which were winners.

ABAC Hosts Region Tennis Tourney Saturday

Coach Alan Kramer's ABAC tennis teams will host the Region XVII tennis tournaments on Saturday at the Red Hill Athletics Center. The Fillies have won the Region XVII title an incredible 16 consecutive times and wound up in a sixth place tie in the national tournament last year. The Stallions won the Region XVII title last year and finished third in the national tournament.



The Fillies will compete against Georgia Perimeter, Young Harris, and Gordon. The Stallions will take on Georgia Perimeter and Young Harris. If the Fillies win the tournament, they will travel to Tucson, Ariz., on May 2-6 for the national tournament. If the Stallions win the tourney, they will travel to Plano, Tex., on May 10-14 for the national tournament.

Coach Steve Janousek's ABAC baseball team will host Faulkner State on Tuesday for a 3 p.m. doubleheader. The Stallions will also be at home on Friday for a 7 p.m. game against Andrew. The visitors from Cuthbert will be on campus again on Saturday for a 1 p.m. twin-bill against the Stallions.

The Fillies' softball team of Coach Donna Campbell will host Darton for a 4 p.m. doubleheader on Wednesday.

Case IH Donates Tractor To ABAC

Case IH, a leading global manufacturer of farm equipment, has donated the use of a tractor and precision farming equipment to the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

With the assistance of ABAC alumnus Larry Wheeler, owner of Ag Power and Equipment in Ocilla, GA, Case IH's generous donation will enable ABAC students to learn the fundamentals, operation, and management of technology that is state of the art in production agriculture.

Both ABAC and Case IH envision a long term relationship that will be critical to the mission of ABAC by enriching several courses of study with the latest in production technology.

The equipment is currently being

implemented in ABAC's Diversified Agriculture bachelor's degree program

and will be used in the future to benefit agricultural engineering technology, agronomy, and crop production classes. "This partnership will expose our students to new tools and technology, including the new tractor and the installed Trimble technology," said Dr. Tim Marshall, Dean of



Students were on hand to work with the new tractor donated by Case IH. Front row, (l - r) are Lee Busbee, Nathan Mitchell, John Phillips, Eric Jackson, Michael Lawhorn, Jared Clark, Kevin Hill, and Taylor Sinquefield. Back row, (l - r) are John Franklin, Instructor of Ag Engineering, ABAC; Lorie Felton, Department Head of Agriculture, ABAC; Bart Bales, Case IH; Brian Weaver, Southeastern Regional Sales Director, Case IH; Dr. Tim Marshall, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, ABAC; and Larry Wheeler, owner of Ag Power and Equipment in Ocilla, GA.

the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources. "This partnership provides technology to our faculty, staff and students that is state of the art in production agriculture.

"The students in our bachelor's degree program in Diversified Agriculture must be proficient in the use of current technology to be successful in their career path, and this donation ensures that our industry partners will secure workforce ready employees when they hire ABAC graduates," said Marshall.

ABAC Pool Opens Thursday at 3 p.m.

The ABAC swimming pool opens Thursday. Pool hours are from 3-7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 1-6 p.m. Friday through Sunday. The pool will remain open through Sept. 30.

ABAC employees and their immediate families who live in the house with them can get free pool passes from Gay Ann Hodge in the Student Financial Services Office on the second floor of the J. Lamar Branch Student Center. These passes must be presented each time you or your family members visit the pool.

If you have visitors, you can buy a pass for them for \$4 per visit per person. For more information on the pool regulations, visit www.abac.edu/PE/pool/. Enjoy the pool this summer!

ABAC Birthdays

- 13 Kimberly Wardle
- 13 Marvin Holtz
- 14 Donna Campbell
- 14 Elizabeth Wilcox
- 16 James Galt-Brown
- 17 Brooke Jernigan
- 17 Anthony Fitzgerald
- 18 Sharon Sims

Barrel Race For A Cure Friday at Arena

The ABAC Horse Barn is sponsoring a barrel race at the rodeo arena Friday. Gates open at 5 p.m. No pre-registration is required. The entry fee is \$25, and exhibition run is \$4. Proceeds benefit the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. For info, contact Brandon Wilson at 423-413-4184.

Donaldson Award Materials Due By 5 p.m

Anyone wishing to apply for the Donaldson Award must have their materials to Dr. Amy Willis by 5 p.m. today. This includes all recommendation letters.

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.

Former Grad Speaker Passes Away

One of the most inspirational commencement speakers in ABAC history passed away on April 2. Nancy Lott, a nursing major from Rochelle, was the December, 2004 commencement speaker at ABAC on the day she graduated with a 4.0 GPA.

Lott dropped out of high school and received her GED. When she was 23 years old, she had major heart surgery and had a pacemaker installed. It was the first of many heart procedures which followed.

In 1997, she was diagnosed with Idiopathic Dilated Cardiomyopathy and was told she had five years to live. That's when she decided she wanted to be a nurse.

After graduating from ABAC, she worked at the Hawkinsville hospital. Troy Spicer, a distant cousin, said Lott went on to complete her bachelor's degree in nursing and was close to finishing her graduate degree. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.