



FOCUS

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Top Faculty, Staff, Advisor and Administrator Honored at ABAC

The top faculty member, staff member, administrator, and academic advisor for the 2010-2011 academic year were recognized during Wednesday's Honors Day ceremony at ABAC.

Donna Hatcher, Professor of Art, received the W. Bruce and Rosalyn Ray Donaldson Award for Teaching Excellence. Dr. Amy Willis, Central Information Systems Administrator, was honored with the Roy R. Jackson, Sr., Award for Staff Excellence. Dr. Ray Barber, Dean of the School of Science and Mathematics, received the E. Lanier Carson Leadership Award for administrators, and Dr. Mary Ellen Hicks, Professor of Animal Science, received the W. Bruce and Rosalyn Ray Donaldson Excellence in Advising Award.

Hatcher earned her bachelor's degree in sculpture and art history from the University of Georgia (UGA) and her master of fine arts degree in painting from Cornell University. Hatcher joined



Top award-winners from the faculty and staff during Wednesday's Honors Day ceremony at ABAC were (l-r): Donna Hatcher, Donaldson Award for Teaching Excellence; Dr. Ray Barber, Carson Leadership Award; Dr. Amy Willis, Jackson Award for Staff Excellence; and Dr. Mary Ellen Hicks, Donaldson Excellence in Advising Award.

plaque and a check for \$2,500 from the ABAC Foundation.

Willis received her associate's degree in computer science and business administration from ABAC; her bachelor's degree in computer science at Valdosta State University (VSU); a master's degree in management from Albany State University; and her doctorate in adult and career education from VSU. She has been an employee with ABAC for over 13 years. Willis was first hired as the Coordinator of Instructional Technology and moved to her present posi-

tion as Central Information Systems Administrator in 2008. She received a plaque and a check for \$1,250 from the ABAC Foundation.

Barber earned his bachelor's degree in zoology and his master's degree in physiology from Auburn University. He then attained his doctorate degree in science education from UGA. Barber began his ABAC career in 1977 as an instructor and moved through the ranks to become a Professor of Biology and Dean of the School of Science and Mathematics. He also serves as coordinator for the ABAC Regional Science and Engineering Fair and the ABAC Regional Science Olympiad competition which brings high school students from across the state to the campus. Barber received a plaque and a check for \$1,250 from the ABAC Foundation.

Hicks obtained her associate's degree in pre-veterinary medicine at ABAC before furthering her education at the UGA, where she earned her bachelor's degree in pre-veterinary medicine and a doctorate in veterinary medicine. She came to ABAC in 1989 as a faculty member. Hicks serves as co-advisor to the ABAC Cattlemen's Club. As a club advisor she believes that through the activities that a club provides, students can see how their college coursework and degree can translate into a lifetime of learning. Hicks received a plaque and a check for \$1,250 from the ABAC Foundation.

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ABAC "Kicks Cancer" at Relay For Life Friday Night

ABAC students, faculty, and staff provided a big part of the community support for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. ABAC's tent was football themed and team members wore "ABAC Football-Still Undeatable" t-shirts. Thunder was a huge hit with the kids.

Fitzgerald Student Wins Top Academic Award At ABAC

Michael Arena, a pre-pharmacy major from Fitzgerald, was named the top academic student at ABAC at Wednesday's Honors Day ceremony.

Arena received the J. G. Woodroof Scholar Award, given annually to a student at Honors Day in recognition of top academic standing at the institution. Woodroof was president of ABAC from 1933-34. Each of the 35 units of the University System of Georgia selects a top student as the Academic Recognition Day Student of the Year who is also honored in a proclamation by the Georgia General Assembly.

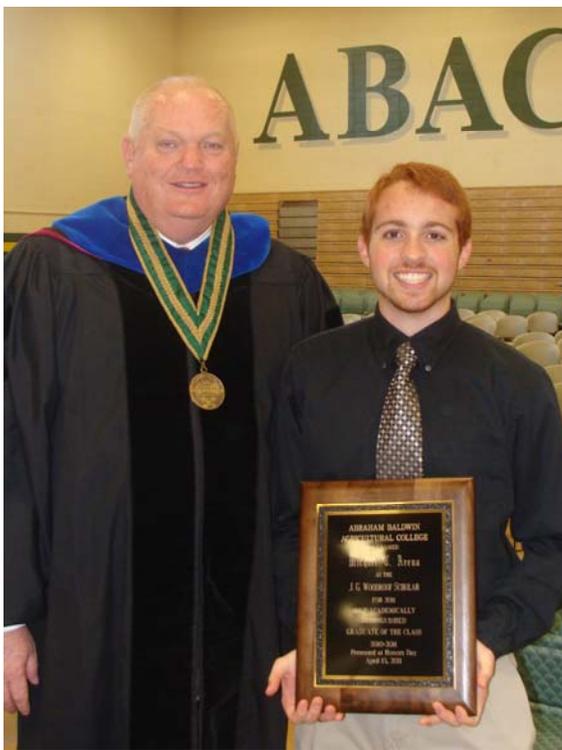
At ABAC, Arena served as vice president in 2010 for the Student Government Association (SGA) and is currently the treasurer for the organization. He has also been active in the Honors Club, the Residence Hall Association, and tutored in math and science through the Academic Assistance Center.

Academically, the Fitzgerald High School graduate was named as a distinguished honor student and received a

Pre-Professional Award during the Honors Day ceremony. Arena was the recipient of a Presidential Scholarship for the 2009-2010 academic year, was named a 2009 Foundation Scholar, and has been named to the President's List. He has a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

Awards of Distinction were also presented during the ceremony to the students with the greatest overall positive impact in each school of study, both academically and

through college service. Recipients included School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Cain Thurmond, an agribusiness and agricultural economics major from Jefferson; School of Business, Benjamin E. Hauber, a business administration major from Rebecca; School of Human Sciences, Brittany I. Trotter, a family and consumer sciences major from Demo-



Jazz Band, Victor Goines In Concert Thursday

The ABAC Jazz Ensemble will be in concert with saxophonist and clarinetist Victor Goines in Howard Auditorium at 7 p.m. Thursday to wind up George Scott Day and the high school jazz festival. Tickets to this event are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. ABAC students and faculty/staff will be admitted free.

Goines is a New Orleans native who has played with musical greats including Ray Charles, Bo Diddley, Bob Dylan, Dizzy Gillespie, B. B. King, and Lenny Kravitz. He has been a member of The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and the Wynton Marsalis Septet since 1993. He



has performed on more than 20 recordings and has composed more than 50 original works. From 2000 – 2007, he served as first artistic director of the Julliard School's jazz program and is currently the director of jazz studies at the Bienen School of Music at Northwestern University.

rest; School of Nursing and Health Sciences, Barbara L. Riddle, a nursing major from Tifton; School of Science and Mathematics, Julianne Jones, a pre-pharmacy major from Tifton; and the School of Liberal Arts, Jarrell J. Bogan, a history major from Shady Dale.

The Cooperative Degree Award goes to a student who successfully

completes work in the joint degree program from one of the technical colleges and at ABAC. The 2011 Cooperative Degree Award went to James E. Hay, a drafting technology major from Moultrie.

A total of 41 Discipline awards were also presented to students who excelled in their individual disciplines.

ASSETS Seminar on Nuclear Power Tuesday at 2 p.m.

Jana Thames, a communications specialist from the Plant Hatch Nuclear Power Plant in Baxley, will give a presentation in Bowen 100 on Tuesday at 2 p.m. as a part of the ASSETS seminar series. Thames will give a general overview of nuclear technology, particularly the boiling water reactors used both at Plant Hatch and in Japan. She will also talk about safety procedures with nuclear power plants in the U.S. that might be different than those in Japan as well as nuclear fuel storage.

Tennis Tournaments Take Center Stage at ABAC

The main event in sports at ABAC this week is the Georgia Collegiate Athletic Association tournaments in tennis. Both the men's and women's teams will compete in the tournament on Friday.

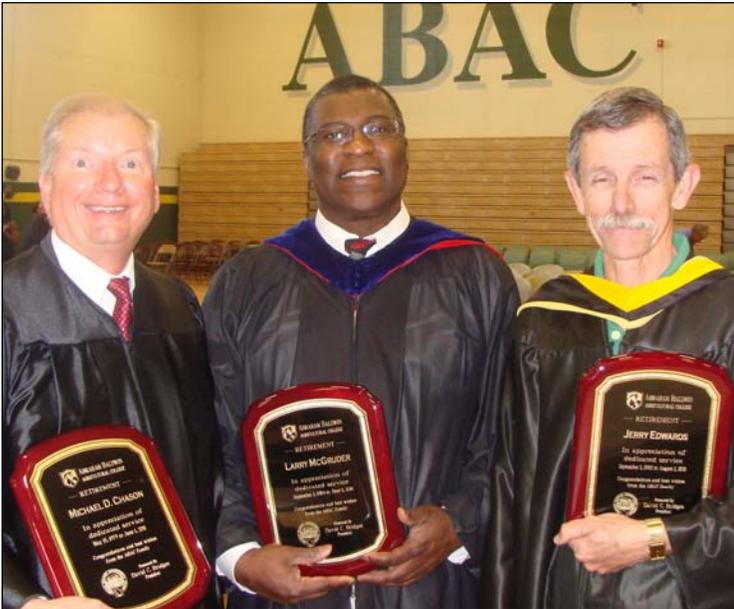
The Fillies will face off against Gordon College, and the men's tennis team will take on Georgia Perimeter College. The tourney will start at 2 p.m.

On Thursday, the Fillies softball will host a double-header against Coastal Community College and then play two more with Middle Georgia College on Friday. Both games will be held at Fillies Field, beginning at 3 p.m.

Service Awards Presented to ABAC Employees at Honors Day

Five retirees were honored and service awards were presented to 34 other ABAC employees during Wednesday's Honors Day ceremony.

Receiving retirement plaques were Stephanie Holcombe, Ken Newkirk, Jerry Edwards, Dr. Larry McGruder, and Mike Chason. Those honored for 25 years of service included Kip Hall, Anita Hobbs, and Pam Leonard. Twenty-year service awards went Dr. Jeff Gibbs, Joy Shurley,



and Dr. Doug Waid.

Honored for 15 years of service were Vickie Wilson, Ramonda Holton, Mi-

chelle Barton, John Davis, and Joyce Willis. Ten-year certificates went to Polly Huff, Stephanie Coney, Brenda Graham, Mike Chason, Dr. Larry McGruder, and Jerry Edwards received retirement plaques at the Honors Day ceremony. Stephanie Holcombe and Ken Newkirk have already retired and were unable to be present for the ceremony.

Jewell Rivers, and Olga Contreras Martinez. Recognized for five years of service were Jimmy Harper, Ryan Myers, Brooke Jernigan, Vickie Holloway, Ruth Jackson, Gina Wilson, Dr. David Bridges, Dr. Tim Marshall, Jeannie Paulk, Linda Truman, Becca Turner, Avijit Kar, Teresita Smith, and Esthela Lopez Flores.

ABAC & Darton Combine to 'Strike Out Cancer'

The softball teams from ABAC and Darton joined forces to "strike out cancer" on Thursday at a double-header at Fillies Field. Coach Donna Campbell organized the event in support of the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. The Fillies presented the Lady Cavaliers with the pink t-shirts for pre-game warm-ups and a picture by Cindy Barber. The Fillies then wore pink shirts for both games.



ABAC Captures Clean Campus Award

ABAC has been awarded the clean campus honor by the Camellia Garden Club. Brad Barbee (back row center) and his Sodexo grounds crew team are pictured with Louise Hetzel (center), Camellia Garden Club President. Thanks for making ABAC look so beautiful!

Retirement Reception for McGruder Wednesday

Please join the School of Liberal Arts in celebrating the retirement of Dr. Larry McGruder after a long and excellent career at ABAC on Wednesday from 3-4:30 p.m. in the foyer of Bowen Hall.

Dining Hall Lot To Be Closed Thursday

As a safety consideration for you and for our visitors, the parking lot located between the Donaldson Dining Hall and the Carlton Center will be closed to campus traffic on Thursday for the George Scott Day activities. High school buses will be parked in that area all day long as well as visitors from the Tifton-Tift County Chamber of Commerce during the lunch hour. ABAC Police will be blocking off that lot on Wednesday evening. You can park in any other available lots on campus that day. We apologize for the inconvenience but appreciate your cooperation. Thank you.

Fulbright Scholar Aercio Cunha Will Present a Colloquium

Dr. Aercio Cunha will speak on "The Housing Problem: In Brazil as in the U.S." April 25 from 4-5 p.m. in The Center for Teaching and Learning in the Carlton Center, Room 202. Dr. Cunha has been teaching classes in the School of Business for ABAC this year.

ABAC Family

Mike Chason was the emcee for the Tift County Special Olympics ceremony on April 1 and the Tift County American Cancer Society Relay for Life Memory Torch ceremony on Friday night.

ABAC Birthdays

- 18 Tina Garrick
- 19 Maggie Martin
- 21 Carolyn Bellamy
- 22 Kim Scarborough
- 23 Penny Chesnut
- 23 Rolando Martinez

ABAC Offers Study Abroad Program to Nicaragua

Students from ABAC will have the chance to spend the summer abroad in Nicaragua from July 30 – Aug. 9. The summer abroad trip will include a class on Issues of Culture and Health: Nicaragua for three academic credit hours.

While in the country, students will also get to travel to Lake Nicaragua, the largest lake in Central America; see the two volcanoes and five craters that make up the Masaya volcano; visit the country's capital of Granada; and tour Esteli, the active commercial center in the north of the nation.

Rodney McDonald, ABAC alumnus and founder of the Emergency Response System of Latin America (ERSLA), is helping coordinate the study abroad experience. ERSLA was developed to create a sustainable, trained, and equipped volunteer emergency and prevention system in Latin America, and through this organization ABAC students will have the opportunity to learn about the health and cultural issues.



Rodney McDonald shares pictures of his adventures and work in Nicaragua with students interested in the study abroad program.

The program cost is \$1,800 and includes lodging, meals, airfare, ground transportation, academic program, and excursions.

For more information on the summer abroad program to Nicaragua, interested students can contact Troy Spicer in the School of Nursing and Health Sciences at (229) 391- 5035 or e-mail tspicer@abac.edu.



Presidential Scholars at ABAC

The Presidential Scholars at ABAC were recognized at Wednesday's Honors Day ceremony. They included (l-r): Andrea Sweeney, an animal sciences/pre-vet major from Eatonton; Tanner Newhouse, a rural studies major from Bonaire; Michael Arena, a pre-pharmacy major from Fitzgerald; and Jessica Kalina, a pre-vet major from Williamson. Not pictured are Sara Beth Pelham, an animal science major from Bainbridge, and Kayla Davenport, a business major from Hazlehurst. Sweeney and Pelham will continue as Presidential Scholars for the 2011-12 academic year. Newhouse, Arena, Kalina and Davenport have completed their ABAC curriculum requirements.