Carry The Load Step-off Rally Will Take Place Thursday from 12-6 p.m.

For the second consecutive year, the Stafford School of Business at ABAC will host a Carry The Load Step-Off event on the campus beginning at noon on Thursday. This event involves a continuous two-mile relay through the campus that culminates with a send-off of the National Carry The Load Relay participants in a ceremony in front of Lewis Hall at 6 p.m.

The goal of Carry The Load 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 was established in 2011 by former Navy SEALs Clint Bruce and Stephen Holley to restore the true meaning of Memorial Day.

The Step-off will begin at Lewis Hall at noon with a route through the campus and conclude at 6 p.m. with a short ceremony. After one loop is made through campus, participants will have the option of walking two different routes – the front circle of the campus or a specified 2-mile route within the college. The walk serves as a prelude to the National Carry The Load Relay which begins in West Point, N.Y., on April 28 and ends in Dallas, Texas, on Memorial Day.

In 2014, ABAC had 500 participants in the first-ever step-off and generated more than $6,000 in Carry The Load contributions.

Dill Driscoll, Dean of the Stafford School of Business, along with seven ABAC students walked and pedaled the 2,000-mile trek from West Point to Dallas for the 2014 National Relay.

ABAC students participating in the National Relay this year are Victoria Burnette, a business and economic development major from Cordele, marketing team; Jessica Gorseth, a criminal justice major from Ball Ground, marketing team; Aaron Harrell, a business and economic development major from Arlington, leg captain; Lane Riley, a business and economic development major from Ashburn, marketing team; Matt Reid, a business and economic development major from Eatonton, director of media; and Rodney Troupe, a business and economic development major from Moultrie, leg captain. John Driscoll, a former ABAC student who participated in the national campaign last year, will also join the team from ABAC as a leg captain.

For more information on ABAC’s Carry The Load Step-Off event, contact the event coordinator via e-mail at tifton@carrytheload.org. To register to participate, go to www.carrytheload.org/tifton.

Tennis Teams Named Region XVII Champions

Both the Golden Stallions tennis team and the Fillies tennis team at ABAC recently won the 2015 National Junior College Athletic Association Region XVII championship.

The Stallions team includes (seated) Deepak Vishavkarma and standing (l-r) Matthew Magee, Nathan Palmer, Ray Donovan, Volunteer Assistant Coach Jorge Nova, Josh Page, Corey Smith, Ryan Reeves, and Hayden VICTor. Page was named Most Valuable Player of the tournament. He will attempt to defend his NJCAA national title at number one singles when the Stallions travel to the national tournament in Dallas, Texas on May 9-15. The Fillies team members include (l-r) Taylor Whitehead, Taylor Cowart, Kelly Burge, Morgan Trask, Scarlet Cook, Jannelle Taylor, Lizanne Jinkertz, and Kelly Burdett. Jinkertz was named the Most Valuable Player of the tournament. The Fillies will travel to the national tournament in Tucson, Ariz., on May 1-7. Coach Dale White was named the Region XVII Coach of the Year for both teams.
ABAC Employees Receive Service Awards

Thirty-three employees who have been a part of ABAC for a combined 425 years were recently honored at the annual faculty-staff picnic on the ABAC campus. Two 30-year service awards went to Randy Carter, senior mail clerk at the ABAC post office, and Judy Perry, senior administrative assistant in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Those recognized for 25 years of service were Dr. Gail Dillard, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dr. Abul Sheikh, professor in the Stafford School of Business.

Donna Campbell, Dr. Maggie Martin, Jean Oliver-Burks, Beth Thornton, and Anita White were recognized for 20 years of service to ABAC. Dr. Erin Campbell, Donna Hatcher, Dr. Joseph Njoroge, and Donnie Thompson were honored for 15 years of service.

Those honored for 10 years of service to ABAC included Jimmy Ballenger, Tracy Dyal, Diantha Ellis, Dr. Chris Kinsey, Ray Lundy, Dr. Brian Ray, Clayton Riehle, Donna Sledge, Susan Thompson, Elizabeth Wilcox, and Mary Willis.

Those receiving awards for five years of service were Dr. Bonnie Asselin, Dr. Jordan Cofer, Rebecca Cofer, James Lewis, Dr. Hans Schmeisser, Charla Terrell, Nicholas Urquhart, Paul Willis, and Alma Young.

Patriotic Shirts for Sale to Support Veterans Memorial

In preparation of Carry The Load on Thursday, the ABAC Business Office will be selling Patriotic ABAC t-shirts. The shirt prices are $15 for Adult S – XL, $17 for XXL, and $18 for XXXL. For every shirt sold $1 will be donated to the expense of creating a veteran memorial on campus. You can purchase your shirt in the Dining Hall Monday or Tuesday from 11-1 or by emailing Kristin Beasley at kbeasley@abac.edu to reserve your shirt.

Run for the Nurses Raises Funds

The School of Nursing and Health Sciences hosted the 4th Annual Run for the Nurses on April 11. Nearly 200 runners participated in the 5K and 1/2 marathon. Runners ranged in age from 14 to 77 and were from Georgia, Florida, Alabama, and North Carolina. More than $10,000 was raised for The Lisa Purvis Allison “Spirit of Nursing” scholarship fund.

Rural Studies Students Present at USG Conference

Three students from Dr. Jen Wallin-Ruschman’s psychology course in the Rural Studies program presented with her at the recent USG Teaching and Learning Conference in Athens. Their presentation was entitled: Through Another’s Eyes: How to Use Photovoice to Teach and Learn About Intersection. The student presenters (pictured: l-r) Holley Lee, Edith Barrios and Mackenzie Sirmans.

Spring into Summer, Purchase Tickets Today!

The ABAC Ambassadors are selling tickets for two summer themed raffle baskets. The girls basket has a tanning package from Extreme Tan, Brighton earrings, Simply Southern croakie and koozie, ABAC Hat, ABAC Life Shirt and an ABAC tumbler. The guys basket has a Southern Sippin’ hat from Pineapple Post, a flashlight, ABAC Life shirt, bluetooth speaker, five Tift Co. Lanes bowling certificates and an ABAC tumbler. You can purchase one ticket for $3 or two tickets for $5. Swing by the Dining Hall any day this week from 11-1 to purchase your tickets, or email Kaylee Ewing at kewing1@stallions.abac.edu

ABAC BIRTHDAYS

25 Jerry Baker