President Announces Museum Plan for Tifton Medal of Honor Recipient

Memorabilia from the life of the only Medal of Honor recipient in the history of Tifton will be housed on the campus of ABAC, according to an announcement Thursday afternoon from ABAC President David Bridges.

Bridges and his wife, Kim, hosted a reception honoring the memory of Medal of Honor recipient Harold Bascom “Pinky” Durham, Jr., who gave his life serving his country in the Republic of Vietnam with the 1st Infantry Division on Oct. 17, 1967. He was honored posthumously with the Medal of Honor in a presentation to his mother, Grace Durham Jolley, on Oct. 30, 1969.

Durham was an ABAC alumnus and a Tifton resident. Durham’s brother, John, and his sister, Genie, were at the reception in The History Room of Tift Hall for the announcement. It was a part of the annual ABAC Carry The Load Step-Off event, which attempts to restore the true meaning of Memorial Day.

“I am very pleased to announce that ABAC will be working with the Durham family to bring a collection of Pinky Durham memorabilia, including the Medal of Honor, back to Tifton,” Bridges said. “Soon ABAC will become home to the Pinky Durham Museum. It will provide people from this community and across the world an opportunity to learn about this great American.

“I would be remiss to not recognize my wife, Kim, for her tireless work with the Durham family to make this possible. It will be a huge win for the community, the Durham family, ABAC, and veterans everywhere.”

Bridges also said that ABAC, already acknowledged as a military-friendly campus, will create a Veterans Center, where students who are veterans “can gather, study, work together and access the support and assistance they have earned and deserve.”

In a final show of support for veterans, Bridges said he and his wife would commit to the funding of the $20,000 first phase of the new ABAC Veterans Enrichment Fund. He challenged members of the ABAC Foundation Board of Trustees and members of the community to grow the fund to $100,000 by May 1.

President and Mrs. Bridges also presented a $1,000 ABAC scholarship to Tift County High School senior Kevin Joachin to close the ceremony. Joachin read his award-winning essay on Tifton’s Medal of Honor recipient before the presentation.

The front campus of ABAC was bathed in a sea of red, white, and blue on a perfect blue sky afternoon on Thursday as the Stafford School of Business hosted the second annual Carry The Load Step-Off event.

Dill Driscoll, Dean of the Stafford School of Business, said the ABAC event served as a prelude to back to Tifton, “ Bridges said. “Soon ABAC will become home to the Pinky Durham Museum. It will provide people from this community and across the world an opportunity to learn about this great American.

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Stallion Golf Team Finishes Second in Region

The ABAC golf team finished second behind Darton in the recent Region XVII Golf Tournament at Stonebridge Country Club in Albany. Jeb Stewart from Swainsboro (pictured) finished in the top five in scoring for ABAC and made the All-Region XVII team. Stewart carded a 71, 76, and 73 for a total of 220 to finish in a tie for fourth place.

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Stallion Day dates have been set!
November 14, 2015 • February 13, 2015 • April 2, 2016
Golf Team Networks With Alumnus

ABAC Alumnus and former ABAC Golfer Jim Sparks recently met with the ABAC Men’s Golf Team in celebration of their second place finish in the Regional Tournament. It was a great evening of sharing golf stories and learning more about one of the College’s successful alumni and Athletics Hall of Fame members.

Business Students Attend Enactus Exposition in St. Louis

The Stafford School of Business sent students to the 2015 Enactus Expo in St. Louis, MO. Pictured (l-r) are ABAC Students and Enactus members, Elisa Satterfield, Sam Jones and Lindsay Partridge who competed in the opening and consultation rounds. Franzelle Pertilla, the Enactus advisor and Sam Walton Fellow accompanied them.

Driscoll said the goal of Carry The Load is to restore the true meaning of Memorial Day by connecting Americans to the sacrifices of the military, law enforcement, firefighters, and rescue personnel. Carry The Load was established in 2011 by former Navy SEALs Clint Bruce and Stephen Holley.

The Step-Off began at noon with a two-mile route through the campus dedicated to the memory of Captain Raymond Merritt of the Tift County Sheriff’s Office. Leading the way were Raymond Merritt, Jr.; Cody Whiddon, student leader for the ABAC event; Sgt. Debbie Pyles from the ABAC Police Department; representatives from the Tift County Sheriff’s Office; and members of the ABAC Regional Police Academy.

The rally culminated with a send-off of the National Carry The Load Relay participants in a ceremony in front of Lewis Hall. John Durham was one of the speakers at that ceremony.

ABAC students participating in the National Relay this year are Victoria Burnette, a business and economic development major from Cordele; Jessica Gorseth, a criminal justice major from Ball Ground; Aaron Harrell, a business and economic development major from Arlington; Lane Riley, a business and economic development major from Adel; Rilea Stapf, a business and economic development major from Jackson; and Spencer Wilbanks, a business and economic development major from Calhoun.

Matt Reid, an business and economic development major from Eatonton, will serve as the director of media for the second consecutive year. Demarcus Bateman, a business and economic development major from Ashburn, and Rodney Troupe, a business and economic development major from Moultrie, will also return for their second year on the trip. John Driscoll, a former ABAC student who participated in the national campaign last year, will join the team from ABAC. Dill Driscoll will also be a part of the 2,000-mile journey.

ABAC Supports Relay for Life - Donations Still Accepted

ABAC was well represented at Tifton’s Relay for Life on Friday, April 24 at EB Hamilton Park. More than $1,600 was donated on Friday but you can still donate. Email Chris Kinsey @abac.edu for more information.

Cofer Awarded for Participation in Executive Leadership Institute

Dr. Jordan Cofer was awarded for his participation in the Executive Leadership Institute (ELI) through the University System of Georgia (USG). Cofer completed the eight month institute this year and was one of 40 selected by the USG to participate. During the program, he has attended leadership sessions, been evaluated by peers, taken a personality test, participated in a cross-mentoring group, completed 40 hours of job shadowing with Dr. Steve Dorman, President of Georgia College & State University, and completed a major project which is a Creative Writing Workshop that will take place at ABAC this summer. Many Presidents of other institutions attended the event, as well as the Chancellor and the Chair of the Board of Regents. For more information about the program, visit http://www.usg.edu/leadership_excellence/executive_leadership_institute

Durham continued from page 1

the National Carry The Load Relay which begins in West Point, N.Y., on April 28 and ends in Dallas, Texas, on Memorial Day.

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ABAC Carry the Load event sponsors included Tiftarea Academy, the Short and Paulk Supply Company, the Georgia Peanut Commission, and the Tiftarea YMCA. For more information on Carry The Load, interested persons can visit carrytheload.org.
Twenty-two music majors at ABAC will perform in a spring recital Monday beginning at 4 p.m. in the Chapel of All Faiths.

The recital will feature a diversity of styles in performance ranging from voices to hand-held and upright instruments. Musical selections will feature a variety of compositions from the Baroque through the Twentieth Century. The one-hour performance is available at no charge to all ABAC faculty, staff, and students and to the general public. Accompanists for the recital include Dr. Douglas Jurs and Gina Lawhon.

The recital will feature music majors Benjamin Harris, a music-instrumental major from Sylvester; Ivana Humphrey, a music major from Norcross; Andrew Belk, a music-instrumental major from Douglas; Krystina Braswell, a music major from Covington; Andrew Shaw, a music-instrumental major from Nashville; Taylor Walker, a music-vocal major from Omega; David Arambulo, a music major from Douglas; Holly Huggins, a music major from Fitzgerald; Nikki Young, a music-instrumental major from Thomasville; Avery Atnip, a music major from Thomasville; and Victoria Banks, a music-instrumental major from Norman Park.

Hugo Galvan, a music-instrumental major from Tifton; Kate Phillips, an animal science major from Appling; and Kari Mester, a business and economic development major from Valdosta, will perform as a clarinet trio. The ABAC Brass Ensemble will also be featured. Besides Belk and Young, that group includes Kristoff Cohran, a business and economic development major from Thomasville; Shad Steptoe, a music major from Douglas; Kaycee Johnson, a music major from Tifton; Alex Cruz, a music major from Douglas; Kerishon McDowell, a music major from Valdosta; Brandon Horton, a music-instrumental major from Cairo; Dalton Bynum, a music major from Thomasville; and Randy Romero, a natural resources management major from Oakfield.

Strickland Receives Distinguished Alumni Award Grady College

Charles N. Davis, Dean of the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at UGA, presented the Distinguished Alumni Educator Award to Helen L. Strickland of Lakeland. Strickland retired from ABAC in 2010 as a faculty member in the School of Liberal Arts after over 30 years of service.

Pacesetters Awarded During Leadership Banquet

One Superior Pacesetter award and 11 Pacesetter awards were presented by the campus newspaper’s editorial board at the recent Student Leadership Banquet.

ABAC’s award-winning student newspaper, “The Stallion,” extends Pacesetter recognition annually to those who have worked for ABAC through their actions and exemplary service. Pacesetters are chosen from the student body, administration, faculty, and staff. Through their hard work, talent, and devotion, recipients embody the spirit of the college.

The Superior Pacesetter was awarded to Rebecca Cofer, Coordinator of the Academic Achievement Center. The Superior Pacesetter is given to the person who students believe has done the most for the college during the year while exemplifying leadership and service to the campus.

This year’s faculty and staff Pacesetter recipients included Cindy Barber, Digital Media Coordinator; Bernice Corbin, Custodian; Doug Hicks, Agriculture Specialist; Lindsey Roberts, Public Relations Assistant; Terence Turner, African American Male Initiative Specialist; and Kaci West, Lecturer of English.

The students awarded Pacesetters included Slayten Carter, a political science major from Willacoochee; Josh Clements, a rural studies-politics and modern culture major from Chula; Clara Grace Coker, an English major from Ashburn; Tiffany Miller, an English major from Tifton; and Tre’mon Mills, a speech communication major from Blakely.

ABAC Birthdays

27 Bridgett Adams 27 Tammy Carter 28 Kristen Ray 29 Jessica Gandy
2 April Abbott 2 Amanda Urquhart 3 Daniel Sollenberger