



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

VOLUME 1

ISSUE 82

APRIL 29, 2013

Congressman Austin Scott to Speak at Commencement Friday

United States Congressman Austin Scott will be the guest speaker at the spring commencement ceremony at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College on May 3 at 6 p.m. in Gressette Gym on the ABAC campus.

In his second term as the U.S. Representative for Georgia's Eighth Congressional District, Scott owned and operated an insurance brokerage firm for nearly 20 years before his election to the U.S. Congress in 2010. He served 14 years in the Georgia House of Representatives beginning with his first election at the age of 26.

In the 113th Congress, Scott was appointed Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Hor-



Scott

ticulture, Research, Biotechnology, and Foreign Agriculture. He is also on the House Armed Services Committee, where he serves on the Oversight and Investigation, Military Personnel, and Readiness Subcommittees. Scott is known as a conservative on both economic and social issues and as a fierce defender of limited govern-

ment, a strong national defense, and the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Scott earned his bachelor of business administration degree in Risk Management and Insurance from the University of Georgia. He

and his son, Wells, and wife, Vivien, live in Tifton. Vivien is the owner of The Southern Group and serves as a member on the ABAC Foundation Board of Trustees.

The ABAC commencement ceremony will include the presentation of the prestigious George P. Donaldson award to the top graduate who participates in the event by the ABAC Alumni Association.

For the first time in the history of

ABAC, the college will award bachelor's degrees in Natural Resource Management (Forestry), Natural Resource Management (Wildlife), and Biology. Approximately 280 students are expected to receive diplomas.

Reminder: ABAC staff members not working commencement will need to come to the Public Relations Office to pick up a ticket for the ceremony. Call 229.391.5055 with questions.

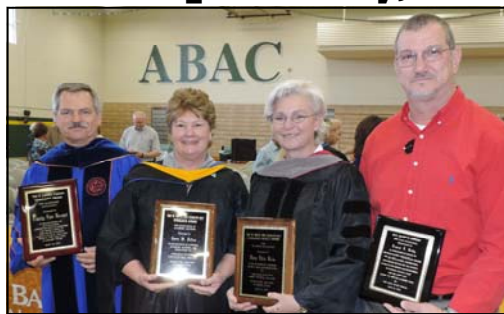
ected to receive diplomas.

ABAC Honors Top Faculty, Staff, Administrator and Advisor

The top faculty member, staff member, administrator, and academic advisor for the 2012-2013 academic year were recognized during Wednesday's Honors Day ceremony at ABAC.

Dr. Mary Ellen Hicks, Professor of Animal Science,

received the W. Bruce and Rosalyn Ray Donaldson Award for Teaching Excellence. **Ernest Kelly**, Senior Systems Administrator in the Office of Information Technology, was honored with the Roy R. Jackson, Sr., Award for Staff Excellence. **Dr. Tim Marshall**, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, received the E. Lanier Carson Leadership Award for College Administrators, and **Lorie Felton**, Associate Professor of Environmental Horticulture, received the W. Bruce and Rosalyn Ray Donaldson Excellence in Advising



Picture left to right: Tim Marshall, Lorie Felton, Mary Ellen Hicks and Ernest Kelly.

Award. **Hicks** earned her associate of science degree from ABAC and then attended the University of Georgia for her bachelor of science degree and her doctorate degree in veterinary medicine. She started her teaching career at ABAC in 1989.

A recipient of the Outstanding Educator award from the ABAC Alumni Association, **Hicks** serves as advisor for the ABAC Cattleman's Club. She received the W. Bruce and Rosalyn Ray Donaldson Excellence in Advising Award in 2011. She is the youngest of five sisters, all of whom attended ABAC. Her husband, Doug Hicks, is employed at ABAC's J.G. Woodroof Farm. She received a plaque and a check for \$2,500 from the ABAC Foundation.

Kelly has served as the Senior Sys-

tems Administrator in the Office of Information Technology for over 25 years. He earned an A. S. degree in Computer Science from ABAC and a degree in Computer Electronics from Ben Hill-Irwin Technical College before being employed with ABAC in 1987.

Within the community, **Kelly** is involved with his church where he serves as a deacon and teaches Sunday School. He lives in Tifton with his wife, Diane. He is the proud father of Andrea, Stephen, and Heather, who have all attended or graduated from ABAC. **Kelly** received a plaque and a check for \$1,250 from the ABAC Foundation.

Marshall earned his associate degree in agriculture from ABAC in 1977 and his bachelor's degree in animal science from the University of Georgia in 1979. He received a master's degree in beef cattle management in 1981 and his doctorate in beef cattle breeding and management in 1986, both from the University of Florida.

Marshall began his ABAC career in 2006 as Chair of the Division of

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Ashburn Student Wins Top Academic Award

Sarah A. Rooks, a junior biology major from Ashburn, was named the top academic student at ABAC at last Wednesday's Honors Day ceremony.

Rooks received the J. G. Woodroof Scholar Award, given annually to a student at Honors Day in recognition of top academic standing at the institution. **Rooks** also received the Award of Distinction from the School of Science and Mathematics.

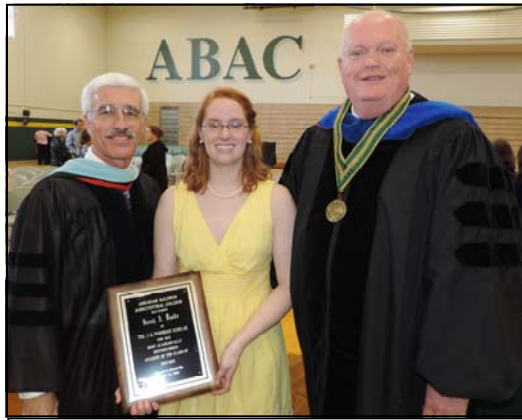
Woodroof was president of ABAC from 1933-34. Each of the 31 units of the University System of Georgia selects a top student as the Academic Recognition Day Student of the Year who is also honored in a proclamation by the Georgia General Assembly.

This year, **Rooks** was named a Distinguished Honor student with a perfect 4.0 grade point average. Her other accolades include being named to the President's List and being selected as an Achievement Through Student Support and Experiential Training in Science (ASSETS) Scholar. She is a member of ABAC's Honors Program and the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Also during the ceremony, Awards of Distinction were presented to the students with the greatest overall positive impact in each school of study, both academically and through college service.

Award of Distinction winners for each school were as follows: School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, **Troy S. Highsmith**, a diversified agriculture major from Wray; Stafford School of Business, **Elisabeth P. O'Quinn**, a rural studies major from Fitzgerald; School of Human Sciences, **Gabi Diaz-Hernandez**, a psychology major from Tifton; School of Nursing and Health Sciences, **Megan E. Guest**, a nursing major from Tifton; and School of Liberal Arts, **Devin K. Gibbs**, a rural studies major from Doerun.

A total of 43 discipline awards were also presented to students who excelled in their individual disciplines. Discipline award winners from the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources included **Kollin R. Pyle** from Blakely, Agribusiness and Agricultural Economics; **Marshall R. Bennett** from Val-



Dr. Ray Barber (left), Interim Dean of the School of Science and Mathematics and President Dr. David Bridges (right) presenting Sara Rooks with the J. G. Woodroof Scholar Award.

dosta, Agricultural Education; **Guy H. Higdon** of Central, S.C., Biological and Agricultural Engineering; **Katie M. Bennett** from Lillburn, Animal Science; **Chynna M. Cut-**

sail from Macon, Plant Science; **Riley G. Davis** from Dawson, Diversified Agriculture Technology; **Matthew T. Griffis** from Danville, Forest Technology; **Jesse Woods** from Clayton, Forest Resources; **Savannah K. Brown** from Ropoville, Wildlife Technology; **Troy S. Highsmith**, Diversified Agriculture; **Jonathon A. Marchant** from Tifton, Natural Resources Management - Forestry; **Scott K. Dismuke** from Tifton, Natural Resources Management - Wildlife; and **Brad G. Thompson** of Augusta, S.C., Turfgrass and Golf Course Management.

In the Stafford School of Business, the Business Administration discipline award was presented to **Timothy A. Hauber** from Fitzgerald. **Kimberly K. Cawley** of Ashburn received the Economics award. The Information Technology award went to **Nestor Nunez** from Omega. **Raquel Beltran** of Hartselle, Ala., received the Rural Studies - Business and Economic Development award.

Discipline award winners in the School of Liberal Arts included **Ashley C. Dunn** from Miami Gardens, Fla., Art; **Ashley L. Smith** from Tifton, English; **Douglas S. Burnette** from Cordele, History; **Dixon J. Fletcher** from Tifton, Journalism; **Leola R. White** of Arlington, Political Science; **Daniel F. Gibson** from Ty Ty, Music; **Crystal E. Goines** from Ty Ty, Spanish; and **Devin K. Gibbs** from Doerun, Rural Studies - Writing and Communication.

The School of Science and Mathematics presented **John J. Williams** from Tifton with the Allied Health award. The discipline award in Biology went to **Danielle B. Simmons** from Vienna. **Caleb J. Studstill** from Abbeville re-

Continued from page 1

Agriculture and Forest Resources at ABAC. He was instrumental in bringing the first bachelor's degrees in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources to ABAC's curriculum. He has developed partnerships with corporations including Bayer Crop Science, John Deere, and Bobcat, Inc., that benefit students in the many agricultural-related fields at ABAC. **Marshall** received a plaque and a check for \$1,250 from the ABAC Foundation.

Felton obtained her bachelor's degree and her master's degree in horticulture from Auburn University. She joined the ABAC faculty in 1993. **Felton** received the W. Bruce and Rosalyn Ray Donaldson Award for Teaching Excellence in 2008.

Felton advises agriculture education majors and has served in a teaching capacity for 24 years. Currently, she serves as the advisor to the Collegiate FFA and the Horticulture Club. She is married to Jimmy Felton, who is a staff member in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources. **Felton** received a plaque and a check for \$1,250 from the ABAC Foundation.

ceived the discipline award in Chemistry. The discipline award in Engineering went to **Jose Y. Santana** from Norcross. **Robert E. McBride** from Fayetteville received the discipline award in Mathematics. **Henry D. Mal-lard** of Moultrie received the Biology - Pre-Professional award. The Pre-Professional award was presented to **Ethan S. McBrayer** of Tifton.

Discipline award winners from the School of Human Sciences included **Cori A. Poppish** of Tifton, Early Childhood Education; **Daniel A. Harrell** from Arlington, Middle Grades Education; and **Emily R. Wheeler** from Ranger, P-12 Education. **Elizabeth L. Kitchens** from Washington received the Criminal Justice award, and the award in Criminal Justice (Law Enforcement) went to **Pooja Patel** of Americus. The Psychology award went to **Gabi Diaz-Hernandez** from Tifton. **Lorenzo Gomez** from Omega received the award in Family and Consumer Sciences. The discipline award for Physical Education went to **Tyler S. Hobby** from Ashburn. **Arfannie D. Brown** of Tifton received the Human Services award. The award for Sociology went to **Amanda N. Willis** of Moultrie, and **Kristen N. Ray** from Waycross received the Rural Studies - Social and Community Affairs award.



ABAC Goes To Tifton Relay for Life Friday Under the Big Top

ABAC students, faculty, staff, and administrators went "BIG" at Friday night's annual American Cancer Society Relay for Life in Tifton. Dream Big, Hope Big, Relay Big under the Big Top was the theme of the ABAC tent.

"Beast Feast" Success

The ABAC Wildlife Society's first ever "Beast Feast" fundraiser on April 20 was a hit. Thank you to all that helped, donated items for the raffle and the over 100 guests that attended.

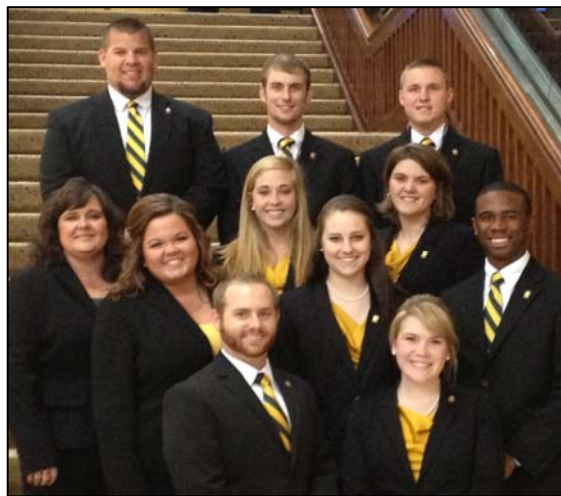


Young Marketers Compete in National Competition in Kansas City

Members of the ABAC chapter of the National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA) participated in a national marketing competition held April 17-18 in Kansas City, Mo.

"Every team participating in the marketing competition does an excellent job in developing a thorough marketing plan, a process that takes most teams the majority of the academic year to complete," said Kristen Marshall, NAMA Careers Committee Chair. "This competition is a great opportunity for marketing students to put their education into practice. Each year I am amazed by the talent of these teams. They're truly an awesome group that we hope will continue in Ag marketing as they begin their professional careers."

The ABAC team had 14 students involved with this year's project to market Bovi-HydroPLUS with 10 traveling to Kansas City. The team spent several months conducting market research, writing the marketing plan,



NAMA Participants included (left to right): *Front row:* Wesley Pope, Elizabeth Horton *Second Row:* Haley Webb, Sara Beth Pelham, Kevin Vantrees *Third Row:* Advisor Audrey Luke-Morgan, Jodie Stinger, Katelynn Gutschlagg *Forth Row:* Zach Wooldridge, Chandler Bartley, Hank Thacker

and developing a presentation. Students decide on a project and develop a plan to successfully bring the product or service to the marketplace. In developing their marketing plan, students follow the same practices and principles used by today's marketing professionals. Teams submit a written plan summary prior to the competition and then make a formal presentation of their marketing plan to a panel of judges at the competition. The judges' panel consists of marketing and agribusiness professionals.

Overall, 29 student NAMA chapters participated. The competition is part of the National Agri-Marketing Association's annual conference and trade show. Over 350 student members attended.

"The marketing competition is a great learning experience for these students and provides them with some really good practical experience," said Marshall.

Late Night Breakfast Tonight

It's that time again! SGA's late night breakfast is tonight from 9 p.m.—10 p.m. The menu has changed to include waffles, so encourage your students to take a break from studying and enjoy some breakfast. Contact Bernice Hughes at 229.391.5130 if you are interested in cooking or serving.



Arbor Day Tree Planting

ABAC celebrated Arbor Day on Friday by planting two weeping willow trees on the shore of Lake Baldwin. The willows were donated by Sodexo and members of the Sodexo grounds management prepared the trees and site prior to planting. These annual tree plantings are a way to involve the students and the community in the beautification of the ABAC campus. Representatives from the Georgia Forestry Commission, the community, Sodexo, the ABAC Forestry Society and ABAC faculty, staff and administration are pictured to the right with one of the trees.

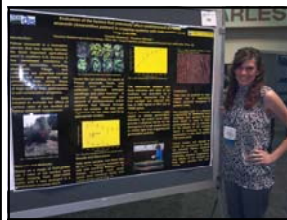


Williams Retires After 30 Years at ABAC

Teresa Williams was joined by ABAC colleagues and family members during reception last week honoring her for 30 years of service to the college. Her sister, Nancy Brannen (left), and husband, Mike Williams (right), were among the many that came to wish her well. You will be missed Teresa, enjoy retirement.

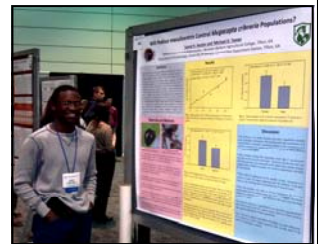
ASSETS Scholars Attend ASB Meeting in Charleston

Three ABAC students in the Achievement through Student Support and Experiential Training in Science (ASSETS) Scholars program attended the 74th annual Association for Southeastern Biologists (ASB) meeting from April 10-12 in Charleston, W. Va. Andrew Morris, a biology major from Hazlehurst and Danielle Simmons, a biology major from Vienna attended the conference.



Simmons

Jamal Hunter, a former ABAC ASSETS Scholar from Patterson and Dr. Susan Farmer, associate professor of biology in the School of Science and Mathematics at ABAC also participated in the meeting. Farmer was elected to the position of Secretary for the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society. Farmer,



Hunter

in conjunction with Dr. Sarah Noble of the University of Mobile, also took the students on an excursion into the Kanawha State Forest during the meeting.

ABAC Birthdays

2 Amanda Urquhart

4 Nancy Brannen



Don't forget, the deadline for final grade entry is noon on Friday.



The FOCUS is an electronic publication produced by the ABAC Public Relations Office. Please submit information by **Thursday at noon** to Ashley Mock at amock@abac.edu for inclusion in the next FOCUS.