



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

VOLUME XLVIV

ISSUE 41

MAY 2, 2011

Governor to Speak At ABAC Commencement on Friday

Governor Nathan Deal will be the guest speaker at the spring commencement ceremony at ABAC on Friday at 6 p.m. in Gressette Gym on the ABAC campus.

Deal grew up in Sandersville to career educator parents and attended Mercer University, where he earned his undergraduate degree in 1964 and law degree in 1966, both with honors. While in college, he began preparing for duty in the United States Army and earned the rank of captain in his two years of service.

Deal's career in law includes 23 years in private practice from 1979 - 1992. He was a county attorney for Hall County from 1977 - 1979, a juvenile court judge from 1971 - 1972, and Assistant District Attorney in the Northeast-

ern Judicial Circuit of Georgia from 1970 - 1971.

Deal served 12 years in the Georgia Senate, and nine terms in the United States Congress. He was elected President Pro - Tempore by his colleagues in the Georgia Senate. He also served as chairman and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Health during his time as a U.S. congressman.

In May of 2009, Deal announced his bid for governor of Georgia and captured his party's nomination in a runoff. He was sworn in as Georgia's 82nd governor on Jan. 10, 2011.



Outside of political life, Deal and his wife of 44 years, Sandra, have four children and six grandchildren. He is a board member at Mercer University and a member of the Advisory Board of Honors Programs at North Georgia College and State University. He is also a former president and lifetime member of the Rotary Club. 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 ABAC Alumni Association President George Granade.

Approximately 220 students are expected to receive diplomas.

Metalsmith at Georgia Museum of Ag May 14

The Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC will feature its third installment of the "Second Saturdays" series on May 14 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. with Charles Pinckney, a metalsmith from Athens.

Pinckney's hand-made jewelry tells stories inspired by the memories of his childhood and of those who own his unique accessories. He works primarily with silver, titanium, and copper with the occasional precious or semi-precious gemstones.

"Our beloved friend, the late Dr. Donna Miller, was a huge supporter of the arts and a fan of Charles," Polly Huff, gallery coordinator from the ABAC Arts Connection, said. "She used to say that you are not a true Tiftonite until you own a piece of Pinckney jewelry. I remember that fondly each time I see him."

Largely self-taught, Pinckney began his craft after studying psychology at Clemson University and working as a radio DJ and hospital orderly. He started with scrimshaw and mosaics. He took a workshop under Eleanor Cald-

well at the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg, Tenn., and was introduced to working with titanium.

Huff said some of the most emotionally moving of Pinckney's creations have resulted from commissions. When working on this type of piece, he is always aware of the feelings of the commissioner's story and uses that to form highly personal and treasured art. While the jewelry may not be the most expensive or last forever, the stories they represent do.

"Having Charles Pinckney here for a public demonstration will be like having a couple of different artists rolled into one - he is not only a fantastic metalsmith, but an exceptional storyteller as well," said Huff. "Each one of his pieces has a story, and he is always glad to tell it in a most engaging way."

Future "Second Saturdays" events will feature a potter from Thomasville, glass artist Tadashi Torii of Sandy Springs and groups of wool spinners, quilters, woodturners, and painters later this year.



For more information on "Second Saturdays" and a full calendar of events, interested persons can contact Huff at (229) 391-5222 or phuff@abac.edu

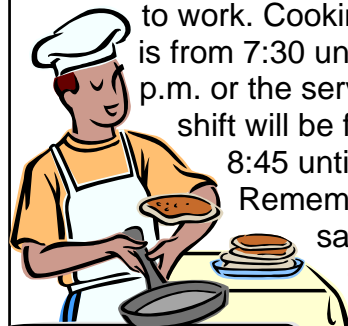
SGA's Pancake Breakfast Tonight

Yes, it is that time of the year again! If you would like to participate please email Bernice Hughes at

bhughes@abac.edu and let her know what shift you want

to work. Cooking shift is from 7:30 until 8:45 p.m. or the serving shift will be from 8:45 until 10:25.

Remember no sandals or flip flops!



Writer-In-Residence At ABAC Makes Kindle's Bestsellers List

Pulitzer-prize nominated author Janice Daugharty, writer-in-residence at ABAC, has hit it big with one of her recent works of fiction, "The Little Known." The book is in the top 10 of Kindle's "Hot New Releases" and is currently also on Kindle's bestsellers list where it climbed to the number six ranking.

"Too often when I have freshly published a novel, I think, 'Nobody's going to buy this'", Daugharty said. "So you can imagine how uplifting it was to me to watch 'The Little Known' rise up the charts to the top ten in Kindle E-books. It is fun for an author like me who pub-

lishes so much literary fiction that never makes it to mainstream sales."

Daugharty read "The Little Known" at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC in October during the annual Writer's Harvest event sponsored by the "Pegasus", the college's literary magazine. She developed the idea for the book from a newspaper article years ago about a poor little black boy who found a sack full of cash in an alley from a bank robbery.

"In real life, he returned the money to the bank," Daugharty said. "But I thought 'what if he decided to keep it' and the irony of him being unable to use it for fear of getting caught? One 'what if' led to another, and then I had the sketching of a story."

Never one to be idle for too long, Daugharty now has another novel out, "Heir to the Everlasting", a classic story

of three generations of Southern women at "Big Eddy", the home place they love.

"It is a totally different kind of story but I have the same dread of it likely not selling," Daugharty said. "So, I have to write myself into that forgetfulness of the long wait for 'Heir' to either rise up the charts or fall."

Daugharty became ABAC's writer-in-residence on July 1, 2010. Since then, she has given of her time and talents to ABAC in a number of capacities including working with the "Pegasus" students judging entries in the prose contest, speaking to classes about her stories and novels, and attending several campus events. She also serves as a consultant and participant in conferences and does public readings and book signings in conjunction with the Department of Literature and Language.

Bass Named National Outstanding Advisor

Dustin Bass, instructor of agricultural business at ABAC, was recently named the National Outstanding Student Advisor by the National Agri-Business Association in Kansas City.

"This was a very big surprise," said Bass. "I had no idea that I would receive this award."

Bass received a plaque and will have a story about him published in the magazine, "Agri-Marketing." The National Agri-Marketing Association selects a recipient for this award based on the work each advisor does during the year.

His students also did very well at the conference.

"One of my students was offered an internship and another received a \$1,000 scholarship during the conference," said Bass. "I hope to keep the program moving forward and pushing the career development aspect. We would like to get more professionals involved with our students to help them within the industry and continue to keep the club climbing higher."

In 2010, the ABAC Agri-Business Club was selected tops in the nation by the National Agri-Business Association.

Bass received his bachelor's degree in food and research economics and his master's degree in agribusiness from the University of Florida. He is currently working on his doctorate at Valdosta State University in leadership.



Aloha To ABAC!

Anita Hobbs and her husband, Steve, were on hand Friday afternoon for a reception in honor of Anita's retirement from ABAC after 25 years. We wish her well in her retirement years.

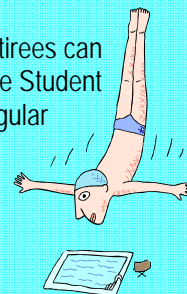


ABAC Pool Opens Today at 3 p.m.

The ABAC pool opens today for students and faculty to enjoy during the spring and summer months. The pool hours are Monday – Thursday from 3 – 7 p.m. and Friday – Sunday from 1 – 6 p.m.

The ABAC pool is free for students with ID. ABAC employees and retirees can get free ABAC pool membership passes, and guest passes are \$4 in the Student Enrollment office. Parties can be booked only after pool is closed for regular hours. There is a requirement of one lifeguard for every 15 party members. ABAC lifeguards will be used.

Pool parties must be coordinated through Bobbie Baldree in the ABAC Information Center at 391-5001.



Fillies Finish Fifth in State Tournament

Coach Donna Campbell's ABAC softball team wound up fifth in the state tournament this weekend at Locust Grove. The Fillies defeated Middle Georgia 5-3 in their first game before losing to Georgia Perimeter 3-0 Friday night.

On Saturday, Georgia Military eliminated ABAC by a 2-1 score. ABAC wound up with a season record of 22-27.

Coach Steve Janousek and the Stallions' baseball team wind up their regular season this weekend with a three-game set against East Georgia. The Stallions will take on the Bobcats at 6 p.m. Friday at Stallion Field and then will play a 1 p.m. doubleheader on Saturday, also at home. ABAC takes a 17-34 record into the weekend.



ABAC Police Officers Work to Keep Campus Safe



Special thanks to the officers that work to provide a safe campus for students and employees. Pictured are the officers of the police force. Front row (l to r): Sgt. Debbie Pyles, Officer Mitch Peavy, Officer John Davis, Officer Justin Cruce, Officer Matt Henry, Officer Joey Johnson, and Officer Kim Scarborough; back Row (l to r): Lt. Chris Stephens, Officer Mike Tompkins, Officer Austin McGinn, Officer Jason Watts, Officer Jeremy Myers, and Chief Bryan Golden.



Justice Named Top Ambassador

Brooke Justice, a business major from Tifton, has been selected for the Distinguished Ambassador award at ABAC. Justice is a member of the 17-person student leadership team which assists the college in public relations and recruiting activities. The award was determined by a vote of the Ambassadors.

ABAC Sponsoring Trip to New York City May 28

The Office of External Affairs at ABAC will host a trip to New York City on May 28 – 31.

The four-day package includes the performance of the ABAC Chamber Singers at the Lincoln Center, as well as visits to Grand Central Station, Times Square, Central Park, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and a choice of a Broadway show, either "Wicked" or "Jersey Boys".

Travelers will also take a tour of Lower Manhattan including Wall Street and Ground Zero as well as a ride on the Staten Island Ferry for views of Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. Other New York City highlights will feature Rockefeller Center, Radio City Music Hall, and St. Patrick's Cathedral.

The cost of this trip is \$1,599 and includes transportation to and from Atlanta, round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations at Novatel, two dinners in the city, and performances at Lincoln Center and on Broadway.

For more information on this trip, interested persons can visit the ABAC Educational Outreach web site at www.abac.edu/psbo/Travel/index.cfm, contact Diane Kilgore at dkilgore@abac.edu, or call (229) 391-5065.



Cattlemen's Club Wins Scholarship Contest

The members of the Cattlemen's Club at ABAC recently won the College Aggies Online scholarship competition from the Animal Agriculture Alliance (AAA). Among others, the club bested Pennsylvania State University, Western Kentucky University, and the University of Missouri for the first place standing.

Over 600 college students from more than 50 universities participated in the competition and earned points by posting blogs, photos and video related to agriculture. Students also garnered points by participating in "Aggie Homework" agriculture advocacy challenges from Twitter, Facebook, and e-mail. The competition began in October and concluded in March.

The ABAC Cattlemen's Club received the highest score in team competition with a total of 3,030 points. The club received a \$750 scholarship and a trip to Washington, D.C. for one representative of the team to attend the AAA's Stakeholder's Summit on May 5.

In the individual competition, three ABAC students made the top five including Jacob Nyhuis, a diversified agriculture major from Montverde, Fla., who received second place with 655 points. He received a \$100 scholarship and will serve as the representative for the Stakeholder's Summit.

Randi Walden, a diversified agriculture major from Stockbridge, took home fourth place, and Suzanne Black, a diversified agriculture major from Minneola, Fla., received fifth place in the individual rankings.

The College Aggies Online scholarship competition is a nationwide program developed in partnership with the American Cattle Women, Inc., to help college students utilize social media tools in agriculture.

ABAC Family

Polly Huff spoke on the Oriental rug exhibit at the Museum Gallery on the Kyle Dean Morning Show on WTIF on April 27. Mike Chason was the emcee for the Tift County High School Academic Awards Ceremony on April 26. Dr. Gail Dillard presented the educational opportunities available through ABAC to Leadership Colquitt County April 19. Rural Studies student Chris Morrelli assisted.

Fitzgerald Named High Five Monthly Winner

Anthony Fitzgerald, associate professor of criminal justice, is the winner of a high five award. His nomination by Dr. James Gault-Brown reads: I wish to formally recommend Professor Anthony Fitzgerald for a "High Five" Award, for his apprehension of a book thief in Bowen Hall on April 11. His conduct was above and beyond the call of duty for a college professor, and he stopped a crime before it could be successfully committed. I am proud and honored to have a man of such such sterling character and personal courage associated with this college."



ABAC Dining Facilities To Close On Thursday

The ABAC dining hall and its other facilities will close for the semester on Thursday. The dining hall will close at 1:30 p.m., followed by the C-store at 2 p.m. and the Sub Connection and Pizza Hut at 5 p.m. The dining hall will reopen June 6.

English Department Wins National Writing Honors

The English Department in the School of Liberal Arts at ABAC was recently awarded the Diana Hacker Outstanding Programs in English Award, an honor bestowed on two and four-year institutions with distinctive writing programs, during the 2011 Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) ceremony.

During the fall term Dr. Michael Lewis, assistant professor of English, and Dr. Cynthia Hall, assistant professor of English, submitted materials for the contest which included a program description and theoretical rationale, teaching practices, and goals and as-

The FOCUS is a weekly electronic publication produced by the ABAC Public Relations Office.

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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.

Thank You

Dear ABAC family:

Not enough words exist to express my gratitude for your support, prayers, meals, time, and love during these last months. Knowing that each of you is only a phone call or e-mail away has helped me immeasurably.

Eric loved ABAC, he loved The Stallion and he worked ceaselessly to find ways to help students get the best education they possibly could. Thank you for honoring him in so many ways.

I feel blessed to claim kinship with a group of people whose caring and kindness is so immediate and sincere.

With love and humility,
Erin Campbell

ABAC Birthdays

- 2 Amanda Urquhart
- 4 Patricia Bennett
- 4 Nancy Brannen
- 5 Kathy Branch
- 5 Kerry Waldron
- 7 John Davis, III

essment procedures of the first-year composition program called RuralComp.

Lewis says he is thrilled to see rural composition instruction and writing program administration honored and valued, and that this type of recognition is proof to the force of ABAC as a top flight educational institution in a rural setting.

"In an academic field that is traditionally focused on the urban, it is a big deal to have the strength of rural writing instruction recognized right here at ABAC," said Lewis. "This exciting recognition could not have happened without the editing skills of Dr. Cynthia Hall, the support of our Chair, Dr. Billy Reynolds, and the data collection and writing program experience of Wendy Harrison."

The award for RuralComp comes with a certificate and the publication of the program's foundation and mission statement on the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) website, as well as published recognition in the major academic journal.