



# FOCUS

## ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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### Fitzgerald Student Wins Top Award at Commencement

Elisabeth O'Quinn, a rural studies – business and economic development major from Fitzgerald, received the prestigious George P. Donaldson award at the spring commencement ceremony on Friday at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

O'Quinn became the first Summa Cum Laude graduate in the history of ABAC with a grade point average over 3.9 on a 4.0 scale. To be eligible for the Summa Cum Laude distinction, graduates must complete a bachelor's degree. ABAC awarded its first bachelor's degree in May of 2009.

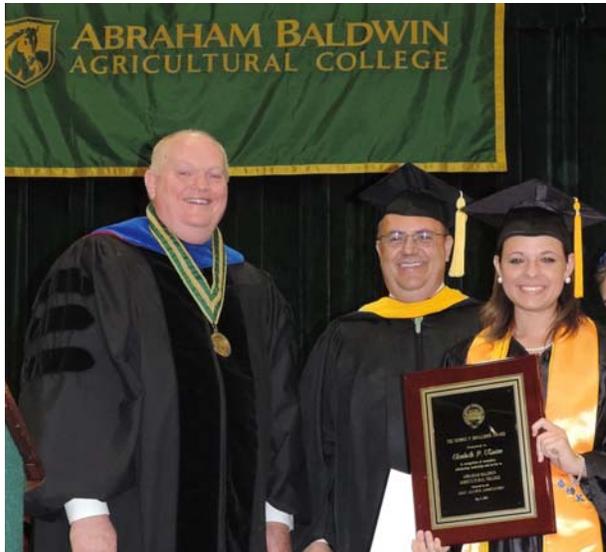
A total of 217 graduates participated in the ceremony. Forty-eight students received bachelor's degrees including the first ABAC bachelor's degrees ever awarded in Natural Resource Management (Forestry), Natural Resource Management (Wildlife) and Biology.

The guest speaker at the event was Congressman Austin Scott. He challenged the students to find their pathways to success.

"You will wake up in the morning with a college diploma," Scott, the U.S. Representative for Georgia's Eighth Congressional District, said. "When you wake up, you will face the future with a thousand different paths you can take.

"Each path will have its challenges. I can tell you that change happens very fast in all of those paths. Never let a fear of failure determine your path."

Scott told the graduates that the most important first step was to "get started. It doesn't matter where you start but continual improvement should be your goal. Get better every day in whatever you do. If you say you're going to do something, do it."



O'Quinn (right), a rural studies major from Fitzgerald, received the George P. Donaldson award on Friday. ABAC President David Bridges (left) and Alumni President Keith Rucker (center) made the presentation.

O'Quinn began her ABAC career in 2009 as an interior design major. She graduated with her associate's degree in family and consumer sciences—interior design with high honors in 2011 and immediately began course work toward her bachelor's degree in rural studies.

O'Quinn is an ABAC Foundation Scholarship recipient and has been named to the Dean's List or President's List every semester she has attended ABAC. She received the top award, the Award of Distinction, from the Stafford School of Business in 2013 and the Divisional Discipline award in rural studies – business and economic development in 2012. She was also the recipient of the Rural Studies Division Scholarship in 2013.

Serving as vice-president of the Rural Studies Club this year headed up a long list of campus involvement. She has also served as secretary of the Family and Consumer Sciences Club and as a member of the Phi Theta Kappa and Alpha Beta Gamma honor organizations.

O'Quinn represented ABAC with a speech at the Tift County Rotary Club and in Pelham as a part of a group sharing a marketing plan for the Hand Trading Company building. She also assisted at Lewis Hall in the Campus Rededication Ceremony and assisted with mentoring project resources for the United Way of South Central Georgia.

O'Quinn expanded her leadership skills with a one-year internship at the Georgia Peanut Commission during her college career. She is now working with the Stafford School of Business at ABAC.

### Mark Your Calendar



#### Orientation

Summer: May 31  
Fall: June 7  
June 21  
July 12  
July 19  
August 9

#### First Day of Classes

Full Summer: June 6  
Session A: June 6  
Session B: July 1  
Fall: August 14

**Support Stallion Baseball today at 1 p.m. at Stallion Field. ABAC has a chance for the playoffs if we win today and South Georgia College wins. Go Stallions!**

## Service Awards Presented to ABAC Employees

Six retirees were honored, and service awards were presented to 46 other employees in a recent ceremony.

Retirees included Patricia Barber, Patsy Hembree, Dr. John Galyean, Bobby Mathis, Catherine Rogers, and Teresa Williams. Barber, an associate professor of nursing in the School of Nursing and Health Sciences, had 32 years of service. Hembree, the Information Services Coordinator for the Business Office, had 38 years of service, and Galyean, an associate professor of speech and theatre, was a faculty member for 14 years in the School of Liberal Arts.

Mathis, a staff member at the Forest Lakes Golf Course, had 31 years at ABAC. Rogers, an associate professor of reading, was a faculty member for 22 years in the School of Liberal Arts. Williams, the Senior Administrative Assistant in the Stafford School of Business, had 28 years at ABAC.

Melvin Merrill and Mike Williams were each honored for 35 years of service to the college. A 30-year service

award went to Bobbie Baldree.

Jimmy Felton, Lori Felton, Alan Kramer, and Vicki Walker were recognized for 20 years of service. Honored for 15 years of service were JoAnn Brannen, Nancy Brannen, Brenda Doss, Bernice Hughes, Donna King, Melanie Partlow, Lori Pearman, Kay Powell, and Kim Talley.

Recognized for 10 years of service were Robert Carpenter, Robin Crumley, Dr. James Galt-Brown, Javier Gonzalez, Jokabeth Gutierrez, Mouyyed



Teresa Williams and Bobby Mathis accepted their retirement plaques at the annual Honors Day ceremony. Williams had 28 years of service and Mathis had 31 year at ABAC.

Hassouna, Todd Hicks, Rhonda Lewis, Dr. Barnabe Miburo, Alan Murphy, Keith Perry, Dr. Doris Roundtree, Reba Selph, and Troy Spicer. Those recognized for five years of service to the college were Tonia Carpenter, Todd Daunhauer, Marie Davis, Dr. Susan Farmer, Gay Hodge, Holly Lawrence, Dr. Lisa Lishman, Ana Martinez, Dr. James McCrimmon, Ashley Mock, Dr. Niles Reddick, Theresa Ryan, Shawn Seat, Lawrence Shepherd, Vicki Sherling, and Amy Warren.

## ABAC Pool Open

The ABAC pool opened May 1. Pool hours are Monday-Thursdays 3-7 p.m. and Friday-Sundays 1-6 p.m. ABAC students get in free with current ABAC ID. Pool passes for faculty and staff can be obtained from Gay Ann Hodge in the Student Financial Services office on the second floor of the student center with this completed [form](#). Outside memberships can be purchased at the following prices: individual membership \$100 or family membership \$200. If you have a membership, you can purchase a one-day guest pass for \$4. For more information contact Hodge at 229.391.4999.



## ABAC Rural Studies Club Volunteers at Tift County Animal Shelter

To wrap up an exciting and productive year for the Rural Studies Club, members spent a recent afternoon at the Tift County Animal Shelter. Club members assisting with care and socialization of adoptable animals. Destiny Carter, Melissa Aguiar, Elisabeth O'Quinn and Mark Brown (pictured left to right) participated in this community service project to help raise awareness and provide support for animal welfare initiatives affecting rural communities.



# Museum Offers Many Camps For Kids this Summer

Children ages 4-11 can now register for summer camps through the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC. Campers will explore southern Georgia's rich history and natural resources through hands-on interactive activities, games, and crafts.

Camp Wiregrass offers camps geared toward specific age groups: Munchkins, ages 4-5; Explorers, ages 6-8; and Trekkers, ages 9-11. Each week-long session offers age appropriate activities and themes.

To register for any session of Camp Wiregrass, interested persons can e-mail Kelly Scott at [museumcamp@abac.edu](mailto:museumcamp@abac.edu). Registrations close two weeks prior to each camp, and space is limited.

Snacks, t-shirts, and all supplies are provided for each week (Explorer and Trekker campers will need to supply a sack lunch). Thanks to generous donations from the Friends of the Museum, campers can participate at a reduced rate. The cost is \$75 per week for the Munchkin camp and \$170 per week for



all Explorer and Trekker camps.

The summer kicks off with the Munchkin camp for 4-5 year-olds on May 28-31 from 8:30 a.m.-noon with Animal Antics. While exploring the needs of humans and animals, campers will meet the local animal residents at the Langdale Nature Center. Activities will include fishing, bug exploration, and feeding farm animals.

Two different sessions are available for Explorer campers, Wilderness 101 and Wiregrass Time Travelers. Children ages 6-8 can attend either or both sessions. Wilderness 101 on June 3-7 will focus on exploring the surrounding forest while learning various outdoor survival techniques. Campers will learn how to build a shelter, visit with the Langdale Nature Center's animals, and learn basic orienteering skills.

In the Wiregrass Time Travelers camp on June 24-28, campers will experience mid-1800s southern Georgia culture through interactive activities such as wool/cotton processing, wagon rides, cane pole fishing, traditional games, and historic baseball. Camp programming runs 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

for Explorers.

Two sessions for Trekkers, Nature's Artists and Native American Explorers, are also available. This camp is geared to 9-11 year olds. Campers can attend either or both sessions. During the Nature's Artists session on June 17-21, campers will create various art projects inspired by nature hikes, stream exploration, and local wildlife. The program includes discussions on photography (campers need to bring own digital camera), sculpture, drawing, and painting techniques. A showcase of the campers' artwork will be displayed at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture.

From July 8-12, Trekkers can return to Camp Wiregrass for Native American Explorers. Campers will explore Native American history and culture through skills including primitive hunting, archery, gardening, and rope making. Trekker camps run from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Female campers from 9-11 years old can enjoy either of the Trekkers' camps as well as the Victorian Adventures camp June 10-14. This camp involves female campers interested in experiencing the Victorian Era. Various activities include hosting a tea, making rag and corn husk dolls, and playing traditional games.

*The FOCUS will be published bi-weekly for the summer beginning May 13. Continue to submit your pictures and information to help keep the campus informed about the great things happening at ABAC!*

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](mailto:amock@abac.edu) for inclusion in the next FOCUS.

### Human Sciences Celebrates Student Accomplishments



School of Human Sciences Celebration that recognized spring graduates and the activities and contributions of the Human Science student organizations this year.

- ## ABAC Birthdays
- 6 Stephanie Coney
  - 9 Pathelyn Smith
  - 12 Carlos Howard
  - 17 Betty McCorvey
  - 18 Jeanie Paulk
- 

## Kramer Named Assistant Dean of Students

Effective July 1, Alan Kramer will assume duties as Assistant Dean of Students, working with Dean Bernice Hughes to provide leadership for SGA and student activities. Kramer will continue to serve as Athletic Director, but he will no longer coach men's and women's tennis. Please join the College in thanking Kramer for his years of service to the ABAC Tennis program and for his continued service to ABAC.



Kramer