



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

VOLUME L

ISSUE 40

MAY 7, 2012

Randi Walden Receives Donaldson Award

Randi Walden, a diversified agriculture major from Stockbridge, received the prestigious George P. Donaldson award at the spring commencement ceremony on Friday at ABAC.

A total of 207 graduates participated in the ceremony. Twenty-five students received bachelor's degrees. The guest speaker at the event was Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture Gary Black.

Walden, who first came to ABAC from 2004-2006, and then returned in 2008, made an indelible mark in both her academic career and involvement in extracurricular activities while earning her bachelor's degree. She received the James and Joyce Kirk Scholarship in 2006 and the Regents' Foundation Scholarship in 2010. A year later she was awarded five more scholarships, including the National Agri-Business Educational Foundation Scholarship. She has been on at least one academic honors list since 2009.

Walden added the Donaldson Award to her many accomplishments as an



ABAC President David Bridges (left) and Alumni Association Vice President Keith Rucker (right) presented the Donaldson award to winner Randi Walden (center) Friday night at the commencement ceremony.

Walden also served as the principal bassoonist with the ABAC Concert Band from 2004-2006.

Her involvement with career-related organizations at the college included being a member of the National Agri-Marketing Team, the National Agri-Marketing Association, the Ag Business Club, the Cattlemen's Association, and Collegiate 4-H.

Walden has also been a member of the Alpha Beta Gamma Honors Fraternity, serving as president in 2010. She was also named a Kappa Sigma Fraternity Sweetheart. Walden also served as the Student Government Association representative for the Family and Consumer Sciences Club in 2006.

ABAC student which include the Larry D. Allen Leadership Award from the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources and a Pacesetter Award in 2010.

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Move to Tift Hall Begins May 14

The offices of the President, Public Relations, Academic Affairs will begin moving to Tift Hall next week. Vice President for Planning and Operations John Clemens and Director of Capital Planning Melvin Merrill will also relocate to Tift Hall. Once the boxes are unpacked, an open house will be planned for the campus to see the newly renovated Tift Hall.

ABAC Leadership Society Donates to Veterans Bus Project



The ABAC on the Square Leadership Society in Moultrie presented a \$1,112 check and gift card to Colonel and Mrs. Holland (second and third from left), who lead the bus project which transports veterans in the area to the VA hospital in Lake City every week. Mary Wilson (fifth from left), a member of the Veterans Activities Committee was also present for the presentation. The club raised money through a Rock-A-Thon held recently on the courthouse square. Leadership members pictured with the Hollands and Wilson are Joe Ben Griffin (far left), Elaine Hurst (fourth from left), and Codie Amador (far right).

Tift County High School Student About To Complete ABAC Degree

Nafiz Sheikh wanted a challenge. ABAC was happy to oblige.

Now the 17-year-old is about to complete his ABAC degree about the same time he receives his Tift County High School diploma.

"ABAC provided me with a unique opportunity to challenge myself," Sheikh, the son of ABAC faculty member Abul Sheikh and his wife, Nazmoon, said. "I wanted to take some more challenging classes, and I was fortunate enough to be able to do that through the ACCEL program at ABAC."

Sheikh began taking ABAC classes during his junior year at TCHS through ACCEL, which allows TCHS students to take classes through ABAC while they are still enrolled in high school. As a TCHS senior this year, he had completed all his high school course work, so he has spent the last two semesters taking an overload of ABAC classes.

When Sheikh finishes his course work at the end of the ABAC summer term, he will have enough hours to receive an ABAC degree and plans to enroll at Georgia Tech this fall for his junior year of college. He will receive his TCHS diploma on May 26.

Obvious question. What's the rush?

"Back in the fourth grade, I was kind of a reckless student," Sheikh said. "My parents sat me down and told me I had

two choices. I could either continue to goof off or buckle down, work hard, study and leave a legacy for myself and future generations of my family."

Message received.

Sheikh has an "A" in every subject at ABAC and is scheduled to graduate third in his class at TCHS.

"College is not a breeze," Sheikh said. "I had to build a solid work ethic and work on time management. I used to be a procrastinator. In college, that is not feasible. ABAC taught me how to build that essential work ethic which will serve me well at Georgia Tech and later in life."

Sheikh said his most difficult class at ABAC was Differential Equations.

"It was my most challenging class but it was also my favorite class," Sheikh said. "To do well in that class, you have to incorporate all the math skills that you have used before."

Sheikh said he studies four to six hours every day but takes time out for



tennis and talking with his friends.

"I make sure that my studies don't completely overwhelm me," Sheikh said. "I owe it to ABAC for teaching me how to live a balanced lifestyle. I absolutely recommend the ACCEL program and the ABAC classes for any high school student going to a Georgia public college. It saves a lot of tuition costs too because HOPE pays for it."

For more information on the ACCEL program, interested students can contact Dr. Gail Dillard at (229) 891-7235 or at gdillard@abac.edu.

Medical school is in Sheikh's future after he completes his degree in Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech. His grandfather is a doctor in his home country of Bangladesh.

"I would really like to work for the U.S. military helping to rehabilitate wounded soldiers," Sheikh said. "My grandfather has treated wounded soldiers in Bangladesh."

For now, Sheikh is making plans to move to Atlanta in August, with newly minted diplomas from TCHS and ABAC in hand.

2012-13 Stallion Day

November 10

February 16

April 6

ABAC Birthdays

9 Pathelyn Smith

10 Tarrah Mirus

12 Carlos Howard

13 Heather Carbone

The FOCUS is a weekly 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.

Financial Aid & Admissions Information Night

The Office of Admissions at ABAC will host an Apply to ABAC/Financial Aid night on May 22 from 6-8 p.m. at the Agricultural Sciences building.

Enrollment Management Counselor Brooke Jernigan said all prospective students are welcome to attend, no matter where they are in the admissions and financial aid process.

"This event is to help take some of the stress away when applying to college. We will be there to answer any questions they might have and resolve any issues with the application and financial aid processes."

Students seeking financial aid must have their Personal Identification Number (PIN) from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) web site and a copy of their 2011 tax returns for parents and students, if applicable, to receive assistance with the financial aid process.

"Students who wish to receive financial aid at ABAC during the 2012 fall semester should complete their financial aid applications as soon as possible," Jernigan said.

For more information contact Jernigan at (229) 391-5018. Classes for the summer term at ABAC begin on June 4. Fall semester classes begin on Aug. 13.

FOCUS Going Bi-Weekly for Summer

From May 7 to August 13 the FOCUS will be published every two weeks. Please keep this in mind when submitting events for the FOCUS. Questions? Contact Ashley Mock at amock@abac.edu