



# FOCUS

## ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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### Jefferson Student Wins Spring 2011 Donaldson Award

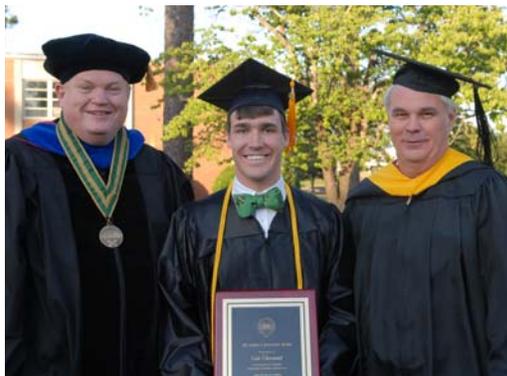
Cain Thurmond, an agribusiness and agricultural economics major from Jefferson, received the prestigious George P. Donaldson award at the spring commencement ceremony on Friday at ABAC.

Thurmond, who served as the first president of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity at ABAC, was selected for the award based on a combination of academics and extracurricular activities. The award included a plaque and a check for \$500 from the ABAC Alumni Association. Donaldson served as president of ABAC from 1947-61.

Thurmond added the Donaldson Award to his vast array of achievements including the Agribusiness and Agricultural Economics Award from the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Award of Distinction from the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources during this year's Honors Day.

The son of Phil and Susie Thurmond, he has been an active member in ABAC's Cattlemen's Association and the Ag Business Club. During the 2009-2010 academic year, Thurmond served as the Student Government Association's freshman class president and was a member of the ABAC Ambassadors, where he completed over 70 hours of service as a representative for the college.

Thurmond won the Mr. ABAC contest in 2010 and received a Pacesetter Award for his contributions to the campus as a student leader. He made the



Dean's List three times while at ABAC. His involvement outside of ABAC includes his participation with the National Agri-Marketing Association and serving as

a representative for Alpha Gamma Rho during this year's National Ag Day in Washington, D.C.

A total of 207 graduates participated in the ceremony. Thirty-one students received bachelor's degrees. The guest speaker at the event was Governor Nathan Deal.

### Deal Challenges ABAC Graduates at Commencement

Georgia Governor Nathan Deal challenged the 204 graduates of ABAC on Friday night to "concentrate on things that matter."

In his first college commencement address since being elected Governor, Deal encouraged the ABAC graduates to "fill your life with things of substance."

"The scales of greatness are heavily weighted on the side of service, not selfishness," Deal said. "Lead a life of conviction."

ABAC President David Bridges said the overflow crowd of 2,600 was perhaps the largest crowd ever to attend an ABAC graduation. A total of 31 graduates received bachelor's degrees, the most since ABAC instituted a series of bachelor's degree programs in January of 2008.

"The event tonight is called both graduation and commencement," Deal



said. "You have graduated from one phase of your life, and now you can commence to the next phase. As you commence, don't lead a life that is balanced with other people's values. Open your mind and ask why?"

Bridges recognized ABAC faculty member Melanie Partlow during the ceremony for her 2011 Regents' Teaching Excellence Award from the University System of Georgia. She was honored at a ceremony in Atlanta earlier this year.

## Women's Tennis Rolling; Baseball Season Over

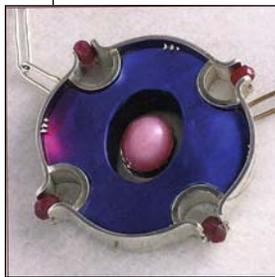
The ABAC women's tennis team won all eight matches in the first round of the National Junior College Athletic Association tournament in Tucson, Ariz., on Sunday. Chanel Cunningham from Australia won Rookie of the Year for Region IV, Jordan Carter won Player to Watch for Region IV and Dale White won Assistant Coach of the Year for Region IV at the National Banquet. Coach Alan Kramer's team continues tournament play today.

In baseball action, Coach Steve Janousek's Stallions lost to East Georgia 13-3 on Friday before sweeping a twin-bill by scores of 8-0 and 6-2 on Saturday over the Bobcats. ABAC did not make the state playoffs and ends the year with a record of 19-34.

## Metalsmith at Georgia Museum On Saturday

The Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC will feature its third installment of the "Second Saturdays" series this Saturday 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 semiprecious gemstones.



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

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.

Interested persons can contact Huff at (229) 391-5222 or [phuff@abac.edu](mailto:phuff@abac.edu)

## ABAC Travels to Alaska

The ABAC External Affairs office will sponsor a trip to Alaska on July 24-Aug. 6. The trip includes the option of a five-night land tour and seven-night cruise or you may choose the cruise only option. An optional add-on tour of Victoria and Vancouver is also available. Contact Diane Kilgore at [dkilgore@abac.edu](mailto:dkilgore@abac.edu) or call (229) 391-5065 for details. For all the upcoming travel opportunities from ABAC, visit [www.abac.edu/psbo/travel](http://www.abac.edu/psbo/travel)

## Sports Camps Abound This Summer at ABAC

Sports camps offered this summer will include: Baseball, Tennis, Softball, and Golf.

Registration forms and waivers for each camp are available on the ABAC website, visit the athletics website at [www.abac.edu/pe](http://www.abac.edu/pe) and click on the respective sports. For more information contact Shirley Wilson at 229-391-4930.

## Have You Met Your New Academic Support Counselors?

(formerly known as the Student Development Specialists)



Pictured from top left and going clockwise: Nicholas Urquhart, Melissa Willis, Charla Sutton and Rebecca Cofer

They are here to help you in all areas academic! The ASCs are not just here to help students- we are a great resource for faculty and staff too!

*Mr. Skeleton says, "Find your ASCs in the Academic Support Center (bottom floor of the Library)".*

Email or call the ASCs with questions about registration, graduation applications, Orientation Days, Family Weekend, degree plans, dropping a class, student success issues or any other academic area.

[asc@abac.edu](mailto:asc@abac.edu)

229-391-4995

## ABAC Pool Open

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

## Forty Inducted into Business Honor Society



The School of Business at ABAC recently inducted 40 students into the Alpha Beta Gamma International Business Honor Society at a dinner held in their honor at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village.

Alpha Beta Gamma is an International Business Honor Society established to encourage scholarship among two-year college students in business curricula. Students are eligible for membership if they obtained a 3.0 GPA or better and earned 12 credit hours.

As an International Business Honor Society member, students have access to leadership, scholarships, and employment opportunities; forums, chapter and national activities, graduation recognition, and the privilege of a being a lifetime honor society member.

The following students were inducted into the Alpha Beta Gamma 2011 class: Business Administration

majors: Gwendolyn Anderson, Kevin Bailey, Hannah Bass, Leslie Cheek, Shannon Collins, Kayla Davenport, Brittany Fore, Racheal Glenn, Bernard Green, Regina Hembree, Kelsey Jones, Krista Jones, Savannah Justice, Maria Llamas, Ryan Moore, Priya Patel, Ayana Perryman, Keshuna Robinson, Terry Sheffield, Jacob Tompkins, Roxanne Walker, Leah Waters, Tamzy Whittle; Economics major: Paxton Gordon; Information Technology majors: Miguel Rodriguez, Jon Rogers, Richard Ussery; Agriculture Business and Agriculture Economics majors: John McLocklin, Charles Griffin, Davis Bruorton, Cain Thurmond, Brittany Doster, Grace Parker; Rural Business & Economic Development majors: Christine Morrelli, Jeremy Newhouse, Cassie Spears; Diversified Agriculture majors: Christopher Tatum, Randi Walden.

## Summer Term Students Get More HOPE at ABAC

Students who are eligible for the HOPE Scholarship can save over \$500 by taking a full load of classes this summer at ABAC.

Traci Bryan from the financial aid office at ABAC said that most HOPE eligible students who take 15 credit hours worth of classes in the fall semester will have to pay about \$670 for tuition and fees at ABAC because of the new HOPE guidelines as well as a slightly higher cost for tuition and fees.

HOPE eligible students can take the same 15 hours of credit classes during the summer term at ABAC for about \$150. Books will be an additional cost for both the summer and the fall.

"The new HOPE guidelines do not take effect until the fall semester," Bryan said. "A student who is just graduating from high school who is HOPE eligible can save a significant amount of money by taking the same classes during the summer term."

Summer term classes at ABAC begin June 6 and continue through July 27. Fall semester classes run Aug. 15 through Dec. 2.

"We have a great selection of classes during the summer term," ABAC Vice President for Academic Affairs Niles Reddick said. "By taking summer classes, students can get a head start on the fall and save money at the same time."

Director of Enrollment Management Donna Webb said students who plan to attend the University of Georgia or any other college and university during the fall semester can pick up classes this summer at ABAC's main campus in Tifton or at ABAC on the Square in Moultrie.

"We have a lot of students who take one or two classes either in Tifton or Moultrie in the summer to lighten their load at a university in the fall," Webb said. "These are core curriculum classes that will transfer without loss of credit. They can take these classes at a lower cost at ABAC while they are home for the summer."

Applications for the summer and fall terms are now being accepted by the enrollment management office. Interested persons can visit the ABAC web site at [www.abac.edu](http://www.abac.edu) for more information.



## Red Hatters Visit Georgia Museum of Agriculture

The Red Hatters from Lakeland made a recent visit to the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village in Tifton. The Museum is now operated by Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. A highlight of the trip was a visit to the Museum Gallery for the quilt and rolling pin exhibit. The group also enjoyed a delightful lunch at Three Graces at the Lankford Manor.

## Bottles and Brushes Friday at Museum

The fourth session of the Bottles and Brushes art classes will take place at 6 p.m. on Friday at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village, now operated by ABAC. Participants will be painting "You've Got Mail", an original painting by instructor Brenda Rose.



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Rose will guide

participants through each step of recreating the featured picture, while a piece of art materializes before their eyes.

"This month's painting is unique in that each participant can personalize the mailbox with their own family name," Polly Huff, Gallery Coordinator from the ABAC Arts Connection, said.

Participants can bring their favorite beverage while enjoying an evening of creativity and fun. The Gallery at the Museum will provide the paint, canvas and brushes, all adding up to an exciting evening with friends.

"Bottles & Brushes offers a participant the ideal setting for a fun Friday evening, especially if you make it a date night or if you bring along a friend," said Huff. "Some of our participants gave this class as a Mothers' Day gift, and we look forward to having those mother-daughter teams with us at this next class."

Huff said the Bottles and Brushes series will offer a class at least once a month. Gift certificates will be available for future classes.

There is a fee of \$25 per person for the class or \$40 for a couple. Participants must register ahead of time by contacting contact Huff at (229) 391-5222 or email phuff@abac.edu. Space is limited.

## ABAC Family

Dr. Shelley Fandel and Donna Webb, along with five students, attended the FCCLA conference in Athens on April 15. The following morning the School of Human Sciences, Enrollment Management, and the Office of College Advancement hosted a breakfast for the advisors.

Dr. Tim Marshall, Brooke Jernigan, and Donna Webb, along with four students, attended the GA FFA State Convention in Macon on April 28.



## Tiftarea Academy Students Receive Scholarships to ABAC

Four seniors at Tiftarea Academy recently received ABAC Foundation scholarships to attend Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College when the fall semester begins Aug. 15. The group included (l-r) Garrett Rippey, Deanna Mathis, Mallory Purvis, and Ryan Reed. Rippey was awarded the Ag Alumni scholarship, Mathis received the Hunt Foundation scholarship, Purvis was awarded the Affinity Health Group scholarship, and Reed received the C. Alex Kemp scholarship.

## ABAC Birthdays

9 Pathelyn Smith  
10 Michael Lewis  
12 Carlos Howard

15 Kris Liebegott  
16 Larry Stinson  
17 Betty McCorvey



## Students Receive Georgia Feed & Grain Scholarship

Four students at ABAC have been selected to receive \$1,000 scholarships from the Georgia Feed and Grain Association.

The students include Randi Walden, a junior Diversified Agriculture major from Stockbridge; Blake Jones, a sophomore Diversified Agriculture major from Jacksonville; Caitlin Rodgers, a junior Diversified Agriculture major from Dearing; and Keaton Griner, a freshman Agricultural Communications major from Moultrie.

Sammy Wright, Vice President of Chickasha of Georgia who represented the Georgia Feed and Grain Association, said the students were chosen because of their specific majors relating to agriculture, Georgia's largest industry.

"The Georgia Feed and Grain Association is very interested in students who will continue the great tradition of the agriculture industry in our state," Wright, a 1974 ABAC alumnus, said.



Four outstanding ABAC students were selected to receive the Georgia Feed and Grain Scholarship. Pictured (l-r) Dr. Tim Marshall, Keaton Griner, Randi Walden, Blake Jones, Caitlin Rodgers, and Sammy Wright.

Dr. Tim Marshall, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources at ABAC, said the scholarships provided another great example of how the agriculture industry in Georgia is continuing to prepare for the future.

"The Georgia Feed and Grain Association has supported our students for a long time," Marshall said. "These students will one day be the leaders in agriculture in our state."

The students will be able to use the scholarships during the ABAC fall semester, which begins on Aug. 15.