



FOCUS

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ABAC Fillies Tennis Team Finishes Fifth in Nation

The Fillies of ABAC finished in a tie for fifth place in the National Junior College Athletic Association women's national tennis tournament which wound up on Thursday in Tucson, Ariz.

Ranked eighth in the nation when the tournament began, the Fillies got an 8-0 win in the consolation match final over the College of Lake County thanks to the doubles' team of Chanel Cunningham and Keri Huett to finish with 25 points, tying Eastern Arizona and Florida State College.

"It is a slippery slope when you start to watch every point out here, and you become too dependent on others to determine your fate," Fillies Coach Alan Kramer said. "You have to make sure to control what you can control, and we did that."

Tyler won the national title followed by Lee, St. Petersburg, and Laredo. The Fillies bounced back from a disappoint-

ing 17th place finish last year.

"The girls showed significant improvement from the beginning of the season until now," Kramer said. "Coach (Dale) White (assistant coach) and I told them if we stayed the course on our expectations, we can put ourselves in position for good things to happen."

"There are many good teams out here, and finishing in the upper tier is certainly going to make this a memorable year. We were able to stay focused on our team goals."

The Fillies won their 18th consecutive Georgia Collegiate Athletic Association title on April 22 at the Red Hill



Athletic Center at ABAC. They used that 9-0 win over Gordon as a springboard to the national tournament.

Kramer and

White will return from Tucson for a brief respite before heading west again with the Stallions' tennis team to play in the national men's tournament in Dallas, Tex.

Norman "Red" Hill, former coach of the men's team, has been working with the Stallions this week. Hill won two national championships in men's tennis at ABAC, the last in 1999 on the last point of the last match he ever coached at ABAC before retiring.

Ray Selected to National FCCLA Leadership Team

Kristen Ray, an ABAC student from Alma, has been selected as one of six students from across the country to serve on the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Leadership Training Team.

She and her fellow teammates will spend time during the summer and the next academic year traveling all over the United States to work with high school students on leadership development and programming for FCCLA, formerly known as the Future Homemakers of America.

The family and consumers sciences major at ABAC completed the information form online to take part in this program and was selected for the leadership training team.

"I've learned so much and grown as a person through the FCCLA," said Ray. "Essentials are taught through family and consumer sciences such as nutrition, child development, and fashion merchandising. I really want to promote leadership and growth through family and consumer science education. It is

all about modeling the way for future generations, and I want to share that with others."

Being a part of the FCCLA team is not Ray's only extracurricular activity. At ABAC she is a student worker in the Office of Enrollment Services, served as both a senator and a representative for the Family and Consumer Sciences club in the Student Government Association, and is active in Baptist Collegiate Ministries, the Stallion Society, and Relay for Life.

Ray doesn't have any set expectations regarding her new role, but plans to make the most of anything that comes her way. Her goal is simply to motivate and inspire others to be successful in the field she so proudly promotes.

After receiving her associate's degree in family and consumer sciences from ABAC, she would like to further her education in the field of communication.



"I would love to stay at ABAC to earn my bachelor's degree," said Ray. "It's my little home away from home." She hopes this new opportunity to represent the FCCLA will lead to other job possibilities within the organization. "My dream job would be to work at the national headquarters in Virginia or at the state level of the FCCLA," said Ray.

"You never know. I just need to put myself out there and not be afraid of the outcome."

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.

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



ABAC Alumni Honor Tucker

ABAC Alumni Association President George Granade presented Laura Beth Tucker with a plaque in recognition of her service as president of the ABAC Alumni Association for two terms from 2009-2011. Tucker, her husband, Tony, and their son, Brett, are all ABAC alumni. Laura Beth and Tony Tucker, former residents of Irwin County, now live in Mitchell County.

Institutional SAT Wednesday at ABAC

Students who plan to enroll in baccalaureate or pre-baccalaureate degree programs at ABAC will now have the opportunity to take the Institutional Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) on the campus instead of waiting for the national testing dates.

The admissions policy at ABAC now requires that all students who plan to enter programs which result in a baccalaureate degree either at ABAC or another institution must take the SAT or ACT exam prior to being admitted.

Dr. Maggie Martin, Director of Student Development at ABAC, said the institutional SAT offers several advantages.

“With the institutional SAT, students have the opportunity to take the test on a weekday, as opposed to a Saturday,” Martin said. “Students also receive their score within 24 hours of completing the institutional SAT, and the essay portion is not required.”

Testing for the institutional SAT is coordinated through the ABAC Office of Student Development. Upcoming testing dates for the institutional SAT at ABAC are May 18, June 21, and July 12. There is a fee of \$52 to take the test.

For more information on the institutional SAT, prospective students can contact the Office of Student Development at (229) 391-5135.

ABAC Offering Magnificent Trek To America's Heartland Aug. 13

The Office of External Affairs at ABAC will take tourists through America's Heartland and along the Mississippi River from Aug. 13 - 20. The eight-day package includes traveling through seven states before departing for home.

Tourists will catch a show at the Grand Ole Opry and attend a meet-and-greet dinner in Memphis on the first night of the trip, followed by a two-day visit to some of downtown Chicago's most famous sites including the Navy Pier, a day cruise along the Mighty Mississippi River, and a visit to author Mark Twain's boyhood home of Hannibal.

The cost of this trip is \$1,299 per person based on double occupancy and includes round-trip deluxe motor coach transportation to and from Tifton.

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



FFA Comes To ABAC

Director of Enrollment Management Donna Webb talked to many prospective students at the FFA Area V banquet in the Donaldson Dining Hall on May 10. Over 400 students and guests were in attendance.

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 for more information.

Sewell Graduates From USG Institute

Dr. Darby Sewell, Dean of the School of Human Sciences at ABAC, recently graduated from the University System of Georgia (USG) Executive Leadership Institute (ELI), gaining a knowledge and appreciation of how other areas within the USG work.

Sewell said USG Chancellor Erroll B. Davis, Jr., saw a need to cultivate and retain leaders within the system. As a result, the ELI became the flagship system-wide development program designed under the guidance of the Chancellor with significant input from executive leaders from each institution.

Sewell studied under Lynn Hobbs, Vice President of Fiscal Affairs at Middle Georgia College, as a part of her leadership training.

"I chose to shadow in the Office of Fiscal Affairs since I work on the academic side of things with ABAC," said Sewell. "The experience gave me a different perspective of how a college is operated and how important cabinet meetings are. Vice presidents within the college have to advocate for their own area while working with each other to achieve the goals of the college."

Sewell spent some of her time away from the campus to attend meetings with the Leaders Lyceum, traveling to Georgia Health Sciences University in Augusta, and participating in the President's Panel.

"When we were in Augusta we happened to be meeting on the day the college changed its name from the Medical College of Georgia to Georgia Health Sciences University," said Sewell. "That was exciting."

The ELI also focuses on personal growth as a leader with in-depth personality assessments, cohorts with other USG faculty and administrators, and six-member cross-mentoring groups.

"The personality assessment was intense and insightful," said Sewell. "A big part of the ELI is to learn more about yourself as a leader so you can achieve effective results in the workplace. I really enjoyed participating."

Sewell attended the second year of the ELI which began in September and ended in April. Dr. Billy Reynolds and Javier Gonzalez graduated from the first ELI program last year.



Bennett Receives Presidential Scholarship

Ben Bennett received the Presidential Scholarship from President David Bridges May 12 at the Lowndes High School honors night in Valdosta. The scholarship includes tuition, fees, housing and a meal plan. Bennett is the 2011-12 FFA State President. He plans to major in Agricultural Education.

Chason Reception May 31 in Evans Hall

Director of Public Relations Mike Chason will retire on May 31 after 32 years of service to the college.

Please join us for refreshments and fellowship as we wish him well on May 31 from 3-4 p.m. in Evans Hall.

Holloway Wins Top Individual Award for Slim Down Shape Up

One hundred and twelve employees signed up and participated in our first ABAC Slim Down/Shape Up Wellness activity.

The winner for our ABAC Slim Down/Shape Up contest in the individual employee category was Vickie Holloway. She will receive a \$50 gift certificate from the ABAC bookstore.

The Saggy Bottom Blues took first place in the team competition. Team members included Gay Ann Hodge and Beverly Wesley. They will each receive a \$50 gift certificate. Second Place in the team competition was The Victorious Secret, including Michelle Barton, Caren Gladin, Anita White, Krystle Williams, and Megan Williams. Each person will receive a \$35 gift certificate. Cruzin' for Losin' finished third in the team competition, winning a \$25 gift certificate. The team included Patsy Hembree, Anita Hobbs, Debbie McComas, and Pathelyn Smith.

Thanks to everyone across campus for their support and active participation in ABAC's first Slim Down/Shape Up event! Looks for additional components for the 2012 competition.

Special thanks go out to Health Services for their help in arranging to confidentially weigh the participants at the beginning of the event, weekly, and at the end of the contest. We also appreciate Human Resources, Staff Forum, and the Office of Athletics for their active support of this event. ABAC Nursing Students also provided several lunch and learn discussions around health and healthy lifestyles.

Staff Forum Meeting Wed.

The Staff Forum meeting will be in Health Sciences 237 at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday. Officers will be elected. A slate will be introduced, but nominations will also be accepted from the floor, if the nominee is present to approve. Please e-mail Shirley Wilson at swilson@abac.edu to volunteer to bring refreshments.



Tift County High School Students Receive Scholarships

Five seniors at Tift County High School recently received ABAC Foundation scholarships to attend Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College when the fall semester begins Aug. 15. The group included (seated l-r) Maria Barber, Kristen Conway, Michelle Cooper, (standing l-r) Austin West, and Kaitlyn Cawley. Barber was awarded the Rotary scholarship. Conway received the Affinity Health Group scholarship. Cooper was awarded the Dr. and Mrs. Moorman and ABAC Foundation scholarships. West received the General ABAC Foundation scholarship, and Cawley received the Ag Georgia Farm Credit and Foundation scholarships.

ABAC Birthdays

- 17 Betty McCorvey
- 18 Jeannie Paulk
- 20 Michelle Reddick
- 21 Keisha Spears

ABAC Family

Mike Chason was the guest speaker for the Tifton/Tift County Chamber of Commerce T.A.L.K. leadership program graduation ceremony for the top eighth graders in Tift County on May 11. On May 10, he was the emcee for the Tift County High School CTAE honors ceremony and talked about ABAC at the FFA Area V banquet. Donna Webb attended the FFA Area V banquet on May 10. ABAC Family have presented scholarship in the area at the following schools: **May 3: Tiftarea Academy—Mike Chason, Turner County High School—Donna Webb Citizens Christian Academy—Brooke Jernigan; May 9: Worth County High School—Gail Dillard; May 10: Irwin County High School—Brooke Jernigan; May 12 Lowndes High School—Dr. David Bridges.**

Fisher New HR Assistant

Lynda Fisher is the part-time Human Resources Assistant. She has already begun training with Jane Thompson and Bam Pirkle.



Fisher is married to Richard Fisher who works for the Tift County Board of Education. She has four children who will be entering fifth, eighth, eleventh and twelfth grades.

Hicks Named Sodexo Custodial Manager

Kim Hicks has been named the new Custodial Manager for Sodexo. She will coordinate all custodial duties for the ABAC campus. Hicks will also continue to serve as the administrative assistant in the Sodexo office until the position is filled on July 1.

Contact Hicks at 229-391-5189 with any custodial needs.

