



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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State Farm Intern Program at ABAC

The ABAC Stafford School of Business and State Farm have partnered together to create the State Farm Intern program with agents Chad Sumner, Tifton and Brent Dixon, Adel. Each semester a group of ABAC students will be selected to intern with a local State Farm Agent. During the internship these students will be exposed to the insurance industry with the hopes that a number of the students will decide to pursue a career with State Farm. The first intern group began work last week and will continue through July. The summer interns and local agents are pictured left to right, Last row: Chad Sumner, Dr. David Bridges, Brent Dixon; Second row: Clay Harris and Dr. Niles Reddick; Third row: Luis Mendez, Davontae Hunt, Kendall Hickox, and Seth Mann; Front row: CiCi Arriaga and Susan Driscoll.

The ABAC Men's Tennis Team Placed 9th at National Tournament



The Stallion Tennis team traveled to Plano, Texas last week for the NJCAA Men's National Tennis Tournament. The team placed 9th overall out of 26 teams. Parker Cuevas-Woodall won the Regional IV ITA Player to Watch award at the NJCAA National Tournament banquet. In addition to winning this award, Cuevas-Woodall made it to the semifinals in singles at the #4 slot. Oliver Snaider won the Regional IV ITA Sophomore Player of the Year award at the NJCAA National Tournament banquet. Snaider and Ricky Symanski made it to the doubles semifinals in the #1 slot. Great work to the coaches and players!

Changes to Point of Contact for GSW Early Childhood Program at ABAC

Those interested in the Georgia Southwestern State University Early Childhood program will now contact Lynn Larsen (lynn.larsen@gsw.edu). Larsen will be handling all duties except room reservations which will be handled by Cindy Epperly. Larsen is housed in Bowen Hall and will assist students interested in entering this program. Diantha Ellis is still the advisor for management and accounting. For more information regarding these changes contact Melissa Willis (mkwillis@abac.edu).

Georgia Museum of Agriculture Barn Quilt Project Underway

The Georgia Museum of Agriculture ABAC, along with the Wiregrass Quilters Guild, are working on a year-long Barn Quilt Project that will be unveiled at the 2014 Folklife Festival and Annual Quilt Show. Barn quilts have become



popular again with more and more becoming visible. Quilt trails have been developed in many states.

The history of the American Barn Quilt can be traced back almost 300 years to the arrival of immigrants from the central regions of Europe; Germany, Austria and the Netherlands. It is widely believed that barn painting/quilting originated in Pennsylvania with these immigrants and then spread out.

Painting a decorative and distinctive quilt pattern on their barns was a wonderful way of allowing for decoration. It also became an excellent way for travelers to find particular families or cross-roads as locals would just tell them which pattern to look for. Around the 1840's barn painting and decorating became an actual trade with specialized artisans. These artists combined many folk designs as well as specific geometric patterns from quilt squares. The craft

flourished over the next several decades, into the time period portrayed by the Georgia Museum of Agriculture. The design for the new barn quilt which will become a per-

manent part of the landscape at the museum will be created by the Wiregrass Quilters Guild over the summer using a pattern from the wiregrass area. The design of the quilt will then be transferred to outdoor grade sheets of wood and painted by the Quilters Guild, local artists, and volunteers over the winter. Additionally, students from ABAC creative writing classes will research and write curriculum materials surrounding the history of barn quilts, and the local project's details.

During the course of this project, there will be one internship position available to assist the GMA and the Quilters Guild with the execution of the project. A rural studies or art major is preferred.

In April 2014, the GMA and Quilters Guild will host a "Quilter's Picnic" by the Opry Shelter for the dedication and unveiling of the barn quilt. The barn quilt will be hung for permanent display to coincide with the 2014 Annual Quilt Show at the GMA during the Folklife Festival. In addition, the GMA Gallery

will host a Quilt Exhibit at that time spotlighting Georgia artist Sue Turnquist, who is the 2013 American Legacy Viewers' Choice Quilter.

Curriculum materials will be available to school groups visiting the GMA, and a brochure will be available to visitors, both referencing the new barn quilt. An original fabric quilt will be made by the Guild duplicating the barn quilt's pattern. The fabric quilt will be placed somewhere on site, and clues will take visitors on a scavenger hunt to find and view it.

For questions on the barn quilt project or to inquire about being a part of it, interested persons can contact GMA Gallery Coordinator Polly Huff at phuff@abac.edu or 229.391.5222.

Memorial Day May 27

Memorial Day occurs every year on the final Monday of May. This is a day of remembering the men and women who died while serving in the United States

Armed Forces. Take time to thank those who have served our country.

The offices at ABAC will be open for business as normal on Monday.



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 for inclusion in the next FOCUS.

ABAC Birthdays

- 21 Keisha Spears
- 23 Gloria Sulkowski
- 23 Nicholas Urquhart
- 26 Robin Cone
- 27 Troy Spicer
- 31 Donnie Thompson



School of Nursing Pinning Ceremony

Jeanie Paulk, Instructor in the School of Nursing and Health Sciences at ABAC, assisting graduate Micheal Coker with the lighting of her lamp during the Nursing pinning ceremony. The lighting of the lamp signifies the passing of knowledge and responsibility from the instructors to the graduates.

