Jodie Rayl Snow has been named Chief Operating Officer of ABAC Foundation, Inc. at ABAC, according to an announcement by President David Bridges.

“Jodie brings a solid background and knowledge of ABAC to the position,” ABAC President David Bridges said. “I believe her new ideas will bring energy, creativity, and enthusiasm to the COO position.”

A Fitzgerald native, Snow received her Associate of Science degree from ABAC in 2000, a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Georgia in 2002 and Juris Doctorate and a Master of Business Administration from the Stetson University College of Law in 2006. Prior to joining the ABAC administration in 2012 she served as an Assistant State Attorney for the Second Judicial Circuit of Florida in Tallahassee. Snow also worked for four years at McGahee & Perez, P.L. in Clewiston, Fla. from 2007-2011. Snow is excited to return to her alma mater.

“I am thrilled to be joining the ABAC family. Ever since I graduated from ABAC I have dreamed of coming back and now that dream is a reality,” Snow said. “I am excited about working with the students, staff, faculty, fellow alumni, and the ABAC Foundation, Inc. Board of Trustees. I am looking forward to giving back to a school that has given so much to me."

While at ABAC as a student from 1998-2000 she played on the Fillies tennis team, was a member of the Honors Program and served as a Resident Assistant in Fulwood Hall. Snow received both the Donaldson Award and J. G. Woodroof Scholar in 2000, followed by the ABAC Young Alumnus Award in 2011. She was also an inaugural member of ABAC ACTIONS (Alumni Connecting To Involved and Outstanding New Students), the alumni-based student recruiting effort designed to attract academically talented and engaged students to ABAC.

Snow will begin June 11. She will assume the duties of Melvin Merrill, who has served as the Chief Operating Officer of the Foundation since 1978. Merrill will continue to serve the college as the Director of Capital Planning. Snow and her husband, Matt, are in the process of relocating to Tifton.

Join ABAC President David Bridges and the other residents of Tift Hall in the Presidential Gallery on the second floor of Tift Hall on Tuesday at 4 p.m. for old fashioned refreshments. Get a look at the newly renovated building and hear a brief campus update by President Bridges.
First ABAC Baseball Camp Begins June 4

Five sessions of the Fundamentals of Baseball Camp will be held on the campus of ABAC beginning June 4 through the Office of Athletics. Pre-registration is required.

The first camp will run June 4 - 8; the second from June 11 - 15; the third from June 18 - 22; the fourth camp from June 25 - 29; and the last camp from July 9 - 13. All camps will take place from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the ABAC baseball field. This camp is aimed at boys, ages 7 – 13 years old.

There is a fee of $99, and participants need to bring a snack and drinks for each day. Register online at www.abac.edu/pe/baseball or call ABAC Athletics at 229-391-4830.

Dr. Ray Barber Retires After 35 Years of Service

With 35 years of dedicated service to ABAC under his belt, Dr. Ray Barber, Dean of the School of Science and Mathematics, will say good-bye to the beakers and microscopes when he retires on June 1.

Barber began his career in education with a brief stint at his alma mater, Auburn University, teaching physiology labs before coming to ABAC in 1977. He climbed through the ranks at ABAC, serving as an instructor in biology until 1980 when he was promoted to assistant professor.

In 1990, Barber was promoted to an associate professor of biology and advanced to the title of professor seven years later. From 1996-2006, he served as the Chair of the Division of Science and Mathematics and then from 2009-2012 as the Dean of the School of Science and Mathematics.

Barber received his B. S. in zoology in 1974 and his M.S. in physiology in 1976, both from Auburn University. He continued his education at the University of Georgia, where he received his Ed. D. in science education in 1989.

Barber is justly proud of the many accomplishments of the School of Science and Mathematics.

“We were able to acquire a five-year National Science Foundation STEM scholarship award to provide $600,000 in scholarships to qualified students with majors in one of the sciences or mathematics, and most recently we offered the first traditional bachelor of science degree in the history of ABAC, a B.S. in Biology with both a pre-professional and generic track,” Barber said. “I am also proud that we have maintained our standards and have produced quality graduates who are sought after by transfer institutions.”

Barber’s impact on the ABAC campus has attracted the attention of his peers. In 1996, he received the W. Bruce Donaldson Award for Teaching Excellence and in 2011 he received the E. Lanier Carson Award for administrative leadership.

Barber’s memories of the college aren’t all academic in nature. He remembers fondly all the good times with his colleagues as well.

“I was one of the charter members of the Wampus Cats football team that used to play against the students,” said Barber. “There were also all those holiday barbecues at the ‘slab’ at Donald Massey’s house.”

But Barber says one of his fondest memories is when all members of the Division of Science and Mathematics went canoeing down the Alapaha River in the late 70s.

“One of the canoes tipped over and got jammed between some rocks,” said Barber. “We spent most of the trip chasing after coolers and other items that had fallen out of the canoe.”

Barber says what he will miss most about ABAC is the camaraderie of the students, faculty, and staff. Although his ABAC career as a fulltime administrator may be coming to a close, he plans to teach part-time during his retirement.

He also wants to do some traveling, take care of a to-do list around his house, and spend a lot more time cycling, kayaking and enjoying family.
Three of the six intercollegiate athletics teams at ABAC captured Georgia Collegiate Athletic Association titles this year and advanced to national competition.

Behind the stellar play of GCAA Tournament Most Valuable Player Chanel Cunningham, the Fillies’ tennis team rolled to its 19th consecutive women’s tennis championship. Coach Alan Kramer’s team wound up 11th in the national tournament in Tyler, Tex.

Cunningham was the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Region IV Sophomore Player of the Year. She was also named All-Region. Karen Ching, Carli Hester, and Julia Saunders were also selected for All-Region honors in singles. Olivia Robbins and Nikki Hall were named All-Region in doubles. The team compiled an 11-6 overall record.

The Fillies’ tennis team zoomed to a seventh place finish in the national tournament in Plano, Tex., after upsetting a seventh place finish in the national tournament in Tyler, Tex.

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