ABAC Foundation Welcomes New Trustees

Five new trustees are now a part of the ABAC Foundation. New Foundation President Lynn Lovett said the group includes Dr. Greg Anderson, Amber Davis Collins, Jaclyn Dixon Ford, Larry Montgomery, and Cain Thurmond.

Anderson is a Tifton native who attended ABAC from 1976-1978 as a pre-med major. He then completed degree requirements at the University of Georgia (UGA) before receiving his Doctorate of Medicine from the Medical College of Georgia. Anderson did a general surgery residency at the University of Kentucky Hospital and a urology residency at the University of Alabama, Birmingham VA Hospital and the Birmingham Children’s Hospital.

Anderson returned to Tifton in 1988 to establish a urology clinic. He served for a time as Chief of Staff and Chief of Surgery at Tift Regional Medical Center. Besides his duties as a surgeon, Anderson finds time to be involved in the community as the chairman of the Henry Tift Myers Airport Authority and as a member of the First Community Bank Board of Directors. He is married to Lynda Lee, and they have three children Austin, Shelley, and Kate.

Collins is a 1998 ABAC graduate who is a scientist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. She earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from UGA in agricultural education. Collins was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Honduras for two years and now serves as president of the Atlanta Area Returned Peace Corps Volunteers.

Collins earned the President’s Volunteer Service Award for her work with Hurricane Katrina and Cool Girls. An active member of the ABAC Alumni Association, she was one of the first members of the ABAC ACTIONS team. She was the featured speaker at the ABAC Freshman Convocation in 2007.

Ford co-owns and co-manages Dixon Gin Co., Inc., in Berrien County. She is also actively involved in her family’s farming.

Three Students Receive Larry Allen Leadership Award

Dr. Jerry Baker, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, recently honored three students with Larry Allen Leadership awards. The students included (l-r) Brittney Gunter, a diversified agriculture major from Murrayville; Kevin Vantrees, a diversified agriculture major from Douglasville; and Allison Gordy, a natural resource management–wildlife major from Sharpsburg. Allen is a former chair of the Division of Agriculture at ABAC.

Sign Your Kids Up For Camp Wiregrass This Summer

School’s out and children are looking forward to summer. Camp Wiregrass, the Georgia Museum of Agriculture’s day camp program, can provide an adventurous summer for your child. Camp Wiregrass offers educational, hands-on, and exciting programs in a unique environment for the ages 4-11. Week long camps or half day workshops are available throughout the summer. ABAC employees receive a discount. To view sessions or register, visit www.abac.edu/museum/kids-camp or contact the camp director at museumcamp@abac.edu or 229.391.5221.
Perry Celebrates 30 Years of Service to ABAC

Thirty years ago Judy Perry was one of 85 applicants for a payroll processing position in the human resources office at ABAC. Much to her delight, she got the job and here she is today, still enjoying a great career at ABAC.

“The facilities would have to be the number one thing that has changed,” Perry, now the Senior Administrative Assistant for the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, said. “The additions of the new apartments, the upgrading of the grounds, and renovation of the campus have really shaped ABAC.”

Born and raised in Tifton, Perry is still proud to call Tifton her home. She started working in Tift Hall at ABAC in the business office in 1985. She admits that she loves to drive up to the front of the campus and see how nice the buildings are today after the Historic Front Campus Renovation in 2013.

Perry has seen a change in the students as well. She believes that students are now more focused on their studies and that overall, they are more goal-oriented than they were in the past. She believes they are also more devoted to their study habits.

What motivates her to get up every morning is the love that she has for her job.

“I love the people that I work with and working with the students is a pleasure,” Perry said. “I love to come in to the office in the morning and it is not the same routine over and over. You never know what a day might hold.”

One of the things that she enjoys about her job is working with the students and seeing how they progress. In fact, she says that working with students is the most rewarding aspect of her job.

In 2010, Perry received the prestigious Roy R. Jackson, Sr., Award for Staff Excellence. This award is given to staff members who support the college/community in one or more of its extra-curricular activities, present a positive image when off-campus, and contribute to the growth and development of ABAC beyond the call of duty.

“To be chosen by your peers to receive this distinguished award that ABAC offers to staff members makes you want to strive to do more whenever you know that people think that much of you and your work,” Perry said.

Perry is currently the advisor for the Equestrian Club and Sigma Alpha Sorority. She loves the family atmosphere at ABAC and believes that faculty, staff, and students really get to know each other. In the future she hopes that ABAC continues to grow in enrollment. She is very excited about the new bachelor degrees, and she hopes to see ABAC continue to thrive.

Perry and her husband have two kids and four grandchildren. She received her associate degree in business from ABAC, and both of her children are also ABAC alumni. In her spare time, she enjoys barrel racing and scrapbooking.

Trustees continued from page 1

operation which includes cotton, peanuts, corn, and pecans. Ford was appointed as a director to the Georgia State Farm Service Agency Board in 2010, serves as a producer delegate for the National Cotton Council, and is on the board of Southeastern Cotton Ginners’ Association. She graduated from UGA with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Communications. She and her husband, Jake, have two children and reside in Alapaha.

Montgomery serves as President of the Montgomery Family Foundation in Carrollton and manages Montgomery Farms in Georgia and the Double U Ranch in Texas. Born and raised in Atlanta, he received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a MBA with emphasis in marketing and finance from Emory University. He retired after 30 years with the Kimberly-Clark Corporation where he served in engineering, manufacturing, research and development, and management of major capital projects. Montgomery and his wife, Mary, have two children, Christine and Elizabeth. Montgomery funded two ABAC Presidential Scholarships and another annual scholarship for ABAC students this year.

Thurmond is a 2011 ABAC graduate who is a Leadership Development Associate in Sales and Marketing at CSX in Jacksonville, Fla. While a student at ABAC, he served as Freshman Class President and as an ABAC Ambassador. A founding father of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity at ABAC, he is a former National FFA Vice President. After completing his ABAC education, he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural and Applied Economics from UGA in 2014.

Summer Bookstore Hours:
Monday - Thursday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. & Friday: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
The Mail Center window will be closed until August. All purchases and package pickup will occur through the Bookstore during these NEW summer hours. Utilize the mail drop slots for mail both during the operation hours (unless special instructions are necessary) as well as after hours.
All military personnel and their families will receive free admission from Memorial Day through Labor Day at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC, according to an announcement by Museum Director Garrett Boone.

“The offer is supported by Blue Star Museums, the collaboration between the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, and the Department of Defense,” Boone said. “This is the third year the GMA has participated in the Blue Star Museums program.”

The Museum will officially launch the program Wednesday. It runs throughout the summer and ends on Labor Day, Sept. 7, 2015.

“The Blue Star Museums program offers an excellent opportunity to introduce the rich, rural heritage of South Georgia to the military and their families,” Boone said.

“Parents of young children tell us that they go to museums to learn new things and have family time together,” said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. “Blue Star Museums help them do both, by helping military families learn about the cultural resources in their communities, and offering a fun, high-quality experience that’s budget friendly as well as family friendly. We’re proud to help connect museums to military communities nationwide.”

“Blue Star Museums has grown into a nationally recognized program that service members and their families look forward to each year,” Blue Star Families Chief Executive Officer Kathy Roth-Douquet said. “It helps bring our local military and civilian communities together, and offers families fun and enriching activities in their home towns. We are thrilled with the continued growth of the program and the unparalleled opportunities it offers.”

The Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC is one of 2,000 museums across America to offer free admission to the nation’s active duty military personnel including National Guard and Reserve and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day 2015. This year’s Blue Star Museums represent not just fine arts museums, but also science museums, history museums, nature centers, and dozens of children’s museums.

Among this year’s new participants are the Museum of Contemporary Art in Jacksonville, Fl., the Duluth Children’s Museum in Minnesota, The Space Station Museum in Novato, Calif., and The Lyon Arboretum at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The program provides families an opportunity to enjoy the nation’s cultural heritage and learn more about their new communities after a military move. The complete list of participating museums is available at arts.gov/national/blue-star-museums.

The free admission program is available to any bearer of a Geneva Convention common access card (CAC), a DD Form 1173 ID card (dependent ID), or a DD Form 1173-1 ID card, which includes active duty U.S. military; Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, as well as members of the National Guard and Reserve, U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps, and up to five family members. Museums that wish to participate in Blue Star Museums may contact bluestarmuseums@arts.gov or Wendy Clark at (202) 682 - 5451.

The Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC in Tifton resides on over 96 acres and includes a Country Store, Museum Hall, Art Gallery, Historic Village, Peanut Museum, and conference facilities. Admission Tuesday through Friday is $7 for adults, $6 for seniors, and $4 for children 5-16 years of age. Children under five years old are free.

Saturday admission is $8 for seniors, $10 for adults, $5 for children 5-16 years of age, and free for children under five.

For more information on Georgia’s Museum of Agriculture, interested persons can contact the Country Store at (229) 391-5205 or email Boone at gboone@abac.edu.

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Support The ABAC Foundation Each Time You Shop on Amazon

You can support the Foundation by designating it as your charity of choice on Amazon with no additional cost.

1. Sign in to Amazon through www.smile.amazon.com with your current username and password.
2. Select Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College Foundation, Inc. as your charity of choice (a one-time designation).
3. Once you have done so, every future purchase you make will result in a donation of 0.5% of your purchases to the Foundation.

Take the time to select the Foundation and to sign in at www.smile.amazon.com for all future Amazon shopping.
Taylor Martin, a biology major from Hephzibah, has been elected as the 2015-16 Student Government Association (SGA) President at ABAC.

Other new SGA officers include Vice President Andrew Belk, a music major from Douglas, and newly-appointed SGA Senators Brittney Gunter, a diversified agriculture major from Murrayville; Courtney Barber, a business and economic development major from Hinesville; Demarquez Springs, a music major from Waycross; Laquisa Warren, a nursing major from Macon; and Jacob Vagott, an engineering major from Centerville.

During her high school career, Martin held numerous leadership positions in FFA, 4-H, and Student Government. She has also been active as a member of several organizations at ABAC.

“I wanted to run for the position of SGA President because I want to see a positive change in an already wonderful school,” Martin said. “I have only been here a year, but I have noticed so much potential, both in and out of the classroom, that I hope to bring out and broaden. I have always been passionate about this school, so I knew that my passion would fuel the desire for my presidency.”

Martin was bitten by the political bug earlier this semester during a visit to the State Capitol with the ABAC Collegiate Young Farmers program. While there she discussed current issues with members of the State Senate, Commissioner of Agriculture Gary Black, and several lobbyists.

As the newly-elected president, Martin has some big plans for ABAC students.

“I would like to see better communication between faculty and students, such as possibly including faculty emails when registering online for classes,” Martin said. “Some other items include a frequent clean-up at Lake Baldwin and possibly some renovations to our track.”

Of all of the goals she hopes to see come to fruition, stronger relationships between faculty and students is her most important one. She believes communication and developing good relationships are integral.

Martin says that it is essential to be engaged in campus life outside of the four walls of a classroom and would like to see more faculty members become involved in campus organizations. She would also like to focus on teacher appreciation because it is another aspect of building relationships between students and faculty.

Martin does not plan to be a one-woman show. She is adamant about just how vital her vice president and senators are to her accomplishments as SGA President.

“The vice president and senators are absolutely crucial to my presidency,” Martin said. “They are the backbone to this entire establishment, and they make my job much easier. The senators will be responsible for connecting with students enrolled in their particular school and finding out what can be done to better that individual sector.”

“The Vice President will work with me in planning and carrying out events and meetings. We are all a team, and we all play significant roles in this organization. Each and every person has unique qualities that set them apart to make this team successful.”

The new SGA President hopes her legacy is one of unity.

“I want to influence others to get out of their comfort zones, try something new, get involved, and build relationships with people who may not even be in their particular school of study,” Martin said. “I want to see an open-mindedness and a strong desire to make a difference.”

The FOCUS will be published bi-weekly through the summer.

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<th>Summer Orientation Dates:</th>
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<td>Friday    June 5        June 26</td>
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<td>July 10  July 17     August 7</td>
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ABAC BIRTHDAYS
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