



# FOCUS

## ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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### Chason Reception Tuesday in Evans

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

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

**Memorial Day** was formerly known as Decoration Day, it commemorates U.S. men and women who died while in the military service. The holiday was first enacted to honor Union soldiers of the American Civil War. It was expanded after World War I to include American casualties of any war or military action. Today and every day, let us remember those who have died fighting for our freedom.

### Bottles & Brushes Art Class June 18

The fifth session of the Bottles and Brushes art classes will take place at 6 p.m. on June 18 at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village, now operated by ABAC. Participants will be painting "Ten Thousand Fireflies", an original painting by instructor Brenda Rose.

Rose will guide participants through each step of recreating the featured pic-



ture, while a piece of art materializes before their eyes.

"Bottles & Brushes offers a participant the ideal setting for a fun evening," 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.

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

"We also now offer a corporate edition of Bottles and Brushes for companies who are looking for a unique team-building experience or looking to reward exceptional employees," said Huff. "The corporate Bottles and Brushes painting will be custom-tailored to fit each company's mascot, theme, or idea."

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



### Farm Bureau Visits ABAC

Polly Huff from the ABAC Arts Connection talks to the spouses of the Georgia Farm Bureau Board of Directors on Thursday about the Oriental rug collection on display at the Gallery at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village. The Board took a tour of the Museum led by Paul Willis and a tour of the ABAC campus led by Dr. Tim Marshall and Mike Chason. Dr. David Bridges was the luncheon speaker for the group.

## Summer Term Begins June 6 at ABAC

Students who want to get a head start on the fall semester can take summer term classes beginning June 6 at ABAC in Tifton or in Moultrie at ABAC on the Square.

"We encourage students coming home for the summer from another college to enroll at ABAC for some extra classes," said Donna Webb, Director of Enrollment Management. "The summer is the perfect time to complete a class that may be a little more in-depth or to take advantage of classes that students may enjoy while balancing an active summer schedule."

These students will be enrolled as transients for the summer term. Webb said the process is simple with the students going online to complete the ABAC application and then submitting it with the \$20 application fee along with the transient permission and immunization forms.

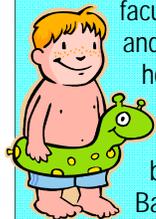
Students interested in financial aid as a transient student should contact the financial aid office at their home institution. Tuition and fees for the summer term are due to ABAC by May 26 at 4:30 p.m. HOPE eligible students may actually save money by taking summer classes because of HOPE Scholarship changes which begin in the fall and slightly higher fall semester tuition rates.

Webb said students who are graduating from high school this month may also want to take a class over the summer to get a head start on the fall semester. That includes those students who will be attending ABAC and those who may be attending another college or university in the fall.

The ABAC Office of Enrollment Management can be reached by e-mail at [abacinfo@abac.edu](mailto:abacinfo@abac.edu) or through the website at [www.abac.edu/admissions](http://www.abac.edu/admissions). The summer term runs through July 27. Fall semester classes begin Aug. 15.

## ABAC Pool Open

The ABAC pool is open for students and faculty to enjoy during the spring and summer months. The pool hours are Mon. – Thurs. from 3 – 7 p.m. and Fri. – Sun. from 1 – 6 p.m. Pool parties must be coordinated through Bobbie Baldree in the ABAC Information Center at 391-5001.



## Apply to ABAC and Financial Aid Night June 14

The Office of Enrollment Management at ABAC will host an Apply to ABAC/ Financial Aid night on June 14 from 6 – 8 p.m. at the Agricultural Sciences building on the ABAC campus.

Enrollment Management Counselor Brooke Jernigan said all prospective students are welcome to attend, no matter where they are in the admissions and financial aid process.

"We will be there answering questions and helping every prospective student on an individual basis," Jernigan said. "It's a drop-in event with no set program. We just want to help these students get ready for the fall semester at ABAC."

Traci Bryan from the financial aid area at ABAC said that students who

need assistance with financial aid must have their Personal Identification Number (PIN) from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) web site and a copy of their 2010 tax returns for parents and students, if applicable, to receive assistance with the financial aid process.

"Students who wish to receive financial aid at ABAC during the 2011 fall semester should complete their financial aid applications by July 15," Bryan said. "We can help them meet that deadline by answering their questions on June 14."

For more information, interested persons can contact Jernigan at (229) 391-5018. Classes for the fall semester at ABAC begin Aug. 15.

## ABAC Honors Klepfer

ABAC has designated a fund to receive donations in memory of Harley Klepfer. "Grandpa Harley" was an avid supporter of the ABAC tennis program since 1991. Klepfer remained connected with many of the former players, staying up-to-date on their lives' journeys, including knowing many spouses and children.

On behalf of his dedication to the tennis program, Klepfer was an inductee into the ABAC Athletics Hall of Fame in 2009. Donations made in his memory will support the Hall as his induction was one of Klepfer's most cherished honors. He passed away May 23.



## Tenure Approved For Faculty Members

Five members of the faculty at ABAC have been approved for tenure, effective Aug. 1, 2011, according to Dr. Niles Reddick, ABAC Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Those receiving tenure include Robert Carpenter, Tamara Dennis, Diantha Ellis, Dr. James McCrimmon, and Keith Perry.

Carpenter received his B. A. in Christian Thought from William Tyndale College and his M. A. in Spanish from Wayne State University. He is a Certified Spanish Interpreter for the State of Georgia and a Certified Instructor of Command Spanish. He joined the ABAC faculty in 2003 and is an assistant professor in the School of Liberal Arts.

Dennis, an assistant professor of nursing, has been a member of the ABAC faculty since 2002. She received her A.S. in Nursing from ABAC, and her B.S. and M.S. in Nursing from Valdosta State University (VSU). She teaches in the School of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Ellis received her A.S. in Business Administration from ABAC, her B.S. in

Business Administration from Georgia Southwestern State University, and her M.B.A. from VSU. She joined the ABAC faculty in 2002 and is an assistant professor in the School of Business.

McCrimmon is an associate professor of environmental horticulture and turfgrass with the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources. He has been with the college since 2007. He received his B.S. in Biology from Gardner-Webb University, his M.S. in Botany from North Carolina State University, and his Ph.D. in Agronomy from the University of Georgia.

Perry is an assistant professor of communication in the School of Liberal Arts. He received his B.A. in Interpersonal Communications and his M.A. in Communications from the University of Central Florida. He has been a member of the ABAC faculty since 2003.

Tenure may be granted to a faculty member who has served at least five years as an assistant professor and has shown the potential for making significant contributions to the college and in the professor's field.

## ABAC Students Selected for Near Peer Service Learning Program

Seven students at ABAC have been selected to participate in the Near Peer Service learning program, which allows ABAC students to serve as mentors to Tift County High School (TCHS) students.

The seven ABAC students include Melea Baldwin, an agribusiness and agricultural economics major from Hartwell; Melisa Carter, a family and consumer sciences education major from Ray City; Brooke Justice, a business administration major from Tifton; Rosa Miranda, a sociology/rural studies major from

Bainbridge; Brooke Moore, a nursing major from Atlanta; Margarita Moreno, a pre-nursing major from Moultrie; and



Seven students from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College have been selected to participate in the Near Peer program with Tift County High School beginning in August. The students selected are (front, l-r) Brooke Moore, Rosa Miranda and Brooke Justice; (back, l-r) Margarita Moreno, Kristen Ray, Melea Baldwin, and Melisa Carter.

Kristen Ray, a family and consumer sciences major from Alma.

"The hope is that high school students will be more receptive to hearing about the process of applying for college and the transition to college from peers closer to their own age," said Dr. Darby Sewell, Dean of the ABAC School of Human Sciences and Project Director of the Near Peer program.

ABAC and TCHS will work together on the Near Peer project from August to December. A special Blue Devil Block has been developed at TCHS which will involve the Near Peer mentors of ABAC, a group of TCHS students, one teacher from TCHS, and an ABAC instructor.

The ABAC students will take an educational service learning class during the fall term. In the class, the mentors will become well versed with the application and financial aid processes, along with other important aspects of gaining entrance into college so they can help TCHS students with their applications. The Blue Devil Block will focus on topics including how to select a college, expectations for college course work, and important information on applications and financial aid. Each Near Peer mentor will be matched up with two or three students based on common interests.

"The goal is for each TCHS student to apply for admission to a college at the end of this Blue Devil block," said Sewell. "It would be wonderful if some of these first generation college students immediately received letters of acceptance. We plan to hold a recognition ceremony for the students at the completion of the class."

Funding for the Near Peer program is provided through Georgia's College Access Challenge Grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The University System of Georgia directs this statewide grant in collaboration with the Governor's Office and Alliance of Education Agency Heads.

For more information on the Near Peer Service learning program, interested persons can contact Sewell at 391-4810 or via e-mail at [dsewell@abac.edu](mailto:dsewell@abac.edu).

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**Ashley Williamson** Writer and Layout  
**Mike Chason** Writer & Editor  
Please submit any information to Ashley Williamson at [awilliamson@abac.edu](mailto:awilliamson@abac.edu) by **Thursday at noon** for inclusion in the next FOCUS.

### ABAC Birthdays

31 Sarah Clement  
31 Donnie Thompson

June

1 Kimberly Griffin  
5 Theresa Clemens  
5 Willis Hyde

### Bihl Moving To Mountain State University

Andy Bihl, Director of Facility Services, will be leaving ABAC June 17 to take another job with Sodexo at Mountain State University in West Virginia. Bihl will be serving in the same capacity at MSU, and will provide administrative support for ABAC until a replacement can be found.

Take time to wish Bihl well in his future endeavors before his departure.

### Five ABAC Faculty Members Receive Promotions

Five faculty members at ABAC will receive academic promotions, effective Aug. 1, 2011, according to Dr. Niles Reddick, ABAC Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Dustin Bass and Robin Crumley will receive promotions to the rank of assistant professor from instructor. Dr. Susan Farmer, Wendy Harrison, and Dr. William Moore will receive promotions to the rank of associate professor from assistant professor.

Bass has been a member of the ABAC faculty since 2007. He received his B.S. in Food and Research Economics and his M.S. in Agribusiness from the University of Florida. He is currently working on his doctorate at Valdosta State University (VSU) in Leadership. He teaches in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Crumley earned her A.S. in Nursing from ABAC and her B.S. in Nursing from VSU. She has been a part of the ABAC

faculty since 2003 and teaches in the School of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Farmer received her B.A. in Computer Science and her M.S. and Ph.D. in Botany from the University of Tennessee. She has been a member of the School of Science and Mathematics faculty since 2007.

Harrison joined the ABAC faculty in 2001, teaching in the School of Liberal Arts. She received her B. A. in Journalism from the University of Georgia and her M.Ed. from Georgia Southwestern State University.

Moore received his A.S. in Forest Resources from ABAC, his B.S. and M.S. in Forest Resources from the University of Georgia, and his Ph.D. in Forest Resources from Clemson University. He is also a Certified Wildlife Biologist from The Wildlife Society. He has taught in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources since 2002.