



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

VOLUME XLVIV

ISSUE 47

JUNE 13, 2011

ABAC To Offer Bachelor of Science Degree Beginning This Fall

ABAC unveiled another new bachelor's degree thursday when President David Bridges announced that ABAC will offer a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Biology beginning with the 2011 fall semester.

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia approved the ABAC degree at its meeting in Atlanta last Tuesday.

"We are very excited about this degree. We've been working on it for a long time," Bridges said. "A B.S. in Biology is a strong beginning for bachelor's degrees in the School of Science and Mathematics. It will be a very popular major especially for those students wanting to continue in professional studies like medicine, dentistry, pharmacy or veterinary medicine. It will also be an excellent degree for students who wish to pursue graduate studies and offering degree will undergird and strengthen existing programs in agriculture and natural resources," added Bridges.

In addition to the biology degree, ABAC will also begin offering a bache-

lor's degree in Natural Resource Management with majors in Forestry and Wildlife Management in August of 2011.

The college began offering bachelor's degrees in Diversified Agriculture and Turfgrass and Golf Course Management in 2008. The Rural Studies Program, which was added in 2009, includes bachelor's degrees with majors in Social and Community Affairs, Arts and Culture, Writing and Communication, and Business and Economic Development.

"Students have been asking for this degree for some time," ABAC Vice



Dr. John Farrar, Associate Professor and department head of science, and Dr. Ray Barber, Dean of the School Science and Mathematics, pose with their school flag after the press conference Thursday.

President for Academic Affairs Niles Reddick said. "The demand for the degree is growing; we have over 400 students enrolled in biology-related fields. I think this will be a strong degree for the college for many years to come."

Reddick said a 2010 study showed that 43% of the students studying

in biology fields at ABAC were interested in pursuing a B.S. degree in Biology at ABAC.

According to the Georgia Department of Labor, biology will be a "Hot Career" through 2018. They predict more than 2000 jobs per year, ranging from Dentists to Medical Technologists to Secondary School Teachers, will be needed during the years leading up to 2018, each of which could require a biology degree.

"In July of 2010, ABAC was awarded a \$600,000 grant by the National Science Foundation to provide scholarships for incoming college students interested in pursuing careers in the area of math and science," Bridges said. "This has already begun to bring well-prepared students in greater numbers to ABAC. The new B.S. degree in biology we will keep them coming."

ABAC plans to teach biochemistry, genetics, and microbiology in the fall.

Reddick said prospective students who are interested in the new Biology degree program should contact the School of Science and Mathematics at 391-5100 or email biology@abac.edu

Apply to ABAC Night Tuesday from 6-8

The Office of Enrollment Management at ABAC will host an Apply to ABAC/ Financial Aid night Tuesday 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 Num-

ber (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.

For more information, interested persons can contact Jernigan at (229) 391-5018. Classes for the fall semester at ABAC begin Aug. 15. To register visit www.abac.edu/fanight

Ross Retirement Reception Wednesday

Dr. Chrystle Ross, ABAC Chief Information Officer, will retire in June after 32 years of service to the college.

Please join us in wishing her well on Wed. from 3-4 p.m. in Evans Hall.

Orientation Season is in Full Swing!

Thursday, June 16
check-in at 3:30 p.m.

Friday, June 17
check-in at 8 a.m.

Friday, July 8
check-in at 8 a.m.

Friday, July 22
check-in at 8 a.m.

Tuesday, August 9
check-in at 8 a.m.

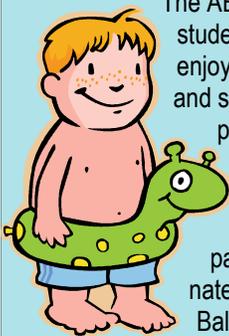
For more information on any of these sessions contact the Academic Support Counselors at 391-4995.

NRCW Wrapped Up at ABAC Thursday



The 50th annual Natural Resource Conservation Workshop took place on the ABAC campus last week. The workshop for high school students focuses on the value, protection, and conservation of Georgia's wildlife, forestry, soil, and water resources, including conservation in Georgia's mining industry. These students are examining samples during the Mining and Conservation class.

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

NRCW Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Three of the NRCW Directors, (l-r) Dennis Brooks, current director, and two previous directors, Joel Wood and Mary Leidner were on hand at the celebration with the perpetual plaque that will be displayed at ABAC.



ABAC Family

Dr. Ray Barber and Ashley Williamson appeared on WTIF June 10 to discuss the new Bachelor of Science degree in biology. Lorie Felton attended the Alabama State FFA Convention. Donna Webb attended the South Carolina State FFA Convention and served as a judge for the Extemporaneous Public Speaking Contest.

ABAC Birthdays

13 Vicki Walker
16 Dustin Bass
16 Kim Hicks
17 Van McGriff
18 David Bridges

The FOCUS is a weekly electronic publication produced by the ABAC Public Relations Office.

Please submit any information by **Thursday at noon** to Ashley Williamson at awilliamson@abac.edu for inclusion in the next FOCUS.

Consumer Confidence Report Now Available Online

The Consumer Confidence Reports for the ABAC water system can be found at www.abac.edu/facilities/Reports/. You can also call 391-5180 to receive a copy at no charge.

ABAC Staff Forum Meeting Tuesday at 11:30

A called meeting and end of year celebration will take place Tuesday in the ABAC Lakeside lobby from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. If you wish to attend please RSVP to Nancy Anthony at 391-4880 by noon today.