



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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ABAC Becoming Rising Star Among USG Institutions

High school students across the state, nation and globe are making ABAC their college of choice. Rising retention and graduation rates are evidence of this fact.

"ABAC has the highest graduation rates among the state colleges," ABAC President David Bridges said. "As the college continues to grow and develop the college's degree offerings, students will remain at ABAC to attain their bachelor's degrees or graduate with an associate's degree before transferring to other universities."

Bridges attributes the increase to many reasons including well-respected academic programs, college value, strong scholarship programs, a prestigious honors program and support from faculty and staff for students to succeed. In addition to strong academics, students have diverse and rich experiences that add to the successful retention at ABAC.

"Phi Theta Kappa, an international academic honors society for students with a cumulative academic grade point average of 3.5 or higher after complet-



ing 15 semester hours, increased its membership by 57% in one year," Bridges said. "The academic accomplishments of ABAC students continue to rise each year."

Ongoing work by Georgia's public colleges and universities to increase college completion rates will get a boost in the upcoming year with millions of dollars in new funds. Gov. Nathan Deal and the General Assembly fully funded the University System of Georgia's enrollment formula, and as a result, ABAC will receive \$210,000 for

efforts to enhance the student experience this fall with the addition of faculty positions.

"Additions will be made to the academic areas seeing the greatest enrollment increases, which include Forestry, Wildlife, Biology and Animal Sciences," said ABAC Academic Vice President and chair of the ABAC Complete College Georgia Task force Niles Reddick. "The heightened interest in our two newest bachelor's degrees natural resources and biology requires additional staffing to accommodate enrollment numbers. These additions will not only support student success, but will increase completion and graduation rates."

Reddick says that ABAC supports the largest industry in the state, agriculture, with hundreds of graduates each year. The college also produces more than 100 registered nurses per year.

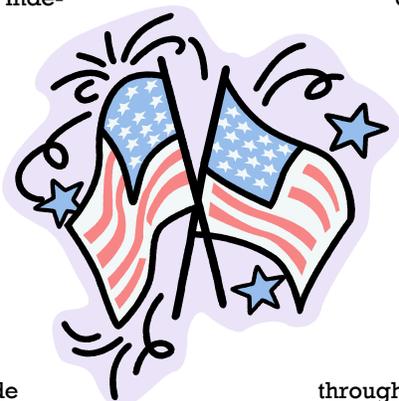
The fall 2011 class had students from 149 counties, 17 states and 22 countries. The total number of ABAC alumni is in excess of 54,000.

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Independence Day Celebration July 3 at Museum

The Museum will host an Independence Day Celebration on the evening of July 3. Gates will open at 6 p.m. and culminate with a spectacular fireworks show over Agrirama Lake.

The day will kick off with numerous activities from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Historic Village. The Village will be decorated in red, white and blue and patriotic music will serenade guests as they tour the grounds. Visitors can enjoy free, ice-



cold watermelon slices and costumed docents will lead children in traditional games enjoyed during the late 19th Century. Misting stations will be on hand offering a refreshing respite from the July heat. The train will be running

throughout the day and children can get their faces painted as part of the events in The Village.

Gates will open for fireworks and evening activities at 6 p.m. Guests can bring their blankets and chairs to the Opry Shelter Lawn to hear live music from the fabulous Vann Band. Tasty concessions, including barbeque, hamburgers, hotdogs, fries and shaved ice will be available for visitors to enjoy. Children can also participate in traditional games led by Museum staff and have their faces painted.

The Independence Day celebration is \$5 per car and free with military ID. Participants are encouraged to bring blankets and chairs. Alcohol and pets are not permitted.

Barber Leaving ABAC June 30

Keith Barber, Vice President for External Affairs and Advancement and Chief Development Officer for ABAC, is leaving the College to assume a position at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Barber will serve as the Vice Chancellor for Development for the Institute of Agriculture and the University of Tennessee Foundation beginning July 1. Take an opportunity to wish him well on his new venture.

ABAC Family

Mike Chason called the names of the 399 graduates of Tift County High School at the commencement ceremony on May 26.

Golf Team Finishes 12th in National Tournament

Led by a scintillating opening day score of 73 by Billy Edwards, ABAC finished 12th in the national golf tournament in Plymouth, Ind.

Edwards and Jared Davis both shot 308 for the four-day tournament. The Stallions compiled a team score of 1,243. Davis Edwards, Terry English, and Marshall Matlia were the other competitors for the Stallions.

Coach Herb Hendrix said the Stallions opened with a first day score of 300, good enough for sixth place. ABAC then shot 313, 313, and 317 for the final three days of the event.

The Stallions gained entry into the national tournament by winning the Region XVII tournament. Hendrix was named Coach of the Year for Region XVII.

ABAC Closed July 4

ABAC will be closed July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

The College will reopen July 5 at 8 a.m.



Dr. Joseph Brown Named Governor's Teaching Fellow

Dr. Joseph Brown, Assistant Professor of English for the Department of Literature and Language in the School of Liberal Arts at ABAC, was recently named as one of the 2012-2013 Governor's Teaching Fellows through the Governor's Teaching Fellow Program.

Created by former Governor Zell Miller, the program offers higher education faculty in Georgia expanded opportunities for fostering vital teaching skills. Miller hoped the program would shine a light on faculty members' pressing need for the use of emerging technologies and instructional tools that have become increasingly significant for learning in today's society.

"I'm really excited to be selected for this premier program," said Brown. "One of the things I love about ABAC is its emphasis on excellence in teaching. This program's diverse symposia and the interaction with talented colleagues from around the state will help me refine and improve my pedagogy. I look forward to bringing new ideas and innovative approaches back to ABAC."

Dr. Bobbie Robinson, a former Teaching Fellow who is a Professor of English and Dean of the School of Liberal Arts, commended Brown on the honor.

"He is an excellent faculty member who sought out opportunities quickly,"

said Robinson. "During his first year at ABAC he headed up a grant project and got involved with campus technology. He will be a strong addition to this year's Fellows, and he will be enriched by the experience."

To date, more than 75 different disciplines, professions and teaching areas have been represented by the Governor's Teaching Fellow Program. They have come from more than 45 institutions statewide.

ABAC has a long-standing tradition with the program. Faculty members at ABAC who have received fellowships over the years include Dr. John Farrar, Head of the Science Department and Associate Professor of Chemistry in the School of Science and Mathematics; Lori Felton, Associate Professor of Environmental Horticulture in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Dr. Erin Campbell, Associate Professor of English in the School of Liberal Arts; Cathy Rogers, Learning Support Director and Associate Professor of Reading in the School of Liberal Arts; and Dr. Gail Dillard, Director of ABAC on the Square in Moultrie



Other Fellows have included Dr. Jewrell Rivers, Associate Professor of Sociology in the School of Human Sciences; Dr. Cyndy Hall, Assistant Professor of English in the School of Liberal Arts; Dr. Jeff Newberry, Associate Professor of English in the School of Liberal Arts; Dr. Billy Reynolds, Associate Professor of English and Department Head of Language and Literature in the School of Liberal Arts; Avi Kar, Assistant Professor of Mathematics in the School of Science and Mathematics; and Beth Thornton, Assistant Professor of Biology in the School of Science and Mathematics.

Former ABAC faculty who were named as Fellows include Dr. Gaye Elder, Professor of English in the Division of Humanities; Stephanie Holcombe, Associate Professor of Mathematics in the Division of Science and Mathematics; Dr. Charlotte Pfeiffer, Professor of English in the Division of Humanities; Dr. Herbert Shippey, Professor of English in the Division of Humanities; and Dr. Luke Vassiliou, Associate Professor of Humanities in the Division of Humanities.

Willis Named Vice President for External Affairs and Chief of Staff

Paul Willis has been named Vice President for External Affairs and Chief of Staff for President David Bridges at ABAC, according to an announcement by Bridges.

Willis currently serves as Director of the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village. He will continue to provide leadership for the museum in addition to the responsibilities in the Office of College Advancement.

"Paul is a great leader and will continue to move the college forward through his work in External Affairs," Bridges said.

Prior to joining the ABAC staff in 2009, Willis worked as Executive Assistant to the Senior Vice President for Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida.

"I look forward to my expanded responsibilities and advancing the college through External Affairs," Willis said.



Summer Camps

Baseball: Lasts 5 days and a new camp begins each Monday in June and July 9-13. Contact 229-391-4930 to pre-register or visit www.abac.edu/pe/baseball

Tennis: June 25-28. Contact Alan Kramer at 229-391-4928 or akramer@abac.edu or visit www.abac.edu/pe/mentennis

Museum Camps: Dates and specifics differ for each age group. Camps dates include June 16-20, 18-22, 25-29, and July 9-13. For more info. contact Kelly Scott at museumcamp@abac.edu

Financial Aid and Admissions Information Night

The Office of Admissions at ABAC will host an Apply to ABAC/Financial Aid night on Thursday from 5-7 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.

"Prospective students need to get all financial aid paperwork for the fall term in by July 15," Jernigan said. "This event will help students with the financial aid and application processes to help ensure that they have everything completed when they attend ABAC in the fall."

Students seeking financial aid advice must bring to the session their Personal Identification Number (PIN) from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) web site and a copy of their 2011 tax returns for parents and students, if applicable.

"Students who do not get financial aid paperwork in by the deadline may have to pay initially and be reimbursed at a later date," Jernigan said.

For more information on the event, interested persons can contact Jernigan at (229) 391-5018. Fall semester classes begin on Aug. 13.

Museum Summer Hours Begin July 1

Summer hours of operation begin July 1 at the Museum. The new hours are 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday. Conference facilities will remain available throughout the summer. The Country Store will continue to operate on its normal schedule of Monday – Saturday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Admission for the Museum Tuesday – Friday, July 1-28, is \$7 for adults, \$6 for senior adults (age 55 and up), \$4 for children (5-16 years old), and free to children four years of age and under. Saturday admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for senior adults, \$5 for children and free for children four years of age and under.



ABAC Birthdays

- 18 David Bridges
- 20 Ryan Simmons
- 20 Jessica Willcox
- 21 Amy Warren
- 23 Janet Weaver
- 27 Debbie McComas
- 28 Lynn McDonald
- 29 Renata Elad

July

- 1 Todd Daunhauer
- 1 Russel Larger
- 1 William Tesslar

2012-13 Stallion Day

November 10

February 16

April 6

Forest Lakes Golf Course Hours

Get outside and enjoy the beautiful weather with a relaxing game of golf. The nine-hole golf course at Forest Lakes Golf Club is open from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. seven days a week. The price for ABAC students, faculty, staff, and senior citizens Monday-Friday for nine holes is \$11 and \$17 for 18 holes. The weekend pricing is \$13 for nine holes and \$19 for 18 holes. For more information call 229-382-7626 or visit www.abac.edu/



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.