



# FOCUS

## ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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### ABAC Receives \$1 Million Gift For Rural Studies Program

A gift of \$1 million from a former student "who never forgot his roots" will be used to enhance the newest bachelor's degree program at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

ABAC President David Bridges said the gift to the ABAC Foundation from the estate of Herbert and Meade Bynum will be used as a student enhancement endowment for the bachelor's degree program in Rural Studies. The gift will fund "The Herbert and Meade Bynum Endowment for Student Enrichment in Rural Studies."

"With the help of the Bynum gift, I think the possibilities for Rural Studies are limitless," Bridges said. "I am very excited about the fact that an alumnus from a small town in Georgia who walked the halls of ABAC in 1946 chose to honor his alma mater in this manner."

ABAC Vice President for External Affairs and Advancement Keith Barber said Bynum "never forgot his ABAC roots."

"This gift represents a lifetime commitment from the Bynum family and tells the world how much value they place on an ABAC education," Barber said. "The gift is really reflective of their lives."

Barber said the Bynums were in the egg production business in Tampa, Fla. They supplied eggs to major retailers across the southern part of the United States. Mr. Bynum was originally from Blakely and a 1946 graduate of ABAC.

The ABAC Rural Studies degree is the only one of its kind in the United States. The first classes began on Aug. 17, 2009. Students who major in Rural Studies can choose from four areas of con-

centration including Business and Economic Development, Arts and Culture, Community and Social Affairs, and Writing and Communication.

Dr. Bobbie Robinson, Dean of the School of Liberal Arts, believes the Bynum gift will have a lasting impact on the Rural Studies program.

"This gift will make it possible to award academic scholarships to the talented students whom we want to attract to the program and could also help us to support students as they pursue internships in their concentrations of study," Robinson said. "It is gratifying that this alumnus has recognized the program's merit and has endorsed it in a most generous way."

Classes begin Aug. 16 for the fall semester at ABAC.

### ABAC Student Completes Jacobsen Turf Management Program

Nate Carney, a turfgrass and golf course management major at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, recently completed the 2010 Jacobsen Future Turf Managers program in Charlotte, N.C.

"Dr. (Eddie) Seagle nominated me for this program, and then Jacobsen sent me an e-mail saying congratulations," said Carney, a senior from Acworth.

During the trip, Carney toured Jacobsen's manufacturing and distribution facilities, Quail Hollow Golf Course, and the University of South Carolina. He also participated in lectures by Dr. Charles Peacock, a research professor in the field of turf management and two other industry representatives from the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) and Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).



"The best part was what a great networking opportunity this was," said Carney. "I met people I will probably end up working with in one way or another."

Carney is scheduled to graduate in December with his ABAC bachelor's degree. While at ABAC, he served as the Student Government Association president for the 2007-2008 academic year and is currently working part time for the Office of College Advancement and the Ag Alumni Council as the liaison between the Council and the college. He also serves as the tournament director for the ABAC Ag Classic.

Carney is undecided about what specific area in his chosen field he would like to pursue.

"It changes so often," he said. "Right

now it's a tough one because I was going in one direction and then moved to another. I want to work more on the administration side and do the day-to-day operations of a course."

No matter what Carney decides to do with his degree, he plans to stay close to home.

"I want to stay in the Southeast," Carney said. "I can't see myself anywhere else."

#### ABAC Advising and Registration Continues:

July 8

July 9

July 22

July 23

August 10



## Bass Fishing Club Putting ABAC on the Map

The ABAC Bass Fishing club won 1st and 2nd at the two day classic on Lake Eufaula June 26. Matt O'Dillon, club president, and Jake Holloway, pictured above, show their prize winning fish. The tournament was televised on College Bass. ABAC also placed 3rd and 5th at Clarkes Hill Reservoir in early June, 1st at Lake Chatuge in April, 4th on Lake Seminole in Feb., as well as 5th, 6th, and 7th at Lake Sinclair in March. The team will fish the College FLW series which is televised on ESPNU. Brad Barbee, Sodexo Grounds Supervisor, is the club advisor. Sponsors of the club include Big Bear rods, Buckeye Lures, Tackle Warehouse, Chain Gang Lures, and Ugly Signs of Macon.

## ABAC Job Opportunities

- AAMI Academic Specialist
- ABAC Police Officer
- Part-time Clinical Instructor, School of Nursing & Health Sciences
- Assistant Baseball Coach
- Full-time Faculty Positions

## Barber Appointed to Board of Directors for NAADA

Keith Barber, Vice President of External Affairs and Advancement at ABAC, has been appointed to a one-year term on the Board of Directors for the National Agricultural Alumni and Development Association (NAADA). Barber has served two previous terms on the board, as Strategic Planning Chair in 2003-04 and Education Chair in 1997-98.



Barber will serve as the organization's Awards Committee Chair and will be responsible for soliciting and selecting award recipients to be presented at the annual conference. An active member of the organization, Barber was honored with the NAADA Professional Achievement Award in 2008.

"Current and past NAADA leaders like ABAC's Paul Willis, who was president in 2005-06, set examples we all can model in our local leadership efforts," said Barber. "To be associated with such a tremendous organization and its members is to be on a winning team."

Barber's term of service began on June 9 with that of more than 20 other board members from across the United States during NAADA's 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference hosted by the University of Georgia.

"As a volunteer-driven organization focused on the advancement of institutions, NAADA provides hands-on opportunities," said Barber.

NAADA is dedicated to the professional advancement of the members and in turn the institutions they serve. The organization provides education and support for professionals, volunteers and student leaders who are dedicated to serving land-grant colleges of agricultural sciences and related programs. The network of members includes nearly 50 institutions from across the United States. Texas Tech University will host the next annual conference on June 12-15, 2011.

## Changes at ABAC Post Office

The ABAC Post Office ended its affiliation with the United States Postal Service on July 1, according to an announcement on June 30 by Vice President for Fiscal Affairs John Clemens. He said that you will notice minimal disruption in service due to this change.

Clemens said the change was predicated by recent state budget cuts.

"The move will allow us to offer more services for the students and the college community," Clemens said. "These added services will be featured under a new concept called the ABAC Mailing Service Center."

Plans are to have a Grand Opening of the Center at the beginning of the fall semester. The current staff will run the Center and will report to ABAC

Bookstore Manager Tracy Dyal. Hours will be from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. for the immediate future. The Center will continue to sell stamps and handle mail for on-campus and off-campus.

## Consumer Confidence Report Available

The Consumer Confidence Reports for the ABAC water system can be found at [www.abac.edu/facilities/Reports/](http://www.abac.edu/facilities/Reports/) You can also call (229) 391-5180 to receive a copy at no charge.

## ABAC Birthdays

- 6 David Bass
- 7 Barnabe Miburo
- 8 Andrew Wright
- 9 Caren Gladin
- 9 Lisa Lishman
- 9 Janice Williams
- 9 Kim Ascani
- 11 Anita Hobbs
- 11 Robin Crumley
- 11 Danny Parham, Jr.

## Reddick's Novel Receives Statewide Attention

The new issue of Southern Reader published an excerpt from Dr. Niles Reddick's novel, "Lead me Home", as well as a review. This Atlanta based magazine gets over 7 million readers a year. View the below link: [www.southernreader.com/SouthRead13.1.html](http://www.southernreader.com/SouthRead13.1.html)

If you have not purchased your copy of Reddick's book, get it today at the ABAC bookstore or [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

## TAP Deadline July 15

Tuition Assistance Program applications are due to Bam Pirkle no later than July 15. Please contact Pirkle at [bpirkle@abac.edu](mailto:bpirkle@abac.edu) at 391-4890 for more information.