



# FOCUS

## ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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### Bridges Begins Fifth Year as ABAC President

In the history of every college, there are certain landmark years. As Dr. David Bridges begins his fifth year as president of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, he already knows this is going to be one of those years.

On July 1, ABAC began operating the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village as a part of its campus. Bridges is excited about the possibilities ahead.

"I think it's going to be a transformational change for this college," Bridges, who became the 10<sup>th</sup> president in the history of ABAC on July 1, 2006, said. "It's going to be great!"

Bridges said the museum, which opened as the Georgia Agrirama on July 1, 1976, is a perfect fit for ABAC.

"You couldn't have picked a better pairing," Bridges said. "There is a commonality and a synergy between this museum and this college. We share a common community and a common constituency."

Bridges, the only ABAC President who is an ABAC alumnus (Class of '78),

believes ABAC students are going to be the beneficiaries of the museum.

"It will provide a wonderful living, learning laboratory for our students," Bridges said. "We now have new venues for our students to perform in whether it's music, theatre, folklore, or storytelling.

"Our priorities are to run a museum and grow that museum by tying it into our academic programs."

Bridges approaches the new fiscal year with a sigh of relief that the past year plagued by budget cuts and furloughs is over.

"We were really fortunate to take no more cuts than we did," Bridges said. "It shows a genuine commitment to higher education from the Governor and the General Assembly. We thought at one time that we were going to take a much larger cut."

Bridges said state appropriations to ABAC have declined by 20 per cent in the last four years but the college has continued to maintain instructional quality.

"We are looking forward to brighter days," Bridges said.

One shining star for ABAC has been the growth of the bachelor's degree programs in Diversified Agriculture, Turfgrass and Golf Course Management, and Rural Studies.

"We started out with about 40 students in the agriculture programs, and now they are about four times that many," Bridges said. "We started Rural Studies last year, and we expect it to catch fire and take off at some point."

Watching some of those bachelor's degree graduates receive their diplomas in May was a high point of the year for the Parrott, Ga., native.

"It's nice to see those students that started here, finish here," Bridges said. "It's not about how many you enroll. It's about how many you graduate."

The deadline for applications for the fall semester at ABAC is Aug. 1. Classes begin for the fall term on Aug. 16.

### Cofer Lecture On Advising July 26

Rebecca Cofer, a student development specialist in the Office of Enrollment Services at ABAC, will be the featured speaker for the faculty colloquium on advising on July 26 from 4 – 5 p.m. in the Carlton Center, Room 202.

Cofer, the recipient of the 2009 Outstanding New Advisor award from the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA), will present the "Top Ten Tips for New and Not-So-New Advisors". She presented this lecture at the national NACADA conference in 2009.

Cofer is a graduate of Virginia Tech, where she received her bachelor's degree in English and History and her master's degree in English Literature. While at Virginia Tech, she worked in the campus advising center. A native of Woodbury, NJ, she worked for Texas Technical College in the Office of Student Disability Services and as a tutor. Her husband, Jordan, is an assistant professor of English at ABAC.

### Financial Aid and Admissions Night Tuesday

The Office of Enrollment Services at ABAC College will host an Apply to ABAC/ Financial Aid night on Tuesday from 6 – 8 p.m. for those prospective students living in Berrien, Colquitt, Cook, Irwin, Ben Hill, Tift, Turner, and Worth counties.

The event will take place in the ABAC Ag Sciences building. There will be one session on applying to ABAC and a second session regarding the financial aid process. 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 2009 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 2010 fall semester should complete their financial aid applications by July 15.

To register for this event, please go to the ABAC web site [www.abac.edu/scheduler](http://www.abac.edu/scheduler). For more information on these sessions, contact event coordinators Brooke Jernigan at (229) 391-5018 or Traci Bryan at (229) 391-4985.



## ABAC Goes To The West Coast

Diane Kilgore led a group of travelers on an ABAC trip to the West Coast in recent days with stops in San Francisco and many other places including this picturesque venue in front of Mount Rainier. Another ABAC trip to Boston, Maine and New England leaves Sept. 29. Call Diane at 391-5070 to sign up.

## ABAC Job Opportunities

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

For full job descriptions visit the HR website at [www.abac.edu/hr](http://www.abac.edu/hr)

## Staff Forum Meeting July 21

The final staff forum meeting of the summer will be held on July 21 from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. in the Health Sciences building, Room 237. Light refreshments will be provided, followed by a presentation from the president of Partners Financial and a 15-20 minute business meeting.

Please contact Nancy Anthony via e-mail at [nanthony@abac.edu](mailto:nanthony@abac.edu) if you have any questions.

## ABAC Birthdays

- 12 Mary Willis
- 12 Elizabeth Stone
- 13 Steve Laska
- 14 Keith Perry
- 16 Amy Willis
- 17 Donna King
- 18 Jimmy Ballenger

## ABAC Family

Dr. Eddie Seagle had an article highlighting his career and retirement published in the July/August issue of "Through The Green." Seagle also had an article, "A Classroom Called China", published in the July 2010 issue of GCM.

Dr. Niles Reddick and Dr. Bobbie Robinson had an article titled "From Classroom to Community: A Rural Studies Class Project of Community Redevelopment" accepted and will be published in the Journal of Rural and Community Development.



## ABAC Student and Instructor Representing ABAC Globally

Jonathon Cassiday (left), a Rural Studies major from Atlanta, and Dustin Bass, ABAC instructor, are spending the summer at Perrotis College in Thessaloniki Greece. In addition to taking and teaching classes, Cassiday and Bass are both participating in Greek culture studies, featuring food, dance, language and trips throughout Greece, including climbing Mt. Olympus. They are pictured above with an olive tree, common vegetation found all over the countryside in Greece.