



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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ABAC Receives \$600,000 National Science Foundation Grant

High school graduates interested in science and mathematics might begin their career journey with a scholarship from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College thanks to a new \$600,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The NSF has agreed to fund an ABAC proposal to offer Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) scholarships beginning Aug. 1. The STEM scholarships will be awarded over a five-year period with a total of \$600,000 in funds for students interested in pursuing careers in science and mathematics. The scholarship fund was established by the NSF due to a shortage of students in this field of study.

"This is the first NSF grant ABAC has received," said Dr. Ray Barber, Dean of



Dr. Ray Barber (right) and Dr. John Farrar from the School of Science and Mathematics at ABAC look over the proposal for the National Science Foundation grant. The proposal was accepted, and the Foundation will award \$600,000 in scholarship funds.

the School of Science and Mathematics.

"The offering of this grant is going to make ABAC stronger and give the college and the School of Science and Mathematics an opportunity to at-

tract more students."

Under the proposal, students who receive the scholarships will be a part of the Achievement through Student Support and Experiential Training in Science (ASSETS) program. This will fund STEM scholarships and institute new student support functions such as clubs, field trips, enhanced tutoring and internship opportunities.

Barber said that STEM students will

also have the opportunity to work with University of Georgia researchers. The extracurricular activities will add value to the scholarships and can enrich the lives of the students.

The award is one of 85 new STEM awards that will be made by the NSF Division of Undergraduate Education this year. These awards are a result of the evaluation of 277 proposals.

"That puts the ABAC ASSETS project in a very select group nationwide," Barber said.

In order to qualify for the STEM grant at ABAC, students must be citizens of the United States, nationals of the United States, or aliens lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence; be enrolled full time in one of the degree programs (biology, chemistry, physics, engineering or mathematics) specified at the associate degree level; demonstrate academic potential or ability; and demonstrate financial need.

Students interested in the STEM grant scholarships can contact Nicholas Urquhart in the ABAC Office of Enrollment Services at (229) 391-4917 or go to www.abac.edu/SM/assets.cfm for the STEM application and evaluation form.

ABAC Golf Course at Forest Lakes Open for Summer Play

The Forest Lakes Golf Club is well into the summer season. The nine-hole course is open to the public from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. seven days a week. The course is owned by the ABAC Foundation and operated by Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

The Monday through Friday fee for the general public is nine holes for \$12 and 18 holes for \$18. ABAC students, faculty, staff, administrators and senior citizens over 60 can play nine holes for \$10 and 18 holes for \$15.



The weekend fee for the general public is \$14 for nine holes and \$20 for 18 holes. ABAC students, faculty, staff,

administrators and senior citizens over 60 can play nine holes for \$12 and 18 holes for \$17 on weekends. The rental fee for a set of clubs is \$6. The par 72 course plays almost 7,000 yards over 18 holes. For more information, interested persons can call Forest Lakes Golf Club at (229) 382-7626.

Tifton ophthalmologist Larry Moorman and his wife, Debra, donated the golf course to the ABAC Foundation in 2002. Moorman said he and his wife thought it would work well with the college's golf club and turf programs.

ABAC now has a bachelor's degree program in turfgrass and golf course management. The course is also used as a laboratory for many of the programs in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The Moormans also donated the clubhouse building at the golf course to the ABAC Foundation in 2009.

Athletes Named NJCAA Academic All-Americans

Three ABAC student athletes have been selected for 2009 -10 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Academic All-America honors. **Kenneth Bragg** of Peachtree City and **Winston Gibbs** of Hartwell were named Academic All-Americans, and **Alyssa Simmons** of Lenox was named as a Distinguished Academic All-American.

In order to be named an Academic All-American, a student athlete must compile a grade point average of 3.60 to 3.79 on a 4.0 scale and complete 45 semester hours of coursework. Distinguished Academic All-Americans must compile a 3.80 or better grade point average and complete 45 semester hours of coursework.

Simmons, a history major, played for the ABAC Fillies softball team. As a freshman, she was a National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-American. She graduated from ABAC in May and now attends Lee University in Cleveland, Tenn. She received a Phi Theta Kappa, Community College Graduate, and Roberson Leadership scholarship.

"I have known Alyssa since she was a little girl who came to the softball camps," said Donna Campbell, head softball coach and associate professor in the School of Human Sciences. "She was the 2008 valedictorian of her class

at Cook High School, and she came to ABAC right on track with her priorities always on academics first."

Bragg, a turfgrass and golf course management major; and Gibbs, an engineering major, were members of the ABAC golf team last year.

"Bragg is one of the hardest working golfers I have ever seen, as well as a great student," said Herb Hendrix, ABAC golf coach. "And Gibbs was captain of the golf team. He showed great leadership skills while on the team. I have been fortunate enough to have at least one of my golfers make the All-America team for quite a few years now." Gibbs earned a Presidential Scholarship from Berry College after completing his education at ABAC.

Director of Athletics Alan Kramer said it is even more impressive that these students maintained an excellent academic standing since beginning their academic careers at ABAC.

"It's the body of work through their education at ABAC that enabled these students to achieve this recognition," said Kramer. "It really speaks volumes to see that these students balanced academics and athletics so successfully. They embody the type of philosophy all student athletes should have."

ABAC Family

Dr. Don Parks and Kim Ascani spoke to the Downtown Merchants Association on Thursday on ways the merchants can reach out to ABAC students.

ABAC Birthdays

- 19 Keetra Branch
- 20 James Burks
- 22 Shawn Seat
- 22 Deborah Broome
- 23 Jeff Newberry
- 24 Alacia Reynolds
- 25 Joy Godin
- 25 Pam Leonard
- 25 Don Gaskins

ABAC Alumni Golf Tourney July 31

The second annual ABAC Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament will be held on July 31 at Stone Mountain Golf Club in Stone Mountain.

This four-man scramble tournament will begin with an 11 a.m. shotgun start. The entry fee is \$75 per player or \$300 per four-man team.

For more information on this event, contact Nate Carney, tournament coordinator, at (229) 391-4908.

Staff Forum Meeting Wednesday

The final staff forum meeting of the summer will be held on Wednesday 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 meeting.

Please contact Nancy Anthony via e-mail at nanthony@abac.edu if you have any questions.

Cancer Society To Honor Donna Miller

The American Cancer Society (ACS) Cancer Action Network (CAN) will host 'A Night With ACS CAN - Remembering Dr. Donna Miller' at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture on July 22 at 6 p.m.

The event will feature live music, speaker Deborah Riner—the State's lead Ambassador for ACS CAN, a dinner buffet, and a silent auction to benefit the American Cancer Society. Tickets for this benefit are \$20. To register for this event, go to

http://action.acscan.org/site/Survey?ACTION_REQUIRED=URI_ACTION_USER_REQUEST&SURVEY_ID=18760

Miller served as Director of Institutional Research at ABAC from July 1, 1993 until her death in January of 2009. A cancer survivor, she served on the American Cancer Society Leadership Board. In 2002 she co-founded the Tift-area Foundation for Women's Health. She was a Tifton Kiwanis Club member for 14 years and was active in Big Brothers, Big Sisters, serving on the organization's Board of Directors and as past president.

For more information on this benefit, contact Lee Turner at (229) 848-6123.

Cofer Lecture July 26 On Advising

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.

