



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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ABAC Public Service Director Selected For Governor's Award

Diane Kilgore, Director of the Public Service and Business Outreach Center at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, has been chosen as this quarter's recipient of the 2009 Governor's Commendation for Excellence in Customer Service. Kilgore will be honored at a ceremony on July 23 in Atlanta.



The Governor's Commendation for Excellence in Customer Service was established in 2006. Along with the Office of Customer Service, it was a result of Governor Sonny Perdue's goal for Georgia to have the best customer service of any state in the nation.

The award was designed to recognize employees who go "above and beyond" while serving customers and demonstrating Georgia's five customer service commitments – courteous, helpful, accessible, responsive, and knowledgeable.

"This is a significant honor which speaks highly of your accomplishments, the college, and our agency," Deborah Scott, Customer Service Champion for the University System of Georgia, said to Kilgore. "Current winners were selected from a very competitive group of

240 nominees from 39 state agencies." Kilgore was nominated for the award for her exemplary service with the Governor's Office of Customer Service Rapid Process Improvement Project for Financial Aid and Student Accounts. Kilgore and Dr. Chrystle Ross served as the campus leads on the project and worked in conjunction with ABAC, the Board of Regents, the Governor's Office, and Georgia Tech to implement a new model for student services at ABAC.

"I'm very appreciative of this honor," Kilgore said. "However, this commendation really belongs to my ABAC family and the Tifton community. When you are able to spend every day doing what you love and enriching the lives of others, it's never a job."

Another key accomplishment for Kilgore during the year involved an outreach program she and Dr. Eddie Seagle developed between ABAC and China's Sun-Yat Sen University. Seagle, an ABAC professor of Agriculture and Environmental Horticulture, took eight ABAC students to China in March to conduct a workshop for golf course superintendents and Chinese turf stu-

dents. For his effort, he received the Governor's Commendation for Excellence in Customer Service in May. As a result of the ground work by Kilgore and Seagle, the visit to China by ABAC students will now become an annual event.

Kilgore's attitude toward customer service has benefitted the Tifton community as well. After discussing the unemployment rate in Tift and surrounding counties with the local manager of the Georgia Department of Labor, free 24-hour classes were developed for displaced managers, supervisors, executives, and professionals. Kilgore wrote the grant to secure the funding and partnered with the Tifton Career Center to implement these classes to the target audience.

Coordinating the Leadership Tifton program for the Tifton-Tift County Chamber of Commerce has been another special passion for Kilgore. By assisting the Chamber in securing a start-up grant, the cost of the program was reduced from \$500 to \$25 per participant. She also recruited many volunteers to assist with the training of emerging leaders in the community.

In terms of the number of classes offered each year, Kilgore directs the third largest continuing education office in the University System of Georgia. ABAC trails only the University of Georgia and Kennesaw State University.

Agroforestry and Wildlife Field Day in Griffin On Sept. 17

The 2009 Agroforestry and Wildlife Field Day will be held Sept. 17 at the Griffin campus of the University of Georgia.

Federal and state experts in the fields of wildlife and forest management will be on hand to present the most up-to-date research-based information. The field day will include both management recommendations and real-life technique demonstrations.

Field day participants will be shuttled to field day sites via tram and will

receive a booklet with topic and speaker information to take home. Registration for the event is \$25 prior to Sept. 4 (\$30 after). Registration includes the field day program and lunch.

More than 25 topics will be showcased, including Wildlife Food Plots; Pond Management; Management for Wild Turkeys, Doves, Quail, Deer and Small Game; Selling and Marketing Timber; Prescribed Burning; Cost Share Assistance Programs; GPS/GIS Use in Managing Land; and Invasive Insects,

Disease and Plants.

This event is sponsored by the Georgia Forestry Commission, UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, Georgia DNR-Wildlife Resources Division, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Fort Valley State University.

For more information or to print a copy of the registration form, visit the AWFd Web site at www.caes.uga.edu/events/awfd09/.

Fitzgerald Salutatorian Will Attend ABAC

Nicholas Starkey, the 2009 Fitzgerald High School salutatorian, will begin his college experience at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College this fall.

While at FHS, he served as President of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and was a member of the Beta Club and Georgia Superintendent Student Council. He played on the football team all four years of his high school career and also participated in track and field.

Starkey will enter as a freshman this fall and live on campus at ABAC Lakeside. He is a recipient of a Foundation Scholarship awarded through the ABAC Foundation.

"I wanted to attend a smaller college to get that one-on-one attention before continuing my education at the University of Georgia," said Starkey. "I didn't want to be lost in the shuffle just starting out."

Starkey plans to major in pharmacy, an area he really wasn't sure about until his senior year in high school.

"I didn't really know what I wanted to do for a while," Starkey said. "I did know that math and science have always been my stronger subjects so I thought pharmacy would be a good major to study."

Starkey is looking forward to the whole college experience he will obtain at ABAC.

"The whole college experience is what I'm looking forward to. I am ready to be on my own, independent, and have my own responsibilities," said Starkey.

Starkey's future goals are to complete his pharmacy degree and work as a pharmacist for a hospital or pharmacy within the state.

The deadline for applications for the fall term at ABAC is Aug. 1. Fall semester classes begin Aug. 17.

Don't Forget the Upcoming Deadlines!
Application August 1
Fee Payment August 5

ABAC Pool Is Open
The pool is open from 3-7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 1-6 p.m. Friday through Sunday.

Agriculture, Scholarships, Class Sizes Attracted Screven County Student To ABAC

Felipe Pedraza had an eventful first year at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. Besides being a fulltime ABAC student, he served as a state vice president for the Georgia FFA Association until his term ended in April.

The agriculture major from Screven began his involvement in FFA later than most.

"I didn't join the FFA until tenth grade," Pedraza, a graduate of Screven County High School said. "That is why I chose agriculture to major in when I got to ABAC. I like the whole process of agriculture. There is so much more to learn and study."

Pedraza decided to attend ABAC for more than one reason.

"I loved the fact that ABAC was a small campus," Pedraza said. "I didn't want to go off to a big college yet. But another aspect that I really liked was the scholarship opportunities ABAC has to offer the students."

Pedraza received a College Assistance Migrant Program Scholarship and a Planter Electric Membership Scholarship upon entering ABAC in the fall of 2008.



While living on campus he became involved with the Collegiate FFA, the Cultura Latina Club, and played intramural softball with his team, the Crash Test Dummies. He also enjoys helping out his high school FFA chapter and growing plants. This summer he is working at a plant nursery while taking a class at Georgia Southern.

"This year I was very busy with FFA, and I loved that my instructors were outgoing and eager for me to be involved," Pedraza said. "The instructors are cooperative with my involvement not only in academics, but extracurricular activities. When the teachers are excited about my involvement and really care, it makes me want to succeed."

Pedraza will graduate from ABAC next spring with his associate's degree in agriculture. He then plans to attend the University of Georgia, where he will earn his B.S. and M.S. degrees in agriculture. He would like to go into agriculture education with plans to teach and advise FFA.

"FFA will always be a big part of what I do, and I would love to stay active in it after college," Pedraza said.

ABAC Offers Day Trips To Fox Theatre This Fall

The Arts Connection at ABAC will offer a plethora of entertainment possibilities at the Fabulous Fox Theatre during its 2009-10 season of performing arts excursions. All trips are open to the public. Tickets are \$110 for each event and include orchestra level seating, chartered bus transportation to Atlanta, and light refreshments served en route.

On Oct. 10, the Fox Theatre will feature "Rain - A Tribute to the Beatles." All the music and vocals are performed live with a backdrop featuring historical footage and commercials of the time period. This show chronicles the Beatles rise to fame from their groundbreaking beginning on the Ed Sullivan show to their breakup in 1970. The deadline for tickets for this show is Aug. 7.

On Dec. 5, celebrate the Christmas



season early when Radio City Music Hall's world famous Rockettes take the stage for the 2009 edition of the Radio City Christmas Spectacular. A cast of over 100 members will perform the "Parade of Wooden Soldiers" and recreate that very special first Christmas with a Living Nativity.

Rodgers and Hammerstein's "South Pacific" arrives from its sold-out Broadway run at Lincoln Center Theatre on April 10, 2010 for ABAC Arts Connection patrons. It is the winner of seven Tony Awards for its 2008 revival and features such classic songs as "Some Enchanted Evening" and "There Is Nothin' Like a Dame."

To make reservations for any of these events, contact the ABAC Arts Connection at (229) 391-4818, e-mail Polly Huff at phuff@abac.edu or buy tickets online at <http://abacarts.ticketleap.com>.

Summer Dining Hours

DONALDSON DINING HALL

July 20 thru 24 & July 27 thru 31

Lunch: 11:30 – 1:30 p.m.

The Donaldson Dining Hall will then close until August 8, 2009.

Don't Forget About Advising and Registration

July 23
July 24
August 11

ABAC Family

Dr. Don Parks and Whitney Lightfoot appeared on the WSST-TV noon show in Cordele on July 14 to talk about Leadership Learning communities.

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 Gaskin



ABAC Job Opportunities

- ABAC Police Officer
- Assistant Professor/Instructor in Psychology and Nursing
- HEP Recruiter & Data Specialist
- Part-time Credentialed Faculty
- Accountant for Grants, Scholarships & Fees

Full position descriptions can be seen at the HR website

www.abac.edu/hr/employ

Application Deadline August 1

The deadline for applications for the fall semester at ABAC is Aug. 1. Classes for the fall term begin August 17.

A total of 17 baccalaureate programs including rural studies, diversified agriculture, turfgrass and golf course management, and early childhood education are now available on the ABAC campus.

"Fall 2009 is right around the corner and with the start of our newest four-year degree programs in Rural Studies, we are really looking forward to a great semester," said Donna Webb, Director of Enrollment Services.

Students can attain degrees through the Schools of Business Administration, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Lib-

eral Arts, Human Sciences, Nursing and Health Sciences, and Science and Mathematics.

"All information necessary to complete the application must be received by that date to ensure that the office has time to process the application and make the admissions decision," Webb said. "Applications received after August 1 will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and the registration process may be delayed."

Prospective students who need more information on the fall semester can contact the admissions office by visiting the ABAC web site at www.abac.edu or by calling (229) 391-5004.

Fiscal Affairs Staff Wins Weekly High Five Award

The Fiscal Affairs Staff reporting to John Clemens have all been nominated by John for a High Five award. His nomination is as follows: "I would like to submit my staff for special recognition for their hard work in closing out the year in record time as required by the University System Office. I also nominate Student Financial Aid and Patsy Hembree for the work they did in solving a check refund problem that would have kept a number of students from getting much needed refund checks on time last week. This was an unusually tough week with ADP (HR & Payroll), purchasing and financial deadlines all at the same time. I hope we never have to go through a week like that again."

The individuals included in this nomination are: Judy Gatts, Donna King, Diane Owens, Brenda Bailey, Patsy Hembree, Gay Ann Hodge, Krystle Williams, Vickie Martin, Bertha Williams, Jane Thompson, Bam Pirkle, Robbie Hawsey, Teri Mathis and Jenelle Handcox.



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

Sign Up For PSBO Classes Starting the Week of July 26

- Tennis Camp
- Swimming
- Fun in Any Language



To see complete list of classes visit www.abac.edu/PSBO/

Need a vacation after summer vacation? Check out the travel opportunities



that ABAC PSBO is offering this year at www.abac.edu/PSBO