



FOCUS

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Martinez Named Head Softball Coach at ABAC

Jennifer Martinez has been selected as the new head coach for the Fillies softball team at ABAC. She will begin her new position on Aug. 1 after serving for three years as the assistant softball coach and pitching coach at Georgia Southwestern State University.

"I am so beyond excited for this opportunity," Martinez said. "I have been dreaming of being a head coach my entire life. I want to keep the traditions going that Donna Campbell has built up, while adding my own touch to the Fillies team."

In her first year, Martinez said her main goal is to get comfortable with the players she'll be coaching.

"I want to remind the players that they are not too old to be students of the game," Martinez said. "I don't know everything about the sport, and I'm still learning alongside them. This will be a year of growth and figuring

out ways to keep them motivated and engaged in the game.

"I know every coach's goal is to win but I also want to make it fun for my team and help them to remember why they play."

Martinez will serve in an additional capacity as assistant recreational sports director for the college, assisting the director of recreational sports in the organization and supervision of the college's intramural and recreational sports program.

"I not only want to build relationships with my student athletes, but with all of the students at ABAC," Martinez said. "I would like to be someone recognizable to students on the campus and would like students to feel that I am approachable."

Martinez's coaching experience includes instructing



alongside University of Arizona alumni Susie Parra and Deb Hartwig of California State University-Fullerton in camps and clinics throughout southern California with Just-Softball; volunteering as assistant coach for La Habra High School in La Habra, Calif., and since April of 2014 she

has served as a private pitching instructor with Synergy Baseball and Softball Academy in Albany.

Martinez has a wide variety of experiences as a softball player. At the collegiate level, she played for California State University-Long Beach in the 2005 and 2006 seasons, where she threw a three-hit shutout at the University of California-Riverside for her first career win and struck out 44 batters in 74.1 innings pitched. She attended California State University

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Welcome Week is set for August 8- 11. More information to come!

Hall Named Director of Baldwin Academy at ABAC

Dr. Cyndy Hall, Associate Professor of English in the School of Liberal Arts and Director for the Honors Program, has taken on a third role at ABAC. She is now director of Baldwin Academy, ABAC's dual enrollment program for high school students, according to an announcement by Dr. Gail Dillard, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs.

"Dr. Dillard offered me the position soon after her term as interim vice president was extended," said Hall. "With around



200 high school students participating in dual enrollment, coordination of the program requires a significant amount of time. Dr. Dillard felt she needed that time to focus on her duties in the Academic Affairs office."

Because many Baldwin Academy students are interested in the ABAC Honors Program, the fit was a natural one. As director of both programs, Hall can ensure that the top students from local high schools are aware of the many academic advantages of attending ABAC. "Dual enrollment

is a wonderful way for qualified students to receive high school credit while also earning college credit," said Hall. "However, it is a big step and one not to be taken lightly, so I look forward to helping students with this transition."

Hall's roles will include recruiting, working with the departments on campus to create class schedules, advising and registering all the students in the program, keeping track of the state regulations, and developing relationships with both the students and the high schools to further the college's retention of the students

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Daren Brownlow Scholarship Fund Established at ABAC

Future students in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources will benefit from a new scholarship fund established in memory of former ABAC student Daren Brownlow.

Beverly Brownlow, Daren Brownlow's mother, has established an endowment fund with the ABAC Foundation in memory of her son that will support students for years to come.

"It's such a great feeling knowing that the funds that were going to be used to help pay for Daren's education can now be used to help other students," said Brownlow.

Daren, a longtime resident of Tallahassee, Fla., walked into an ABAC classroom for the first time in 1988 after graduating from Lincoln High School in Tallahassee. Majoring in agriculture, he found the ABAC campus a perfect fit. His life was cut short when he passed away after being involved in an automobile accident in February

of 1991 while still attending ABAC.

Beverly Brownlow said Daren spent the first nine years of his life in rural Iowa and developed a love for agriculture. He spent many summers helping on his uncle's farm and enjoyed working alongside his cousins. He hoped to return to Iowa one day and forge a career in agriculture.

Daren was also an avid wrestler in high school. He returned to Iowa to attend the Dan Gable Wrestling Camp at the University of Iowa each summer. Thanks to his Iowa upbringing and love for the University of Iowa, Daren was nicknamed "Hawkeye" by his classmates at ABAC.

Daren's memory still lives on at the ABAC campus. Along with this scholarship, there is a bench that has been placed outside of the Chambliss building and a tree marker outside of the Driggers



Pictured (l-r) President David Bridges, Dr. Jerry Baker, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Beverly Brownlow and her husband, Ronald Hoffman.

Lecture Hall.

For those who wish to support this endeavor, contributions may be made by check payable to the ABAC Foundation and sent to the following address: Daren Brownlow Endowment, ABAC Foundation, 2802 Moore Hwy, ABAC 13, Tifton, GA 31793. All gifts to the fund are tax deductible and the fund will generate income to fund scholarships in perpetuity.

Seven Retirees Complete Their Service to ABAC

Seven retirees have completed their years of full time service at ABAC. Recent retirees included Randy Carter, Jimmy Felton, Betty McCorvey, Melvin Merrill, Sherin Nixon, Monty Spinks, and Dr. Kay Weeks.

As far as the number of years at ABAC, Merrill, the college's capital planning director, led the way with 37 years of service when he retired on April 1. Weeks, professor of

communication and English in the School of Liberal Arts, retired June 1 after 36 years of teaching at the college.

Carter, senior mail clerk at the ABAC Post Office, retired June 1 with 30 years of service at the college. Nixon was also an ABAC staff member for 30 years, serving as credentials data processor II in the Office of Enterprise Data Services. She retired March 1.

Felton, horticulture technician in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, retired July 1 with 22 years of service. McCorvey, grants and development director in the Office of College Advancement, retired after 18 years of service on April 1. Spinks, grounds manager for the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village, retired May 1 after 21 years in his post.

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from dual enrollment to full time.

"The Board of Regents has changed the name of the Accel program to the Move-on-When-Ready program, so there are many new regulations to implement across our campus. Aside from that, enrolling more students is always the goal, but once I get through the first semester, I can take a longer look at the future, assess our needs, and make some plans," said Hall.

Although she has a lot on her plate, Hall thrives on the work that comes with her various roles at

ABAC. However, she does have one concern involving her new post.

"I am a little anxious about the enormity of the program," Hall said. "Dr. Dillard made it look so easy that most people don't realize the details involved or the amount of interaction that is necessary with the local high schools. I greatly enjoy it thus far, and I am learning as I go.

"I like challenges because they keep me excited about work. Directing programs pulls from the

creative, organizational, and social sides of my personality, so I feel extremely fortunate to hold these various roles at ABAC."

Working with the students and their families is what Hall really loves.

"I never knew I liked this type of work until I took over as director of the honors program," Hall said. "But then I found out that I love it, especially because I get to work so closely with students. Helping these students progress through their college careers is truly rewarding."

New Exhibit at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture

Over 50 exceptional works created by local artisans will be showcased in a specially-curated exhibit at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC.

The new exhibit, "The Best of Tiftarea Artisans," opened on July 16 at the Museum Gallery. Dave's Bread and Coffee House hosted the reception.

Museum assistant director and curator Polly Huff said over 70 entries vied for a spot in this new exhibit. Entries were narrowed down by a panel of jurors. Featured works include paintings, drawings, photography, multi-media pieces, basketry, woodturning, and even artisanal handmade knives.



'The Critics' (pictured above) by artist Mary Ann Cox is just one of over 50 pieces that will be displayed through Nov. 3 at 'The Best of Tiftarea Artisans' exhibit.

This new exhibit is presented in tandem with Museum partner group Tiftarea Artisans. Cash prizes totaling \$475 provided by Tiftarea Artisans will be distributed to the top three entries during the exhibit's opening reception.

Admission to this exhibit will be included in daily Museum admission and will be free with a current GMA Season Pass. GMA admission and season passes can be purchased at the Country Store.

"The Best of Tiftarea Artisans" exhibit will remain on display at the Gallery until Nov. 3. Most of the pieces in the exhibit are available for purchase through the curatorial office.

For more information on this exhibit, interested persons can contact Tiftarea Artisans at entries@tiftareaartists.com or Huff at phuff@abac.edu.

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of Dominguez Hills in 2007, going 17-21 with a 3.89 ERA over 235 innings pitched with 28 completed games.

Martinez was at the University of Arizona as a redshirt for the entire 2008 season and concluded her collegiate softball experience in 2009, assisting in the Wildcats' advancement to the Women's College World Series after defeating Stanford University in game two of the Division 1 Super-Regionals.

The first international experience for Martinez came in 2002 while still in high school. She was selected to play and pitch in Beijing, China on the 16U Team Explosion coached by Parra and Hartwig. She traveled through

Beijing on a two-week tour playing several Chinese teams, including the Chinese National team.

During her 2005 summer season, she had the opportunity to pitch against the Australian National team, Canadian National team, and the Chinese Tai Pei National team in the Canada Cup. In 2010, after graduating from the University of Arizona, Martinez spent seven months playing for the Italian professional team, Unione Ferma, in Macerata, Italy. She helped the team with its first A1 division season and also assisted the local Italian youth softball programs with coaching and pitching instruction.

Martinez received her bachelor's degree in English

with a minor in sociology from the University of Arizona. She is also a recent graduate of Georgia Southwestern State University, earning her Masters of Business Administration degree in May.

"I am so proud and excited to hand over my program to Jennifer Martinez," said former ABAC Coach Donna Campbell, who retired from coaching at the end of the 2015 season. "She comes from a softball background second to none by pitching for Mike Candrea at The University of Arizona. Playing in the Women's College World Series is every little girl's dream if she is a softball player, and Jennifer did just that in 2009. ABAC Softball will be in great hands with Jen."



Kinsley Named Assistant Director of Student Accounts

Jamie Kinsley has been named Assistant Director of Student Accounts. Kinsley received an Associate of Science in Business Administration from ABAC in 2013. Currently, she is pursuing a Bachelor in Office Administration and Technology from Valdosta State University and plans to graduate in Spring 2017. Kinsley started her career in higher education as a student worker in the ABAC Bookstore before moving into the Office of Financial Aid as a Financial Aid Counselor. She is also currently serving as the Secretary/Treasurer of ABAC Staff Forum.

"I am excited to be a part of the Office of Student Accounts. My knowledge in this area will help me assist students and parents with their financial needs," Kinsley said. She can be contacted at jkinsley@abac.edu or 229.391.4924.

ABAC Birthdays

21 David Bass 21 Thomas Heflin 22 Shawn Seat 23 Jeff Newberry 23 Paul Williams
25 Pam Leonard 27 Alan Murphy 28 Clint Tyson 28 JoAnn Saylor 29 Joseph Brown
30 Melanie Partlow 30 Susan Farmer 31 Darby Sewell Aug: 1 Marie Davis 1 Terence Turner