



# FOCUS

## ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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### ABAC Total Economic Impact Over \$251 Million On Annual Basis

The total economic impact of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College on Tifton and the surrounding area reached an all time high of \$251,799,738 during the 2009 year, according to a new study commissioned by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

Released by the University of Georgia's Selig Center for Economic Growth, the study showed the 35 public colleges and universities in the System have a \$12.7 billion economic impact on Georgia.

ABAC President David Bridges said the total impact of the college has more than doubled since 2001.

"When you look at the construction on our campus in the last seven years, you can see why the numbers have gone up significantly," Bridges said. "Since that time, we have opened a new Ag Sciences building, a new Health Sciences building, and two housing complexes that are filled with over 1,300 students, and now we are working on the historic front of campus project."

ABAC received an allocation of \$6 million in the FY 2009 budget to begin work on the mammoth project, which will completely restore Tift Hall, Herring Hall, and Lewis Hall, the three buildings on the campus when it opened as the Second District A&M School on Feb. 20, 1908. The project will continue with the \$4.75 million toward the rehabilitation of the ABAC front campus in the FY2011 budget.

ABAC also had an enrollment in 2009 of 3,326 students from 10 countries, 12 other states, and 154 Georgia counties.

Dr. Jeff Gibbs, Dean of the ABAC School of Business, analyzed the Selig Center report and found additional impact that actually added to the results.

Gibbs said a total of 1,508 jobs in the Tifton area, both on campus and off

campus, can be attributed to ABAC.

"The college had 373 on-campus jobs and the multiplier effect created another 881 jobs in the area,"

Gibbs said. "Additionally, the capital outlay impact of the college (construction and renovation) accounted for another 254 jobs.

"These are stable, value-added jobs. Most have incomes appropriate for different educational levels

attached to them that contribute to the community as a whole."

With more students living on campus than ever before, Bridges said student expenditures are up in the community. About 1,300 students live on campus in ABAC Place apartments and ABAC Lakeside.

"We bring out-of-region students to live on the campus," Bridges said. "That means they go to the local eating establishments, they visit the stores, and when they go back home, they fill up their gas tanks before they leave. That has to have an impact."

Bridges said with the college's bachelor's degree programs, students will live in Tifton longer and might even become residents here.

"A few students who stay here for two years might one day come back and live in Tifton," Bridges said. "But when you have students here for four or five years, they get to really experience the quality of life we have here. When they're ready to start a career, they are more likely to stay right here in south Georgia."

As an economist, Gibbs understands the dollars and cents impact of ABAC. But he also knows there are many other ways that the college touches the community.

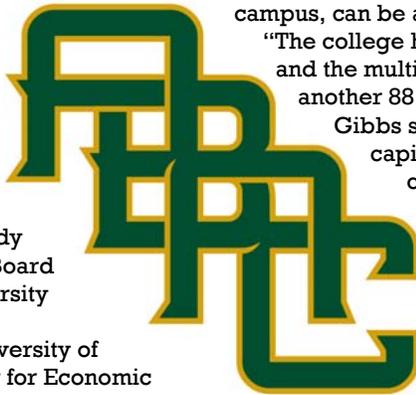
"ABAC adds to the volunteer pool in the community in a big way," Gibbs said. "You have people serving on city

committees, private boards, providing leadership in churches, helping out with events like Relay For Life and a lot of other organizations.

"Having ABAC and its employees here makes this a better place to live. Look at the Arts Connection and all the programs it offers. Look at the Love Affair every May."

Gibbs also pointed out the Educational Outreach office at ABAC that sponsors continuing education classes for the community. Last year, it was third among all 35 units of the University System in the number of classes offered.

The classes attract students who drive to Tifton from smaller communities and make several purchases before they return home.



#### Stay Out Of Fenced Area

Please do not enter the fenced area around Tift, Lewis, and Herring halls for any reason. This is a construction zone. Construction personnel have reported seeing individuals inside the area and actually inside Tift Hall in recent weeks.

#### Colloquium Cancelled

The CTL Colloquium, previously scheduled for today has been canceled. Rebecca Cofer will present this topic in the fall at a time yet to be determined.

## Fall Application Deadline August 1

# PSBOC at ABAC Renamed Educational Outreach

The 70-year-old old Public Service and Business Outreach Center at ABAC is making some changes in its long standing service to the campus and the community.

Created in 1940 by Tom Cordell to provide continuing education classes to farmers through a series of short courses, the program has continually upgraded itself through the years. Known for its educational opportunities for all ages, the unit will now be known as ABAC Educational Outreach.

“The change better reflects the mission of the unit which mirrors the mission of the College: to attract, retain and graduate (or transfer) good stu-

dents,” said Keith Barber, Vice President of External Affairs and Advancement. “We will focus on targeted opportunities and making sure those activities are done in a way which impacts our constituents in a major way.

“Essentially, we are trying to marry ABAC’s core mission objective with what we are good at doing in order to advance the college as a whole.”

Barber said the name change does not mean that the program offerings will be significantly altered.

“Kids’ College and adult classes will still be very important parts of the agenda, but the classes themselves may

be refocused to better employ all facets of the college,” Barber said.

“For example, the travel program remains strong, but by now including faculty as in-trip lecturers, an educational element will be added to the tours.”

Barber said the recent addition of the Georgia Museum of Agriculture to the ABAC campus will also play a major role in the implementation of the new opportunities and focus.

“This re-defining will provide us opportunities to utilize every aspect of the college to better benefit the participants and make ABAC even stronger,” Barber said.



## ABAC Forestry Students Help Out Georgia Museum of Agriculture

Ten ABAC students volunteered several days last week to tap pine trees in order to collect pine gum to run the turpentine still at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village this fall. The students helped employees tap over 1000 trees. The process requires five man teams to drill a hole in the tree, spray with an acidic solution, insert a PVC pipe into the tree and seal a bag on the pipe for collection. Once the gum is collected it will be processed this fall in the turpentine still at the museum. Without the help of the students, the project would not have been completed.



# ABAC Personnel Selected for Governor's Service Award

Chris Kinsey, Assistant Director of Housing, and the Student Financial Services team (SFS) at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College have been selected as this quarter's recipients of the 2010



Chris Kinsey (second from right) tours the state capitol with Governor Sonny Perdue and other Customer Service award recipients.

Governor's Commendation for Excellence in Customer Service. Kinsey and the SFS were honored at a recent ceremony in Atlanta.

"I was definitely surprised and honored to receive this award," said Kinsey. "The team effort and support I received from the Student Life and Housing staff at ABAC has made this recognition possible. It has renewed my emphasis on customer service, as well as given me a boost to provide even more service and communication to the students."

Originally from Dalton, Kinsey received both his bachelor's degree in history and his master's degree in business administration from Georgia Southwestern State University.

Kinsey became a part of ABAC as a guidance academic specialist with the TRiO program in 2005. In July of 2007, he became the assistant director of housing at the college. His previous employment includes serving as assistant director of residence life and part time faculty member at Columbus State University, as well as working at Geor-

gia Southwestern as the residence life coordinator. Also recognized for its accomplishments in customer service was the Student Financial Services Team. Under the direction of Dr.

Chrystle Ross, Chief Information Officer, the team implemented eStallion, which

sends out electronic billing information to students' e-mail accounts, allows students and parents to make payments online, and allows parents to set up authorized user accounts. Students and parents can even receive payment alerts and other announcements on their phones and do everything from home.

"Chrystle was the one who spearheaded all of this," said Stefane Whiddon, accounting assistant with the ABAC Business Office. "She was open-minded and saw all the possibilities that could

be offered to students with eStallion."

Other members of the SFS team include Gay Ann Hodge and Krystle Williams, accounting assistants.

Ross said the new system answers a lot of questions for students and parents.

"Since the process of eStallion was put in place there has been a lot less confusion for students and parents when it comes to the payment process," said Ross.

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 recog-



Governor Sonny Perdue congratulates the ABAC Student Financial Services team of (l-r) Gay Ann Hodge, Dr. Chrystle Ross, Krystle Williams and Stefane Whiddon.

nize employees who go "above and beyond" while serving customers and demonstrating Georgia's five customer service commitments - courteous, helpful, accessible, responsive, and knowledgeable.

## ABAC Birthdays

- 27 Alan Murphy
- 30 Susan Farmer
- 30 Melanie Partlow
- 30 Jimmy Harper
- 31 Darby Sewell

### August

- 1 Marie Davis
- 1 Jo Paulk

## ABAC Job Opportunities

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

## ABAC Family

Dr. David Bridges gave an ABAC update to the Moultrie Rotary Club on July 20. Mike Chason appeared on the WALB-TV noon show on July 21.

## ABAC Alumni Golf Tourney Saturday

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.

