



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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Evans Named Dean of School of Science & Mathematics

Dr. Johnny Evans believes his timing is perfect.

Evans, the new Dean of the School of Science and Mathematics at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, said he couldn't have picked a better time to begin his career with ABAC.

"ABAC is a unique place that has a unique mission," Evans said. "It's growing, and I want to be a part of that growth. I'd like to take the programs in the science and mathematics area to the next level. It's a great time to be at ABAC."

Besides his administrative responsibilities, Evans plans to teach classes at ABAC, a role he enjoyed in his 13 years at Lee University in Cleveland, Tenn., where he was a professor of chemistry and physics and the chemistry program coordinator.

"I believe that it's important for the Dean to be involved in the classroom," Evans said. "I became a teacher because I like to be connected with the students.

"At a place like ABAC where we have smaller class sizes, the students get more one-on-one time with the profes-

sor. Students get to ask questions they may not get to ask at a bigger school. Students also get a chance to be mentored personally by that professor during their four years at ABAC."

The bachelor's degree in biology has been one of the rising stars in the ABAC curriculum since the college began offering junior and senior level classes in that area in the fall term of 2011. The first bachelor's degrees in biology were awarded in the May, 2013 commencement ceremony.

"We are going to build on that degree," Evans said. "It prepares a student to go in a lot of directions which might include medical school or a Ph.D. program."

Evans received his undergraduate degree in chemistry from Georgia College and State University and earned his Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the



Evans

University of Florida. His father was in the military so he spent most of his formative years on the road, attending 13 different schools before his junior year of high school. His family lived overseas for many years, including a long stint in Germany. He named Austria as his favorite European country. "I have been to a lot of places and seen a lot of different things," Evans said. "Those experiences help me to understand that everybody's different, and that you connect and adjust to each person differently."

"It's the same way in the classroom. At ABAC, students have their own approach to learning. The professors here get a chance to know the students and their learning styles. That way, we can decide how to best meet the needs of that student."

Town & Gown Event August 22

The 6th Annual Town and Gown Connection will take place on Aug. 22 from 4 – 6 p.m. in the Nickelodeon in the J. Lamar Branch Student Center at ABAC. The event will feature businesses and churches that will welcome new and returning students to Tifton.

Churches can take part in this event for \$10, and businesses can participate for \$20. Businesses are invited to bring samples, freebies, coupons, or even job applications. One table and two chairs will be provided for each church or business. A drawing for door prizes will take place at the end of the event.

Businesses already planning to attend include Hilton Garden Inn, Small Cakes, The Big Store, Rancho's Fresh Grill, DOCO Regional Federal Credit Union, the City of Tifton Development Authority, and Mi-Lady Bakery.

For more information or to register for the Town and Gown event, businesses and churches can contact Bernice Hughes, Dean of Students, at bhughes@abac.edu.



Morgan Named Head Coach of ABAC Baseball Team

Robert Morgan, one of the top shortstops in NCAA Division II baseball history, is the new head baseball coach at ABAC. He will also serve as an academic support counselor.

Morgan has served as an assistant coach at Valdosta State University, Georgia Southwestern State University, and Georgia Perimeter College.

"I am extremely grateful to Mr. Kramer and the Athletic department for the opportunity to take over the ABAC baseball program," Morgan said. "I look forward to working with our players to achieve success on and off of the field."

As a player at Valdosta State in 2004, Morgan set single season records with a .436 batting average, 32 doubles, 172 total bases, 49 extra base hits, and a 31-game hitting streak. With the 32 doubles, he also set an NCAA Division II record.

For his heroics on the field for the Blazers in 2004-05, Morgan was named to the All-America team in 2004, selected as the Gulf South Conference East Division Player of the Year in 2004, and was picked as the best shortstop in the 40-year history of Valdosta State baseball. He was also a member of the Gulf South Conference All-Decade team for 2000-2010. In 2013, Morgan was named to the Athletics Hall of Fame at Valdosta State.

As a minor league professional player, Morgan helped Washington (Pa.) win a league record 63 games and the Frontier League East Division title. He has also had head coaching stints at the Chain Baseball Academy and the Southeast Baseball Academy.

Morgan also played two years for ABAC rival South Georgia College where he was the Most Valuable Player in 2002 and 2003. He was named All-

Conference and All-Region both years.

"I am excited Robert Morgan will be the new Head Baseball Coach of the ABAC Stallions," said Alan Kramer, Athletics Director and Assistant Dean of Students. "We have had an intensive search this summer with very a talented applicant pool. Coach Morgan will bring a dedication and work ethic to the college that exemplifies the branding of the ABAC student-athlete on and off the diamond."

Morgan received his undergraduate degree from Valdosta State in general studies and his graduate degree from Barry University in sport management.

In his role as an academic counselor, Morgan will assist and guide students through all phases of the academic process from acceptance through graduation at ABAC.



Freshman Move-in August 10

Be here on August 10 to welcome the new freshman class and help them get moved into the dorms. Move-in begins at 8 a.m. that morning. Sign up from shifts from 8 a.m.—12 p.m. or 12 p.m.—4. Email Chris Kinsey at ckinsey@abac.edu or 229.391.5139 if you are interested in helping. If you would rather assist with lighter duties, please let Kinsey know when you volunteer.

Promotions Approved For ABAC Faculty Members

Seven faculty members at ABAC will receive academic promotions, effective Aug. 1, 2013, according to Dr. Niles Reddick, ABAC Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Todd Hicks, Rhonda Lewis, and Jeannie Paulk will receive promotions to the rank of assistant professor from instructor. **Dr. Bonnie Asselin, Dr. Jordan Cofer, and Keith Perry** will receive promotions to the rank of associate professor from assistant professor. **Dr. Jewrell Rivers** will receive a promotion to the rank of professor from associate professor.

Hicks has been a part of the faculty in the School of Agriculture and Forest Resources since 2010. At ABAC, he co-advises the Agricultural Engineering Technology (AET) Club. He earned his M.S. in agricultural leadership from the University of Georgia and his B.S. in

mechanical engineering technology from Southern Polytechnic State University.

Lewis obtained her M.S.N. and B.S.N. in nursing from Valdosta State University and her AS in nursing from ABAC. She has been teaching in the School of Nursing and Health Sciences since 2010.

Paulk joined the faculty in the School of Nursing and Health Sciences at ABAC in 2010. She earned her M.S.N. in nursing from Valdosta State University; her B.S.N. in nursing from Georgia Southwestern University; and her AS in nursing from ABAC.

Asselin received her Ph.D. in English from Northeastern University; her M.A. in English from the University of Massachusetts; and her B.A. in Journalism from Ohio University. She has been a part of the faculty in the School of Liberal Arts since 2009.

Cofer received his Ph.D. in English from Texas Tech University; his M.A. in English from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; and his B.A. in English from Southwest Baptist University. Cofer became a faculty member in the School of Liberal Arts in 2009.

Perry joined the ABAC faculty in 2003 and teaches in the School of Liberal Arts. He received his M.A. in communications and his B.A. in interpersonal communications from the University of Central Florida. Perry is also the faculty advisor for ABAC's radio station, WPLH.

Rivers earned his Ph.D. in family relations from Florida State University. He also obtained his M.S. in sociology and his B.S. in psychology from Valdosta State University. He has served the campus of ABAC in the School of Human Sciences since 2001.

ABAC Fall Conference and Technology Training Aug. 7, 8 & 12

Dr. Bridges and Dr. Reddick look forward to welcoming everyone back for the fall semester. The fall conference activities will be divided into three days beginning on August 7 with the new faculty orientation, followed by the fall conference on the Aug. 8 and ending with technology workshops and school meetings on Aug. 12

Aug. 7—New Faculty Orientation— Begins at 8:15 a.m. on the second floor of Tift Hall in the President's Gallery with a meet and greet and will end that evening at a dinner hosted by Dr. Reddick at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture. Throughout the day new faculty members will be visiting many important and useful places on campus as well as learn more about the Tifton community to help them acclimate before classes begin.

Aug. 8—Fall Conference— Kicks off at 8 a.m. in Howard Auditorium with a reception and refreshments provided by the President's Office. During this time all new faculty and staff will be introduced and the President will address all Faculty and Staff. Lunch is provided by SODEXO to all Faculty and Staff that day as well.

Aug. 12—Technology Training and School Meetings— In an effort to provide faculty flexibility in creating their workshop schedule, each technology workshop section will be taught concurrently throughout the morning. The session begin at 8:30 a.m. and last 50 minutes each ending at 11:50 a.m. The four sessions are on faculty webpages, degree works, smarthinking and D2L. Following lunch school meetings and department meetings will take place.

You will find the full schedule of events for each day in your ABAC email.

Tenure Approved For Three ABAC Faculty Members

Three members of the faculty at ABAC have been approved for tenure, effective Aug. 1, 2013, according to Dr. Niles Reddick, ABAC Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Those receiving tenure include **Dr. Kingsley Dunkley, Dr. Cynthia Hall, and Jimmy Ballenger.**

Dunkley received his Ph.D. in poultry science from Texas A & M University and his M.S. in animal science and his B.S. in agriculture from Prairie View Agricultural & Mechanical University. He came to ABAC in 2008 as a faculty member in the School of Science and Mathematics.

Hall joined the ABAC faculty in 2008, teaching in the School of Liberal Arts. She received her B.A. in English from Mount St. Mary College; her M.Ed. in English Education from Emmanuel College; her M.A. in English from the University of West Georgia; and her Ph.D. in English from the University of California, Riverside. Dr. Hall also serves as the Honors Program Director.

Ballenger is an assistant professor of health and physical education and the Fillies' soccer coach. He earned his M.S. Ed. in health and physical education from Albany State University; his B.S. in early childhood education from Valdosta State University; and his A.S. in early childhood education from ABAC.

He joined the School of Human Sciences faculty in 2005.

Tenure may be granted to a faculty member who has served at least five years as an assistant professor and has shown the potential for making significant contributions to the college and in the professor's field.

ABAC Birthdays

- 29 Joseph Brown
- 30 Susan Farmer
- 30 Melanie Partlow
- 31 Darby Sewell

August

- 1 Marie Davis
- 1 Terrence Turner
- 3 Donna Sledge
- 4 Mireya Jackson



Back to School Basket Raffle Friday

Tickets are \$1 each OR 6 tickets for \$5 and can be purchased in EDS/Office of the Registrar. Basket valued at \$100.

The FOCUS is an electronic publication produced by the ABAC Public Relations Office. Please submit information by **Thursday at noon** to Ashley Mock at amock@abac.edu for inclusion in the next FOCUS.