Many new ABAC faculty and staff have joined us over the summer and more still join us as they finish commitments to former employers. The ABAC family gave them a warm welcome at this morning’s faculty and staff conference. **Front row (pictured left to right):** Dill Driscoll, Dean School of Business; Susan Driscoll, Dean School of Business; Lynn Hoatson, Enterprise Data Services; Heather Cathcart, Assistant Professor of Biology; Jodie Snow, COO Foundation; Carrie Ross, Assistant Professor of Biology; Audrey Luke-Morgan, Lecturer; Steven Cox, Lab Technician; Austin Lawton, Golf Course Superintendent; Trey Davis, Farm Manager. **Back row (l to r):** John Folsom, Lecturer in Music; Ben Thore, Assistant Professor in History; Doug Jurs, Assistant Professor of Piano and Theory; Lindsey Roberts, Public Relations Assistant; Thomas Grant, Assistant Professor Journalism; Tammy Carter; Grant Rentz, Natural Resources Technician; Larry Kiser, Assistant Professor of Forest Resources; Nathan Mumm, Computer Services Specialist and Allen Saylor Jr., Enterprise Data Services. **Not Pictured:** Heather Carbone, Museum Marketing Assistant; Nicole Cox, Assistant Professor of Communication; Jan Gregus, Assistant Professor of Math; Amanda Jones, Residence Life Coordinator; Mireya Jackson, Student Life and Housing Administrative Assistant; Asya Muhammad, Residence Life Coordinator and Wesley Myrick, Assistant Director Student Life and Housing.
Help Wanted for Freshman Move-in Day

Freshman move-in day is Wednesday from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Bring hand trucks and wear your ABAC colors to welcome the new freshman! Shift are in three hour increments and both inside and outside jobs are available. Contact bhughes@abac.edu to sign up.

ABAC President Looking Forward To ‘Best Year Ever’

With fall semester classes beginning on Aug. 13 at ABAC, President David Bridges is set for “the best year ever.” In his annual address to the faculty and staff of the college this morning, Bridges said, “we’re going to have the best year the college has ever had. We’re going to make that ABAC diploma more valuable than ever before.” Over 3,000 students are expected to enroll for the fall term which runs through Nov. 30. Almost 1,300 of those students will live on campus in either ABAC Lakeside or ABAC Place. Area merchants will certainly note the return of the students since ABAC has an annual impact of $241 million on the economy of south Georgia.

Bridges, the only ABAC alumnus (Class of ’78) who has ever been ABAC President, focused on the three key words of “thanks, change, and challenge” during his address.

“Our mission is very simple—change the lives of our students,” Bridges said. “To do that, we need to thank them for choosing ABAC and challenge them every day. There is no higher calling for us than the responsibility of educating our students.”

Bridges said that ABAC education will occur in the classroom, the gym, the farm, the forest, the laboratory, and every other place where faculty members impart their knowledge to the students.

“Educat ing these students to be productive members of society—that’s what we’re doing,” Bridges, in the seventh year of his presidency, said. “That’s what we should aim for. We must challenge ourselves to give students the experiences that will add value to the degree they receive.”

One priority of the new academic year will be a strategic planning process which Bridges said will base itself upon the three principles of “adding value to the ABAC degree, differentiating ABAC, and doing things others can’t duplicate.

“We must plan to be a winner,” Bridges said. “We will not be a winner by continuing to do the same things we have been doing. We must take a little risk. Change will continue to occur. Adjust to the little pieces of change around you.”

Freshman Convocation Sunday

Dr. Sandra Giles, professor of English in the School of Liberal Arts at ABAC, will be the featured speaker. Attire includes gown and hood—no hat. Line-up will begin at 1:45 p.m. Faculty—Look out for an email from Brenda Doss this week with line of march and other details.

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.

2012-13 Stallion Day

November 10  February 16
April 6

Summer Museum Hours to Beat the Heat

During the month of August, the Museum, Gallery, and Tift House will be open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. The Historic Village will be closed for the entire month. Conference facilities and the country store are still open for normal operation. For more information call 229.391.5205.

ABAC Birthdays

6 Beth Thornton
8 Elaine Auger
8 Amy Howell
9 Jewrell Rivers
10 Deidra Jackson
10 Kay Weeks
11 Jimmy Felton