



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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Welcome Week Activities Begin Wednesday

Freshmen at ABAC will begin their college experience on Wednesday by participating in the annual Welcome Week.

Now in its fifth year, Welcome Week introduces new students to the college through a variety of activities and workshops, leading to the start of the fall semester on Aug. 15.

Activities during the week include seminars about college life, mandatory hall meetings for all students living on campus, a Welcome Rally, a cardboard boat race, tours of ABAC and Tifton, a Welcome Back dance, Stallion's Day Out, and more.

Prior to Convocation, the President's Lunch will be held in the Donaldson dining hall from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. This opportunity is open for students, parents, faculty, staff, and administration.

The Freshman Convocation will be held Sunday at 2 p.m. in Gressette Gym with featured speaker Beth Bland Oleson, an ABAC alumnus (class of 1999). Oleson is the Director of Education for the Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association.

After graduating from Tift County High School in 1997, Oleson attended ABAC where she was president of the ABAC Ambassadors and was quite involved with the choral program. She graduated from ABAC with an associate degree before earning a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Communications and Master of Science in Food Science degrees from the University of Georgia.

Upon her graduation from UGA, Oleson became the Marketing Director for John's Island Tomatoes in Charleston, S.C. There she gained first-hand experience of almost every aspect of a commercial produce operation. This perspective prepared her for her current role as the Director of Education for the



Beth Bland Oleson ('99) will be the speaker at ABAC Convocation Sunday at 2 p.m.

Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association (GFVGA). Oleson joined GFVGA in 1995 as coordinator of the Georgia Good Agricultural Practices Food Safety Program. Through this program she worked with farmers and packing facilities to implement food safety programs to minimize the occurrence of food born disease on produce. Under her leadership the program grew in the number of organizations implementing food safety plans as

well as undergoing third party verification audits.

Oleson's professional achievements have earned her various leadership roles within the industry and the United Fresh Produce Association. These include being named to the United Fresh Food Safety and Technology Committee as well as an invitation to work with various industry initiatives such as creating the Tomato Commodity Specific Food Safety Guidelines as well as a Harmonized GAP Food Safety Standard for the entire produce industry.

Oleson is a 2007 graduate of the Georgia Agri-Leaders Forum and was recently selected to participate in the 2011-2012 Produce Industry Leadership Program. She was recognized as UGA's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Alumni Association's 2009 Young Alumni Achievement Award recipient. She was named the 2010 Outstanding Young Alumnus by the ABAC Alumni Association.

Over 3,000 students are expected to attend classes at ABAC during the fall term with almost 1,200 of them living on campus. For more information on Welcome Week activities visit the website at www.abac.edu/welcomeweek.

ABAC Housing Move-In Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are still needed for Housing Move-in on Wednesday. Faculty and staff are encouraged to volunteer for this great opportunity to meet students and their families. ABAC Faculty and staff will be used as inside volunteers giving out keys, assisting with paperwork, talking to parents or assisting at other check-in stations.

Shifts are available from 8 a.m. - 11 a.m., 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., 2 p.m. - 5 p.m., and 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Volunteers will be given free t-shirt for helping. Email Kris Liebegott or Bernice Hughes with your preferred time slot and also provide them your t-shirt size. Thanks for lending a hand.



New Blacktop for ABAC Dining Hall Parking Lot

The entire dining hall parking lot has been resurfaced and restriped in preparation for the fall semester. This lot won't be empty again until December.

New Faculty and Staff Ready for Fall Semester at ABAC

Five new full-time faculty members and a visiting Fulbright Scholar will be a part of the classroom instruction expertise available for the students of ABAC when classes begin for the fall semester next week.

In the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, **Dr. Ray Smith** will serve as head of the Department of Agriculture, and **Jason Scott** will serve as an assistant professor in the Department of Forest Resources.

Connie High will join the School of Science and Mathematics as an instructor in the Department of Mathematics.

Danny Warren will serve as an instructor in the School of Nursing and Health Sciences. In the School of Human Sciences, assistant professor **Chase Hagood** will teach in the Department of History.



(Pictured left to right) Danny Warren, Jason Scott, Dr. Ray Smith, Dr. Zsuzanna Bogre, Chase Hagood, and Connie High will join the ABAC faculty this fall.

ment of History.

Dr. Zsuzanna Bogre is a visiting Fulbright Scholar from Hungary. She

will be teaching three classes at ABAC this year.

New staff members who have joined the college since May 2011 Director of Student Financial Services **Shawn Thomas**, Enrollment Counselors **Amanda Wulle** and **Kaitlin Stannard**. Nancy Kinsley begins today as a part-time mail clerk. Registrar **Tarrah Mirus** will join the Office of Admissions on Sept. 1.

Lynda Fisher, human resources assistant, is a new addition to the Office of Human Resources. **Jennifer Gunn** is the new administrative assistant to the HEP/CAMP program. **Teddy Spikes** has joined the housing staff as a maintenance technician.

The ABAC Police Department has added **Austin McGinn** and **Jeff Kelly** as Police Officers.

The FOCUS is a weekly electronic publication produced by the ABAC Public Relations Office.

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

ABAC Birthdays

8 Amy Howell
8 Elaine Auger
9 Jewrell Rivers



10 Deidra Jackson
10 Kay Weeks
11 Jimmy Felton

Strings & Things Opens with a Bang

Local treasure Frank Maloy captures the audience with the sounds of his fiddle, which was made by one of the featured luthiers, Mike Daugherty. The Strings & Things exhibit opened last Tuesday and will remain open through October 1. Visit the museum website at www.abac.edu/museum for complete hours.

