



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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New Faculty and Staff Gear Up for Fall Semester

Six full-time faculty members have come aboard at ABAC for the 2010-2011 academic year.

In the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, new faculty include **Dr. Alexander Kowalewski**, Assistant Professor, and **John Layton**, who will now teach classes as well as serve as Turf Superintendent at ABAC's Forest Lakes Golf Course.

The School of Liberal Arts adds **Dr. Joseph F. Brown**, English Lecturer, and **Dr. Michael S. Lewis**, Assistant Professor of English. The new addition in the School of Nursing is **Karen Dell - McCready**, Instructor of Nursing. In the School of Science and Mathematics, **Dr. Eun-Kyung You** is an Assistant Professor of mathematics.

Ten part-time faculty include **Brandi Arrington**, **Carolyn Bridgeman**, **Catherine Cronin**, **Marjorie Fix**, **Layssa Diaz Orta**, **Crystal Parten**, and **Sarah Leigh True**, instructors in the School of Liberal Arts; and **Ronald Clay**, **Shellie Wade Cornelius**, and **Leeann Riggins**, instructors in the School of Science and Mathematics.

Dr. Aercio Cunha is a visiting Fulbright Scholar from Brazil. He will be teaching Business and Rural Studies classes at ABAC for the next year.

New staff members who have joined the college since August, 2009 include new Director of Human Resources **Richard Spancake**. **Deidre Jackson** is Comptroller, and **Joy Lott** is an Accounts Payable Clerk in the Office of Fiscal Affairs. **Terrence Turner** is the



New faculty at ABAC include (l-r): Dr. Eun-Kyung You, Dr. Dr. Aercio Cunha, Dr. Joseph F. Brown, Dr. Michael S. Lewis, John Layton, and Dr. Alexander Kowalewski.

Academic Specialist/Guidance Academic Specialist for the Minority Advising Program in the Office of Student Success.

Kris Leibegott, Director of Student Activities, and **Tonisha Gordon**, Coordinator of Residence Life, joined the Office of Student Life and Housing. **Ann Olphie** is the newest member of the Office of College Advancement, serving as Grants and Contracts Accountant. **Leigh Cowart** joined the staff in the Office of Enrollment Services as Administrative Assistant. The ABAC Police Department welcomes **Ray Satterfield** as Assistant Chief of Police and **Justin Cruce** as a Police Officer.

Spancake Named New ABAC Director of Human Resources

Richard L. Spancake has been named as the new Director of Human Resources at ABAC.

A native of Colquitt, Ga., Spancake has over 20 years of experience in human resources and is certified at the highest level in the field as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR). He received his certification in January, 2010.



Spancake previously worked in human resources for Shaw Industries in Charlotte, NC and in Valdosta from 2008 - 2010 and for Amoco Fabrics and Fibers Company/Propex Incorporated from 1988 - 2007.

Spancake received his associate's degree in liberal arts from Bainbridge College and his bachelor's degree in business from Georgia Southwestern.

He is familiar with the college's history and is anxious to know more about ABAC.

"While ABAC has a long and proud history, I am really excited to learn about all the activities and developments while helping to expand the scope of the institution and the campus," said Spancake. "It is a very interesting time to be a part of ABAC."

In his spare time, Spancake loves to hunt and fish. He is also an avid tennis player. He has two children, Justin and Sarah. Spancake replaces Bertha Williams, who retired in March.

Faculty-Staff Spotlight

Please go to www.abac.edu/pr/Forms/FOCUSspotlightForm.pdf and fill out a spotlight form to be featured in the FOCUS. This is a great opportunity to spotlight the great job the members of the ABAC Family are doing!



All faculty and staff are invited to the President's Picnic at ABAC Lakeside 12:30-2 p.m. on Friday

ABAC Family

Nancy Anthony has been elected Chair-Elect of the USG State Staff Council.

Turner Named LEAD Coordinator In the Office of Student Success

Terence Turner has been named as the LEAD Coordinator in the Office of Student Success at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. Originally from East Chicago, OH, Turner spent 30 years in the Air Force before retiring at the rank of Chief Master Sergeant, the highest enlisted grade in that branch of armed forces.



While in the service, Turner was stationed across the United States including Texas, New York, Massachusetts, Ohio, and Georgia. He received his bachelor's degree in business administration with a focus on management from Western New England College in Springfield, Mass.

While at ABAC, he will play a vital role in the 'Leaders Evolving and Developing' (LEAD) learning community.

"My hope is that the students have the motivation to stay in school, the drive to progress, and to get their college education," said Turner. "Students need to take advantage of all of the resources ABAC offers and to not be afraid to ask for help."

In his three weeks of being on campus, Turner has loved his ABAC experience.

"What I really like is the environment because it seems like a family," said Turner. "I have been so welcomed here, by the campus and my office."

When not in the office, Turner enjoys playing golf and fishing. He is married to the former Ellen Denise Brooks and they have two children, Bryant and Briana.

ABAC Receives \$204,435 Grant from NSF

A National Science Foundation (NSF) grant worth \$204,435 will bring cutting edge technology to the J.G. Woodroof Farm at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

Titled "Transformation of the Curricula in Applied Agricultural Disciplines", the grant focuses on transforming the 200-acre farm into an Agricultural Learning Laboratory with the aid of real-time sensor and monitor technologies. The purpose of this grant is to enhance the effectiveness of ABAC programs through context-based experiential learning.

"What is special is that we can use the Agricultural Learning Laboratory as a focal point for integrating the various disciplines in the agriculture curriculum," said Dr. Tim Marshall, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources. "Yet, while the grant is targeted at technology in agriculture, the knowledge base can also be utilized in a broad spectrum of fields outside of agriculture. This grant will help to exemplify what our learning lab should be for our students."

Dr. Renata Elad, professor of agricultural economics, is the primary contact for the grant. Working with the entire faculty involved in the farm, she is currently in the professional development process of finding the most cutting-edge and cost efficient technology.

"This grant came about by looking at the current state of agriculture and finding out just how technologically advanced the field has become," said Elad. "There is a lot of focus on technology in the bachelor and graduate levels of agricultural education, but not on the associate level. We want to bring the technology usually experienced in higher levels of education to the associate degree program so our students can compete globally in the job market, and we can send out more technologically-inclined workers into the agricultural field."

A by-product of this grant that Elad hopes to see is more interaction between faculty at ABAC and other institutions. Thanks to the grant, ABAC faculty now have the opportunity to participate in AgrowKnowledge, an online consortium that has an inventory of ag-related seminars, webinars, and various other resources. Faculty of ABAC will be able to share ideas and work with agriculture faculty from other colleges and universities.

Elad said it is important to choose the right programs to apply at the farm and



Interim Agriculture Department Head Lorie Felton, Dr. Renata Elad, and Farm Manager Scott Bullington look over the plans for the \$204,435 grant from the National Science Foundation which will bring new technology to the J.G. Woodroof Farm at ABAC.

to select the up-to-date technology that will be most beneficial to the students and the farm for years to come.

"Finding technology that won't be obsolete and will still be valid once students start their careers is the most difficult aspect of this process," said Elad.

"We almost have to be on top of the technology before it is cutting-edge."

The end result of the technology that the grant will provide is the implementation of an agricultural lab that is both functioning and relevant for students. Students will not only learn what the technology is and how it works, but will also examine the cost benefit ratio of that technology to crops, livestock, and the business of agriculture as a whole.

"Three to five years from now, we expect our students to have even more exposure and experience to talk the talk and walk the walk with employers because of the added value this program will give them," said Marshall.

Grant funding began Aug. 1 and continues through July 31, 2013. The grant is the second NSF grant of the summer announced by ABAC. The first was for \$600,000 and aims to attract students into the science and mathematics field at the college.

ABAC Birthdays

- 9 Jewrell Rivers
- 9 William Barnhill
- 10 Geoff Clement
- 10 Kay Weeks
- 11 Jimmy Felton
- 15 Millie Puckett