



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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From the President's Desk...

Greetings ABAC faculty, staff, and friends:

As another semester starts at ABAC, I am proud to report great things are happening! Enrollment for the fall semester 2011 will be very similar to last fall, near 3,300. Returning student enrollment is up significantly, with students taking advantage of the expanded baccalaureate offerings at the College.



President David Bridges

ABAC's freshman class is the most strongly prepared and most diverse in history. The average high school GPA for the first-time freshmen is up from 2.97 to 3.03. The average high school GPA for all students is a record 3.27. More than 95% of ABAC's baccalaureate-degree seeking students have taken the SAT and/or ACT. Another indicator of the increased preparation level of this year's freshman class is the significant decline in both the number of students and the percent of student in the class who are in Learning Support.

ABAC's students come from 24 countries, 20 states and 150 of Georgia's 159 counties. More than 1,200 students (38% of total enrollment) will be living on the ABAC campus this fall.

ABAC was recently recognized by the U.S. Department of education for its outstanding value as an educational institution. We have always had a well deserved reputation as a friendly college with a terrific student experience and an extremely safe campus environment. This year will be no exception.

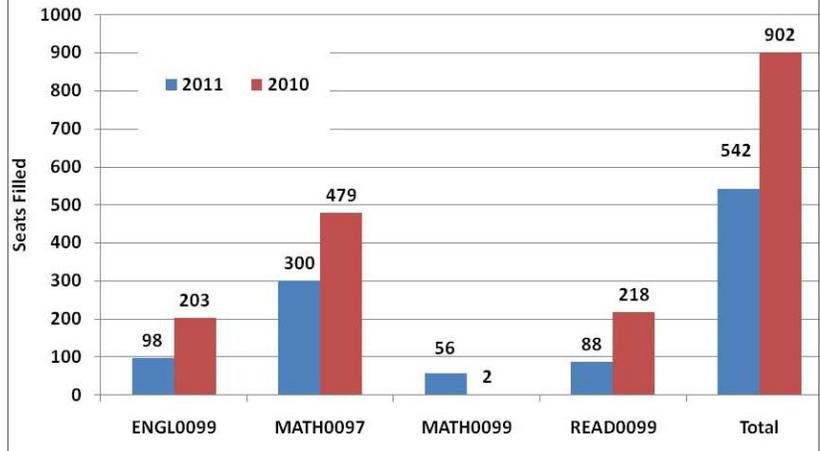
I want to thank everyone who played a part in this fall's enrollment, it has been tough at times but it has certainly paid off. I look forward to another great semester at ABAC.

David C Bridges

David Bridges
President

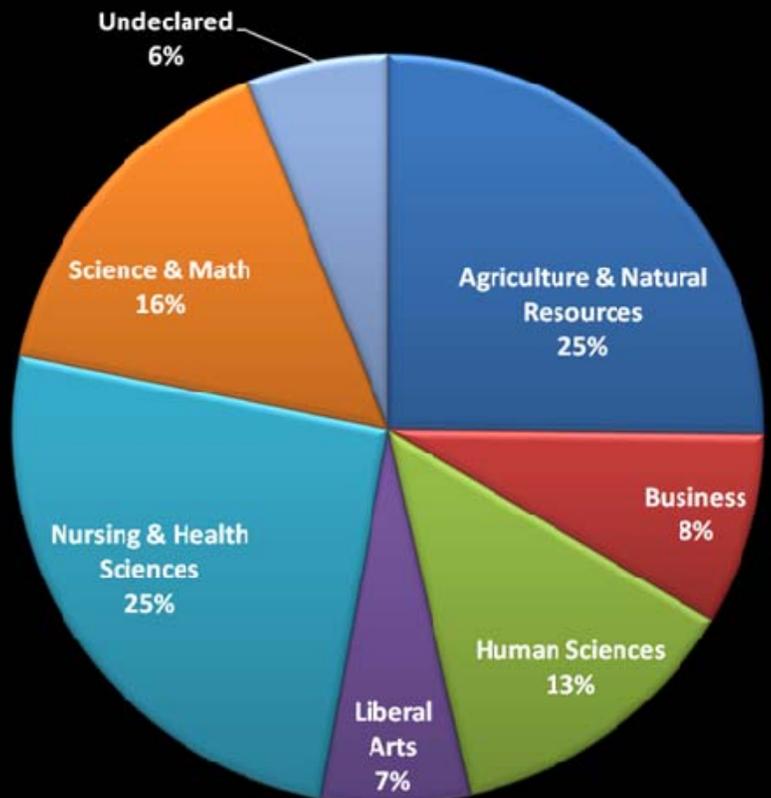
Learning Support Enrollment

By Class, New Freshmen - Fall 2011



Fall 2011 Enrollment by School

As of Aug 14, 2011



Strings & Things Exhibit Open Through Oct. 1

Exhibit hours for the month of August will coincide with the Museum's hours which are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. For more information visit www.abac.edu/museum



Oleson Had Audience Laughing at Convocation

Beth Bland Oleson ('99) spoke at ABAC Convocation Sunday. She delivered a comical and heartfelt message about overcoming fears and making the most of the college experience.

Fillies Home Soccer Schedule

August 30—Gordon—5 p.m.
September 8—Andrew—4 p.m.
October 1—Georgia Military—1 p.m.
October 4—Middle Georgia—4 p.m.
October 7—Georgia Perimeter—5 p.m.
October 12—Darton—5 p.m.
October 17—South Georgia—4 p.m.

ABAC Birthdays

16 Amy Williams
17 Vicki Sherling
18 Bobbie Baldree

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.

State Traditional Arts Research Archive Now on Loan to ABAC

The campus of ABAC and the Tifton community now have access to the State Traditional Arts Research Archive (STARA). The collection is on loan from Georgia Council of the Arts (GCA) and contains over 3,000 items including photos, videos, sound recordings, books, and research field notes as well as interviews from traditional and folk artists.

"The addition of the State Traditional Arts Research Archive loaned to ABAC gives us an entirely new dimension of knowledge about rural and traditional life to that already provided at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village and through the Rural Studies Program at ABAC," said Wayne Jones, director of ABAC's Arts Connection. "It amplifies knowledge of what people in rural Georgia did for a living to other parts of their lives – how they expressed themselves through music, art and many other artisan skills,

passed from one generation to another."

Jones said the archive is on loan to the college due to the restructuring of the GCA. The material is available through the Baldwin Library. All research will be available through an online catalogue.

"Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College has proven to be an exceptional steward of Georgia's history, specifically as it relates to the traditional arts," GCA Director Karen L. Paty said. "The college, which also houses the Rural Studies Program, has a strong and outstanding reputation for its management of historical documents. ABAC is also committed to making this material available to students, faculty, and folklorists as well as the general public."

For more information on this collection of research, interested persons can contact the Baldwin Library at (229) 391-4990.

ABAC Pool Open

The ABAC pool is open for students and faculty to enjoy during the spring and summer months. The pool hours are Mon. – Thurs. from 3 – 7 p.m. and Fri. – Sun. from 1 – 6 p.m. Pool parties must be coordinated through Bobbie Baldree in the ABAC Information Center at 391-5001.

