



# FOCUS

## ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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### Bachelor's Degree Enrollment Skyrockets

Students at ABAC have fallen in love with bachelor's degrees.

Early numbers from the first day of fall semester classes on Wednesday indicate that 41 percent of ABAC students are now involved in four-year degree programs, up from 33 percent in the fall term of 2014.

"Students across the state and the country are becoming more aware every year that ABAC is a full-fledged baccalaureate-degree granting institution," ABAC President David Bridges said. "We started junior and senior level classes in January of 2008 with 41 students. Right now, we have 1,394 students in bachelor's degree programs."

Bridges said 882 freshmen are enrolled, an increase of 10 students over the freshman enrollment number of 2014. He said the total fall semester enrollment should be around the same number as the 2014 fall term enrollment of 3,457 students.

"ABAC is making a huge leap forward as far as bachelor's

degrees," Bridges said. "ABAC produced the largest number of graduates in its history at the end of the spring term, and more of those than ever before walked across the graduation stage with bachelor's degrees."

Although all the numbers are still preliminary, the bachelor's degree in business and economic development has achieved phenomenal growth, up 58.4 percent over the fall of 2014 with 255 students committed to the program. Still in its infancy, the degree became a part of the Stafford School of Business on March 25, 2014.

Bridges said the bachelor's degree in diversified agriculture still leads the charge for the college with 502 students, an increase of 25.2 percent over last fall. The natural resource



management degree is up 9.7 percent with 237 students in the program. Those two programs provide the backbone of the 1,165 students in the School of Agriculture and

Natural Resources, which occupies 32 percent of the total student population.

Dr. Johnny Evans, Dean of the School of Science and Mathematics, said the bachelor's degree in biology continues to be a popular destination for ABAC students. Enrollment is up in that particular area 10.5 percent to a total of 242 students.

Living on campus is more popular than ever before at ABAC. Dr. Chris Kinsey, Director of Residence Life, said around 1,400 students are living at ABAC

**Continued on Page 2**

You are cordially invited to attend the  
Grand Opening of the  
**Veteran Success Center**

Friday, - 10 a.m.  
Second Floor, J. Lamar Branch Hall

For further information, call 229.391.4924

The mission of the ABAC Veteran Success Center is to provide services and support to veterans, military family members, and those currently in service of our country's Armed Forces as they transition from their military service to college and career.

## Bachelor's Degrees from page 1

Lakeside, ABAC Place, and Comer Hall. All spaces in the residence halls are filled for the second consecutive year.

That should boost the economic impact of ABAC in the Tifton area since many of the students who couldn't find housing on campus are looking to rent houses and apartments. The latest figures from the University System of Georgia showed ABAC had an annual

impact of \$281,563,172 on Tift and surrounding counties.

The biggest reason that on-campus housing filled up is that ABAC continues to be a draw statewide, in the United States, and around the globe. Director of Enrollment Management Donna Webb said the fall term enrollment includes students from 153 of Georgia's 159 counties, 24 states, and 23 countries.

"We're off to a great start," Bridges, who enters his 10th fall term as president, said. "It's always exciting to begin a new year. I challenged the freshmen at the convocation on Tuesday to meet back in Gressette Gym in 2019 to receive their bachelor's degree diplomas, and I believe many of them are planning to do just that."

## School of Agriculture and Natural Resources Host Ag Club Picnic

Any student interested in participating in an agriculture or natural resources club should plan to attend the Ag Club Picnic on Tuesday at 5 p.m. at the Baldwin Lake Pavilion. This is open to all students who are looking for more information about these clubs. For more information about the Picnic, contact Judy Perry at [jperry@abac.edu](mailto:jperry@abac.edu) or Dr. Jerry Baker at [jbaker@abac.edu](mailto:jbaker@abac.edu).

## Driscolls Leave Their Mark On ABAC

Three years ago Dill and Susan Driscoll set a goal of using their worldwide marketing expertise to create a true business school at ABAC. Mission accomplished.

The Driscolls are leaving their positions as co-deans of the Stafford School of Business to return to the business world so they can reunite with their first love, creating sustainable brand experiences with a mission to make a positive impact in people's lives.

Susan Driscoll ended her time at ABAC on June 30. Dill Driscoll will serve full time as dean through the 2015 fall semester and will then move downstairs to the Lewis Hall library where he will continue to work with ABAC students on a part time basis.

"We have achieved all the goals we set for ourselves and the school," Dill Driscoll said. "We realize it's time for new people to come in and share their ideas. It has been an absolute joy to work with these kids. We couldn't be more proud of them."

ABAC President David Bridges applauded the energetic effort the Driscolls exhibited from the first day they set foot on the campus.

"I have known Dill and Susan for a long time, and I knew their global business experience and



progressive mentality would enhance the reputation of the School of Business," Bridges said. "They brought new ideas and unbelievable energy to our campus. Two new full time faculty members have been hired in the Stafford School of Business this fall, and we'll announce plans for new leadership soon."

There were ABAC milestones aplenty during the Driscolls' tenure.

On Nov. 7, 2012, Bridges announced that ABAC would honor its largest benefactor by naming the business school the Stafford School of Business. DeNeen Stafford, III, gave remarks on behalf of the Stafford family, and the Driscolls presented their ideas for the future of the school.

On March 1, 2013, Lewis Hall officially re-opened as the home of the Stafford School of Business. The rehabilitation of the building was a part of the Historic Front Campus

Project, which involved extensive work on all three original buildings, Lewis, Tift, and Herring.

On March 25, 2014, Bridges announced that ABAC was adding a bachelor's degree in business and economic development in a press conference on the first floor of Lewis Hall. Enrollment in the Stafford School of Business immediately increased and in the 2015 spring commencement ceremony, ABAC awarded 24 bachelor's degrees in business and economic development.

"The Stafford School of Business is really rolling now," Dill Driscoll said. "I believe that number of graduates will go up significantly in the years to come."

The Driscolls used their long list of worldwide contacts to set up internship opportunities for ABAC students in such far flung locales as Vietnam.

"We want these young people to interact with business people, with legislators, and whoever else," Dill Driscoll said in December, 2013. "We have lots of contacts in 190 countries around the world. We'll get the students ready, and then we'll place them in internships. We'll do everything possible to find them a job."

Susan Driscoll said the

**Continued on Page 3**



## ABAC Alumnus Speaks During Freshman Convocation

ABAC Alumni Association Board Member Gloria Beard (class of '87) shared some tips for success at the annual Freshman Convocation last Tuesday.

### Mandatory Greek Interest Meeting - Sunday - 6 p.m. in Bowen 100

All students interested in rushing a fraternity or sorority must attend the mandatory Greek Interest Meeting. For more information, contact Alan Kramer at [akramer@abac.edu](mailto:akramer@abac.edu)

### USG EMPLOYEE COMPLIANCE TRAINING – TITLE IX

Following a year-long USG Safety & Security Committee study charged by the Chancellor to develop recommendations to make campuses safer for students and employees, the BOR approved the Alcohol Awareness & Title IX training for all students and Title IX training for employees throughout the system.

(1) ABAC Title IX Sexual Misconduct Guidelines & Procedures (2) USG Policy on Amorous Relationships and (3) USG Policy on Sexual Harassment. The training for employees is on-line and takes less than 40 minutes to complete. All employees should plan to complete the training at your earliest convenience. The link for the training is [http://www.brainshark.com/everfi/havenfor\\_abacemployees](http://www.brainshark.com/everfi/havenfor_abacemployees)

For more information, contact Richard Spancake at [rspancake@abac.edu](mailto:rspancake@abac.edu)

#### Driscolls from page 2

bachelor's degree in business and economic development was the perfect launching pad for ABAC students.

"The curriculum is now at a level where graduates can start their own businesses, continue with the second, third, or fourth generation of their family businesses or just be sound business managers," she said. "Some of them will like living in rural communities, and others will prefer Atlanta or even London."

The Driscolls created a new concept called Stafford Hall in the ABAC residence halls. They recruited 120 students from various majors across the campus, divided them into four teams of 30 students each and involved them in competitions including scavenger hunts, field days, talent shows, grade competitions, and business projects.

Stafford Hall students developed humanitarian food collection programs which resulted in "manna drops" at Thanksgiving and Easter.

Thanks to the Driscolls, the business majors at ABAC heard from a variety of speakers including Navy SEAL team member Coleman Ruiz. Students were able to visit with Doug Ivester, former chairman of Coca-Cola at his plantation. The Stafford School of Business also launched a new ABAC club for entrepreneurs called Enactus ABAC.

Dill Driscoll introduced Carry The Load to the campus, a nationwide effort to restore the true meaning of Memorial Day and connect Americans to the sacrifices of the military, law enforcement, firefighters and rescue personnel. ABAC students accompanied

Driscoll on the 2,000-mile relay from New York to Texas in 2014 and 2015.

The Stafford School of Business also partnered with State Farm Insurance to create the State Farm intern program. Internships became a byword of the Driscolls' time at ABAC.

"We're trying to prepare these students for life," Dill Driscoll said. "Next year, we're looking at a trip for ABAC students to London, Paris, Brussels, Berlin, Zurich, Milan, and Barcelona. I'll still be around trying to help."

Dill Driscoll also spent many hours as an assistant coach with the ABAC soccer team. He enjoyed his days working with Coach Jimmy Ballenger and the Fillies.

"That was one of the absolute highlights of my time here," he said.

### Town and Gown and Club Day

Town and Gown and Club Day will take place Thursday from 4 p.m.- 6 p.m. in Gressette Gym. Contact Chris Kinsey at [ckinsey@abac.edu](mailto:ckinsey@abac.edu) to request a space for your club or organization.



## Reserve Your Spot in the Fall Safe Zone Trainings



Safe Zone programs increase the visible presence of campus allies who can help to shape a school culture that is accepting of all people, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, or any other difference.

ABAC Safe Zone trainings are capped to a maximum of 10 participants per session, so be sure to reserve your spot now. In accordance with Safe Zone philosophy, these trainings are always optional and should not be required by any department.

Email Nicholas Urquhart at [nurquhart@abac.edu](mailto:nurquhart@abac.edu) or Rebecca Cofer at [rcofer@abac.edu](mailto:rcofer@abac.edu) to reserve your spot in the training.

**Friday, September 25 from 2-4 p.m.**

**Friday, November 20 from 2-4 p.m.**

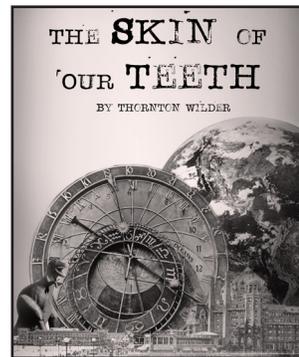
## Auditions for 'The Skin of Our Teeth' August 25-26 at ABAC

Auditions for the Baldwin Players fall production of "The Skin of Our Teeth" by Thornton Wilder will be held Aug. 25-26 at 6:30 p.m. in Howard Auditorium at ABAC.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy takes a long look at just what it means to be a human being. Mankind has spent all of history surviving climate change, natural disasters, and war. In this epic romp about the Antrobus family that spans all of human history – from the dawn of the Ice Age to the not-so-distant future – Wilder gets audiences to laugh at humanity's strengths and weaknesses as a species. The play takes place in a

theatrical setting, where mankind faces the end of the world three times and still goes on by the "skin of our teeth."

Auditions are open to ABAC faculty, staff, and students, as well as the local community. No advanced preparation is needed. Auditions will be conducted by reading short passages from the play. There are five major roles available consisting of the Antrobus family - father, mother, daughter, and son – along with the maid/housekeeper. There are several roles that are also



available that can be played by either men or women.

Performances of "The Skin of Our Teeth" will take place Oct. 29-31 at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium. Admission is free to ABAC faculty, staff and students. The ticket cost is \$7 per person

for the general public.

For more information about auditions, interested persons can contact Dr. Brian Ray, Director of the Baldwin Players, at [bray@abac.edu](mailto:bray@abac.edu).

## Tobacco Free Me'- A 12 Week Tobacco Cessation Program

The first meeting of "Tobacco Free Me" will be held Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. in room 215 in the Nursing and Health Sciences Building. There will be refreshments, an explanation of the program and options available to help you reach your goal of becoming tobacco free. The atmosphere will be supportive and informational. Participation in the program is voluntary and strict confidentiality will be honored by the ABAC Health Center. For more information, contact Cindy Dubravcic at [cdubravcic@abac.edu](mailto:cdubravcic@abac.edu).



## Register Today to Participate in Intramural Sports

Intramurals are open to faculty and staff for participation. Go to [IMLeagues.com](http://IMLeagues.com) and create or join a team. Sports that are coming up are Flag Football, Softball, College Pick 'Em, Kickball, Soccer, and Tennis. For more information, contact Stoney Hart at [shart@abac.edu](mailto:shart@abac.edu)

Please submit information by **Thursday at noon** to Lindsey Roberts at [lroberts@abac.edu](mailto:lroberts@abac.edu) for inclusion in the next edition of the FOCUS.

**ABAC Birthdays**

17 Vicki Sherling 21 Alan Kramer  
21 Javier Gonzalez