



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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ABAC Honors Program Soars to New Heights

Research shows that new is one of the most persuasive words in the English language. When it comes to the Honors Program at ABAC, new is an adjective that has been a key factor in 50 new students joining the program this year, up from 23 in 2012.

Dr. Cyndy Hall, a faculty member in the School of Liberal Arts and the director of the program, said new approaches are paying off with a higher level of student interest this year.

"Last year ABAC held its first ever Scholar's Evening where current honors students met with prospective high school seniors, and I met with seniors in various communities around the state at our Evenings With ABAC" Hall said. "The Enrollment Services office also initiated targeted recruiting efforts for the program."

Hall said there is also a new Honors Hall in the ABAC Lakeside housing facility where honors program students can live and learn together to make up a true learning community.

"Many larger universities have Honors Houses, so we are meeting the need of providing a separate space for hon-



The ABAC Honors Program has more than doubled since last year. The program currently has 50 members, thanks to new approaches from ABAC faculty and staff.

ors students to live and study together," Hall said. "The Lakeside Honors Hall is flourishing and nearly filled."

Conger Hall also features an Honors Lounge, which opened on the third floor of the building last year. It offers honors program students a place to relax during the day as well as a space to host film colloquiums and socials. Commuter students are very fond of this space.

Three new honors courses, Biology 1107H, Biology 1108H, and History

2111H, have been added to the menu of courses for the honors program, bringing the total number of honors classes to eight.

"The honors program not only offers challenging courses and a communal atmosphere that prepares students for future scholastic and professional endeavors, but it also distinguishes these students as they move beyond ABAC to their advanced degrees," Hall said.

"The program enhances and undergirds the student's major, providing an extra level of academic and social unity." Hall said the goal of the program is to bring the "best and

brightest" students to the ABAC campus. The program is a supportive structure for the various schools and degree programs. Students in the program are from a variety of majors with the School of Science and Mathematics leading the way. Many of those students are enrolled in the new ABAC bachelor's degree in biology.

For more information about the honors program, interested students can contact Hall at chall@abac.edu.



Georgia's Official Agricultural State College

The University System of Georgia Board of Regents has designated Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College as Georgia's official Agricultural State College. In addition, for the first time in the history of the College, ABAC started the year with more than 1,000 students registered in its School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, nearly 600 of which are enrolled in a bachelor's degree program. To celebrate, ABAC students, faculty, staff and administration enjoyed 1000 green and gold donuts Thursday morning at a press conference in the Agricultural Science building. ABAC President David Bridges (left) and Dr. Tim Marshall (right), Dean for the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, are pictured with Andy Dunn (center), a Diversified Agriculture major from Menlo, Ga. and the 1,001 student to enroll in agriculture classes for this semester.



Black Speaks at Freshman Convocation

Caroline Black, the Education and Agritourism Coordinator at Jaemor Farms in Alto, was the featured speaker at the annual freshman convocation at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College Friday. Black, who studied agriculture at ABAC for two years, gave the class of 2017 advice to make the most of their college experience. During the ceremony ABAC President David Bridges officially called the 2013 academic year to order. Classes began last Wednesday and the fall semester is off to a strong start including a 37% increase in baccalaureate degree enrollment and the enrollment in the School of Agriculture & Natural Resources has topped 1,000 students.

Trips to the Poconos, Pigeon Forge Added to ABAC Fall Travel Lineup

From the scenic views of Tennessee and Kentucky to the glitz and glam of the Rockettes, the Office of College Advancement at ABAC now offers additional opportunities for travelers to get away this fall in cooperation with Excursions Unlimited.

Open to anyone with a passion for travel, the trips feature an educational experience loaded with fun and adventure. For more information on any of these tours, interested persons can visit the ABAC travel web site at <http://www.abac.edu/travel>, contact Diane Kilgore at dkilgore@abac.edu, or call (229) 391-5070. Prices for all trips listed are per person rates and based on double occupancy.

Passengers will travel via motor coach to French Lick Springs Resort from Sept. 30 – Oct. 4. On the way, everyone will dine and take in a show at the Hatfield & McCoy Theatre in Pigeon Forge, view the Blue Grass Country of Kentucky, and cross the Ohio River into Indiana for a historic stay at the French Lick Springs Resort, known for its “miracle waters” from the sulfur springs in the area.

Actors from Hollywood’s heyday including Clark Gable, Bing Crosby, and Elizabeth Taylor; as well as presidential families including the Trumans, Reagans, and Kennedys, have stayed at the hotel. Also on the trip, travelers will enjoy a tour of Indiana Amish country, a tour of Nashville, Tenn., and a performance at the Ryman Auditorium. This trip is \$699 per person.

From Oct. 8-13, travelers can take an autumn excursion that features locales including the Carolinas, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New York. Travel through



the Shenandoah Valley into Gettysburg for a guided tour of the historic battlefield before a drive into the Poconos. Next, depart from the hotel to Finger Lake and the village of Skaneateles for a cruise on Lake

Skaneateles before journeying to Niagara Falls for a two-night stay. On Oct. 11, dinner will be at Skylon Tower, overlooking the falls. Travelers will then stop at the New River Bridge, the world’s tallest single arch bridge, on the way home. The cost for this trip is \$999 per person.

Travel in style with a trip on the Hiawassee River Train from Oct. 24-26. Passengers will begin the journey with a trip to Chattanooga, Tenn., and a visit to the Tennessee Aquarium before dining at the Station House, known for its singing waiters and waitresses. A deluxe motor coach will then transfer travelers to Etowah Station to meet the Tennessee Valley Railroad for the Hiawassee River Rail Adventure. The Foliage Express takes passengers on a three and one-half hour trip to the Hiawassee Loop. In the evening, travelers will be treated to a dinner cruise on the Tennessee River. Departing for home the following day, the motor coach will stop in Ellijay for fresh apples and in Dählonega so that travelers can enjoy the shops along the square and a family-style lunch at the Smith House. The cost for this excursion is \$499 per person.

Three new holiday excursions will take place beginning Nov. 16 with the Radio Christmas Spectacular & the Rockettes at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Center in Atlanta. This day trip via motor coach includes a stop for lunch and dinner. The 2 p.m. matinee,

“Greatest Christmas Show on Earth”, features new scenes, sets, costumes, special effects, and an unforgettable finale. The cost for this trip is \$155 per person.

From Nov. 22-24, travelers will stay in Pigeon Forge for a two-night stay at the Music Road Hotel. Upon arrival, guests will enjoy a special dinner, the Country Tonight Christmas Show, and take in the Winter Festival of Lights. On the following day, travelers can then do some holiday shopping and have lunch at the Old Mill Restaurant before heading off to Dollywood.

At Dollywood, visitors will experience three of the amusement park’s holiday shows, Appalachian Christmas, Christmas in the Smokies, and the Smoky Mountain Opera Christmas Show. All meals are included on this day. On the last day of this trip, tourists will travel via motor coach through the Smoky Mountain National Park to Dillard to dine at the Dillard House before returning home. The cost of this trip is \$499 per person.

The holiday trip season will culminate with New Year’s Eve at Gaylord Opryland Hotel from Dec. 31, 2013 – Jan. 2, 2014. This three-day event over New Year’s will feature a stay at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tenn. Gospel group Legacy Five will perform on the evenings of New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day, as well as a terrific lineup of other entertainers who will join them. Celebrate the New Year with an additional concert at 10 a.m. followed by a New Year’s brunch. The afternoon is at leisure before another evening of gospel and entertainment by Legacy Five. Breakfast will be provided on Jan. 2 at the hotel before departing for home. The cost of this trip is \$599 per person.

Auditions for 'The Taming of the Shrew' Today & Tomorrow

Auditions for the Baldwin Players' production of William Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew" will be held at ABAC today and tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. in Conger Hall, Room 319. Auditions are open to everyone. The play will run from Oct. 31-Nov. 2.

"The Taming of the Shrew" is a comedy about the courtship of Petruchio, a gentleman of Verona, and Katherina, the headstrong, inflexible shrew. Initially, Katherina is an unwilling participant in the relationship, but Petruchio irritates her with various psychological torments, thus the "taming", until she becomes a willing bride. The subplot features a competition between the suitors of Katherina's more desirable sister, Bianca.

The play's obvious misogynistic features have become the subject of con-

siderable controversy, particularly among modern audiences and readers. It has been adapted numerous times for stage, screen, opera, and musical theatre; perhaps the most famous adaptations being Cole Porter's musical "Kiss Me, Kate" and the film "10 Things I Hate About You", which was loosely based on the play. The Baldwin Players' production will be an original adaptation by Dr. Brian Ray, the Director of the Baldwin Players.

The cast includes **Katherina (Kate) Minola**, the "shrew"; **Bianca**, sister of Katherina and the ingénue; **Baptista Minola**, father of Katherina and Bianca; **Petruchio**, suitor of Katherina; **Gremio**, elderly suitor of Bianca; **Lucentio**, suitor of Bianca who spends some of play disguised as **Cambio**, a Latin tutor; and **Hortensio**, suitor of Bianca and friend to

Petruchio who spends some of the play disguised as **Litio**, a music tutor.

Ray said nothing needs to be prepared or memorized for the audition. No experience doing Shakespeare is required. There are speaking roles for 11 men (teens-50s) and three women (two in the age range of teens-20s, and one up to 40s). There are also some non-speaking roles available.

The production will run from Oct. 31-Nov. 2 in Howard Auditorium at 7 p.m. each night. Admission is free to ABAC faculty, staff and students. There is a \$7 admission fee for the general public. This play deals with adult themes and situations.

For more information, interested persons can contact Ray at (229) 391-4969 or at bray@abac.edu.

Town & Gown Event Thursday from 4-6 p.m.

The 6th Annual Town and Gown Connection will take Thurs. from 4 – 6 p.m. in the Nickelodeon. The event will feature businesses and churches that will welcome new and returning students to Tifton. Churches can take part in this event for \$10, and businesses can participate for \$20. Businesses are invited to bring samples, freebies, coupons, or even job applications. One table and two chairs will be provided for each church or business. A drawing for door prizes will take place at the end of the event. For more information or to register for the Town and Gown event, businesses and churches can contact Bernice Hughes, Dean of Students, at bhughes@abac.edu.

Annual John H. Davis Scholarship Confirmed at ABAC

Mike Davis (ABAC Class of '05), President and CEO of First Community Bank of Tifton, and Jodie Snow (ABAC Class of '00), Chief Operating Officer of the ABAC Foundation, confirm the dedication of the First Community Bank to fund an annual scholarship at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College through the John H. Davis/First Community Bank Annual Scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 per year.



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.

Thornton serving as Interim Science Department Head

Beth Thornton will serve as the interim Science Department head for the 2013-14 academic year while Dr. Evans searches for a permanent person for the position.

Dees, Named Foundation Accountant

Sue Dees, ABAC Alumna, is joining the Office of College Advancement as the new Foundation Accountant. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Georgia Southwestern. Dees will assume Nalls' responsibilities with the Foundation while Nalls will continue working in other areas of the Advancement Office.

ABAC Birthdays

- 21 Javier Gonzalez
- 22 Rod Brown