Chancellor Extends ELI Deadline to September 8

In response to requests from institutions for more time for their leaders to complete the application, the due dates for the Board of Regents Executive Leadership Institute has been extended to Sept. 8 at 5 p.m.

The adjustment does not affect the start dates of the institute, October 12 – Northern Region and October 19 – Southern Region. USO staff are currently updating the ELI website and other documents to reflect these new due dates.

The ELI targets Chairs, Deans, Executive Directors and above who have a combination of experience, education and the core leadership competencies that are essential to the System’s future success. The leaders you nominate should be ABAC’s best leaders - leaders who have the potential and qualifications that enable promotion into higher level management positions such as Vice President, Chief Officer, etc. within the next year or so, if such a position becomes available.

Nominations should be sent to Pam Leonard in the ABAC President’s Office by 5 p.m. on Sept. 8. Call her at 391-5050 for more information.

Historic Front Of Campus Work Commences September 8

Join President Bridges, Board of Regents members, and local legislators for a public announcement regarding commencement of renovation work of ABAC’s Historic Front of Campus Project at 1 p.m. on Sept. 8 at Tift Hall.

Flu Vaccine Available Sept. 9

The first 100 doses of the seasonal flu vaccine are here. Vaccines will be given Sept. 9 from 9 a.m. until noon and 1 to 4 p.m. in the Health Clinic. The cost is $20.

The priority recipients for this first round are: students living on campus and faculty and staff who have a chronic illness such as: asthma, diabetes or an autoimmune disorder. Additional doses have been ordered, and future vaccination dates will be announced soon.

Emergency System Test Tuesday at 10:44 a.m.

At approximately 10:44 a.m. on Tuesday, ABAC will test the Connect-Ed emergency system. Phones will ring all over campus. This is just a test of the system.

College Closed Sept. 7 For Labor Day

ABAC will be closed Sept. 7 in observance of Labor Day. The college will reopen on Sept. 8 at 8 a.m.

Fillies Open the Season with A Win

The Fillies defeated Georgia Military College in the home opener Friday 5-1 and rolled past Marion Military College Sunday 15-0. Coach Jimmy Ballenger’s ABAC team will host Florida College at 5 p.m. Friday at the ABAC Soccer Field. Make your plans to attend and show your support for ABAC Athletics.

Fillies Open the Season with A Win

The Fillies defeated Georgia Military College in the home opener Friday 5-1 and rolled past Marion Military College Sunday 15-0. Coach Jimmy Ballenger’s ABAC team will host Florida College at 5 p.m. Friday at the ABAC Soccer Field. Make your plans to attend and show your support for ABAC Athletics.
Five members of the Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College faculty spent a portion of the summer studying in Brazil as a result of a $76,425 Fulbright-Hays Grant from the United States Department of Education Office of International Education.

Making the trip were Dr. Jeff Gibbs, Professor of Economics and Dean of the School of Business Administration; Alan Kramer, Assistant Professor of Education; Lorie Felton, Associate Professor of Agriculture; Dr. Brian Ray, Associate Professor of English; and Rajgopal Sashti, International Education Advisor and Director of the Nine University and College International Studies Consortium.

The ABAC faculty members, as well as 10 other educators from Georgia, spent four weeks studying Brazil’s culture and history while meeting with some of its government officials, educators, and the country’s local citizens.

The travelers found out that Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world with the sixth largest economy. Roman Catholicism is the prominent religion, and the country has patterned its government after the United States.

“There are a lot of similarities as far as the economy of Brazil is concerned,” said Gibbs. “It is highly capitalized with an international global economy, but there are few real economic freedoms. The elite have all the power, and ownership of capital is in the hands of very few.”

Unlike America, Brazil has a balanced budget because although the country’s debt is $100 billion, the country has a government surplus of over $200 billion, according to Kramer.

“I appreciated the balanced budget,” Gibbs said. “Brazilians make it a point to not spend more than they tax. The disadvantage to that is there is a lack of education and social programs.”

Despite their lack of education on some levels, Brazilians are well aware of how the U.S. government functions.

“Citizens of Brazil know more about how our government works than our own U.S. citizens do,” said Felton.

“Where gasoline is about $10 a gallon, the ethanol is only $6 a gallon. Brazilians are self-sufficient in energy and value their natural resources.”

“Brazil is much more environmentally conscious,” said Felton. “The Atlantic rainforest is disappearing due to urbanization — even more so than the Amazon.”

Adds Kramer, “They have limitations on their fossil fuels but it’s still an extremely self-reliant country.”

The people of Brazil definitely have their issues. One of those issues is the country’s caste system, which each traveler experienced.

“There are the haves and have-nots,” said Gibbs. “I have never seen so many people just sleeping on the beach or on some green space. The poverty is so pervasive there, whereas here in the U.S. we hide it. Brazilians live with it — sometimes right next door.”

“The elite stay elite while keeping the rest of the population down,” Ray said.

One thing all the educators agreed on in regards to their journey through Brasilia, Sao Paulo, and Rio de Janeiro was that the people were always welcoming, friendly, and ready to help.

“It was a great to learn about another country and share the experience with other educators in the state,” Felton said.

Other educators making the trip were Eugenia Bryan, Assistant Professor of English from Georgia Southwestern State University; Rebecca Carte, Assistant Professor of Spanish from Georgia College and State University; Tatyanash Pashnyak, Assistant Professor of Business/Education from Bainbridge College; Ethel Kay Trailie, Assistant Professor of History/Education from Kennesaw State University; and J. Celesete Walley-Jean, Assistant Professor of Psychology at Clayton State University.

High school teachers on the trip included Kelly Bryan, an English teacher from George Walton Comprehensive High School; Jameka Fields, an American Government teacher from North Clayton High School; Rebecca Martin, a Gifted Teacher from the Colquitt County School System; Cleopatra Warren, an Honors History teacher from Frederick Douglass High School; and Darren West, a Spanish teacher from Oconee County High School.
The FOCUS is a weekly electronic publication produced by the Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College Public Relations Office.

Ashley Williamson Mike Chason
Writer and Layout Writer & Editor

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

Subconnection and Pizza Hut Now Open
Enjoy a fresh from the oven pizza or foot long sub at the new retail dining in Donaldson Dining hall. Hours of operation are 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m.-Midnight on Friday and 5 p.m.-Midnight Saturday and Sunday. To place an order for pick-up call 229-391-5175.

ABAC Birthdays
2 Teri Mathis
2 Mouyyed Hassouna
6 John Galyean
6 Debbie Pyles

ABAC Family
Dr. David Bridges talked about the progress of ABAC on the WTIF Morning Show with Chris Beckham on Aug. 26. Mike Chason served as the emcee for the Carnival of Knowledge Quiz Bowl competition on Aug. 27.

ABAC Job Opportunities
- ABAC Police Officer
- Part-time Clinical Instructor, School of Nursing and Health Science
- Part-time Credentialed Faculty

Baldwin Players
Auditions Sept. 14-15

Reality comes to life in “Two Rooms,” the fall semester production of the Baldwin Players at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. Auditions will be held on Sept. 14-15 at 7 p.m. in Conger Hall 319 for two actors and two actresses.

“I’ll be looking for four virtuoso actors, people who are honest and dynamic,” Baldwin Players Director John Galyean said. “That does not necessarily mean that they have to have previous experience, but they must be able to translate a script into living theatre. Lee Blessing writes very well—like people talk. The words are simple, but the ideas are epic. This is an important piece of theater.”

All roles are open to ABAC faculty, staff, and students as well as anyone in the local area. Production dates are Nov. 12-14 on the ABAC campus. Short script excerpts from the play will available outside room 321 in Conger Hall. Auditioners are to prepare from those excerpts.

Galyean said the premise of the play involves a man who is held hostage in the Middle East by terrorists. His wife waits traumatized at home. As homage to her husband, she creates a room in their house that she imagines being like the room in which the terrorists are holding him.

The wife is visited several times by an investigative reporter and a State Department emissary. They attempt to comfort her, influence her thoughts and feelings, and prepare her for best-case and worst-case scenarios. Ultimately, she deals with her own feelings about the value of hope, dedication, loss, and panic as well as her opinions of the media in America and U.S. diplomatic policies.

“The play is more than challenging,” Galyean said. “‘Two Rooms’ is an intense investigation into the essence of both faith and cruelty. It was written thirteen years before 9/11. The play serves as a powerful reminder of the past and a warning of things to come. Certainly, ‘Two Rooms’ impresses us with what little has changed in the world.”

For more information, interested persons can contact Galyean at 391-4960 or via e-mail at jgalyean@abac.edu.

Clemens and Patel Win Monthly High Five Award
Theresa Clemens and Reina Patel are the monthly high five award winners. Dr. Gail Dillard said because of their willingness to “think globally,” we were better able to serve prospective and current students. The two stepped out of their regular job duties to help answer phones for financial aid during several days of heavy phone and walk in traffic before and right after classes began August 17.

The words are simple, but the ideas are epic. This is an important piece of theater.”

The wife is visited several times by an investigative reporter and a State Department emissary. They attempt to comfort her, influence her thoughts and feelings, and prepare her for best-case and worst-case scenarios. Ultimately, she deals with her own feelings about the value of hope, dedication, loss, and panic as well as her opinions of the media in America and U.S. diplomatic policies.

“The play is more than challenging,” Galyean said. “‘Two Rooms’ is an intense investigation into the essence of both faith and cruelty. It was written thirteen years before 9/11. The play serves as a powerful reminder of the past and a warning of things to come. Certainly, ‘Two Rooms’ impresses us with what little has changed in the world.”

For more information, interested persons can contact Galyean at 391-4960 or via e-mail at jgalyean@abac.edu.