



# FOCUS

## ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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### Family Weekend October 7-8 at ABAC

Parents can come and experience campus life at ABAC during Family Weekend Oct. 7-8. In its second year, Family Weekend will feature events both on the campus and at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village, operated by ABAC.

"Last year's Family Weekend was such a success that we are really excited to continue the tradition this year," said Rebecca Cofer, Family Weekend Committee member and Academic Support Counselor at ABAC. "We have added new events and tailored ABAC-specific items for the weekend."

The events on Oct. 7 will kick off with a check-in for parents at 5 p.m. Guests can enjoy snacking on custom-made ABAC snow cones while watching the Fillies soccer games against Andrew



ABAC Family weekend was a big success last year and is sure to be again this year. Students and their families enjoyed the interaction with faculty, staff and alumni during the activities. Pictured above is a family talking to ABAC President Bridges during family weekend.

College. Other events for the evening include a family dinner, farm tours, an art show, and an outdoor movie. Be sure to bring a blanket! The Museum of Agriculture will host the events on Oct. 8 beginning at

10:30 a.m. featuring a variety show, a cookout sponsored and manned by the ABAC Alumni Association, an area for kids, pictures with Thunder the Stallion, and more.

To sign up for Family Weekend, go to [www.abac.edu/familyweekend](http://www.abac.edu/familyweekend) to register. The deadline to register for Family Weekend is Sept. 29. A detailed schedule of events and list of hotels with discounted rates is also available online.

### Memorial for Anniversary of 9/11 Sunday at 3 p.m.

In remembrance of the 9/11 tragedy, the ABAC Republicans will host a memorial service on Sept. 11 at 3 p.m. in the Chapel of All Faiths on the campus of the college. This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

"It's been 10 years since 9/11 and it has influenced so many people," said Stephen Aaron, Chairman of the ABAC Republicans.

"We felt it was important to remember the past so we can move ahead towards the future."

The memorial will pay tribute to the almost 3,000 victims who lost their lives in New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C.

Both the campus and community are welcome to participate in this memorial. Participants are also welcome to attend an optional prayer service for the victims and their families after the ceremony.

A cross with a yellow ribbons honoring each 9/11 victim will also be placed in the Meadows over the weekend and remain as a memorial until the Sept. 15 Constitution Day ceremony.



### ABAC Celebrates College Colors Day

ABAC joined college campuses across the country by wearing green and gold last Friday. Faculty, staff and students "jumped for joy" in the meadows for a picture.

## Two ABAC Faculty Named as Executive Leadership Institute Scholars

Dr. Bobbie Robinson, Dean of the School of Liberal Arts, and Dr. John Farrar, Associate Professor of Chemistry in the School of Science and Mathematics, have been selected from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College as Executive Leadership Institute (ELI) Scholars for the 2011-2012 year.

The ELI is the flagship development program designed under the guidance of the Chancellor of the University System of Georgia (USG) and with significant input from executive leaders from each institution.

This institute addresses the need for succession planning by identifying and developing high potential employees to equip them to become the next generation of exemplary leaders. A highly interactive learning experience, the ELI develops leadership capabilities in such critical competency areas as strategy, execution, collaboration, and engagement.

Farrar hopes to become a better leader and manager not only in his department, but on the campus of ABAC as well.

"The ELI will give me an opportunity to learn strategies and interact with leaders across the USG," said Farrar. "I hope to gain some personal growth in this experience so I can better identify my strengths and weaknesses as a leader and be able to make improvements so I can be a better leader in the future."

Robinson has a more specific goal in mind for her experience with the ELI. She would like to know more about the financial side of how a college operates due to her role in managing budgets for the School of Liberal Arts at ABAC.

"I want to expand my understanding of the whole financial side of administration," said Robinson. "I think greater understanding of how the budget operates would enhance my skills in budget

development from the School level. That is my immediate goal."

Farrar has been a member of the ABAC faculty since 2005. He heads the Science Department within the School of Science and Mathematics. He received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Western Kentucky University and his master's and doctoral degrees from Vanderbilt University.

Robinson has been a part of the ABAC faculty since 1992. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees in English and her second master's degree in history from Valdosta State University. She attained her doctorate in English from Baylor University.

This is the third year that ABAC and its faculty and administrators have participated in the ELI, which runs from September to April. Dr. Billy Reynolds, Javier Gonzalez, and Dr. Darby Sewell have graduated from the ELI program.

### Strings & Things Open Through Oct. 1

Exhibit hours for the month of September are Tuesday—Saturday from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. For more information visit [www.abac.edu/museum](http://www.abac.edu/museum)



## ABAC Student to Intern with Senator Saxby Chambliss in Washington, D.C.

Chandler Bartley, an agricultural education major at ABAC, will spend his fall semester in Washington, D.C. as an intern with Senator Saxby Chambliss through the Staplcofn/ABAC Legislative Internship Program. Bartley will work as an intern on Capitol Hill through Dec. 15.

"I was very excited to hear that I had been selected for this internship opportunity," said Bartley. "After applying for it, I was skeptical as to my chances of actually being accepted. When I got the news, it was like a dream come true. I had always wanted to experience what it would be like to live in our nation's capital and be involved in the day-to-day operations of making laws and executing them."

Bartley received glowing recommendations from Governor Nathan Deal and Congressman Tom Graves of the House of Representatives. Those recommendations, along with his own essay on how this experience can help him both presently and in the future, garnered Bartley the honor of serving as an intern for Senator Chambliss.

"As a congressional intern, Chandler will have the opportunity to work with constituents and their issues, participate in public hearings and provide assis-

tance in researching issues affecting agriculture for the Senator," said Paul Willis, Director of College Enrichment at ABAC.

The Dalton native has held leadership positions in both FFA and 4-H. He served as Vice President of the State FFA during his senior year at Murray County High School. He was also a member of the winning FFA Parliamentary Procedure Team for the State of Georgia. Bartley has had previous experience in the agriculture field through internships with Bay Outdoors, serving as site supervisor.

"Chandler's interest in public policy and his FFA training and service as a Georgia State FFA officer has prepared him well to be an intern in the office of Senator Chambliss," said Willis.

Bartley has been in Washington, D.C. for only a short time, but he is already enjoying his time there.

"The first few days in Washington have been nothing short of incredible," said Bartley. "It's hard to imagine myself not in the mountains of North Georgia or in the flat farm lands of Tifton, but



I have had a very warm reception up until this point. I can already tell that this is going to be a great place for me to spend three months while gaining leadership skills that I wouldn't have otherwise been exposed to."

Bartley plans to study law once his ABAC education is complete, focusing on agricultural

law. He sees this internship as a great experience and an opportunity to gain direct insight into the operations of political life in agriculture.

"I hope that my time in Washington will give me some insight as to how I plan my future career path," said Bartley. "I know that I want to be a Marine, and that I want to attend law school at some point. I have a deep passion for the military as well as the industry of agriculture, specifically the political side of it. I hope that while I'm here in Washington, the 'hands on' experience that I will be exposed to will better prepare me for law school and the political world after my college and military career."

## Ag-Related Companies Can Find Employees in Future ABAC Graduates at Career Connections

Companies with interests in the field of agriculture can begin a search for future employees on Nov. 15 at the third annual Career Connections event at ABAC.

The event serves as a showcase for agriculture-related businesses to display their wares and set the table for contact with future employees from students in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources at ABAC. There is no cost to participating employers, and lunch will be provided for all exhibitors.

The School of Agriculture and Natural Resources has over 800 students major-

ing in a variety of areas including Natural Resource Management, Diversified Agriculture, and Turfgrass and Golf Course Management. The Career Connections event represents a perfect opportunity for employers to connect with potential interns and future employees.

For more information on the Career Connections event, interested persons can contact Lorie Felton, associate professor of agriculture, via e-mail at [lfelton@abac.edu](mailto:lfelton@abac.edu) or visit the ABAC web site at [www.abac.edu/ag/careers](http://www.abac.edu/ag/careers) for more information.

### Fillies Home Soccer Schedule

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 Family

Dr. Jordan Cofer, assistant professor of English, had an essay called “Flannery and Franz: Tracing the Kafkaesque Influences on Flannery O’Connor’s *Wise Blood*” published in *Wise Blood: A Re-Consideration*, edited by John J. Han.



### McGriff Retires From ABAC After 26 Years

Van McGriff, former Administrative Associate in the Office of Student Affairs, enjoyed a reception in her honor last week with family and colleagues. McGriff retired Aug. 31 after 26 years at ABAC. She began her career at ABAC as the Senior Secretary in the Division of Humanities in 1985.

## ABAC Stallion Day

Mark your calendar for these three important dates:

**November 12**

**February 11**

**April 14**

There will be a marketplace in the gym each of these three dates. Additional information for the day will be sent through email closer to each of the events.

## Mirus Started Sept. 1 as ABAC Registrar

Tarrah Mirus began her position at ABAC as Registrar



Sept. 1. Mirus joins the ABAC staff from Albany State University. Stop by and give here a warm ABAC welcome on the second floor of the J. Lamar Branch student center. You

can also reach her at [tmirus@abac.edu](mailto:tmirus@abac.edu) or 391-5014.

## Staff Forum Meeting Wednesday at 3 p.m.

The first Staff Forum meeting of the fall semester will be on Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. in the Nursing Building, room 237.

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](mailto:awilliamson@abac.edu) for inclusion in the next FOCUS.

## ABAC Birthdays

- 6 Joe Courson
- 6 John Galyean
- 6 Debbie Pyles
- 8 Diane Jackson
- 8 Joy Shurley
- 9 Herb Hendrix
- 10 John Farrar