



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

VOLUME LI

ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 16, 2013

ABAC Economic Impact Over \$260 Million

The total economic impact of ABAC on Tifton and the surrounding area totaled \$261,313,451 during the 2012 fiscal year, according to a new study commissioned by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

The annual study of the University System of Georgia's economic impact on the State indicated a 7.4 percent increase from fiscal year 2011 to 2012. In cash, that is a jump of \$980 million, from \$13.2 billion to a new high of \$14.1 billion of direct and indirect spending fueling the regions served by the System's 31 colleges and universities.

ABAC President David Bridges believes the economic impact of the college will be even higher in next year's study.

"Look at the facts," Bridges said. "We have more students this fall. More importantly, we have more residential students staying on campus in ABAC Lakeside and ABAC Place and in rental properties around town. We have over 900 students enrolled in bachelor's degree programs. Those students are going to be here for four years or more."

To calculate the economic impact for FY12, the Selig Center for Economic Growth in the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business analyzed data collected between July 1, 2011, and June 30, 2012. The annual study is conducted on behalf of the Board of Regents and the study is conducted by Dr. Jeffrey M. Humphreys, director of the Selig Center.

"We have been analyzing the University System's economic impact for a number of years and what is clear is the importance of these colleges and universities on local and state economies from just about every variable: direct spending, income, production of goods and services and jobs," Humphreys said.



Dr. Jeff Gibbs, a retired professor of economics at ABAC, analyzed the data and found that ABAC sustained 15,205 jobs in Tifton and surrounding communities for the time period analyzed. He said that figure is based on direct expenditures of \$107,369,226 from student spending, personnel services, operating expenses, and capital outlays.

"ABAC shows its importance as an economic engine for this area by not only educating people for future jobs but by directly supporting present jobs," Gibbs said. "Job growth continues to be slow for the economy as a whole."

Gibbs said ABAC today provides 512 direct jobs but expenditures support an additional 1,191 jobs, resulting in a ratio of 2.32 off-campus jobs for each on-campus position.

The FY 2012 study found that Georgia's public university system generated nearly 139,263 full- and part-time jobs, or 3.6 percent of all the jobs in Georgia. The bottom line is that one out of every 28 jobs in the State of Georgia is due to the University System.

Both Humphreys and Gibbs believe there is a broader scope to the economic impact picture that is hard to capture in pure numbers.

"Our studies focus on spending and its economic impact, but do not attempt to measure the value the University System adds in terms of quality of life, the creation of a highly educated workforce to meet the needs of businesses, government and communities, or the overall health of communities," Humphreys said.

Gibbs echoed those sentiments.

"You should also remember that these numbers, impressive as they are, do not reflect the intangible contributions to the area that affect our quality of life or the impact that ABAC retirees have on the economy," Gibbs said. "Related activities at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture also have an impact."

One of Bridges' mantras from the time he assumed the ABAC presidency in 2006 has been that colleges are stabilizers to the community, no matter the economic climate.

"We have some businesses in Tift County that have been here a long time," Bridges said. "That's great. But we have other businesses that are gone before you know it. Businesses come and go," Bridges said. "Colleges come and grow."

Humphreys takes that analysis a step further.

"Even in the worst economic times in a generation or two, our colleges and universities proved to be strong pillars and drivers of the economies of their host communities," Humphreys said. "That's due to rising demand for higher education regardless of the overall economic climate."

Bridges reasons that since ABAC has over 3,400 students from 24 countries, 21 states, and 151 Georgia counties, Tifton and the surrounding area will continue to benefit from the presence of ABAC students for many years to come.

"Some of these bachelor's degree graduates will choose to get jobs in this area and raise their families here," Bridges said. "It's a win-win situation for ABAC and for this community."

ABAC Namesake One of Two Georgians to Sign Constitution

The namesake for Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College penned his name on one of the most famous documents in the world 226 years ago. Abraham Baldwin was one of only two Georgia signers of the United States Constitution, which was signed by 39 men on Sept. 17, 1787.

Constitution Day celebrates the event, which took place in Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Fifty-five men attended the four-month long Constitutional Convention which resulted in the 4,543-word document, the oldest and shortest national constitution. Nine of the 13 states were required to ratify the Constitution.

ABAC President David Bridges said Baldwin was a key figure on the national level as well as in the history of Georgia.

"We are proud that our college is named for an individual who set the stage for higher education in Georgia and then helped to shape a document on the national level that has now lasted 226 years," Bridges said. "One of our historical exhibits in the renovated Tift Hall honors Abraham Baldwin and his many accomplishments."

ABAC Director of Public Relations Ashley Mock said the Baldwin exhibit is one of several historic panels on the



lower floor of Tift Hall. Other panels focus on Tifton founder Henry Harding Tift, ABAC alumnus George T. Smith, and the history of the college from 1908 to present day. All the exhibits are open to the public. Tours can be arranged by calling (229) 391-5055.

Baldwin was born on Nov. 22, 1754 as the son of

a Connecticut blacksmith. He enrolled at Yale University at the age of 14 and completed his degree four years later. He then studied theology at Yale and became a minister. He served on George Washington's staff as a chaplain during the Revolutionary War before beginning a study of law. After being admitted to the bar, he moved to Georgia in 1783 to set up a law practice near Augusta.

One year later, Baldwin was elected to the Georgia House of Assembly and in 1787 he represented Georgia as a member of the Constitutional Convention where he was one of the signers of the United States Constitution. Of the Georgia delegates, only Baldwin and William Few signed the document.

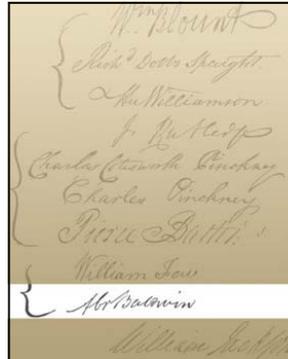
Baldwin was the architect for an educational plan for both secondary and higher education in Georgia. Because of his leadership in this area, the state approved a charter for the University of Georgia in 1785. Baldwin served as the first president of the University of Georgia from 1785 until 1801, prior to the time students actually attended the institution.

Baldwin never had a wife or children but had strong convictions about the importance of a quality education for the youth of Georgia. He believed Georgia should "place the youth under the forming hand of Society, that by instruction they may be moulded to the love of Virtue and good Order."

Beginning in 1789, Baldwin served Georgia for five consecutive terms as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. He was then

elected for two terms in the U.S. Senate, one of those as president pro-tem. Baldwin passed away on March 4, 1807 while serving in the Senate. Baldwin County is named for him.

On July 1, 1933, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia opened the institution known as Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in his honor.



Georgia Museum of Agriculture Photo Deadline Today

The deadline for the GMA's Back Roads of Georgia photo competition is upon us. The deadline to submit a photograph showcasing an old barn, a forgotten dusty road, or any snapshot of rural Georgia life is October 12. Awards for the photo portion of the competition also total \$1000, included are also publication consideration by Georgia Backroads Magazine, and GMA annual passes. All of the entries in the photo competition will be showcased in a three-month long exhibit in the GMA Gallery beginning on Oct. 19.

For more information contact Polly Huff at phuff@abac.edu or 229.391.5222.



Criminal Justice Club Sponsors 9/11 Remembrance

The Criminal Justice Club sponsored a 9/11 Remembrance event today in the meadows. Students, faculty and staff had opportunities to commemorate the event by writing notes or illustrating pictures.



2013

HISPANIC HERITAGE

"Hispanics: Serving and Leading our Nation with Pride and Honor"

Upsilon Piñata Bash

Hosted by Lambda Sigma Upsilon

Monday, September 16, 9:00 -11:00 a.m.

ABAC Meadows

Showing Your True Colors: A Diversity Educational Workshop

Hosted by L.A.D.I.E.S

Tuesday, September 17, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Town Hall Classroom

Dancing Lessons

Hosted by Cultura Latina Club

Wednesday, September 18, 6:00 -7:00 p.m.

Nickelodeon

Pride and Prejudice (1965-1980)

Screening of Latino Americans Episode V

Thursday, September 19, 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.

Howard Auditorium

Hispanic Heritage Day Event

Featuring guest speaker Santiago Marquez

Thursday, September 19, 11:30 -1:30 p.m

ABAC Meadows

Guest Speaker Santiago Marquez



Mr. Marquez joined Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in September 2008, where today he oversees the daily operations, finances and development as the Vice President and Chief

Operating Officer. Previously he has served the Boys & Girls Clubs across the country and the Latin American Association as the Director of Latino Outreach Development and as the Director of Employment and Housing, respectively. He is a native of Cuba, though he has resided in the United States since 1971. He has earned his BA from Georgia State University.

Symposium on the Impact of Latino Americans in the United States

Thursday, September 19, 2:00 - 3:15 p.m.

Howard Auditorium



ABRAHAM BALDWIN
AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

Students Learn About ABAC Study Abroad Opportunities

Over 35 students attended an information session to learn about Study Abroad opportunities in Belize. The trip will occur during Spring Break. Students can choose from many options including Nicaragua, India and Belize.



Join the Fight Against Alzheimer's Sept. 28

The School of Human Science and the ABAC Softball team will host the Tifton Alzheimer's Walk on the ABAC Campus Sept 28. If you would like to participate in the walk go to www.alz.org and register. You may register a team or individually to participate in the walk. Registration the morning of the walk begins at 9 a.m. with the walk starting at 10 a.m.. The walk is a 3 mile course winding through campus.



Bhaskar Shares Experience With ABAC Students

DK Bhaskar, engineer by training and a photographer by vocation, visited over 12 ABAC classes last week to discuss topics ranging from elephant populations, forming nonprofit organizations and rural development in India. Bhaskar also arranged the ABAC study abroad trip last spring to India and co-hosted a study abroad session Wednesday with ABAC Alumnus Rodney McDonald.

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.

visit
www.abac.edu
From any smart phone
to see the brand new
mobile website!



ABAC Birthdays

- 16 Nathan Mumm
- 19 Tom Grant
- 20 Susan Roe

