ABAC Namesake One of Two Georgians To Sign Constitution

The namesake for ABAC penned his name on one of the most famous documents in the world 225 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 225 years,” Bridges said. “One of our new exhibits in the renovated Tift Hall honors Abraham Baldwin and his many accomplishments.”

A Constitution Week ceremony will be held in the ABAC Chapel of All Faiths on Tuesday from 6-8 p.m. featuring speakers who will address the question, “What does it mean to uphold, protect, and defend the supreme law of our land, the Constitution?” The public is invited to attend.

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 these 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.

Rural Studies Project in Pelham

ABAC students traveled to Pelham, Ga. last week to participate in a project to develop a plan for the use, funding, and marketing of the newly restored historical Hand Trading Company building located downtown. Students from several Rural Studies and Business classes accompanied the School of Business Dean Dill Driscoll and Business Lecturer Earl Denham on a trip to Pelham last Thursday, for the initial assessment and brainstorming session for how to proceed with the project. This is a great opportunity for a real-world life experience. The project was coordinated with Former ABAC Alumni Association President Laura Beth Tucker and her husband Tony, a regional manager for EMC in completing this project.
The Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC welcomes the fall season with the next installment of the Bottles and Brushes series on Friday featuring Brenda Rose’s “The Colors of Fall” painting. Rose is a local artist and instructor for this month’s Bottles and Brushes art class.

“We are celebrating the much-anticipated cooler weather and the beautiful colors of fall heading our way with this month’s Bottles and Brushes painting,” said Polly Huff, GMA Gallery Coordinator.

Rose will guide participants through the process of recreating her original work, while students create their own interpretation before their eyes. Participants can bring their favorite beverage while enjoying an evening of creativity and fun. The Gallery at the Museum will provide the paint, canvas and brushes.

There is a fee of $25 per person for the class or $40 for a couple. Participants must register ahead of time by contacting Huff at (229) 391-5222 or by emailing her at phuff@abac.edu. Space is limited so early registration is important.

Companies who are looking for a unique team-building experience or a way to reward exceptional employees can participate in the corporate edition of Bottles and Brushes. The corporate Bottles and Brushes painting will be custom-tailored to fit each company’s mascot, theme, or idea.

Huff said the Bottles and Brushes series will offer a class at least once a month. Gift certificates are available for future classes.

**ABAC Fillies Soccer Team Advances to a 6-2 Record**

The ABAC Fillies Soccer team had a rough start last week, but ended with a win! The Fillies lost 6-0 to South Georgia College and 2-0 to Middle Georgia College, but won 5-0 against Oxford College yesterday afternoon. The Fillies have two away games this week. Tuesday at 5 p.m. they play Gordon College in Barnesville and Friday at 5 p.m. they face off against Georgia Military College in Milledgeville. Come out and support them!

**ABAC to Celebrate 150th Anniversary of the Morrill Act at the Museum**

A one-man play by Dr. Brian Ray on Oct. 6 at 1 p.m. will open a brand new Morrill Act exhibit at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC.

Across the country, educational institutions are celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the signing of the Morrill Act into law by President Abraham Lincoln. ABAC will commemorate the anniversary with a multitude of activities on both the main campus and at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture (GMA).

Sponsored by Vermont Congressman Justin Morrill, the Morrill Act was signed into law on July 2, 1862. Officially titled "An Act Donating Public Lands to the Several States and Territories which may provide Colleges for the Benefit of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts," the Morrill Act provided each state with 30,000 acres of Federal land for each member in their Congressional delegation. The land was then sold by the states and the proceeds used to fund public colleges that focused on agriculture and the mechanical arts. Sixty-nine colleges were funded by these land grants.

The GMA’s Morrill Act exhibit spans the entire history of the Act, from the colonial colleges to today, and includes a fascinating array of photographs, documentation, and artifacts. A special section focuses on ABAC’s history, old college seals, photographs, diaries, and many artifacts dating back to the early 1900s.

Dr. Brian Ray, interim head of the Department of Fine Arts and Communication at ABAC’s School of Liberal Arts, will perform a one-man play that explores the creation of the act and its impact on the state of Georgia. The play will be presented on Oct. 6 at 1 p.m. inside the main exhibit hall at the GMA.

Collaborating main campus activities will be led by faculty members in the School of Liberal Arts. Instructor Wendy Harrison’s Professional Writing class is designing curricula materials for elementary and middle-school students. Literary and art contests will give students and staff an opportunity to create work based on the values of the Morrill Act.

The Morrill Act exhibit will be available for exploration for GMA visitors and for the numerous school groups which visit the Museum during the school year. For more information on the exhibit, interested persons can contact Dr. Lisa Lishman, GMA curator, at (229) 391-5208 or GMA Gallery Coordinator Polly Huff at (229) 391-5222.
Dr. Maggie Martin was elected as President of the GA-AHEAD at their spring meeting and the Secretary/Recorder of RACDS during their spring meeting. At the September 14 fall meeting of the RACCDA, she was re-elected as Chair which will culminate in ten years of executive leadership in the CDA.

Mike Chason served as the master of ceremonies for the Carnival of Knowledge trivia competition sponsored by the Literacy Volunteers of Tifton on Sept. 11.

Consumer Spotlight: Publix

The largest and fastest-growing employee-owned supermarket chain in the United States opened a store in Tifton on Aug. 29, much to the delight of area residents. Publix, which had 2011 retail sales of 27 billion, has stores in five states and is known for their slogan, Where Shopping is a Pleasure.

Faculty, staff, and students will have the opportunity on Sept. 26, to hear from Tifton Store Manager Greg Boxx and learn more about the company and their customer-centered philosophy.

The event is being hosted by the Family and Consumer Sciences Club, as well as students in the FACS 2220 Consumer Economics class taught by Lisa Lacy. “We are excited about having Mr. Boxx come and share with our students about how Publix does business as well as their commitment to making a difference in the communities they serve,” noted Lacy.

“Students enrolled in FACS 2220 study the psychology of the consumer decision-making process as well as the influences of family, society, and the economy. We focus on the importance of making wise choices in a complex market. Publix offers a unique branding strategy that has proven desirable on a variety of levels, and we look forward to learning more about this success as well as their plans for the future,” she added.

In addition to sharing about how Publix positions itself to reach consumers in today’s competitive market, Boxx will also offer tips on how students can gain an edge in landing a position with a top company.

**Boxx will speak on Sept. 26 at 3:30 p.m. in Bowen 100.**

ABAC AET Club To Coordinate Tifton Truck and Tractor Pull Friday and Saturday

The Agricultural Equipment Technology club at ABAC will help coordinate the fall edition of the Tifton Truck and Tractor Pull on Friday and Saturday night at the American Legion Fairgrounds in Tifton.

Sponsored by the Lucas Oil Pro Pulling League and the Southern Pullers Association, the Pull begins at 7 p.m. each night. Admission is $15 for adults and $5 for children under the age of 10.

Truck and tractor pullers from across the Southeast will compete for Southern Association Championship points and prize money.

The AET tractor, Altered Allis, is scheduled to pull in the event. The original ABAC pulling tractor, Cracker Jack, is not pulling at this time.

Todd Hicks and Ray Lundy are the advisors to the AET club. Some of the proceeds from the Pull benefit the ABAC AET organization and its activities.

**Picture submitted by ABAC Student and AET member Conny Davidson from ABAC AET’s Truck & Tractor Pull on campus last week. Featured are three hard-working AET members, Ray Lundy, one of the two drivers/advisors, and Altered Allis, the new pulling tractor.**
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.

ABAC Birthdays
19 Thomas Grant
20 Susan Roe

Faculty Research Colloquium:
“U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East: The Israeli-Palestinian Dilemma and its Implications on the Obama Administration” by Mouyyed Hassouna, Assistant Professor of Political Science

Thursday at 3:30 p.m.
Carlton 202

Faculty Teaching Seminar:
“Creating a College-Going Culture” by Amy Warren, Assistant Professor of Education

Sept. 27 at 3:30 p.m.
Carlton 202

Volunteers Needed for Family Weekend!

Our 3rd Annual Family Weekend is Oct. 5 & 6! This is an opportunity to welcome our students’ families back to ABAC! The only way to make this event a success is by you being a part of it, so go ahead and save the dates right now on your calendars. Remember, we can’t do this alone. Jobs available: Greeters, gift distribution, registration, directional guides, and runners—If you want to volunteer email Amanda Jones at ajones@abac.edu with your availability for the weekend.

The following dates remain open after some early recruiting by the CTL Leadership team to fill the Fall presentation dates which will appear on the CTL webpage www.abac.edu/CTL/programs.cfm. Please contact Chase Hagood at chagood@abac.edu with questions or if you would like to present on any of these dates.

January 24: Teaching Seminar
February 7: Research Colloquium
February 21: Teaching Seminar
March 7: Research Colloquium
March 21: Teaching Seminar
April 11: Research Colloquium
April 25: Teaching Seminar