AT&T Grant Helping Students Prepare For Exams In ABAC Classes

Students at ABAC no longer have to depend solely on their notes and memories when they review for an examination. Thanks to a $48,297 grant from AT&T in 2009, students can go to the ABAC web site and see the actual class on a particular day and hear the instructor’s words all over again.

“This project allows us to videotape classes and archive them for students to view at their leisure,” Melanie Partlow, assistant professor of mathematics and Quality Enhancement Plan Director, said. “The grant provided the hardware and equipment for this project. Students can review a class or view any class session they may have missed with this technology.”

Partlow said this year the college aims to have physics, natural science, chemistry, mathematics, biology, and sociology classes available on the web site for students to review throughout the term. After one year of this program, Partlow has seen great advantages to the new technology implemented on campus.

“I have a returning student whose wife gave birth, and he missed a week of being in class, but was able to watch all the class sessions online so he didn’t miss anything,” said Partlow. “It is also beneficial to our student athletes who travel quite a bit. If a player has a question, he can e-mail the instructor, and the instructor can post the answer via a video on the site.”

Partlow hopes to establish an annual archive of all classes in the AT&T\ComF5 project so that students can use the videos as a refresher or review tool.

“I describe myself as technologically phobic, but this is so easy to use,” said Partlow. “I absolutely believe in the potential of this product, and the potential it will give our students. It is a wonderful product to use online and still maintain that relationship with the instructor.”

Students who wish to view archived classes can go to www.abacstallion.info. For more information on the AT&T\ComF5 project, interested persons can contact Partlow at (229) 391-5116.

Family Weekend Starts Friday At Museum Of Agriculture

ABAC will host its first-ever Family Weekend on Friday and Saturday. The event will take place at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC on Friday and move to ABAC’s main campus on Saturday.

On Friday, students and their families will spend time at the Museum at a cookout with entertainment provided by ABAC students Amanda and Will Gay. After the cookout, an outdoor movie night will take place featuring short films produced by the ABAC Living/ Learning Community students. Light refreshments will also be provided.

On Saturday, students will have the opportunity to show their families around the ABAC campus, starting with breakfast at the Donaldson Dining Hall from 9–10 a.m. From 10 a.m.–noon, clubs and organizations will be set up in The Meadows, and selected offices will be open for parents to visit.

The Family Weekend culminates with a lunchtime cookout, sponsored by the ABAC Alumni Association, and a Fillies’ soccer game at 2 p.m. against Georgia Military College.

Parents can register to attend this event by visiting the ABAC web site at www.abac.edu/familyweekend. Participants can choose from two different options. To attend all events on both days, the fee is $20 per adult and $15 per sibling ages 4 – 18 years old. All visitors receive a complimentary t-shirt. To attend Saturday activities only, the cost is $15 per adult and $10 per sibling ages 4 – 18 years old. Children three years old and under are free.

For more information on this event, interested persons can contact Student Development Specialist Rebecca Cofer at (229) 391-4918.

Dress For Success Fashion Fair Tuesday at Noon

The Student Development Center will host a Dress for Success: Cracking the Interview Dress Code Fashion Fair on Tuesday from noon - 1 p.m. in Bowen 100. This is an excellent opportunity for students to gain more information about appropriate interview attire that will create a positive first impression to place them ahead of the competition. WALB’s Yolanda Amadeo will be featured as one of the Dress Code models.

Faculty and staff are also invited to attend this informative and fun event! Please encourage your students to attend! Food and door prizes available.
ABAC Celebrates Hispanic Heritage
ABAC students line up with the flags of the 10 countries recognized during the Hispanic Heritage celebration on Thursday. The entire campus enjoyed food, entertainment, and information at The Meadows.

Fulbright Scholar Enjoying ABAC Experience
A chance assignment in Brazil in the summer of 2009 paved the way for a Fulbright Scholar to teach at ABAC this semester.

Dr. Aercio Cunha from Brasilia, Brazil is teaching Principles of Economics and Contemporary Issues in Rural Societies this fall, drawing on his rich background as a Fulbright Scholar.

Cunha’s first encounter with the college came in the summer of 2009, when faculty from ABAC traveled to Brazil as part of the Fulbright-Hays Faculty Development Group Seminar.

“I was working at the Chamber of Deputies, and they were looking for someone to host the group,” said Cunha. “I have always been very well-received in America so when they came to my country, I felt gratefully obligated to show them the same kindness.”

His experiences at ABAC thus far have been very pleasant.

“It has been awesome,” said Cunha. “I was given the warmest possible welcome. Before my wife and I could even ask, everything was already done for us.”

Cunha was most excited about meeting his students.

“I was very curious to meet them,” said Cunha. “I have been very impressed by them, especially those in my contemporary issues class. They are very professional and eager to learn.”

Cunha’s first experience in the United States came in 1966 as part of a group of student leaders from Brazil. He had a 42-day stay in Washington, D.C before returning home. He later returned to the states, where he received the majority of his college education.

Cunha’s academic background includes a bachelor’s degree in economics from Federal University of Minas Gerais, graduate studies at the University of Sao Paulo at the Economics Research Institute (non-degree), a Master’s degree and Ph. D. in economic theory from Vanderbilt University, and as a post-doctoral researcher and Fulbright scholar at Cornell University.

He taught at the Federal University of Vicos for 11 years, as well as at the University of Brazil. Cunha currently works for the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies as Senior Specialist of Agricultural Policy in the Office of Legislative Counsel.

He and his wife, Maria Madalena, will reside here until the academic year comes to a close. But Cunha has high hopes of continuing his connection with ABAC after he is gone.

“I don’t see my part in this program ending when I go back to Brazil,” said Cunha. “I want the friendships I make here to last. And if anyone needs something in Brazil, let me help.”

First Tuesday Concert Series Kicks off Oct. 5
A “Night of Classical Singing” will open the annual First Tuesday Concert Series at ABAC at 7 p.m. on Oct. 5 in the Chapel of All Faiths.

The Series takes place on five selected first Tuesdays during the year.

Dr. Susan Roe, associate professor of voice, directs the series. She said there will be no fee for any of the First Tuesday Concerts this year as the ABAC School of Liberal Arts presents “a gift to the community.” Roe said that persons who want to support the concerts can make contributions to the ABAC Foundation and designate them for the First Tuesday Concert Series.

Other First Tuesday events will be on Nov. 2 with “The Language of Jazz” featuring Yann Thornton and Friends; Feb. 1 with “A Night of Chamber Music” featuring the Marharlika Trio; March 1 with “A Night of Jazz” featuring the VSU Jazz Combo; and April 5 with “A Night of Broadway Music” featuring ABAC graduates and voice majors.

Julie Megginson, soprano; Rebecca Lanning, mezzo-soprano; and Alwen Yeung, pianist, will perform classical pieces for the first concert of the year.

Megginson is Associate Professor of Music and Chair of the Department of Music at Georgia Southwestern. She teaches Voice and directs the GSW Concert Choir and Chamber Singers. She received a Doctor of Musical Arts in Vocal Performance degree from the University of South Carolina and the Master of Arts in Vocal Performance and Bachelor of Music Education degrees from Eastern Michigan University.

Lanning is the leading scholar of American composer, Kathleen Lockhart Manning. An active choral conductor, Lanning has presented choral master classes and clinics throughout Georgia. She is currently Head of the Music Department and director of the Chamber Singers at Macon State College.

Yeung studied piano with Gabriel Kwok, at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts under a government scholarship. She received her M.M. degree in piano pedagogy from Florida State University. Currently, Yeung is the pianist/organist in the Americus First United Methodist Church and owns a piano studio. Her former piano students won scholarships to the London Royal School of Music and placed in various piano competitions in Hong Kong.
Golfers come and go at the Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College golf course at Forest Lakes but Floyd Haywood has been there since the beginning. In fact, he was there before there was a golf course.

Haywood and his wife, Carolyne, built a house in the Forest Lakes community in 1985. Shortly after the first round of golf was played at the Forest Lakes Golf Course in 1988, Haywood was working at the pro shop once a week and on Saturdays.

“I was asked to work at Forest Lakes by Leonard Morris,” said Haywood. “Forest Lakes Golf Course was his idea. In his day, Leonard did a world of good for this county and the state.”

Haywood said the other original contributors to the beginning of the course were Dr. Larry Moorman and Don McMillan. He said Moorman was the financial backer of the course, and McMillan was the builder.

At the advent of the course, Haywood remembers the grounds as more of a swamp than anything else. And the pro shop was nothing but a card table, small chair, and a cigar box Haywood used to collect greens fees.

“Under Leonard, we started out with 30 electric golf carts,” Haywood remembers. “Any time one of the carts would have a problem or I would have to pull one from the ‘swamp’, Leonard would just switch parts out from another cart until we were down to only six carts. Even those were questionable.”

In 1993, with only those six carts remaining, Dr. Larry Moorman and his wife, Debra, purchased Forest Lakes Golf Course from Morris. Haywood said under the new management of the Moormans, the golf course achieved its biggest improvements.

“Dr. Moorman literally saved this course,” said Haywood. “Without him, we wouldn’t have a course today. Dr. Moorman taking over the course is the most significant milestone I have seen working here.”

In January, 2002, the Moormans donated the course to the ABAC Foundation. In March, 2009, they completed their gift with the donation of the clubhouse to ABAC. Haywood lived at Forest Lakes before the golf course was built.

Haywood has worked under seven superintendents, most of which have ties to ABAC. Those superintendents include Billy Hurt, who later joined the ABAC faculty; former ABAC athletics’ director and golf coach Wayne Cooper; and current superintendent John Layton, who is also an instructor in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

“Each superintendent has made changes, and the course is still growing,” said Haywood. “One thing I would like to see change is more women playing at the course. We have several, but I wish we had more. Women give a place more class.”

He and his fellow workers at the pro shop feel like Forest Lakes Golf Course belongs to them in many ways. Each of them puts in four half-days a week.

“It’s almost like our business,” said Haywood. “We want it to be the best, and we really like to hear the compliments about the course, even though we didn’t have anything to do with the design.”

After being at the Forest Lakes course for over 20 years, Haywood reflected on his time working at the pro shop.

“We are a very close-knit group and always try to help each other out,” said Haywood. “This place has really been great for me because I’m not a native of Tifton, and I see a lot of people now because of my job at the course. It has been a great experience for me.”

Haywood attended Vanderbilt before being drafted into service during World War II. After the war, his employment included teaching at the elementary through college levels of education and working in manufacturing – specifically in the sewing industry.

He and his wife have two children. Their daughter, Melinda, lives in Maryville, Tenn., and works for AT&T, and their son, James, lives in Grand Rapids, Mich., where he works as a meteorologist for the state of Michigan.
Mike Chason appeared on FOX 31 last Monday to discuss ABAC Family Weekend.

ABAC Birthdays
27  Jane Thompson
28  Mike Williams
29  Tracy Dyal
29  Steve Janousek
29  Tonia Carpenter
Oct 1  Nicholas Hardin

Fillies Host GMC Saturday
Amy Gardner from the Fillies' soccer team tries to maneuver past a Darton defender in action at the ABAC soccer field last Wednesday. Darton defeated Coach Jimmy Ballenger's team by a 5-0 score. ABAC will host Georgia Military College on Saturday at 2 p.m. at the ABAC soccer field.

Mark Your Calendar for Stallion Days
November 13
February 12
April 16

ABAC Ag Classic Golf Tournament October 4
The 10th Annual Ag Classic Golf Tournament at ABAC will be held on Oct. 4 at ABAC’s Forest Lakes Golf Club. There will be an 8 a.m. morning flight and a 1 p.m. afternoon flight with a complimentary lunch served between the flights.

The event is hosted by the ABAC Ag Alumni Council and the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources to provide scholarships for students in that area of study.

For more information, interested persons can contact tournament coordinator Nate Carney at (229) 391-4908, via e-mail at ncarney@abac.edu or by visiting the website at www.abac.edu/alumni/agclassic.

Giles Presents Today
At 4 p.m. in Carlton
English faculty member Sandra Giles will present on "Reflection, Self-Assessment, and the Learning Process" today at 4 p.m. in Carlton 202.

The presentation is part of the Center for Teaching and Learning's Colloquium Series. For more information about the colloquium series, please visit www.abac.edu/ctl/ColloquiumSeries.cfm.

McDonald Shares Latin American Experiences
Rodney McDonald, ABAC Class of 1985 and ABAC Alumni Association recipient of the 2010 Outstanding Business Leader award, shared his experiences last Wednesday as a former Peace Corps volunteer and as Director of Emergency Response Services for Latin America (ERSLA), based in Nicaragua.