Lynn Crowned Ms. ABAC 2016

Madison Lynn, a sophomore diversified agriculture major from Vidalia, won the Ms. ABAC 2016 title on Thursday night before a sellout crowd in Howard Auditorium.

Sponsored by the Agronomy Club, Lynn is also a member of the ABAC Ambassadors, the Agronomy Club, and Baptist Collegiate Ministries. She will receive a $500 ABAC scholarship for winning the crown.

“It was an awesome experience,” Lynn said of the moment when her name was called as the winner.

“ABAC is everything I thought it would be and more. Whether it’s the professors or the students, I have that family away from home feeling every time I walk on the campus.”

Lynn plans to use her bachelor’s degree from ABAC to become a broker for an agriculture-based company. In the summer of 2016, she will be involved in a 12-week internship with Monsanto in a location which may range from Iowa to Idaho.

“Agriculture is very important in my life,” Lynn, who was the first runner-up in the 2015 Ms. ABAC event, said. “I believe the sun rises and sets with the farmer. The Lord has plans for me and my life.”

Other finalists included first runner-up Kaylee Ewing, an accounting major from Bold Springs; second runner-up Pamela Ashton Lovett, an agriculture communications major from Adel; third runner-up Delanie Israel, a diversified agriculture major from Smithville; and fourth runner-up Amanda Lynn Thomas, a writing and communication major from Douglas.

Ewing won the interview portion of the competition, and Jennifer Richter, an animal science major from Snellville, received the Ms. Congeniality award. Madison Malynn Thornhill, a writing and communications major from Tifton, won the essay award, and Ginger Orton, an agriculture communications major from Ellaville, won the People’s Choice award.

The Ms. ABAC contest was sponsored by the ABAC Agricultural Business Club. The organization honored Mike Chason, director of public relations emeritus at ABAC, during the event for his 35th consecutive year of emceeing the pageant. A portion of the proceeds from the evening will benefit the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.

ABAC Revamps Exhibit for 2015 Sunbelt Ag Expo

When ABAC hosted an event called Dealer Days on its campus in 1964, not even the famous prognosticator Nostradamus could have foreseen the growth of the agricultural trade show into the mammoth extravaganza called the Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition of today.

The Expo moved to its present Spence Field site near Moultrie in 1978. Ironically, ABAC once held classes at Spence Field for American soldiers returning to South Georgia after World War II. On Oct. 20-22, Spence Field will come alive with the sounds of tractors, harvesters, and combines and the smell of sawdust, hamburgers, and fresh squeezed lemonade when the Expo opens for its 2015 show.

“ABAC and Expo have certainly changed over the years but we both still have a commitment to agriculture, which continues to be Georgia’s largest industry,” ABAC President David Bridges said. “The Expo represents a great opportunity for me to connect with ABAC alumni, many of whom are on site as exhibitors.”

Lindsey Roberts, director of marketing and communications at ABAC, said visitors will see major changes in the college’s Expo exhibit this year. She said a grand re-opening of the ABAC exhibit will take place at 9:05 a.m. on Oct. 20 just after ABAC student Landon Rowe sings the National Anthem over the Spence Field public address system.

“We are really proud of our ABAC alumni, and Expo visitors will get to find out more about them and Continued on Page 3
Thanks to a five-year federal grant worth $2.125 million, the College Assistance Migrant Program has returned to the campus of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College after a one-year absence.

“The successful grant application was a joint effort by the Office of Multicultural Education programs and ABAC’s Office of Sponsored Programs,” said Javier Gonzalez, Director of Multicultural Education Programs at ABAC.

The College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) assists migrant first-year college undergraduates. CAMP provides discretionary grants to Institutions of Higher Education (IHE), or other non-profit organizations in cooperation with an IHE, to offer tutoring, counseling, health services, assistance with special admissions, and some financial assistance to enable migrant youth to successfully complete their first year of post-secondary education. Students are also assisted with obtaining financial aid to help with the remainder of their undergraduate academic careers.

After the grant application was turned down last year, Gonzalez took a different approach this time around.

“Typically, my staff and I gather data for the grant, and then I coordinate with Betty McCorvey from the Sponsored Programs office on developing the proposal,” said Gonzalez. “For this grant, we looked at the feedback from our last grant application that was not approved and made modifications from there to address any deficiencies in the application.”

ABAC was in the running with other colleges and universities across the country as a new applicant in order to receive the CAMP grant. Gonzalez and McCorvey also underwent training from the U.S. Department of Education on the grant process to better understand the priorities of the grant committee.

CAMP students have become a vital part of ABAC since the first federal grant for the program was approved in 1999. Gonzalez points to the success that students achieve as a result of the support of the Office of Multicultural Education.

“CAMP students have taken on leadership positions on campus in areas including the Student Government Association, student life, and academics,” Gonzalez said. “It contributes greatly to ABAC’s diversity efforts by attracting students and staff from diverse backgrounds.”

The Office of Multicultural Education has already begun taking steps to ensure the future of CAMP.

“We have to continue to offer CAMP our support from ABAC and ensure that our students progress academically and graduate on time,” Gonzalez said. “We will do this through continuing to recruit highly-qualified students who are committed to their education.”

Gonzalez said the program is funded to service 32 students annually but because the notice of the award was not received until July, there are only 25 CAMP students enrolled for the fall term.

**ASSETS/STEM Students Tour Auburn University**

This trip to Auburn University for scholars, STEM students, and science and math faculty included a visit to the School of Engineering, a seminar in the Biology Department, a tour of a chemistry research laboratory, and a visit with ABAC Alumnus Thomas Turcotte, who is a current Veterinary medicine student at Auburn University.

**ENACTUS Members attend Fall Training Conference**

The Stafford School of Business Enactus ABAC club officers and advisor, Franzelle Pertilla traveled to Alpharetta this month for the 2015 Fall Training Conference sponsored by Sam’s Club/Walmart. Over 300 students participated in a Career Fair where Chanteria Seymore and Clayton Dukes were offered internships for the Summer 2016.
The campus of ABAC will be the site for this year’s Alzheimer’s Association Walk to End Alzheimer’s on Oct. 17. The Alzheimer’s Walk is hosted by ABAC’s School of Human Sciences, and students, faculty, staff, and administrators are helping in a variety of ways for this worthy cause.

ABAC’s Alpha Gamma Rho (AGR) fraternity contributes regularly to the Alzheimer’s Association, the fraternity’s national philanthropy. The fraternity is helping to set up the stage for the event. Most recently, AGR held a barrel race competition at the ABAC Rodeo Arena with all proceeds going to the Alzheimer’s Association. Since 2013, AGR has raised over $9,000 for the local Alzheimer’s Association.

Faculty members and students in the School of Liberal Arts and the School of Human Sciences are both raising money for the Walk. Donna Campbell, assistant professor of physical education and logistics chair of the Tifton Walk, said her Wellness and Human Experience class will volunteer at the Walk as a community “Give Back” project. Coach Jennifer Martinez and the ABAC softball team will volunteer on the day of the Walk, assisting with registration, logistics, and other needs.

State Representative Penny Houston is scheduled to open the Walk to End Alzheimer’s at 9 a.m. The Walk is a 2.8 mile walk which begins and ends at the ABAC track. A tribute to those who have experienced or continue to experience Alzheimer’s will be a part of the event.

The Alzheimer’s Association Walk to End Alzheimer’s is the world’s largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer’s care, support and research. Since 1989, the Alzheimer’s Association has mobilized millions of Americans in the Alzheimer’s Association Memory Walk®. Now the Alzheimer’s Association is continuing to lead the way with Walk to End Alzheimer’s.

Alzheimer’s is a growing epidemic and the nation’s sixth-leading cause of death. As baby boomers age, the number of individuals living with Alzheimer’s will rapidly escalate, increasing well beyond the current number of more than five million Americans to as many as 16 million by 2050. In Georgia alone, there are 130,000 people living with Alzheimer’s.

To start or join a team today, visit the Alzheimer’s Association at www.georgiawalk.org and click on Tifton.
**SSOB at ABAC Establishes DeNean Stafford III Family Scholarship**

John Hall, a freshman from Moultrie, is the first recipient of the brand new DeNean Stafford, III Family Scholarship from the Stafford School of Business at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

“My parents raised me to give back to others and to my community, and this is an opportunity to do both,” Stafford said. “Our family has always supported Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and now the Stafford School of Business. It is great that students have the option to receive a quality four-year business education right here in South Georgia.

"The Stafford School of Business offers a bachelor’s program that prepares students to be the critical thinkers that make this world a better place. By investing resources in our students, we are insuring our community’s bright future."

Dill Driscoll, Dean of the Stafford School of Business, said Hall intends to pursue a career in sales and marketing after completing the ABAC requirements for his bachelor’s degree in business and economic development.

Driscoll said the DeNean Stafford, III Family Scholarship covers the cost of tuition for all four years of study required for the degree. The scholarship is designed to provide support for deserving students majoring in ABAC’s business and economic development bachelor's degree.

**Foundation Scholars Reap Rewards from Evening for ABAC**

Top academic students from nine high schools in South Georgia reap tremendous scholarship benefits from sponsors of the annual Evening for ABAC event at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

Jodie Snow, chief operating officer for the ABAC Foundation, said three of the top five graduates from Berrien High School, Colquitt County High School, Cook High School, Fitzgerald High School, Irwin County High School, Tift County High School, Tiftarea Academy, Turner County High School, and Worth County High School are eligible to receive $2,500 scholarships.

“Over $50,000 has been awarded for this Foundation Scholars program this year, and we anticipate our demand to increase next year,” Snow, a 2000 ABAC graduate, said.

Gold Sponsors at the Evening for ABAC event coming up on March 4, 2016 support one full scholarship worth $2,500. Platinum Sponsors support two scholarships for $5,000. Titanium Sponsors support three scholarships for $7,500, and President’s Club Sponsors support four scholarships for $10,000.

“Every single dollar of the sponsorship goes to scholarship funds,” Snow said.

Sponsorship opportunities for the 2016 Evening for ABAC are now available from Deidre Martin, ABAC’s Director of College Advancement, at (229) 391-4907.

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