



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

VOLUME LI

ISSUE 13

OCTOBER 13, 2014

Roots of Sunbelt Agricultural Exhibition Began at ABAC

Thousands of people will roam the grounds of Spence Field near Moultrie Tues.—Wed. when the annual Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition takes place. What very few people in attendance will know is that the roots of the gigantic farm and equipment show extend all the way back to the banks of Lake Baldwin on the campus of ABAC.

ABAC alumnus and former ABAC staff member Jimmy Grubbs remembers those early days of the event when "Dealer Days" was created on the ABAC campus in 1964 thanks to the efforts of Jesse Chambliss, Wright Crosby, Dr. Frank McCain, Marshall Guill, Grubbs and many others.

"The 'Dealer Days' event was held at ABAC so that students could get jobs

with tractor companies," Grubbs said. "The event expanded, and ABAC held the Farm Power and Recreation Show for three years. That is when Dr. Joe Burnside from the University of Georgia decided that ABAC needed to find an ever bigger location."

Grubbs was a member of the committee that created the Expo. He met with company representatives including John Deere and the Ford Motor Corporation to help defray the cost of acquiring a location. Shortly afterward, Burnside chose Spence Field near Moultrie as the newest site for the trade show. ABAC's history in Colquitt County goes back to 1947, when classes were available to World War II veterans at Spence Field, formerly an air base.

Once the site was selected, the AET faculty and staff at ABAC began developing the home of the Expo. Grubbs and Guill surveyed the land before the AET group and ABAC students began work on the layout and irrigation for the site. Grubbs said the layout of the site resembles a city, drawn up in blocks for easy access to exhibitors.

"The land was pretty run-down when we started working on Spence Field," Grubbs said. "We started a year before the first Expo was held. We surveyed the land, began growing crops so they would be ready for the exhibition, and did the first irrigation for the site."

ABAC personnel and the AET stu-

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Chancellor Visits ABAC Classrooms

University System of Georgia Chancellor Hank Huckaby visited ABAC on Thursday. He spoke to students in the American Constitutional Law class of Dr. Hans Schmeisser, the World Literature class of Dr. Sandra Giles, the Inorganic Chemistry II class of Dr. Johnny Evans, the Theatre Appreciation class of Dr. Brian Ray, and the Accounting I class of Kathy Moreno. Huckaby also spent some time with ABAC President David Bridges who conducted a campus tour. Huckaby said visiting with students is his favorite part of his position. He said, "Great things are happening in the University System and a lot of great things are happening here at ABAC." ABAC is one of the 31 colleges and universities within the University System.



ABAC to Launch E-Learning Resource For Full Time Employees

ABAC recently acquired Skillsoft, an on-line ELearning resource for all full time faculty and staff employees. ABAC is one of 12 USG institutions to now offer the Skillsoft resource to its employees. The Elearning resource contains a vast array of over 3,000 on-line courses and more than 20,000 books. Skillsoft matches your learning needs with extensive and current online assets, delivers the full text of thousands of leading professional books, via Skillsoft Books24x7® and engages learners with interactive courses, enlightening videos and practical simulations



Topics include IT courses, Leadership Development and various interpersonal areas such as Customer Service, Teamwork, Diversity and Cultural Awareness, Project Management, and Conflict Management to name a few that are available. Companies such as Delta Airlines use the resource and have very positive comments around the large number of course offerings.

Richard Spancake, Director of Human Resources stated that "employee development and learning is a life long endeavor and we are very pleased to offer this cost effective and easily accessible learning resource to all of our full time employees."

Human Resources will offer a series of thirty minute meetings the week of October 20 to provide a preview of Skillsoft.

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dents installed the entire irrigation system for the site in three days.

"Everyone was shocked that we got the system in so fast," Grubbs said. "There is actually a plaque in the AET building recognizing the club for its work. Another year the students ended up donating 6,000 hours to the Expo."

Grubbs said that the exhibition received a name change once it was moved from its original location. Much of the southeastern portion of the United States was referred to as part of the "Sunbelt" so the name was picked up and used as the new moniker for the trade show.

The original logo was created by artist Marshall Smith, who was at one time a graphic artist at ABAC. That design has never been altered.

"They might have used different colors from time to time, but the design has never been touched," Grubbs said. "Marshall was married to Dr. Gaye Elder, who was an ABAC English professor. The logo is registered so it cannot be used without permission by the Expo."

The first Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition opened at Spence Field in 1978. ABAC, along with the University of

Georgia (UGA) and the City of Moultrie, were the key organizers of the event.

"In the Expo's first years in Moultrie, there were a lot more professional entertainers such as Jerry Clower who would come to perform, and the shows were free of charge," Grubbs said. "Over the years people have wondered why the Expo isn't held on a weekend. Dr. Burnside wanted to make sure this was a trade show first and foremost. He thought having the event on a weekend might turn it into more of a family affair instead of an agricultural trade show."

The Expo celebrates its 37th anniversary at the Spence Field site this year, and ABAC will be front and center in its usual location one block from Expo headquarters. Thanks to the generosity of Lanier Carson, ABAC erected its own building at the Expo in 1999.

ABAC has been well represented on the Expo executive board. Dr. Frank McCain was one of the original board members in 1978, and Dr. Ron Jones was selected for the board in 1988 as a representative of ABAC and served until his retirement from the board in 2013. Both McCain and Jones were former chairs of the ABAC Division of Agriculture.

Two ABAC presidents have served on the board, Dr. Harold Loyd and Dr. Da-

vid Bridges, who is the current president of the college.

And although Grubbs retired after 40 years at ABAC, he is still highly active in the Expo each year. He has worked in some capacity or another at every Expo. For the past few years, his main role has been to drive the courtesy van, chauffeuring exhibitors to their sites, helping to transport supplies, getting sick visitors to their cars, and attending to emergencies at Spence Field.

Grubbs believes the original foundation from 1978 makes the Expo a continued success.

"The Expo is still the only farm equipment show held in the south and is the only place to see field demonstrations of new equipment," Grubbs said. "That has always been the first basis of what the Expo is all about."

The ABAC exhibit this year features a variety of events including performances by the ABAC Jazz Choir on Wed., the ABAC Pep Band on Thurs., and additional entertainment. Students, faculty, and alumni will also be on hand at the ABAC building to answer questions about the college and its programs of study. A portion of the exhibit is also devoted to the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village which is also a part of the ABAC campus.

Business Students Tour Deer Run Plantation

Dill and Susan Driscoll, Co-Deans of the Stafford School of Business, and nine students toured the operations of the Deer Run Plantation in Leary, Ga. Dr. David Bridges, President of ABAC, was able to join the team for the Q& A lunch time with Doug Ivester, former Chairman of The Coca-Cola Company and Connell Stafford, retired EVP of Policy for the Coca-Cola Company. Ivester, and his wife, Kay, hosted the event to share with the students a business perspective on how they run their plantation as well as lessons from managing a global enterprise. Deer Run Plantation is split into four farms with 40 homes and 20 employees. This was a great opportunity for the students to have one-on-one time with Ivester and for them to ask him questions about leadership, business, and overall quality of life.



Thank you to all of the participants and sponsors of the **Ag Classic** Golf Tournament, because of you many students in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources will receive scholarships

Buehrer Named Director of Institutional Research

Danielle Buehrer joined the ABAC Family in September as the Director of Institutional Research. She has been working in the field of institutional effectiveness, research, and accreditation for the past six years. She entered this field after completing a Master's in Public Administration from Valdosta State University and a Graduate Certificate in Institutional Research from Florida State University. Prior to her arrival at ABAC, Danielle was instrumental in successfully moving South Georgia State College from a two-year institution to a four-year institution as well as its consolidation with Waycross College. She also served as a consultant and then as the Accreditation Liaison for Darton State College during the college's level-change and reaffirmation process, resulting in 100% compliance with the level-change and achieving reaffirmation this past June. Stop by the third floor of the student center and welcome her to ABAC.

GANS Hosts 'Walk a Mile in Her Shoes' Thurs.

Ruth's Cottage, The Patticake House and the ABAC Chapter of the Georgia Association of Nursing Student's (GANS) will host Walk a Mile in Her Shoes on Thursday at 6 p.m.. The Event will be hosted by GANS on ABAC's Front Circle. This event is a playful opportunity for men to raise awareness in the community about the serious causes and effects of family violence.

There is an old saying "you can't really understand another person's experience until you've walked a mile in their shoes." Walk a Mile in Her Shoes asks men to literally walk one mile in women's high-heeled shoes. It's not easy walking in these shoes, but it is fun and gets the community talking about something that's really different to talk about domestic violence.

They are looking for men who wish to walk as individuals or as a team on Oct. 16. Money raised during the event will support Ruth's Cottage and The Patticake House. The sponsorship options are as followed: Event Sponsor (\$1,000), one team of four walkers, sponsor name/logo on event shirt, event banner and in other marketing efforts. Supporter (\$500), two walkers, sponsor name on event banner and in other marketing efforts. Friend (\$100), one walker with the sponsor name in marketing efforts.

For more information visit www.stopthehurt.ga or call 229.387.9697



University System of Georgia Begins Perks Program for Employees

The University System of Georgia starts new program November 1 called USG Perks. USG Perks is a FREE savings program that provides employee pricing for all employees. This program helps you save on all small and large purchases. USG Perks is accessible on-line by computer as well as on your mobile device at <https://usg.affinityperks.com>. USG Perks will be live in the first week of November and employees will receive further instructions for activating your account once the program is live.

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Climbing Wall Success

A big thanks to the Campus Activities Board for providing a little fun in the sun for students last week. Many students took some time to utilize the climbing wall that was set-up in the Meadows.

Staff Forum will be held at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday in Health Sciences room 108. David Hilliard will be there to discuss retirement planning, Richard Spancake will introduce a professional development tool, and we will begin to discuss Relay for Life.

Willis Named ABAC Registrar

Amy Willis assumed the academic role of Registrar in July. She has served in a variety of technology roles since she began working at ABAC in November 1997. She obtained her Doctor of Education in adult and career education in 2003, Master of Business Administration in 1994, Bachelor of Science in computer science in 1991 and Associate in Science in business administration and computer science in 1989.

ABAC Birthdays

14 Gail Dillard 14 Chris Kiser 17 Polly Huff
18 Michelle Barton 19 Tim Carpenter