School of Business to Forge Ahead with Stafford Name

ABAC will pay tribute to the late DeNean Stafford, Jr. by naming the school of business the Stafford School of Business. The naming recognizes years of devotion and support by the Stafford family for education and economic development.

ABAC President David Bridges said that for more than a decade before DeNean and Flora Stafford, Jr. founded the Stafford Foundation in 1996, they were strong supporters of the College, and they continued their support after forming the foundation by making the ABAC Foundation the primary beneficiary of their family foundation.

“The love for and support of ABAC started by DeNean and Flora Stafford has been carried on by the now 94-year-old, but still enthusiastic Flora (Boo) Stafford and her children DeNean Stafford, III, Mary Jane Stafford Theden and Sally Stafford Perez, making them ABAC’s largest benefactor to date,” Bridges said. “By its name, by its programs and by virtue of the graduates it will produce, the Stafford School of Business will pay tribute to Mr. Stafford and his family, who through their family-owned businesses significantly enhance culture, education and economic development throughout the Southeastern United States.”

The Stafford School of Business has big plans for students under the new direction of co-deans Dill and Susan Driscoll.

“The Business and Economic Development degree has been restructured to prepare students for four areas: starting a new business, taking over a family business, managing an existing business or providing economic development in rural communities,” Susan said. “These are the areas that students have been most interested in and we feel that these are also the areas that rural areas could use the most support.”

“We have already started recruiting 100 dedicated students for the class of 2017. We will recruit, train and place 100% of these students in internships and jobs,” Dill said. “The Stafford School of Business, through its focus on family-owned businesses and rural economic development and the graduates it will produce, will play prominently in the College’s mission to produce a more educated and economically productive Georgia.”

The Stafford School of Business already has several business partnerships with more to come and many students ready to start businesses. “Our Business and Economic Development students are already working with rural communities like Macon and Pelham to develop business plans as part of a class project,” Dill said. “Several students are starting their own business such as BuckMaker, a top selling deer attractant in local hunting goods stores, and we just added another partnership yesterday - High Road Entertainment, a movie production company in Hollywood.”

Susan also said the newly-formed Stallion Roundtable will partner with companies to help provide business solutions to the companies while providing students the opportunity for real world work experience and exposure.

For more information on the Stafford School of Business call 229.391.4830. You may also contact Susan at sdriscoll@abac.edu or Dill at dill@abac.edu.
Wildlife Calling Contest November 19 at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture

The ABAC Wildlife Society will host a Wildlife Calling Contest on Nov. 19 at 6 p.m. at the Opry Shelter of the Georgia Museum of Agriculture. Participants can try out their best duck, turkey, and goose calls. This contest is not affiliated with any professional calling organization.

For those who would like to take part in this event, there is a $5 entry fee for all ABAC students (with Gold Card) and a $10 entry fee for the general public. First prize winners will receive a print by wildlife artist Broderick Crawford, the 2011-12 Georgia Ducks Unlimited Artist of the Year and current Idaho Ducks Unlimited Artist of the Year. Prizes will also be awarded to the second and third place finishers in each category.

A raffle will also be held during the contest. Raffle tickets are $1 for one ticket, $5 for six tickets, $10 for 13 tickets, or $20 for 28 tickets. All proceeds from the raffle will benefit the ABAC Wildlife Society, a student chapter of The Wildlife Society. Door prizes will also be given away during the event. Raffle items and door prizes have been donated by Bone Collector Michael Waddell, Georgia Ducks Unlimited, Georgia National Wild Turkey Federation, and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

General admission for the calling contest is $3 for ABAC students (with Gold Card) and $5 for the general public. Children under ten years of age are admitted for free.

The Wildlife Calling Contest will serve as a fundraiser for numerous ABAC Wildlife Society activities including the Southeastern Wildlife Society Student Conclave, an annual academic competition among graduate and undergraduate students from southeastern colleges and universities that offer wildlife management degrees.

For more information on this event, please contact club president Scott Dismuke at (229) 566-6428 or via email at scottkdismuke@hotmail.com.

Nominations Due Nov. 20

Nominations are due by noon on Nov. 20 for the George P. Donaldson Award to be presented by the ABAC Alumni Association during the fall commencement ceremony on Dec. 7. Nomination packets, including the student’s Statement of Activities and three to five letters of reference from ABAC faculty and/or staff, must be submitted to the ABAC Office of Alumni Affairs.

Donaldson served as president of the College from 1948-1961.

For more information about the nomination process, contact the Alumni Office at 391-4900 or visit the web site at abac.edu/alumni/DonaldsonAward

The first ever Wiregrass Farmers Holiday Market on Nov. 30 will offer guests a unique opportunity to shop for locally grown produce for their holiday tables, purchase handmade gifts, and place special food orders for Christmas with individual vendors at the Peanut Museum and Market Barn at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC. Open from 5-8 p.m., the Holiday Market will feature a bonfire, samples from market vendors and local artisans, entertainment by local musicians, and hot cider for shoppers. Soup and cornbread will also be available for purchase during the event. Admission to the Holiday Market is $2 per person or $5 per family of four. Tickets will be sold at the door.

The Museum’s Country Store will also be open for the event, and guests can purchase a variety of locally made pantry staples and unique holiday gifts. Free gift wrapping will be available for all purchases.

Vendors will offer items including leather goods, handmade soaps and scrubs, locally roasted coffee beans, honey, nuts, baked goods, vegan treats, jams and jellies, eggs, winter produce, and handmade jewelry.

Other events at the Museum during the holiday season will include Wiregrass Christmas on Dec. 8 from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., the North Pole Express from 5-8 p.m. on Dec. 14-15, and Victorian Village by Candlelight on Dec. 16 from 5:30-8 p.m.

The fourth annual Career Connections event will take place Tuesday and Wednesday on the campus of ABAC. The event will run from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. each day in the new two-day format.

Tuesday the focus will be on the fields of agriculture and horticulture. The second day of the event will spotlight jobs in forestry and wildlife.

Businesses interested in participating in the Career Connections event can register online at www.abac.edu/ag/careers/. For more information on the Career Connections event, interested persons can contact Marshall via email at tmarshal@abac.edu.
ABAC Closed Nov. 21–26 for Thanksgiving Holiday
The ABAC campus will be close at 5:30 on Nov. 20 and will re-open at 8 a.m. on Nov. 26 in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

A Successful Stallion Day!
A big thank you to everyone that helped make Stallion Day a success on Saturday. With 180 students and over 350 visitors on campus, everyone was busy! The marketplace was not only packed, but very successful in educating students about everything ABAC has to offer. Good job to everyone involved and thanks to the Ambassadors for making everyone feel welcome!

Cane Grinding, Syrup Making Sat. at GMA
Take a step back in time on Saturday with the annual cane grinding and syrup making parties at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC.
Visitors can also enjoy live music on the Gibbs House Porch as well as wool washing and dying and spinning demonstrations at the Clark Cabin throughout the day. Concessions will be available at the Drug Store including soup and corn bread, hotdogs, ice cream, and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.
For more information on this and other upcoming events, interested persons can contact the Museum staff at (229) 391-5205 or visit the Museum’s website at www.abac.edu/museum.

WPLH 103.1 Celebrates Veterans Day Today at Noon!
ABAC Radio is sponsoring a Veterans Day celebration today at Noon in the Meadows. Please come out and thank our veterans. If you, or a loved one, are currently serving in or have served and would like to be recognized please email: kperry@abac.edu or call 391-4967.

AET Wins Hay Bale Decorating Contest
ABAC’s AET Club won first place in the Horticulture Club’s Annual hay bale decorating contest with hay versions of Cracker Jack and Altered Allis. Clubs and organizations purchase hay bales from the Horticulture Club and have a couple weeks to decorate them before judging. The Wildlife club won second with their depiction of Smokey Bear and BCM won third with their “Get swallowed up in the Lord at BCM” whale. Good job to everyone that decorated a hay bale, they looked great!

ABAC Birthdays
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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.