



# FOCUS

## ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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### ABAC Students Will Connect to the Future at Career Connections

Students in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources at ABAC will connect with their future on Tues. and Wed. at the fifth annual Career Connections event. The event will run from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. each day.

On Tues., the focus will be on the fields of agriculture and horticulture.

Company representatives will meet with students interested in career opportunities in those fields in the Agricultural Sciences building.

On Wed., the event will spotlight jobs in forestry and wildlife. Business repre-



sentatives will connect with students seeking a career or internship in the forestry and wildlife fields in the Yow Forestry and Wildlife building.

The Career Connections job fair will feature a forum for employers designed to recruit future interns and employees and to

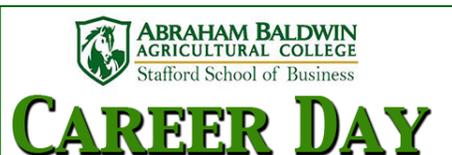
communicate industry issues and opportunities. Employers will also have the chance to give feedback to faculty and students about human resource needs and to promote agribusiness and

green business practices.

Organizations, universities, and companies scheduled to participate include AgCareers.com, Ag Technologies, Auburn University, Bartlett Tree Experts, Cal-Maine Foods, the Georgia Department of Agriculture, Meherrin Agricultural & Chemical Co., Monsanto, Reynolds Plantation, Syngenta, and many more.

Employers who wish to participate can contact Lorie Felton at [lfelton@abac.edu](mailto:lfelton@abac.edu), Jay Scott at [jscott@abac.edu](mailto:jscott@abac.edu), or visit the website at <http://www.abac.edu/academics/schools/ag-natural-resources/outreach/careers-connection>.

### Career Day Tues. in Bowen 100



The Rural Studies Program and the Stafford School of Business at ABAC will hold a Career and Network Day from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday in Room 100 in Bowen Hall.

There is no fee for employers seeking new employees and/or interns and schools seeking graduate students. Lunch will be provided for registrants.

Students who will attend are majoring in areas that prepare them for careers in business and economic development, non-profits and governmental agencies, writing and communication fields, and business administration.

The event is designed to provide students and employers an environment to build relationships while helping identify and recruit graduate students, interns and/or employees.

For information, employers can contact Lyndsey Walters at (229) 391-4847 or [lwalters@abac.edu](mailto:lwalters@abac.edu)

### Goal Keeper Named All-Region First Team

Amanda Biondino from the women's soccer team at ABAC has been selected as a member of the All-Region First Team for the Georgia Collegiate Athletic Association.

ABAC Coach Jimmy Ballenger said Biondino, a sophomore from Tampa, Fla., is the best goal keeper in the history of the ABAC soccer program. Except for two games when she was out with an illness, Biondino started every game this year for the Fillies. She is the first ABAC goal keeper ever to be selected for first team honors.

The GCAA also recognized ABAC's Kerry Newman for second team honors and Allyson Stoffel and Kellie Starvetsky for honorable mention accolades.

Newman, a freshman from England, was a midfielder who started every game for ABAC this year. Ballenger described Stoffel, a sophomore from Clay County, Fla., as "tough as nails on



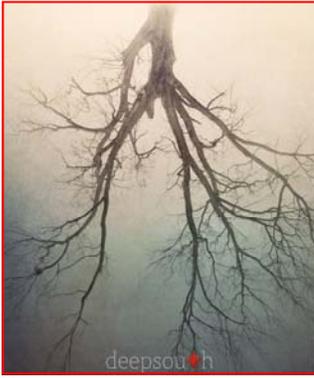
Pictured: Biondino (front row, last on the right) and the 2013-14 Fillies Soccer team.

the field and a great ambassador for ABAC off the field."

Starvetsky, a sophomore from Warner Robins, started every game for ABAC during her two-year career.

"I am so proud of these ladies," Ballenger said. "It is a great honor for them to be named as some of the best players in the state. All four of them along with all their teammates put in a tremendous amount of hard work and dedication this season."

ABAC wound up with a 7-10 record this year in the Fillies' eighth year of intercollegiate soccer. Ballenger is the only coach in the history of the program.



## Documentary Screening of "deepsouth" Thurs. in Howard Aud.

The award-winning documentary, "deepsouth", will be screened in Howard Auditorium on Thurs. at 6 p.m. at ABAC. This viewing is free of charge and open to the public. The showing of this documentary is part of an effort by the ABAC Rural Studies faculty to open a dialogue regarding an important health care issue in the rural south. Free HIV testing will also take place from 10 a.m.—2 p.m. in the front lobby of Donaldson Dining Hall on Thurs. For more information on this event, interested persons can contact Troy Spicer, Interim Dean of the ABAC School of Nursing and Health Sciences, at (229) 391-5020.

## Farm Manager Gives Credit to Students

Trey Davis looked over the field of soybeans on the J.G. Woodroof Farm at ABAC with a satisfied smile on his face. He thought of all the students who had a hand in making the crop possible. For him, that's what his job as farm manager is all about.

"Ninety to ninety-five per cent of the work done on these crops is by students," Davis, a 2005 ABAC alumnus, said. "Even if they go into the sales and marketing side of agriculture, they have experienced the production side of it up close and personal."

Davis actually employs six students who work part time on the farm, which is named for the first president of ABAC. Many other students spend time on the 200-acre site as a part of their class work.

"The students who work here help to maintain the equipment and the crops," Davis said. "But we have a lot of other students who are here a lot. Every student in the farm operations class spends six hours a week on the farm."

Some of those students are majoring in Diversified Agriculture, the hottest new bachelor's degree program at ABAC. The popularity of that program is one reason why the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources has over 1,000 students enrolled for the first time ever this semester.

Dr. Tim Marshall, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, realizes the farm is a valuable tool in the ABAC educational process.

"People don't usually think of a farm as a learning laboratory but at ABAC, that's exactly how we use the J.G. Woodroof Farm," Marshall said. "It's very important that our students are capable of doing what they are learning in their curriculum. We want to make sure they have the proficiency in a certain area that is required by employers who hire them. We use the farm in some

of our classes to make that happen."

Davis and the students grow mainly corn, soybeans and hay on the farm. From planting to harvesting, students are involved.

"With the precision agriculture classes, our students are on the tractors a lot," Davis said. "They also work with the variable rate irrigation, take soil samples, and keep data on the soil moisture sensors."

Ben Cole, a senior diversified agriculture major, says the farm is one of the reasons he came to ABAC.

"I looked at other colleges for my agriculture degree, but my main reason for coming to ABAC was the hands-on experience," Cole, who hails from Boaz in northeast Alabama, said. "I believe the farm gives ABAC graduates a leg up on graduates from other institutions."

As a class of 14 students gathered around a John Deere tractor on the farm, Cole emphasized his point.

"There's a lot more teacher to student interaction at ABAC," Cole said. "The instructors help you understand what they're teaching and why they're teaching it to you. When I graduate, I'll have all the tools and resources necessary for the work I'm going to do."

Cole plans to graduate in December and go to work for a chemical company as a sales representative. He's also going to do some farming on the side. He's confident that he'll be ready for the world of work.

"Everything here is oriented toward teaching you how to be a better manager when you graduate and get into a business," Cole said. "It's a good atmosphere. Everybody gets along."

Davis said when it's time to sell the crops, the students are right in the middle of the marketing game.

"We find a market, sell it, and put that money back into the farm," Davis said. "I did retain 1,000 bushels of corn last year, put it in the bin, and now stu-



ABAC Farm Manager Trey Davis (right) prepares Ben Cole, a senior diversified agriculture major from Boaz, Ala., for a field experience during class one afternoon.

dents in the farm operations class can take it to the buying points."

Davis said the farm also has 60 head of beef cattle and three horses which are used in the animal science classes. Students can also bring their own horses to ABAC and board them in the ABAC stables.

After completing his ABAC curriculum, Davis received his undergraduate degree from the University of Georgia. After some time in the business world, he was offered the opportunity to return to the college as farm manager.

"I never would have thought that I would have come back to ABAC," Davis said with a grin. "But I sure am glad I did so I can be a part of everything that's happening here."

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](mailto:amock@abac.edu) for inclusion in the next FOCUS.

## ABAC Concert Band to Perform Tues. at 7 p.m. in Howard Aud.

The Concert Band at ABAC will present its annual fall concert on Tues. under the direction of Johnny Folsom, instructor and Director of Music – Bands in the School of Liberal Arts. The concert begins at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium and features an exciting musical program.

The concert begins with “O Fortuna”, the most notable movement from Carl Orff’s Carmina Burana. Then the band performs composer David Holsinger’s depiction of a Biblical chase scene from the book of Genesis entitled “Abram’s Pursuit”. The Concert Band, along with featured violinist Seth Mann, a business major from Tifton, will give a stirring performance of the “Theme from Schindler’s List”.

Mississippi State University’s Assistant Professor of Music and Associate Director of Bands, Dr. Craig Aarhus, is



the guest conductor for the evening. Aarhus is the son-in-law of Folsom and is married to his oldest daughter, Amy. Aarhus will direct the John Philip Sousa march “King Cotton”.

The ABAC Concert Band will also perform a composition that describes the lumberjack experience in turn-of-the-century Wisconsin, “Northwoods: Of Might and Mettle”, by Robert W. Smith that premiered at the 2002 Wisconsin Music Educators Conference.

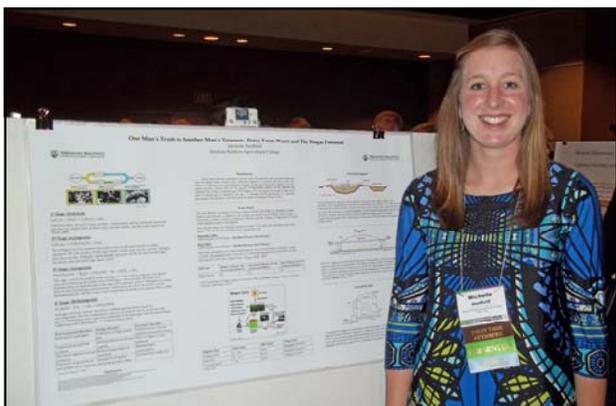
To conclude the evening’s program, a child soloist will join singers from Dr. Susan Roe’s ABAC Choir and the ABAC Concert Band in Stephen Melillo’s spectacular patriotic arrangement of “God Bless America”.

The public is invited to attend this special event and the admission is free. Seating is limited so early arrival is encouraged.

For more information, contact Folsom at 229.391.4944.

## ABAC Business Students Visit Plantation of Former Coca-Cola Chairman

Alpha Beta Gamma and the Stafford School of Business at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College recently sponsored a day with the former Chairman of The Coca-Cola Company, Doug Ivester, at his plantation, Deer Run, outside of Albany. Ivester spent the day with 10 ABAC Business students, sharing with them his experiences in the global soft drink business, the business of running a plantation, and his efforts to keep the natural habitat of his plantation. This was a great opportunity for ABAC students to have a personal, casual discussion with a global business leader of one of the most respected companies in the world. He told the students who want to start their own businesses to focus on the business and invest those early funds in the business and not a big lifestyle. He encouraged them all to dream big dreams at an early age and to not be afraid to stand out in a crowd.



## Sheffield Presents at National Honors Conference

On Nov. 7 Michelle Sheffield, an Animal Science major in the Honors Program at ABAC presented at the National Collegiate Honors Conference in New Orleans. Sheffield gave a poster presentation titled, One Man’s Trash is Another Man’s Treasure: Dairy Farm Waste and the Biogas Potential. Her presentation reviewed the process, the benefits, and the costs of converting methane (found in the waste of dairy cows) into a productive natural gas, one man’s waste becoming another man’s treasure. Congratulations to Sheffield for the hard work and the honor of being able to present at this conference.

## Students Play Mega Pong To Raise Money for Manna Drop

Students from Stafford Hall sponsored mega pong in the Meadows last week to raise money for the Manna Drop that the Stafford School of Business is sponsoring. This week, before Thanksgiving, Stafford Hall will be hosting a Manna Drop as a community service project. Members are working towards a goal of raising \$1,100 to have a truckload of food delivered on Sat. to be distributed to families. Manna drops are designed to feed families who cannot always afford to feed themselves. These drops are done through a partnership with Second Harvest of South Georgia. The food will be delivered to Charles Spencer Elementary School at 12 p.m. and members of Stafford Hall will be helping pack food boxes and then distribute to families. Contact Elisabeth O'Quinn at eoquinn@abac.edu or 229.391.4832 if you would like to donate towards this cause.



**Stone STEAKHOUSE**

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-GTD-

Come and enjoy your favorite cut of prime perfection, served hot off the grill and prepared to your sizzling specifications.

**DATE**  
November 20, 2013

**TIME**  
5:00pm till 6:30pm

**LOCATION**  
Dining Hall | See Cashier for details

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## Dining Hall Hosting Steak Dinner Wed.

ABAC faculty, staff, and students can settle in with a big slab of beef at Steak Dinner Night at the Donaldson Dining Hall on Wednesday from 5-6:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased from the cashiers in the dining hall. Ticket prices are \$4 each for students and \$6 each for faculty, staff, and spouses and must be purchased in advance. Dinner will be served buffet style in a section of the dining hall reserved for the event. For more information on Steak Dinner Night, interested persons can contact Tina Duggins at tduggins@abac.edu.

## Open Enrollment

University System of Georgia Benefits Open Enrollment runs through Friday. Enrollment is not passive this year and it is required of every employee to make selections in ADP. Please attend one of the final sessions hosted by Human Resources if you have not already. Sessions are held in the Student Center Courtroom on Tues. (9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.) and Wed. (10 a.m., 12 p.m., 2 p.m., and 4 p.m.). Contact Human Resources at 229.391.4890 if you have questions.



## ABAC Cattle Judging Team Travels to Blackwater Cattle

Dr. Martha Thomas' livestock evaluation class traveled to Lake Park Georgia to visit Blackwater Cattle Company, a Brangus operation in South Georgia. The students that attended are members of the first ABAC judging team in many years.

## ABAC Birthdays

- 19 Lonnie Gibson
  - 19 James Lewis
  - 19 Amanda Wulle
  - 20 George Lowerts
  - 20 Jennifer Wallin—Ruschman
  - 21 Gary Dicks
- 

## Join CTL Today at 2 p.m. in Herring Hall

Faculty, staff and administration are invited to join the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) today for a seminar titled: Introduction to Grant Writing - A Webinar part of the Learning without Leaving Series, hosted by Georgia College and State University.

Where: Herring Hall Conference Room (rm. 122)  
When: Today 2 - 4 p.m.