



# FOCUS

## ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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### Regent NeSmith To Speak at ABAC Commencement December 10

William H. "Dink" NeSmith, Jr., a member of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, will be the featured speaker at the Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College fall commencement ceremony at 6 p.m. on Dec. 10 in Gressette Gym.

A 1970 graduate of the University of Georgia (UGA), NeSmith is chairman of the University's Fanning Institute for Leadership, which promotes public service and outreach. He recently co-authored a biography of the institute's founder, Dr. J.W. Fanning.

NeSmith is past president of UGA's National Alumni Association and a director of the Richard B. Russell Foundation. He is an emeritus member of the UGA Athletic Association's board of

directors and the UGA Foundation's Board of Trustees.

NeSmith was appointed by Governor Sonny Perdue in March, 2008 to the Board of Regents. He is co-owner and president of the Athens-based Community Newspapers, Inc., publisher of several dozen newspapers in Georgia, Florida and the Carolinas.

Perdue recently appointed NeSmith to the 20-member Commission for a New Georgia. He also serves on the board of directors of Ath-



ens First Bank and Trust, Southern Mutual Insurance Company and Pattillo Construction Company. He is past president of the Georgia Press Association and former chairman of Leadership Georgia (1986).

As chairman of Athens 96 for the four years leading up to the 1996 Summer Olympic Games, NeSmith led Athens' involvement in the Games' soccer, volleyball and rhythmic gymnastics events. He and his wife, Pam, have three children and live in Athens.

A total of 176 students are expected to participate in the ceremony.

### Hall of Fame Deadline Dec. 1

Nominations are now being accepted for the Athletics Hall of Fame at ABAC. The deadline for nominations is Dec. 1, 2010. Those selected will be inducted in a ceremony at noon on April 2, 2011.

Any individual, living or deceased, may be considered for induction into the ABAC Athletics Hall of Fame.

Individuals are nominated in one of three categories: Athlete, Coach, or Contributor.

"With the rich athletics' history of our college, it's going to be exciting to see the selections for this next group," Athletics' Director Alan Kramer said.

The inaugural Hall of Fame class in 2008 included Thomas Cheney, Bruce V. Gressette, Norman "Red" Hill, Orion Mitchell, Philip Simpson, and Milena Stanoytcheva.

The Hall of Fame class of 2009 honored the 1984 national championship

men's tennis team, Ellen Vickers, Dorsey Brooks, Cook Holliday, P.W. Bryan, Jr., and Newell "Sarge" Dorsey.

The 2010 Hall of Fame class included the 1991 national championship women's softball team, Harley Klepfer, Jim Sparks, Joseph Grist, and Thomas "Boo" Weekley.

Kramer said athletic achievement as well as integrity, sportsmanship, and character will be considered. He said the college is also

looking for individuals who may have been good athletes while at ABAC, but who went on to coach high school or college teams to state or national titles.

Alumni as well as the general public are encouraged to nominate individuals for this honor. Hall of Fame criteria and a nomination form can be found at [www.abac.edu/halloffame](http://www.abac.edu/halloffame).

For more information, interested persons can contact Kramer at 391-4928.

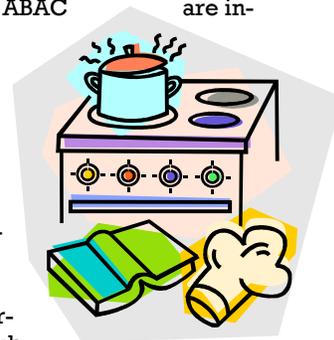


### Baldwin Woman's Club Needs Recipes

The Baldwin Woman's Club (BWC) of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College is looking for recipes to put into the 2011 edition of the BWC Cookbook. All employees of ABAC

are invited to share their recipes. Proceeds will help fund ABAC scholarships with a portion going to Breast Cancer Awareness.

Interested persons should submit typed recipes with title and the participant's name. All recipes should be e-mailed to JoAnn Brannen at [jbrannen@abac.edu](mailto:jbrannen@abac.edu). Please be sure to include the name of the recipe and your name in the file name. There is no limit to the number of recipes that participants can submit, but all submissions must be e-mailed by Dec. 3.



# Boston Butt Pick Up Tuesday

Thanks to everyone who supported the ABAC Ambassadors! Don't forget that Boston Butt pick-up will be Tuesday from 3-6 p.m. at Evans Hall. If you did not purchase a ticket yet and still wish to do so call Ashley Williamson at 391-5055.

## Chason Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award

Michael Chason, Director of Public Relations at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Georgia Education Advancement Council (GEAC) at its recent conference at St. Simons Island.

"The awards committee received a letter from ABAC President David Bridges nominating Mike for the GEAC award in Public Relations; however the awards committee could not present the Public Relations award to a person has served his institution well and faithfully for 32 years, served the University System of Georgia when called upon, served his community, and he has a long track record of service to GEAC," Jeff Boggan, GEAC Awards Committee Chairman, said. "Instead, with the concurrence of the GEAC Board of Directors, we were pleased to award him something that has only been done a few other times in our history."

Chason's service to GEAC includes serving as president of the statewide organization composed of professionals in advancement, public relations, and alumni relations, in 1991, and receiving the GEAC award for Communications in 1994.

Chason was the Salutatorian of the Lanier County High School 1970 graduating class and a 1974 graduate of Valdosta State College. He and his wife, Kris, have two children. Dr. Tracy Nolan and her husband, David, live in Warner Robins, and David Chason and

his wife, Jasmine, live in Savannah.

Before assuming the public relations post at ABAC on May 15, 1979, Chason was the sports editor of "The Valdosta Daily Times."

"Mike Chason is the consummate public relations officer," Bridges said. "He creates positive public relations for every organization he works with. He is universally respected on campus, in the community and within the University System of Georgia."

Chason received the prestigious E. Lanier Carson Award in 2002, which is presented to ABAC's top administrator, chaired the ABAC Master Plan Committee in 2005, helped establish the ABAC Athletics Hall of Fame in 2007, chaired the College's 100th Birthday Celebration Committee in 2008, and emcees most college events. He also coordinates the ABAC news bureau, hosts the



ABAC Director of Public Relations Mike Chason received the Georgia Education Advancement Council Lifetime Achievement Award at the recent GEAC convention. On hand for the presentation from ABAC were Elaine Auger, Keith Barber, Kim Bridges, Mike Chason, Kris Chason, ABAC President David Bridges, and Ashley Williamson.

ABAC Update television show, handles communications for the President's office, and is the play-by-play radio voice for Valdosta State University basketball and Tift County High School (TCHS) football and basketball.

In 2007 Chason served as the emcee for the University System of Georgia's 75th Anniversary Ceremony. He also emcees the ABAC and TCHS

commencement exercises as well as the Special Olympics and Relay for Life ceremonies.

Chason's service to the community also includes teaching a College and Career Sunday School class for 26 years at Northside Baptist Church, where he has served as Chairman of the Board of Deacons six times. He also served as president of the Tifton Kiwanis Club in 1982. He received the Kiwanian of the Year award in 1990, and the 30-year Legion of Honor Award from Kiwanis in 2010.



## 'Wave Runner' At ABAC Museum Through December 1

"Wave Runner", a sculpture carved from cedar and black walnut by Randy Anthony from Fitzgerald, is on display as part of the C.L. Morehead, Jr., exhibit featured at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. This piece is from the artist's personal collection. The exhibit will be on display through Dec. 1. For group tours, interested persons can call Polly Huff with the ABAC Arts Connection at (229) 391-4818.

## Volunteers Honored at Georgia Museum

Nine volunteers were recently honored for their service to the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

In recognition for their contributions, the men received dinner bells, and the ladies received metal roses made by the on-site blacksmith and a bag of corn meal because "volunteers are one of the main ingredients of the museum," said Michelle Reddick, Volunteer Coordinator for the

Georgia Museum of Agriculture.

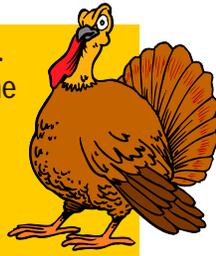
The volunteers included Earl Bennett, a progressive farm volunteer from Tifton; Charlotte Cranford, a drug store/museum volunteer from Tifton; Andy Dekle, a progressive farm volunteer from Chula; Paul Higgs, a progressive farm volunteer and assistant with educational workshops from Tifton; Nelda Kriag, a progressive



Paul Willis (center), Director of the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village, congratulates Jason Owen (left) and Keith Rucker (right) on their service as volunteers. Seven other volunteers of the museum were also recognized.

farm/museum volunteer from Tifton ; Jason Owen, schoolhouse volunteer and assistant with educational workshops from Alapaha; Keith Rucker, a train engineer volunteer from Tifton; Jack Whitehead, a progressive farm volunteer from Tifton; and Herbert Womack, master cane grinder and progressive farm volunteer from Tifton.

ABAC will be closed Nov. 25-28 in observance of the Thanksgiving holidays. Due to the holiday, the next FOCUS will not run until Dec. 6.



## ABAC Offers Discount on 2011 Trip to Alaska

The Educational Outreach office at ABAC is offering an early bird discount for the Alaska Land and Cruise trip scheduled for July 24 – Aug. 6, 2011. Travelers have the option to take the land and cruise or the inside passage cruise only. All travelers who sign up by Dec. 1 will save \$200 per cabin.

The Alaskan land excursion will feature points of interest within Fairbanks and Anchorage with tours of the El Dorado Gold Mine, Denali National Park, and the Tundra Wilderness Tour with optional attractions including river rafting and jet-boating.

The cruise aboard the Royal Caribbean "Radiance of the Seas" will drop anchor in ports including Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan, and Vancouver. Other points of interest include the Hubbard Glacier and Icy Point Strait.

For more information on the trip, visit the ABAC Educational Outreach web site at [www.abac.edu/psbo/Travel/](http://www.abac.edu/psbo/Travel/) or contact Diane Kilgore at 391-5065 or [dkilgore@abac.edu](mailto:dkilgore@abac.edu).



## ABAC Diversity Social Celebrates Students

A Diversity Social allowed students to meet, greet, and eat last week in the J. Lamar Branch Student Center. Faculty and staff also had a chance to mingle with ABAC's multicultural students during the social. Entertainment for the social was provided by ABAC's Lakeside Community Choir, Cultura Latina, and the Minority Academic Social Development Association (MASDA).

## Jazz Choir To Spread Christmas Cheer Nov. 30

Come and usher in the holiday season with a Holiday Music Celebration on Nov. 30 at 4 p.m. in the Chapel of All Faiths at ABAC.

This event is open to the public at no charge. Refreshments will be served in

the lobby of the adjacent music building when the concert ends.

The concert will feature the ABAC Jazz Choir, directed by Dr. Susan Roe with accompanist Marjorie Fixx.

Wayne Jones will sing

“Sweet Little Jesus Boy”, and Roe will perform “O Holy Night.”

The concert will also feature audience participation of beloved Christmas songs such as “The First Noel” and “O Come All Ye Faithful”. Students will perform selections including “Ave Maria”, “The Christmas Song”, “Cool Yule” and ‘Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas.”

The entire community is invited to join the college faculty, staff, and students for this afternoon of holiday cheer. For more information, contact Roe at 391-4943.



*Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with*

President & Mrs. David Bridges  
& The ABAC Ambassadors  
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

**President & Mrs. David Bridges cordially invite you to a**  
**HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**  
**Thursday, December 9**  
**6:30-8:30 p.m.**  
**National Peanut Museum**  
**Adjacent to the Georgia Museum of Agriculture Welcome Center**



### Connecting On Their Careers

Students in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources at ABAC visited displays from over 30 companies at last week's Career Connections event in the Agricultural Sciences Building. The students made contacts for internships and future job opportunities. Pfizer, Inc., Senior Territory Manager Henry Will Jones talks to Carnesville freshman Kalie Hall about a career with his company. Jones is a 1974 ABAC alumnus, who now lives in Leesburg.

### New ABAC Mail Center Hours

**Beginning Nov. 29**

**Monday - Thursday**

**8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. &**

**2:30 - 4:45 p.m.**

**Friday**

**8:30 am - 1:00 pm**

### ABAC Birthdays

**24 Gwynda Shields**

**25 Brenda Graham**

**26 Keith Barber**

**26 Jose Olalde**

**27 Eric Cash**

**27 Doug Hicks**

**27 Faye Smith**

**December**

**2 Ryan Myers**

**3 Brenda Doss**

**4 Kay Powell**

**4 Suzanne Smith**

**5 Holly Lawrence**

**5 Mickie Tompkins**

**5 Nana Whitley**