



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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Medal of Honor Recipient to Speak Friday at Commencement

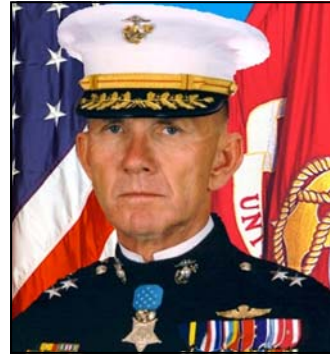
Medal of Honor recipient and retired Major General of the Marine Corps James Livingston will be the speaker at the fall commencement ceremony at ABAC on Friday at 6 p.m. in Gressette Gym.

President Richard Nixon awarded Livingston the Medal of Honor on May 14, 1970 for his bravery in the Republic of Vietnam on May 2, 1968. The official citation states that Livingston was twice painfully wounded by grenade fragments during the battle but "courageously led his men in the destruction of over 100 mutually support-

ing bunkers."

Livingston was born in Telfair County and graduated with a civil engineering degree from Auburn University. He was then commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He also holds a graduate degree in management from Webster University.

For his exemplary duty in the Marine Corps, Livingston also received the Silver Star, Purple Heart, Defense Merito-



Major General Livingston, Retired, USMC

rious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with a gold star. He retired from the Marine Corps in 1995.

Approximately 175 graduates are scheduled to participate in the ceremony.



President and Mrs. David Bridges cordially invite you to a

Holiday Open House

Thursday from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
National Peanut Museum

Located adjacent to the Georgia Museum of Agriculture Welcome Center, 1392 Whiddon Mill Road



Jazz Choir Gets ABAC in the Christmas Spirit

The ABAC Jazz Choir ushered in the Christmas season with their annual holiday performance last week. The ABAC Clarinet Choir as well as Wayne Jones performed holiday selections at the concert.

Victorian Christmas Saturday at the Museum, North Pole Express Dec. 17

The countdown to Christmas begins with the annual Victorian Christmas and North Pole Express events at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village, now operated by ABAC.

Visitors will experience the joy and wonder of days gone by at the Victorian Christmas celebration on Saturday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., and the North Pole Express makes its Christmas steam locomotive run on Dec. 16-17 from 5-8 p.m.

Victorian Christmas events will include a clogging performances starting at 10 a.m. in the Museum Atrium, Wiregrass Dessert Sampling and traditional music featuring the Museum's house band, "Common Thread", First United Methodist Church Choir, Bill Nicholson and Friends, and the Shaw Sisters.

The Country Store will be offering



Cane Grinding will be one of the featured activities this Saturday at the Museum as part of the Victorian Christmas Celebration.

apple cider, pound cake and tea cake samples. Fresh cut Christmas trees will be available for sale from Brumby and White Christmas Tree Farm. Other events include farm fresh produce for sale with an emphasis on winter crops, cane grinding, Bobbin lace-making in the Tift House, pony rides and a petting zoo.

Artisans and craftsmen will also be working throughout the Village. Tickets for the Victorian Christmas are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$5 for children. Children four years of age and under are admitted free of charge.

Athletics Hall of Fame Nominations Due Dec. 15

Nominations continue to be accepted for the ABAC Athletics Hall of Fame. The deadline for nominations is Dec. 15.

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.

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.

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

Smith Named New ABAC Lab Technician

Dr. Charles Smith joined the ABAC staff as the new lab technician in the School of Science and Mathematics on Oct. 31.

"My experiences at ABAC have been great," said Smith. "It is a nice small college, and the faculty and staff have been very accommodating in helping me with my transition to the college."

Smith received his bachelor's degree in industrial chemistry from the University of North Alabama and his Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Vanderbilt University.

He has 26 years of industrial lab experience. He served as technical manager of Southwest Engineers in Slidell, La., for nine years and as director of research and development with Mitco Water Labs in Winter Haven, Fla., for 17 years.

When not working, he is an avid swimmer, walker, and tennis player. He and his wife, Beth, have four children and six grandchildren.

The Museum's 1917 steam locomotive will depart every 20 minutes to the beautifully decorated North Pole at the North Pole Express event. Guests riding the North Pole Express will be able to visit with Santa Claus and listen to Mrs. Claus read the "Polar Express." Visitors to the Museum and Historic Village can enjoy refreshments and watch "The Polar Express" as they await the North Pole Express to depart from the station.

Other festivities include musicians and literacy volunteers selling books. Tickets for the North Pole Express are \$6 per person and must be purchased in advance at the Country Store by calling (229) 391-5205.

For more information, interested persons can visit www.abac.edu/museum.

Davis Named Interim Library Director

Marie Davis has accepted the position of Interim Library Director, according to a recent announcement by Vice President for Academic Affairs Niles Reddick.

"We know that she will continue to maintain the library as a vital resource to students, faculty, and staff during her time as Interim Director," Reddick said.

Reddick also announced that Stephanie Coney will now serve as Technical Services Librarian, and Nicholas Hardin will be the Public Services Librarian. Both have completed course work for their graduate degrees in Library Science.

ABAC Alumni Award Nominations Due Friday

The deadline for nominations for the Alumni Awards at ABAC is Dec. 9. The awards will be presented by the ABAC Alumni Association at the Celebrate ABAC alumni weekend on March 3.

Nomination forms may be obtained by logging onto www.abac.edu/alumni and clicking on the "Alumni Awards" link. Completed nominations may be mailed to the ABAC Alumni Office, ABAC 13, 2802 Moore Highway, Tifton, GA 31793-2601, or returned as an e-mail attachment to the Alumni Association at alumni@abac.edu no later than Dec. 9.

For more information, contact the Alumni Office at (229) 391-4900 or via e-mail at alumni@abac.edu.

Sigma Alpha To Become ABAC's First Sorority

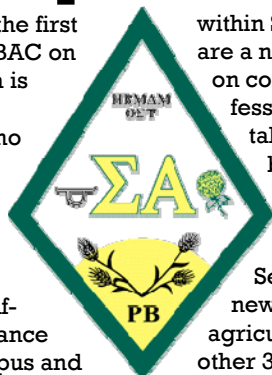
Sigma Alpha will become the first sorority in the history of ABAC on Jan. 20, 2012. Sigma Alpha is the sister sorority to ABAC fraternity Alpha Gamma Rho which was established in 2010.

"We are excited to have a sorority on the campus of ABAC," said Bernice Hughes, Dean of Student Affairs. "This will help to balance out the fraternities on campus and will serve as a gateway for future sororities to develop and make their mark at ABAC."

Sigma Alpha is a sorority focused on agriculture and professional development. The sorority was established in 1978 at Ohio State University. The chapter at ABAC was approved in September, when the Greek organization became a Sorority in Development (SID). The activation date for Sigma Alpha is Jan. 20-21, 2012, which coincides perfectly with ABAC's Spring Rush Week, which begins on Jan. 23.

Ashley Morris, a rural studies major from Newnan, will serve as the first president of Sigma Alpha. Sigma Alpha's advisors are honorary member Sherry Willis and faculty advisor Judy Perry, senior administrative assistant in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

"I hope to set a standard for quality girls



within Sigma Alpha," said Morris. "We are a non-alcoholic sorority that focuses on community, agriculture, and professional development. There was talk about a more social sorority but the agriculture and professional development aspects of Sigma Alpha are a better fit for ABAC and its history."

Seventy percent of Sigma Alpha's new members will be majoring in an agricultural-related field, while the other 30 percent will be in other fields of study. The sorority already has 16 charter members and once rush is over, Sigma Alpha hopes to double that number.

"Sigma Alpha is about girls who want to share in the sisterhood and the fellowship that sororities offer," said Morris. "It's not about quantity. We want people to see Greek life as a beneficial part of campus life, not the stigma that is commonly portrayed."

Members of Sigma Alpha must also be involved in at least one other campus activity in order to join the sorority.

"We don't want our members to make Sigma Alpha the only extracurricular activity during their time at ABAC," said Morris. "That is why we made it mandatory for all members to be involved in at least one other organization on campus."

Those interested in pledging Sigma Alpha or one of the two fraternities on

campus, Alpha Gamma Rho and Kappa Sigma, must have a grade point of average of 2.0. For incoming freshmen, requirements will be based on the high school GPA.

ABAC Birthdays

- 5 Holly Lawrence
- 5 Mickie Tompkins
- 6 Jeff Gibbs
- 9 James McCrimmon

The FOCUS is a weekly 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.

ABAC Family

Andrew Wright presented facts of the Dec. 7, 1941 attacks on Pearl Harbor to the Tifton Kiwanis Club last week.

Troy Spicer was recently published in *Health Policy and Politics*, 4th edition, released in November 2011. He co-authored a chapter "The Impact of Social Networking and the Internet on Healthcare Decisions" with Elizabeth Barnhill.

Dr. Darby Sewell and **Donna Webb** along with two students, Chelsea Ewton and Kristen Ray, attended the FCCLA Cluster Meeting in Atlanta, GA on Nov. 18 - 19.

Dr. Chris Kinsey graduates this weekend with his ED.D in Adult and Career Education from Valdosta State University.



Walden Receives Wine and Spirits Scholarship

Fred Kitchens (l) of Wine and Spirits Wholesalers and Dr. David Bridges (r) present student Randi Walden with a Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of Georgia scholarship worth \$2,776.

Hawsey and Mathis Receive GCPA Certification

Congratulations to Robbie Hawsey and Teri Mathis for receiving their Georgia Certified Purchasing Associate (GCPA) certification. This certification enables them as Procurement professionals to use the acquired skills to perform duties adequately according to Georgia State Law and administrative rules outlined in the GPM, establish workflow and procedures, and the appropriate use of available tools and applications. Many months of hard work, training and testing have been devoted to receive this certification. They have earned the title GCPA behind their names and will continue training and classes for other certifications within the next year.