



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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ABAC Named Military Friendly College for Third Straight Year

For the third consecutive year, Victory Media has awarded Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College recognition as a Military Friendly® School.

“Because of the Veterans Initiative that ABAC started a couple of years ago, I think that our students who are in the military or who have been in the military feel more a part of ABAC and the community,” Jessica Swords, Director of Student Accounts and Veterans Affairs Certifying Official



at ABAC, said.

“We have the Veteran Success Center, priority one registration for veterans, the Student Veterans Organization, and free tutoring for veterans beyond the normal

tutoring hours. I know we have many more students who are veterans than we had when I came here in 2013.”

Swords said the students involved in the military are more willing to participate in ABAC events because of the many benefits the college offers. ABAC has also been named a Purple Heart College and a Top School by Military Advanced Education & Transition for five years in a row.

ABAC also features the Freedom Gallery, an exhibit in Tift Hall which

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State Representative Sam Watson to Speak at Commencement Thurs.

State Representative Sam Watson will be the featured speaker at the ABAC fall commencement ceremony on Thurs. at 10 a.m. in Gressette Gym. A total of 186 graduates are expected to receive their diplomas at the ceremony.



Georgia House of Representatives. He is also a Colquitt County farmer who is the managing partner of Chill C Farms and the Moultrie Melon Company. Watson was the recipient of the 2017 Outstanding Young Alumnus

Award presented by the ABAC Alumni Association in recognition of alumni who have distinguished themselves through professional achievement, community service and service to ABAC.

Selected as the Freshman Legislator of the Year by the Georgia Chamber of Commerce in 2014, Watson is the Rural Caucus chairman in the House of Representatives and serves

on the House agriculture committee. He is also the vice-chair on the appropriations economic development subcommittee, vice chair on transportation, vice chair on natural resources, vice chair on special rules, and secretary on the retirement and ways and means committee.

A graduate of the University of Georgia with his bachelor’s degree in agriculture, Watson is also a graduate of the Georgia Agri-Leaders Forum, Leadership Colquitt County, and Leadership Georgia.

Watson is a member of the Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, the Georgia Cattlemen’s Association, the Colquitt County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, and the Colquitt County Young Farmers Association. A deacon at the First Baptist Church of Moultrie, Watson and his wife, Emily, have two children, Lily and Lucy.

**This will be the final edition of the FOCUS for 2017.
The FOCUS will return sometime in January.**

OneUSG Open Labs Sessions

OneUSG time management software goes live December 17. Human Resources invites you to attend any of the open labs listed below, if you need personal assistance with submitting absences requests, time, or approving time. These lab sessions are targeted for biweekly staff employees and time approvers of biweekly staff employees. All lab sessions will be held at Health Science Building, room 167. Contact Richard Spancake at rspancake@abac.edu for more information.

Monday, December 18 - 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 19 - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Tifton Student Receives ABAC Foundation Scholarship

Ali Rippy, a bachelor's degree nursing major from Tifton, recently received an ABAC Foundation Scholarship from South Georgia Banking Company to attend ABAC.

"I am very grateful for South Georgia Banking Company's financial contribution for my education and my future," Rippy said. "This scholarship has

allowed me to finish my degree without taking out loans. I'm very appreciative that this local bank gives to our community, and I plan to do the same after completing my education."

South Georgia Banking Company is a Gold Level Sponsor for the upcoming An Evening for ABAC scholarship fundraising

event on March 2, 2018. For more information on ABAC scholarship opportunities for businesses, interested persons can contact Deidre Martin, Director of Advancement/Development in the Office of College Advancement, at dmartin@abac.edu or at (229) 391-4907.

Update From the Center for Teaching and Learning at ABAC

Faculty News:

- Dr. Jeff Newberry's book review for Jason Rekulak's *The Impossible Fortress*, was recently published in *The Florida Review*. To read the review visit <https://floridareview.cah.ucf.edu/article/moving-beyond-the-boundaries/>.

Upcoming Opportunities:

- The USG Teaching and Learning Conference (April 4 - 6, 2018) is now accepting proposals. For more information about the conference visit http://www.usg.edu/facultydevelopment/teaching_learning_conference
- Interested in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning? Consider applying for the USG's SoTL Teaching Fellows program. Contact Dr. Jordan Cofer at jcofer@abac.edu for more information
- Gordon State College's is now accepting proposals for their 16th annual "Teaching Matters" conference (March 8-9, 2018). For more info or to apply visit <http://www.gordonstate.edu/teachingmatters/home>

If you have any announcements, please email ctl@abac.edu

ABAC Faculty and Staff Holiday Luncheon on Friday

The ABAC Faculty and Staff Annual Holiday Luncheon will be held Friday at 12 p.m. in the Nickelodeon on the bottom floor of Branch Hall. Meats will be provided. RSVP at the link below and sign up to bring your favorite side item. Contact Amy Willis at awillis@abac.edu for more information. RSVP at <https://iweb.abac.edu/luncheon/Holiday/RSVP.cfm> (on-campus access only)

ABAC Alumni Awards Nominations Due Friday

The deadline is Dec. 15 for the Alumni Awards nominations at ABAC. The awards will be presented during Homecoming 2018 on April 6.

The Alumni Awards nominations should provide specific details about the person being nominated. Nominations can be from alumni, friends, family members, ABAC

faculty and staff, or the public. Nominees must have attended ABAC. Graduating from the college is not a mandate for the nomination. Anyone who attended ABAC and has obtained educational credit is eligible for nomination. Once nominated, the application is valid for two years.

Awards are based on

professional achievement, community service, and service to the college. Visit the ABAC website at www.abac.edu/alumni to complete the nomination form. ABAC personnel will then reach out to those nominated to get any additional information needed for consideration.

Doc Severinsen, Byron Stripling Quartet to Perform on January 11

—“Heeeeere’s Johnny!” That lead-in, followed by a big band trumpet blast, dominated late night television across the country for 30 years. The ‘Johnny’ was Johnny Carson, the announcer was Ed McMahon, and the bandleader was Doc Severinsen. Americans welcomed the always entertaining telecast into their living rooms week after week until Carson retired.



“Americans still prove their love and respect for Doc Severinsen by pouring into his concerts,” ABAC Arts Connection Director Wayne Jones said. “At ninety years old, Doc still has the magic. He can hit the high notes, a result of continued commitment to his studio and refinement of his craft.”

Doc Severinsen and his Big Band didn’t stop performing after the final telecast; they hit the road and are still entertaining crowds today. And on Jan. 11, he’s coming to Tifton for a 7 p.m. performance at the Tift County High School Performing Arts Center as a part of the ABAC Presents! Performing Arts Series at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

Severinsen will be joined by the Byron Stripling Quartet in the fabulous show titled “Trumpet Kings.” Stripling is a master trumpeter with a gifted voice and a captivating on-stage presence. He has played roles on Broadway and is a soloist for the Boston Pops Orchestra. Currently he serves as artistic director and conductor of the Columbus Jazz Orchestra.

“Don’t miss this once in a lifetime opportunity to see Doc and Byron do what they do best, entertain you by bringing back memorable tunes from years gone by,” Jones said.

A limited number of tickets will be available at the door at a cost of \$30 for adults and \$15 for students. For more information, contact Jones at (229) 391-4819.

Jones said the Severinsen performance replaces “Tuesdays with Morrie” starring Jamie Farr that was scheduled in the performing arts series for Nov. 30, 2017. The production company handling that performance cancelled because of scheduling difficulties.

The ABAC Performing Arts Series is supported in part by the Georgia Council for the Arts through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. Georgia Council for the Arts also receives support from its partner agency, the National Endowment for the Arts.

ABAC Will Close for Holidays December 24

All offices at ABAC will close for the holidays beginning Dec. 24. The college will resume its normal hours of operation on Jan. 2, 2018 from 8 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. on Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Fridays. Spring term classes begin on Monday, January 8, 2018. For more information on the spring term schedule, interested persons can visit the ABAC web site at www.abac.edu.

ABAC Athletics Hall of Fame Nominations Due Friday

Nominations for the 2018 class of the ABAC Athletics Hall of Fame are now being accepted. The deadline for nominations is Dec. 15. The Hall of Fame ceremony will be held on April 6, 2018 as a part of the annual Homecoming festivities.

ABAC Athletics Director Alan Kramer said 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.

Those interested in nominating someone for the ABAC Athletics Hall of Fame can visit the ABAC website at www.abac.edu/athletics/hall-of-fame to

complete the nomination form.

Kramer said athletic achievement as well as integrity, sportsmanship, and character will be considered. He said the college is also looking for individuals who attended ABAC and then went on to coach high school or college teams to state or national titles.

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focuses on ABAC alumnus Harold Bascom Durham, Jr., the only Tifton native to receive the Medal of Honor.

Victory Media is the leading trademarked program that targets and grades colleges and companies nationwide, helping veterans and military families make knowledgeable decisions

about education and career opportunities. Its aim is to benchmark and identify the institutions which have programs and procedures that lead to positive outcomes.

The Military Friendly® ratings and resources were developed through more than a decade of proprietary research. This service provides active and retired military with the

transparent, accurate information needed to make decisions about civilian careers and educational opportunities.

For more information, interested persons can visit <http://militaryfriendly.com/> in December for online access to the 2017 Guide to Military Friendly Colleges and Universities. The list of Top Schools can be found at www.mae-kmi.com.