



# FOCUS

## ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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### Brunswick Student Receives Donaldson Award Friday at Commencement

William C. Rogers, an environmental horticulture major from Brunswick, received the prestigious George P. Donaldson award at the fall commencement ceremony on Friday at ABAC.

Rogers, who served as vice president of the ABAC Horticulture Club this year, was selected for the award based on a combination of academics and extracurricular activities. The award included a plaque and a check for \$500 from the ABAC Alumni Association. Donaldson served as president of ABAC from 1947-61.

Medal of Honor recipient and retired Major General of the Marine Corps James Livingston enthralled the audience during his delivery of the commencement address.

"Your diploma is a measure of your



ABAC President David Bridges (left) and ABAC Alumni Association President George Granade presented Williams Rogers the Donaldson award at commencement Friday.

be your own. Learn the pathway to your personal success."

Livingston told the 150 graduates that "nothing worth having comes easily or quickly. Achievement is best obtained through honest hard work. Give back to this great nation we call America."

The Donaldson Award was just one of the many recognitions and accomplishments Rogers received while at ABAC. He was the recipient of the Georgia

personal success," Livingston, a native of Telfair County, said. "But how you achieve and define success in your life is strictly up to you. After tonight, your decisions will

State Golf Foundation Monty Moncrief Turfgrass Scholarship and an ABAC Turfgrass Scholarship. He made both the Dean's and Distinguished academic honors' lists.

The son of Sandra Rogers, Rogers has been an active member in a variety of clubs and organizations on campus, including the ABAC Horticulture Club, ABAC Turf Club, and the ABAC AET Club. This year he received the ABAC Horticulture Club Outstanding Member award. He worked at the college's Torbett-Dobrosky Golf Facility and also served as a student leader for the Fall 2011 Stallion Day.

Outside of ABAC, Rogers is a student member of both the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and the Sports Turf Managers Association. After graduation, his goal is to obtain an entry level position as an assistant golf course superintendent as a pathway to becoming a golf course superintendent.

### Employee Holiday Lunch Wednesday at Noon in the Lakeside Grand Lobby

Join the ABAC Human Resources Department in Holiday fellowship this Wednesday at noon. HR will provide the meat and employees should bring a side dish to share. If you are planning on attending let Nancy Anthony know what you will be bringing by noon today so they can get an accurate head count.



### Hughes Puckers Up for a Pig

Bernice Hughes, Dean of Students, puckered up Monday night to kiss the pig at the Annual Late Night Pancake dinner. Hughes was the "winner" of the Kiss the Pig Competition hosted by the ABAC Ag Business Club. Participants were given jars with their name on it, the one that received the most donations had to kiss the pig. Hughes raised \$57.16 in donations for the club. Stacy Ladson, President of the Ag Business Club, is pictured holding the pig.

## Tully Pops the Question on Graduation Day with the Tifton Gazette

Patrick Tully of Ponte Beach, Fla., struggled with a learning disability from a very young age and was repeatedly told he would never attain a college degree. Now, after six years and almost 200 hours in the classrooms of ABAC, Tully can prove his doubters wrong when he takes the stage to give the invocation and receive his bachelor's degree in golf course and turf management at

ABAC's commencement on Dec. 9.

His learning disability showed itself at an early age. He didn't speak until the age of five years old. Even at that time, he was aware that there was something different about him. In high school was when his disability really became a hardship.

"I went to a great high school before coming to ABAC," said Tully. "But the school was geared toward the Ivy League set so I struggled a lot. The learning disability just added to it and



Patrick Tully proposed to Hannah Fox Friday morning at Chick-fil-a, where they first met, using this story.

left me unprepared for college. That was when people began to tell me that I would never receive a college diploma."

With a lot of support from his parents, Steve and Chris Tully; tons of encouragement from his girlfriend; Penny Chestnut, advisor of the Baptist Collegiate Ministries; and his relationship with the Lord is what motivated Tully to push forward in his goal for a college degree.

"I took every learning support class that ABAC offered," said Tully. "I spent a lot of time at the Academic Assistance Center on campus and I had to repeat some of my classes, but ABAC worked with me so that I could receive my degree."

While at ABAC, Tully has helped to establish a Young Life chapter in Tifton. Young Life is an international ministry that spreads the word of God to youth around the world. His goal is to be employed with one of the Young Life camps as a landscaper came to fruition in November when he was offered a position at a camp near Ocala, Fla.

Tully also plans to propose to Hannah Fox, his girlfriend of four and a half years, the morning of graduation. Fox, a Tifton native and Tift County High School graduate, is a 2009 graduate of ABAC and works at 1st Community Bank in Tifton.

"I am going to propose with this news article during breakfast at the place we first met, Chick-fil-a," said Tully. "I'm hoping nobody spoils the surprise before I can pop the question."

## Hall of Fame Nominations Due Thursday

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

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](http://www.abac.edu/halloffame).

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



## Santa Claus is Coming to the Museum This Weekend

Kids of all ages can ride the North Pole Express to see Santa Claus from 5-8 p.m. on Dec. 16-17 at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC. Tickets for the North Pole Express are \$6 per person and must be purchased in advance at the Country Store. No tickets will be sold at the event. The North Pole Express will run rain or shine. To purchase tickets or for more information on the North Pole Express, prospective passengers can contact the Museum at (229) 391-5205 or visit the web site at [www.abac.edu/museum](http://www.abac.edu/museum). The Museum's 1917 steam locomotive will depart for the North Pole every 20 minutes. Guests riding the North Pole Express will be able to visit with Santa Claus and listen to Mrs. Claus read the "Polar Express." Visitors will also be able to enjoy refreshments as they await to depart from the station.

## Fulbright Scholar Immerses Herself In ABAC Teaching Position

As a Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Zsuzanna Boegre enjoys the educational interaction when she shares the culture and customs of her native Hungary with her students at ABAC. Just as the students learn from her, she learns from them about a sport she had never seen in person until she came to Tifton. That sport is football.

"In Hungary, we do not have American football," Boegre said. "Culturally, Hungary is quite different as well. I was surprised that there wasn't any public transportation in Tifton. Public transportation is how we travel at home."

Boegre is an associate professor in the Department of Sociology at Peter Pazmany Catholic University in Piliscsaba, Hungary. She and her husband, Istvan Bartos, are living in Tifton this year as a part of the Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence program.

The program assists U.S. higher education institutions in expanding programs of academic exchange. By sup-



porting non-U.S. scholars through grants for teaching at institutions that might not have a strong international component, both the U.S. institution and the Fulbright Scholar benefit. "When looking for the

next Fulbright Scholar for ABAC, we wanted someone who we thought would be a good fit for the college," said Dr. Darby Sewell, Dean of the School of Human Sciences. "We found that her area of research expertise would be an interesting addition to our Rural Studies program, and we had never had a Fulbright Scholar in Sociology or from that part of the world."

Boegre is contributing her expertise by teaching Introduction to Sociology

and Introduction to Rural Studies this fall. In return, she says the students have provided her with a more global perspective. And when she is not teaching, students are always inviting her to campus events.

"I am very satisfied with the students here," said Boegre. "They want to learn and ask questions. I really enjoy working with them, and I try to give my best to encourage them so they can achieve a high level of critical thinking."

Although there was a little bit of culture shock at first, Boegre has already taken advantage of the ABAC pool and track, participated in some yoga classes, and attended that first football game.

She was impressed with all the activities and clubs the campus has to offer students.

"At the universities in Hungary, there are no student organizations," said Boegre. "Here they are quite independent at organizing their own activities and social life. I think that is very useful."

Boegre's academic background includes an undergraduate degree in sociology from Eotvos Lorand University, a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Economics and Political Science, and a doctorate in history from the University of Debrecen.

She has previously worked with the Centre for Regional Studies of Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Pecs and as a media analyst for the Institute of Public Opinion Poll in Budapest. She began lecturing at Peter Pazmany in 1995 and became an associate professor in 2003.

Boegre and her husband will remain at ABAC until the academic year comes to an end in May, 2012. She will then return to Hungary and continue her teaching as a member of the humanities faculty in Piliscsaba.



### ABAC Holiday Open House Brings Christmas Cheer

President David Bridges and his wife, Kim, hosted a Holiday Open House on Thursday at the National Peanut Museum at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture Welcome Center. A fantastic crowd was on hand to sample Christmas goodies and exchange holiday greetings. This photo was taken on the second floor of the Peanut Museum looking down through the top of the giant Christmas tree.

### ABAC Birthdays

- 12 Vivian Jackson
- 14 Vickie Holloway
- 16 Brian Butler
- 16 Joe Glossup

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