



# FOCUS

## ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

VOLUME XLVIV

ISSUE 23

DECEMBER 13, 2010

### Hull Student Wins Top Award at Commencement Ceremony

ABAC President David Bridges (left) and ABAC Alumni Association Vice President George Granade (right) present the prestigious George P. Donaldson Award to Cody Seagraves, a forest resources major from Hull, Ga., at Friday night's commencement ceremony at ABAC. Seventeen of the 170 graduates received bachelor's degrees, the most in the history of ABAC.



### The Goat That Ate Christmas

Luke Griffin enjoys feeding a goat on Saturday at the Victorian Christmas Celebration at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC. Besides the petting zoo, the day also featured wagon rides, syrup-making, train rides, caroling, and the opening of a new carving exhibit at the Museum Gallery.

### Take a Ride on the North Pole Express

The North Pole Express will make its Christmas steam locomotive run on Friday and Saturday from 5-8 p.m. at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC. Tickets are \$6 per person and MUST be purchased in advance at the Museum Welcome Center. Children two years old and younger are free. The North Pole Express will run rain or shine.

Mrs. Claus will read the story of the Polar Express and the Museum's 1917 steam locomotive will then travel to the beautifully decorated North Pole.

Elves will guide visitors through the site to marvel at the decorations. Free hot chocolate and teacakes will be provided before visiting with Santa, who will give each child a small gift.

The North Pole Express event is presented by the Save Our Steam train (SOS) group. For more information, interested persons can visit [www.abac.edu/museum](http://www.abac.edu/museum).

## Gressette Gym Shines at Graduation

Gressette Gym had a little brighter shine to it at the fall commencement ceremony on Friday night. That's because of the tremendous number of hours that Sodexo employees worked to replace all of the lights in the gym. Thanks to the Sodexo maintenance department, a total of 55 new lights were installed to replace the old bulbs in the building. "This project has been in the works for over a year," said Andy Bihl, Director of the ABAC Facility Services, operated by Sodexo. "The original lights were 463 watt bulbs, but they were replaced with 343 watts, which is a reduction of 25 percent in energy consumption."

In addition to this advantage, the new bulbs no longer require the same amount of time to warm up so they can be turned off between classes, reducing electrical use in the building by 67 percent. Bihl said that life expectancy of the bulbs is almost double the life of the old lights, reducing the cost of maintenance. He also said candle power will more than double because of the technological advances made in the bulbs.

"The use of this technology made it a no-brainer in what we should use in Gressette Gym," said Bihl.

This project is a part of a series of special-funded energy saving projects scheduled to be completed at ABAC this academic year. The University System of Georgia allocates special funding each year for repairs and campus improvements. In this current climate of shrinking state dollars, Bihl said projects of this nature are an excellent use of these special funds.

"The college has been aggressive in our approach to energy savings across campus," said John Clemens, Vice President of Fiscal Affairs. "Surprisingly, the replacement of old lighting fixtures with newer ones can save the campus thousands of dollars.

"In the coming months, we have planned to replace more light fixtures in various buildings and parking lots, install new temperature management devices in buildings, and complete other energy saving projects. By using this special funding for this purpose, the college will reap the benefits in lower energy costs for years to come."



### President's Holiday Open House

President David Bridges and his wife, Kim, hosted a holiday open house at the National Peanut Museum at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture on Thursday for the entire campus community. The gigantic live tree and fantastic refreshments made for a fine evening of fun and fellowship.



### Galliano 'Death Rock'

Samantha Galliano, a sophomore art education major from Tifton, displayed her latest work, "Death Rock," at the Fall Art Show on Thursday night at ABAC. Galliano also had two other pieces as a part of the exhibit.

## Stirring the Saturday Syrup at the Georgia Museum

Ray Smith and Earl Bennett stir the cane juice in the syrup making pot on Saturday at the Victorian Christmas Celebration at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC. The cane syrup made on site at the Museum makes a great Christmas present or stocking stuffer. You can pick up a bottle today at the Museum's country store located in the Tifton Welcome Center off Whiddon Mill Road.



## ABAC, TCHS Partner in Near Peer Service Learning Program

In an effort to increase access and readiness for the college experience for students in Tift County, ABAC and Tift County High School (TCHS) have received a grant from the University System of Georgia (USG) to develop a Near Peer Service Learning program.

The program is being launched through the development of service learning courses, which deploy students at USG campuses as "college coaches" for seniors at high schools in which institutions have strong collaborative working relationships. Seniors identified for the program are from groups who are traditionally underrepresented at the college level.

The Near Peer program will help to guarantee that the students served during their senior year successfully apply to and subsequently enroll in an institution of higher education.

"Our students, parents, and teachers all recognize the importance of students knowing how to navigate college applications as well as financial aid forms," said Dr. Julie Rucker, teacher and grant



Those present to finalize the partnership agreement between ABAC and TCHS for the Near Peer Service Learning Program Grant were (l-r): Amy Warren, Interim Department Head of Family and Consumer Sciences and Education and Assistant Professor of Education; Dr. Darby Sewell, Dean of the School of Human Sciences at ABAC; Donna Webb, Director of Enrollment Services at ABAC; Dr. Willie Miles, Principal of Tift County High School; Betty McCorvey, Grants and Development Director for ABAC; and Dr. Julie Rucker, teacher and grant writer at TCHS.

of the college culture through a variety of activities," said Dr. Darby Sewell, Dean of the ABAC School of Human Sciences. "We are excited about the relationships that will build as the college students mentor the high school students and encourage them to continue their education beyond Tift County High School." Funding for the Near Peer pro-

### ABAC Birthdays

- 13 Gwendolyn Hunter
- 14 Vickie Holloway
- 16 John Bailey
- 16 Brian Butler
- 16 Joe Glossup
- 17 Stephanie Holcombe
- 18 Bam Pirkle
- 19 Ana Martinez
- 19 Doris Roundtree

writer at TCHS. "We want our high school students to know they have options which include attending college."

Rucker said that ABAC and TCHS will work together to develop a program that will be implemented from August to December of 2011.

"The project design is student-centered, focusing on the ABAC student mentoring the high school student through the fall semester of 2011 in all the various aspects of applying to college and communicating an awareness

program is provided through Georgia's College Access Challenge Grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The USG directs this statewide grant in collaboration with the Governor's Office and Alliance of Education Agency Heads.

For more information on the Near Peer Service Learning program, interested persons can contact Sewell at (229) 391-4810 or via e-mail at [dsewell@abac.edu](mailto:dsewell@abac.edu).