



# FOCUS

## ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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### LaGrange Student Wins Top Award at ABAC Commencement

Laura Daniel Major, a LaGrange resident who earned two bachelor's degrees in diversified agriculture and rural studies, received the prestigious George P. Donaldson award at the fall commencement ceremony on Friday at ABAC.

Dr. Tim Marshall, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, was the featured speaker at the event.

The wife of Glen Major of LaGrange, Major has been named to the prestigious President's List with a perfect 4.0 grade point average three times during her career at ABAC. She has also been named to the Dean's List five times. Major was the recipient of the Georgia Cattleman's Association Foundation Scholarship, the Wax Company Scholarship, and the Georgia Junior Cattleman's Association Beef Industry Challenge Scholarship.

The daughter of Larry (ABAC Class of '78) and Ann Daniel, Major was an active member of the ABAC Cattleman's Association. She served as secretary from 2010-2011, vice president from 2011-2013, was a member of the ABAC Beef team from 2009-2013, co-chaired



Laura Daniel Major (center), a LaGrange resident who earned two bachelor's degrees in diversified agriculture and rural studies, received the prestigious George P. Donaldson award at the fall commencement ceremony. ABAC President David Bridges (left) and Alumni President Keith Rucker (right) presented her with the award.

the ABAC Steer and Heifer Show in 2011, and completed the Masters of Beef Advocacy Program.

Major has also been an avid member of the Rural Studies Club at ABAC since 2010. She has attended a number of conferences for the club including the Celebrating Rural Georgia Conference in Tifton; the Okra to Opera Conference

in Spartanburg, S.C.; and the Auburn-Montgomery Liberal Arts Conference in Montgomery, Ala. She also assisted in the Chick-fil-A Spirit Nights to help raise money for the club. Major also participated in Baptist Collegiate Ministries from 2009-11.

Outside of ABAC, Major is a member of the Red Angus Association of America and the Georgia Cattleman's Association, where she has written articles for publications including the American Red Angus Association Magazine, the Junior Red Angus Association Newsletter, the Georgia Cattleman's Magazine, and the Georgia Junior Cattleman's Newsletter. As a member of the National Junior Red Angus Association, she was selected as Member of the Year in 2012, served as the National President from 2011-2012, and was the National Fundraising Director from 2010-2011.

A total of 197 graduates participated in the ceremony. ABAC will close for the holidays beginning Dec. 21 and reopen on Jan. 2, 2014. Classes open for the spring semester on Jan. 8, 2014.

### North Pole Express at Museum of Agriculture Thursday & Friday

Children of all ages can ride the North Pole Express to see Santa Claus from 5-8 p.m. on Dec. Thurs. & Friday at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC.

The Museum's 1917 Vulcan steam locomotive will depart for the North Pole every 20 minutes. Guests will be able to listen to Mrs. Claus read the holiday classic, "The Polar Express" in the Clyatt Cabin before boarding the North Pole Express to visit with Santa Claus and enjoy the movie version of "The Polar Express" in a winter wonderland.

Tickets for the North Pole



Express are available now for \$6 per person and must be purchased in advance at the Country Store. Tickets will not be sold at the event. The North Pole Express will run in all kinds of weather.

The Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village, Gallery, and Country Store will be closed from Dec. 22, 2013 - Jan. 1, 2014 for the holidays. The Country Store will be open for holiday shoppers through Dec. 21 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Hours of operation from Jan. 2-31, 2014 are 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Thursday and Friday for the Museum, Tift House, and Gallery. Admission is reduced to \$4 per person. Children four and under are free. All three venues will be closed Sunday through Wednesday in January.

The Country Store is open Tuesday through Saturday during January.

For more information, interested persons can contact the Museum at (229) 391-5205 or visit the web site at [www.abac.edu/museum](http://www.abac.edu/museum).

# ABAC, ABAC on the Square & Museum Holiday Hours

All offices at the ABAC main campus and ABAC on the Square will close for the holidays on Dec. 20.

The college will resume its normal hours of operation on Jan. 2, 2014 from 8 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. on Monday - Thursday and 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Fridays.

Spring semester classes begin on Jan. 8, 2014.

The Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC will be closed from Dec. 22, 2013 through Jan. 1, 2014 for the holidays. The Country Store will be open for holiday shoppers through Dec. 21 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Hours of operation from Jan. 2-31, 2014 will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday and Friday for the Museum, Tift House, and Gallery. Admission is reduced to \$4 per person. Children four and under are free.

On Saturdays in January, the Museum, Gallery, Historic Village, and Vulcan Steam Train will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$8 for seniors, \$10 for adults, \$5 for children five years of age and older, and free for children four years old and under. The Museum will resume normal operating hours on Feb. 1, 2014.

**CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS**



## Get More Involved in Staff Forum with a Leadership Position

Interested in a more active role of Staff Forum? You're in luck. There is currently an opening in the Staff Forum leadership team. This Vice-Chair position is a commitment of three and a half years. The first one and a half years are as the Vice-Chair and then the final two years are as the Chair of Staff Forum. Elections will be held at the next Staff Forum meeting on Jan. 29 at 3:30 p.m. If you are interested in this position, please contact Dr. Chris Kinsey at [ckinsey@abac.edu](mailto:ckinsey@abac.edu).

## Stafford Hall Supports Tifton Parade

Members of Stafford Hall participated in the City of Tifton's Christmas parade on Dec. 7. Elisabeth O'Quinn accompanied students Carlton Brooks, Tinsley Kennedy, Jessica Gorseth, Jalen Williams and Lindsey Partridge in Dean Dill Driscoll's WWII Jeep Wrangler. The Jeep represented National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day which was also that Saturday.



## ABAC Birthdays

19 Doris Roundtree	19 Ana Martinez
20 Donna Webb	20 Ben Thorne
23 Ray Lundy	24 Susan Thompson
24 Kip Hall	25 Gwen Anderson
25 Shubha Chatterjee	27 Thalia Escobedo
28 JoAnn Pritchett	30 Avijit Kar

### January

2 Abul Sheikh	3 Gina Wilson
5 Brenda Corbin	



*The FOCUS will return on January 6. Have a wonderful holiday!*

The FOCUS is an 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.