



FOCUS

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ABAC To Close Campus for Electrical Repair 5:30 Tuesday

Contractors will replace high voltage electrical equipment on the campus beginning at 7 a.m. on Dec. 22, 2010. Therefore, electrical service to the entire campus must be disconnected. Because the "shutdown" will mean that there will be no power to any part of campus, the College will cease operations at 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 21, 2010. This means that the holiday break for ABAC will begin at the close of business on Tuesday and continue through Jan. 3, 2011.

To prepare for this campus closure, everyone is asked to shut down their computers, printers, and any office equipment that could be damaged due to unstable electrical power by Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. All freezers and refrigerators should also be cleaned out by this time.

Employees should not come to campus on Dec. 22 or 23. If you wish to return to work after Dec. 23, 2010, but before Jan. 3, 2011, you may do so, but you should verify that power has been restored by calling 391-5225 to hear an update on campus operations.



AT&T Supports ABAC Scholarship Program

AT&T recently presented the ABAC Foundation with a check for \$1,250 which ABAC Vice President for External Affairs and Advancement Keith Barber said will be used for ABAC scholarships and retention efforts. On hand for the ceremony were State Representative Tony McBrayer, ABAC Director of Enrollment Services Donna Webb, AT&T Regional Manager of External and Legislative Affairs Courtney Brinson, ABAC President David Bridges, and State Senator John Crosby.

ABAC Faculty Member Receives Regents' Teaching Excellence Award

Melanie Partlow, assistant professor of mathematics and Quality Enhancement Plan Director at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, has been selected as one of the recipients of the 2011 Regents' Teaching Excellence Awards.

The awards program from the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia recognizes and rewards outstanding teaching by individual faculty members and outstanding teaching in a single academic program or department. The Teaching Excellence award honors exemplary teaching that significantly improves student success.

Each year, recipients are selected from nominations submitted by the presidents of the 35 USG institutions. Each of the award winners receives \$5,000 and a certificate of achievement. Partlow will be presented the award at a ceremony in Atlanta in March.

Partlow received the good news from



Dr. Niles Reddick, Vice President of Academic Affairs at ABAC.

"It was quite unexpected," said Partlow. "I was actually at home when I got the call that the letter arrived. It was really a neat experience because my best friend and my husband were both at

the house when the phone rang. Dr. Reddick asked me if it was all right for him to open the letter, and he read it to me over the phone. I am so excited to receive this honor."

Reddick wrote a recommendation for Partlow for the competition.

"She consistently receives high evaluations from her students because she teaches math courses with a passion and love for the material," Reddick said. "She has a plethora of teaching experience, professional development, and other activities and accolades."

Most recently, those accolades in-

clude Partlow being selected as the recipient of the W. Bruce and Rosalyn Ray Donaldson Award for Teaching Excellence at the 2010 Honors Day event.

Partlow has been a part of the ABAC faculty since 1998. She received her bachelor's degree in mathematics from Radford University and her master's degree in mathematics from the University of West Florida.

As Quality Enhancement Plan Coordinator, she is also in charge of 'Hello World', a project that allows the college to videotape classes and archive them for students to view on their own time. The technology for this program was provided for the college through a \$48,297 grant from AT&T in 2009.

She has also been involved locally in the community, serves as an active participant in her field through state-wide development of math e-core coursework and assists with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) efforts for other institutions.

ABAC Foundation Inducts New President's Club Members

Four new members were recently inducted into the prestigious President's Club at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. ABAC President David Bridges thanked the new members for their support of the college and emphasized how important their contributions are for the life of the institution.

New members include Herbert and Meade Bynum (posthumously) of Blakely; Reverend Dan and Frances Eidson of Tifton; Keith and Dr. Julie Rucker of Tifton, and Mary Sumner of Tifton.

After graduating from ABAC in 1948, Herbert Bynum threw himself into the farm supply business, founding Tampa Farm Services, Inc. He became a huge supplier of eggs to major retailers across the southern part of the United States. He and his wife, Meade, had three sons who became a part of the family operations. Through his will, Bynum designated a \$1 million gift to benefit ABAC, creating the Herbert and Meade Bynum Endowment for Student Enrichment in Rural Studies, ABAC's newest bachelor degree program. Through this endowment, students will gain knowledge of America's dynamic rural history and culture.

The Eidsons were inducted into the President's Club when their son, Daniel, funded the Frances P. Eidson Honorary Scholarship to honor his mother's retirement from education in 2008. The scholarship provides support for students attaining degrees in either education or mathematics. Mrs. Eidson received her undergraduate, master's and educational specialist degrees with a focus on



At the ABAC President's Club induction ceremony were (l-r) Melvin Merrill, President of the ABAC Foundation, Inc., Mike Bynum (representing parents Herbert and Meade Bynum), Mary Sumner, Frances Eidson, Reverend Dan Eidson, Julie Rucker, Keith Rucker, and ABAC President David Bridges.

mathematics. She spent 18 years teaching at Tift County High School.

In 2008, Dr. Julie Rucker (class of 1990) decided to surprise her husband, Keith, (class of 1991) with an induction into the ABAC President's Club for his 40th birthday. Keith Rucker is a dedicated member of the ABAC Family, with service on the ABAC Alumni Association Board of Directors and as a volunteer at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village, now operated by ABAC. He was also the recipient of the J. Lamar Branch Outstanding Leadership in Agriculture Award from the ABAC Alumni Association.

Perhaps Rucker's most noted work for the college was his creation of ABAC's academic mace. An avid wood-

worker, he created the mace for the college and it is used in every convocation and graduation ceremony. He has also served as past president of the Agrirama Foundation and Tifton Kiwanis Club. Sumner and her children established the Charles Mack Sumner Endowment for Students in memory of her late husband, Mack. This endowment will be awarded to students graduating from Tift County High School who have financial need and a history of academic excellence. Mack Sumner entered ABAC in 1956 and took classes when finances were

available, graduating in 1960. He then went to Georgia Southern to pursue a teaching degree and graduated with bachelor's and master's degrees in education. He met Mary while there, and they were married for 46 years until his death in July, 2009.

ABAC Vice President for External Affairs and Advancement Keith Barber said that members of the President's Club provide the nucleus of private support to ABAC. Their gifts represent 75 percent of the ABAC Foundation's support from individuals.

For more information on the President's Club, interested persons can contact the Office of College Advancement at (229) 391-4900.

Museum of Agriculture Reduces Admission Price for January

For the month of January, the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College will offer a lower price for admission Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The reduced cost of admission is \$4 per person. Children five years old and younger will be free of charge. This price admits visitors to the Agriculture museum and the Gallery; however the historic village



will be closed Tuesday - Thursday.

On Fridays during January, the Museum village will be open from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors, \$4 for children ages 5 - 16, and free of charge to children four and under. On Saturdays during January, admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$6 for children ages 5 - 16, and free of charge to children four and under. The Museum and

village are closed on Sundays and Mondays.

The Museum and village closed on Dec. 19 for the holidays and will reopen at 10 a.m. on Jan. 4, 2011. The Welcome Center at the Museum will close for the holidays on Dec. 21 and re-open on Jan. 4, 2011. The Museum's RV Park will remain open throughout the holidays.

For more information on the Georgia Museum of Agriculture, interested persons can call 386-3851 or visit the web site at www.abac.edu/museum.

Banquet Honors Wilson

The Leaders, Evolving and Developing (L.E.A.D.) living/ learning community and the Student African American Brotherhood (S.A.A.B.) honored Fall 2010 ABAC graduate Spencer Wilson on Dec. 10 with a banquet in the Student Center. Vice President for External Affairs and Advancement Keith Barber delivered a rousing speech which challenged all in attendance to greater heights in their personal and professional lives. Wilson is the oldest of seven brothers and sisters and the first in his family to attend and graduate from college. Director of Student Success Don Parks coordinated the event.



Newberry Nominated for Second Pushcart Prize

Dr. Jeff Newberry, associate professor of English in the School of Liberal Arts at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, is in the running for a Pushcart Prize for his poem "Childhood", nominated by the editors of the Hobble Creek Review. Newberry is not unfamiliar with the Pushcart Prize, having been nominated in 2008 for his poem, "Thick, Like Blood".



"It is a real honor to be nominated," said Newberry. "I was really excited when I found out the Hobble Creek Review had selected me because I love the writers and the journal. I am very fortunate to have this happen to me twice."

Newberry also credits ABAC as part of his good fortune.

"ABAC has always supported my

writing career," said Newberry. "It is so great to be in a place that not only supports, but celebrates your work and accomplishments."

Newberry's "Childhood" is the opening poem from his book "Brackish", a collection of poems he began composing as a doctoral student in Athens. It has themes focusing on class, father and son dynamics, music, and growing up in Florida.

Newberry received his bachelor's degree in English in 1998 and his master's degree in English in 2000 from the University of West Florida. He recently completed his doctoral studies and received his Ph.D. in English from the University of Georgia this year. At ABAC, he serves as an advisor to the campus literary magazine, Pegasus.

The Pushcart Prize Best of the Small Presses series has been published every year since 1976 and is the most honored literary project in America. Hundreds of presses and thousands of writers of short stories, poetry and essays have been represented in the pages of the annual collections.

Services For Eric Cash On Wednesday at 11 a.m.

Dr. Eric Cash, faculty advisor for The Stallion, and professor of journalism and English, passed away on Saturday at home. The service will be held on Wednesday at 11 a.m. at St. Anne's Episcopal Church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice of Tiftarea.

Please keep Erin, Elizabeth and Elliot in your thoughts and prayers.

ABAC Family

Ashley Williamson and Michelle Reddick appeared on WXFL-TV Dec. 8 in Albany to talk about Victorian Christmas.

Ashley Williamson and Polly Huff appeared on WTIF radio Dec. 9 to talk about Victorian Christmas and the new Gallery exhibit.

Ashley Williamson appeared on WTIF radio Dec. 16 to talk about the North Pole Express.

Amy Warren and Dr. Darby Sewell attended the Tift County Board of Education meeting on December 14 to share about the Near Peer Service Learning Program Grant awarded to ABAC and TCHS.

ABAC Birthdays

20 Donna Webb
 22 Roger Smith
 23 Ray Lundy
 24 Kip Hall
 24 Mitchell Peavy
 24 Susan Thompson
 25 Magdalene Outlaw
 27 Gail Dekle
 28 Alton Hudgins
 30 Shykeria Curry
 30 Avijit Kar
 30 Linda Truman
 30 Hayeslind Morton

January

1 Joe Durrance
 2 Tamara Gray
 2 Abul Sheikh
 3 Michael Willis
 3 Gina Wilson
 4 Keandra Alexander
 4 Clestene Jackson
 5 Ray Barber
 5 Bobby Mathis
 6 Bryce Johnson
 9 Bryan Golden