



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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Hall To Give Fall Commencement Speech Thursday

Jim Hall, Chief of Law Enforcement with the National Wildlife Refuge System through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will be the featured speaker at the ABAC fall commencement ceremony on Thursday at 10 a.m. in Gressette Gym.



Mississippi, considered to be a critical wetland, black bear habitat, and home to the National Champion Baldcypress, the largest tree species east of the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

After receiving his associate degree in wildlife management from ABAC in 1983, Hall furthered his education at Brenau College, receiving his bachelor's degree in business administration and conservation law enforcement. He also received additional training through the federal law enforcement training center in 1991 and wildlife firefighting

training in Harris Neck from 1987-2007.

In 2014, Hall received the J. Lamar Branch Award during the annual ABAC Alumni Association awards ceremony. The award recognizes alumni who exemplify outstanding agricultural leadership in the area of agricultural education and is based on professional achievement, community service and support of ABAC.

Hall's wife, Elaine, is also an ABAC alumnus who attended the college from 1981-83.

A total of 211 students are scheduled to receive their diplomas at the fall commencement ceremony.

Hall spent a portion of his career managing the 1.92 million-acre Kenai National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, the most complex refuge within the entire system. He also helped to establish the 10,473-acre Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge in

Campbell Retires From Coaching After 20 Seasons

ABAC announced that Fillies Softball Coach Donna Campbell will retire from coaching at the end of the spring 2015 season.

As Campbell enters her twentieth season as the Fillies Softball Coach, she has a lot to celebrate. Campbell, who has been coaching altogether for thirty seasons, has created a rich history of success on the softball field.

In her 30 years of coaching, Campbell's teams have won seven state titles and four state runner-up titles. They have also made five national tournament appearances. In all, Campbell has had 26 winning seasons in her coaching career.

Twenty years ago, in her first year as a collegiate coach, her ABAC team went 44-12 and won the 1996 National Junior College Slowpitch Championship. She was named the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Slowpitch Coach of the Year for her success.

In 19 years of coaching fastpitch at ABAC, she has guided her teams to five Georgia Collegiate Athletic Association (GCAA) State titles (97, 98, 00, 01, and 02). Campbell was named GCAA's

Fastpitch Coach of the Year in all five of those seasons. She also helped the Fillies bring home three GCAA State Runner Up

finishes, one District C championship, and four top 16 NJCAA finishes competing in four National Tournaments.

As a former player for Sunbelt/Blaze, Campbell was inducted into the Georgia United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) Softball Hall of Fame in 1997 and has been

named to All-American teams at past National Tournaments.



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Campbell retired as an active player following the 2000 summer season.

In 2012, she was awarded the Easton Victory Club award for earning her 500th college career win. Campbell's ABAC coaching record is 562 wins and just 394 losses. She has compiled a career record of 727 wins and 472 losses.

Campbell has served the GCAA for twenty years, ten years as Georgia's Women's Region

Director and 18 years as Softball Chair for Region XVII.

"Throughout her coaching career, Campbell has maintained a passion for the game she loves so much. Her philosophy of hard work, commitment, and dedication to her players, along with loyalty to her program and ABAC, has made her a highly respected and successful college coach" said Alan Kramer, ABAC Athletic Director.

Although she is retiring her glove and duties as the Fillies Coach, Campbell will continue at ABAC as a full-time faculty member in the School of Human Sciences.

'Chicken & Waffles Night' A Huge Success



Hundreds of students came out late last Wednesday to feed their brains for finals with chicken and waffles. The Greek Council sponsored this event and served many hungry students.

Holiday Open House at ABAC Bookstore Tuesday



The ABAC Bookstore is hosting a Holiday Open House Tuesday from 10 a.m.- 6 p.m. Patrons will receive a 25% discount on all gift and clothing items, with free gift wrapping available. Refreshments will be served.

AGR Helps Raise Money for 'Suitcases for Kids'

Members of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity at ABAC valet parked vehicles at the Christmas Open House hosted by President and Mrs. David Bridges last week. This annual event was held in Tift Hall on the historic front circle of the ABAC campus. The students volunteered their time to make parking easier for guests and accepted nearly \$600 in tips that will be donated to the Patticake House's Suitcases for Kids. Anyone interested in supporting this project, or any future project, can contact the Patticake House at 229.382.4141. Pictured (l-r) are Medford McDonald, Aaron Young, Chandler Bartley, Todd Miles and Ben Casey.



Mark your calendars for the annual Employee Christmas lunch to be held December 16 at Noon. More information to follow.

ABAC Travel Program Offers Chance to See Wicked

Thanks to the travel program at ABAC, area residents can get a taste of Broadway on Feb. 21, 2015, when ABAC travels to the fabulous Fox Theater for a presentation of the Broadway smash, "Wicked."

ABAC Alumni Director and travel program coordinator Lynda Fisher said the trip is open to anyone who would like to attend at a cost of \$169 per person. A \$50 deposit is due by Dec. 20, and the remainder of the cost is due by Jan. 20, 2015. Theatre-goers will venture by motor coach to

Atlanta for the 2 p.m. matinee on Feb. 21.

Based on best-selling author Gregory Maguire's novel, "Wicked" draws viewers into the surprising story of how a green outcast girl named Elphaba becomes the Wicked Witch of the West. Get lost in this magical journey and discover the whole story about the Land of Oz.

Current ABAC faculty, staff, students, and ABAC Alumni Association members will receive a \$10 discount off the price of the trip. Travelers will stop for lunch

on their own at the The Varsity in Atlanta before the show. On the way back, a dinner at the famous Whistle Stop Café in Juliette is included in the price of the trip. The café was one of the filming sites for the Oscar and Golden Globe-nominated film, "Fried Green Tomatoes."

For more information on this excursion, interested persons can visit the ABAC travel web site at <http://www.abac.edu/travel>, contact Fisher at lfisher@abac.edu, or call (229) 391-4100.



ABAC Represented During Tifton Holiday Parade

Mr. ABAC, Ross McClellan, and Ms. ABAC, Marlee Mathis, represented the College during Tifton's 16th Annual Hometown Holidays Christmas Parade on Saturday. Other organizations that participated were the Georgia Museum of Agriculture, Stafford Hall, Honors Club, members of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Community Assistants and students from different Greek organizations on campus.

Wiregrass Christmas At Museum On Saturday

Victorian dessert sampling and live holiday music in the Historic Village will highlight the activities visitors can enjoy at the Wiregrass Christmas on Saturday at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Wiregrass Christmas at the Museum offers fun for all ages with the reading of Christmas stories, tasty treats and live music celebrating the holiday season. From 11 a.m.-2 p.m. visitors can sample Victorian desserts as they tour the farmhouses in

the Historic Village. There will be Christmas story readings at the Knight Cabin. On the Knight Cabin lawn the distinctive aroma of Rosin Baked potatoes cooking will entice visitors to sample this rare treat.

The Wiregrass Craft Circle will be creating Christmas ornaments and paper stamping with the young visitors from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Visitors will also get to try their hand at making their own Christmas cards.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for senior citizens and \$5 for

children over four years of age. Children four and under are admitted at no charge.

Other Museum events during the holiday season include the North Pole Express on Dec. 18 and 19 from 5-8 p.m. Tickets for this event are \$6 per person and must be purchased in advance.

For more information on any of these events, contact the Museum at (229) 391-5205 or visit the web at www.abac.edu/museum.

ABAC BIRTHDAYS

9 James McCrimmon 12 Jason Scott
14 Vickie Holloway

Please submit information by **Thursday at noon** to Lindsey Roberts at lroberts@abac.edu for inclusion in the next edition of the FOCUS.