



# FOCUS

## ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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### Earl H. Bennett Scholarship Fund Established at ABAC

Earl H. Bennett, a longtime resident of Thomasville and alum of ABAC's class of 1957, passed away in 2012, but his children will see to it that his memory lives on in support of ABAC forestry students.

Family and friends can recall many fond memories of Bennett. The 1957 TABAC yearbook recorded him as "most witty," for his personality and great sense of humor. Bennett also had a serious side and he was always passionate about forestry. Bennett was self-employed as a consulting forester and appraiser.

"He loved Thomasville and the surrounding areas, and he loved working in the pine forests on the plantations," said his son Coleman Bennett.

The family established this fund with an endowment and are soliciting support in order to keep his legacy alive.

"We are happy to be able to memorialize our Papa with this endowment and supporting forestry students for generations to come," said his daughter Michelle Bennett Reddick of Tifton. "Our goal is to support as many young people in the forestry field as possible."



Picture left to right: Paul Willis, Vice President of External Affairs and Advancement; Dr. Rod Brown, former department head of Forest Resources; Coleman Bennett of Thomasville; Michelle Bennett-Reddick of Tifton; and Dr. Tim Marshall, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Not present: Tom Bennett of Jacksonville, FL, and Monica Bennett of Thomasville, GA

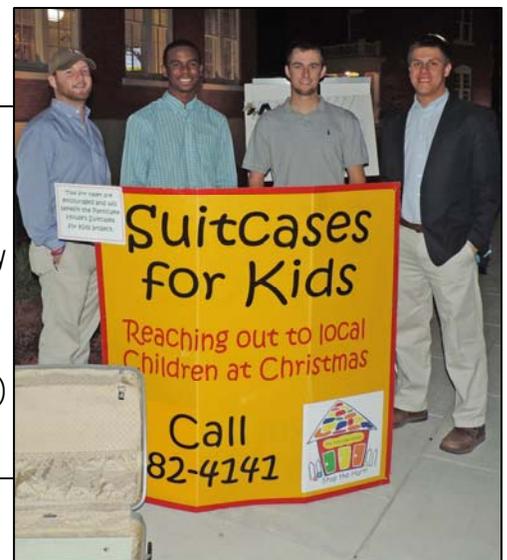
Bennett was a 1955 graduate of Cook County High School, a 1957 graduate of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and a 1959 graduate of the University of Georgia. He was also a retired Lt. Colonel from the Georgia National Guard, having served thirty years and having graduated as a 2nd. Lt. from the Georgia Military Institute in 1960. A devoted member of First Baptist of Thomasville, Bennett also served as a volunteer coach for the YMCA Little League for

eleven years, a member of the Jaycees, where he served as President, a Thomas County Commissioner, a member of Tall Timbers, a life time member of the Archbold Corporation, and a life time sponsor of Ducks Unlimited. He served as Chair of the Flint River Chapter of the Georgia Division for the Southeastern Society of American Foresters, which awarded him the distinguished fifty-year service award.

For those who wish to support this endeavor, contributions may be made by check payable to the ABAC Foundation and sent to the following address: Earl Bennett Endowment, ABAC Foundation, 2802 Moore Hwy, ABAC 13, Tifton, GA 31793. Or, you may make your contribution with a credit card online at [www.abac.edu/foundation](http://www.abac.edu/foundation) and click the "Donate to ABAC" tab on the left. All gifts to the fund are tax deductible and the fund will generate income to fund scholarships in perpetuity.

### ABAC Fraternity Raises Funds for Suitcases for Kids

Members of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College valet parked vehicles at the Christmas Open House hosted by President and Mrs. David Bridges. This annual event was held, for the first time in many years, in the newly renovated Tift Hall on the historic front circle of the ABAC campus. The students volunteered their time to make parking easier for guests and accepted \$600 in tips that will be donated to the Patticake House's Suitcases for Kids. Anyone interested in supporting this project can contact the Patticake House at 229.382.4141. Pictured (L-R) are Garrett Gaches, Kevin Vantrees, Chandler Bartley and Medford McDonald.



## Invest in ABAC

When you make out your holiday gift list this year, don't forget to add ABAC.

"We always have a lot of folks who honor us with end-of-the-year gifts," Vice President for External Affairs and Chief of Staff Paul Willis said. "ABAC could not operate at the level that it does without these very important contributions."

Before the end of 2013, the ABAC Foundation will accept tax deductible contributions of all shapes and sizes from ABAC alumni and friends of "Georgia's State College of Choice."

"People love to invest in a sure thing, and ABAC is a rock solid investment," Willis said. "Investing in the lives of our students pays dividends for years to come."

The ABAC Foundation office on Alumni Circle will be open until 3 p.m. on Dec. 20 if you would like to present your gift in person. If not, be sure to postmark your envelope by Dec. 31 and send to ABAC Foundation, 2802 Moore Highway, Tifton, GA., 31793.

For more information, call the ABAC Foundation office at (229) 391-4900.

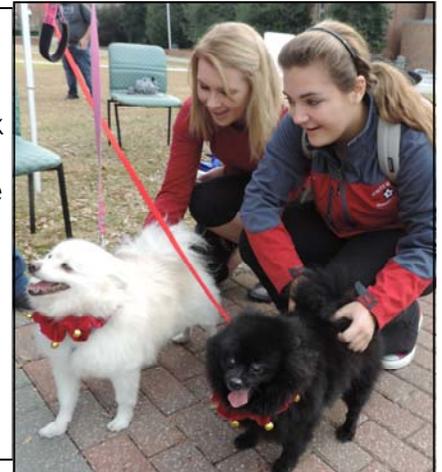


## Moormans Make Gift To Golf Course

Forest Lakes Golf Club Superintendent Austin Lawton (right) thanks Dr. Larry Moorman for his donation of a ball-washing machine to the driving range at the course. Moorman and his wife, Debra, donated the nine-hole course to the ABAC Foundation in 2002. In 2009, the Moormans donated the clubhouse at the course to the Foundation. ABAC operates the course as a teaching laboratory for students in a variety of majors. The course is also open to the public on a daily basis from 8 a.m. until sundown.

## It's Only Puppy Love at ABAC

Callie Lyle (r) from Fayetteville and Kayla Collis from Jasper enjoy a friendly encounter with "Jack Frost" and "Black Jack" at a special therapy dog session at ABAC on Tuesday. Sponsored by the Academic Support Center and Media Services, the visit by the dogs provided welcome relief for students who are about to begin final exams for the fall semester. Norma Whitley from Valdosta owns the two Pomeranians who are both registered therapy dogs. A total of six dogs came to the campus through Therapy Dogs Inc.



## Bringing in the Holiday Season

The Jazz Choir at ABAC put on their Santa hats Tuesday for the annual holiday concert in the Chapel of All Faiths. Music Program Director Susan Roe and Arts Connection Director Wayne Jones were also featured in solos during the event which culminated with hot chocolate and tasty snacks for all the faculty, staff, students, and community members in attendance.

**Fall commencement will be held on Friday at 6:00 p.m. in Gressette Gym.**

**A Faculty Reception will be held before the ceremony in Tift Hall. All faculty are encouraged to attend from 4:45 – 5:30 p.m. and enjoy refreshments provided by the Office of Academic Affairs.**



## Drug Awareness Events at ABAC

The School of Human Sciences and Office of Student Development Services hosted Meth Awareness Day last week in the Meadows. Drug Dog Routines were performed as well as and a meth lab clean-up demonstrations. The event was sponsored by Georgia Clean Inc.

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.

## ABAC Birthdays

- 9 James McCrimmon
- 12 Jason Scott
- 14 Vickie Holloway