



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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Sewell, Cofer Selected for Assistant Vice President Positions

Dr. Darby Sewell and Dr. Jordan Cofer have been selected for two new assistant vice president positions at ABAC, according to Dr. Gail Dillard, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Sewell has been named Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, Engaged Learning, and Cofer has been selected as the Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, Learning Resources. Both positions report directly to the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The two new appointees will assume their positions immediately.

“Dr. Sewell has experience providing leadership in the development, administration, and assessment of academic programs which promote engaged learning,” Dillard said. “Her primary focus will be on student internships, study abroad, and undergraduate research. She will also serve as the director of



our Quality Enhancement Plan.”

Sewell, a 1998 ABAC graduate, received her bachelor’s degree in family and consumer sciences and her master’s degree in family and consumer sciences education from the University of Georgia. She received her Ph.D. in family and consumer sciences education from Iowa State University.

Dean of the School of Human Sciences since 2009, Sewell has been an ABAC faculty member since 2002. She lives in Moultrie with her husband, Jeff, and their sons, John

Wesley and Parks Gentry.

“I view the duties and responsibilities of this new position as a chance to work for both the students and the faculty to ensure that opportunities are there for them to make their experiences and time at ABAC life-changing,” Sewell said. “I plan to showcase and promote the wonderful opportunities available at our institution.”

Dillard said that Cofer will be responsible for assisting the vice president for academic affairs in ensuring that quality learning resources which support ABAC’s academic programs are available and accessible to students and faculty.

“Dr. Cofer has been actively involved during the current academic year with plans to reshape the Carlton Center into the Carlton Learning Center, which includes the operations and services of the

Continued on page 2

ABAC Enrollment Increases for Spring Term 2016

When the spring semester began on Jan. 6 at ABAC, the enrollment showed 3,172 students taking classes, marking the second largest spring term enrollment in the history of ABAC.

Dressed for the chilly day, ABAC President David Bridges enjoyed seeing the faces of incoming freshmen as well as returning students in a walk across the campus.

“There is always something special about the start of a semester,” Bridges said. “The students have been away from the campus since early December so it’s good to have

them back. I like the colder weather myself so it’s refreshing to walk around, particularly with the news that enrollment is up.”

Director of Enrollment Management Donna Webb said the largest spring term enrollment in the history of ABAC was in the spring of 2009 when 3,230 students enrolled. Last year, a total of 3,138 students enrolled for the spring semester.

ABAC attracts students from almost all of Georgia’s 159 counties as well as 22 states and 24 countries. Florida follows Georgia in the number of students enrolled with 121. There are 32 students

from South Carolina. California, Colorado, and Wisconsin are also represented. The international component of the student body includes students from Australia, Canada, India, and France.

Area merchants are also happy for the return of ABAC students. In a 2012 survey, ABAC had an annual economic impact of over \$261 million on Tift and surrounding counties.

Spring term classes continue through April 27. Commencement is set for May 5.

ABAC Named Top School for Veterans Third Straight Year

For the third consecutive year, ABAC has been honored by a national publication which measures best practices in military and veterans' education. Military Advanced Education & Transition (MAE&T) has awarded ABAC the designation of a Top School for the third consecutive year in its 2016 Guide to Colleges & Universities.

From community colleges to state universities, online universities and nationally known centers of higher learning, the guide provides potential students with information about institutions that give back to our men and women in uniform.

"Being selected in this guide

for a third consecutive year is a remarkable achievement for ABAC," said Jessica Swords, Director of Student Accounts and Veterans Affairs Certifying Official. "ABAC is honored to be allowed to provide services to these students who have given so much to our country."

ABAC received another milestone this year when Victory Media named the college as a 2016 Military Friendly School for the first time. The Military Friendly® ratings recognize colleges with leading programs for veterans, members of the Armed Forces leaving military service and military spouses.

"These accolades presented to

the college help to illustrate the level of commitment that ABAC has for our veteran students," Swords said. "It is important that they realize we are here for them and want to help them achieve their higher education goals. The addition of the Veterans Success Center this year is just one of the many improvements that ABAC is committed to when it comes to our veterans."

This year nearly 400,000 active duty, National Guard and Armed Forces Reserve service members will transition to campuses and companies nationwide.

'Bottles and Brushes' Art Class on January 22

The Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC will host the first "Bottles and Brushes" art class of 2016 on Jan. 22 from 6-8 p.m. Participants will paint "Happy as a Pig" by Brenda Rose, a local artist and the "Bottles and Brushes" instructor.



"This whimsical painting will be a treat to create," said Polly Huff, assistant director and curator at the Museum.

Rose will guide participants

through the process of recreating her original work, while students create their own interpretation before their eyes. Participants can bring their favorite beverage while enjoying an evening of creativity

and fun. The Gallery at the Museum will provide the paint, canvas and brushes.

Registration for the class is on a first come, first served basis upon payment of the fee. Space is limited so early registration is important. Participants must register ahead of

time by contacting Huff at (229) 391-5222 or by e-mailing her at phuff@abac.edu. The class fee is \$25 per person or \$40 for couples. It is non-refundable and non-transferable. The fee includes all supplies and instruction.

Companies who are looking for a unique team-building experience or a way to reward exceptional employees can participate in the corporate edition of "Bottles and Brushes." The corporate painting will be custom-tailored to fit each company's mascot, theme, or idea.

Gift certificates are available for future classes.

Deans continued from page 1

of the Baldwin Library as well as other campus learning resources," Dillard said.

Cofer earned his bachelor's degree in English from Southwest Baptist University, his master's degree in English from Virginia Tech University, and his Ph.D. in English from Texas Tech University. He has been serving as Department Head for English and Communication in the School of Liberal Arts. Cofer released his first book, "The Gospel According to Flannery O'Connor," in 2014.

An ABAC faculty member since

2009, Cofer and his wife, Rebecca, live in Tifton. She is the coordinator of the ABAC Academic Achievement Center.

"I'm really excited about the opportunity," Cofer said. "One of my main goals will be trying to develop more academic programming on campus and providing research opportunities for faculty and students. We want the Carlton Center to become a hub on campus."

Dr. Bobbie Robinson, Dean of the School of Liberal Arts, will oversee the operations of the School of Human Sciences in addition to

her current duties until a new dean is identified. Dr. Marcus Johnson will serve as interim coordinator for the education program, including physical education and family and consumer sciences, and Anthony Fitzgerald will continue to coordinate the criminal justice, psychology, and sociology programs.

Dillard said that Dr. Wendy Harrison will serve as interim department head for English and communication until a permanent replacement for Cofer is selected.

Snow Selected as President of Tifton Judicial Circuit Bar Association

Jodie Snow has been selected as the president of the Tifton Judicial Circuit Bar Association. The Chief Operating Officer of the ABAC Foundation since 2012, Snow is a 2000 ABAC graduate. As an ABAC student, she was named the J.G. Woodroof Scholar and received the Donaldson Award. After ABAC, she received a Bachelor's of Business Administration in Management Information Systems degree at the University of Georgia. She also earned her Juris Doctor from Stetson University College of Law and a Master's of Business Administration degree from Stetson University. Snow is teaching an ABAC class in the Stafford School of Business this semester. She taught her first class on Thursday.

Be sure to save the dates for the upcoming Stallion Days, Feb. 13 and April 2. Contact Brooke Jernigan at bjernigan@abac.edu for information regarding these events.

Fabulous Equinox Orchestra Highlights An Evening for ABAC March 4

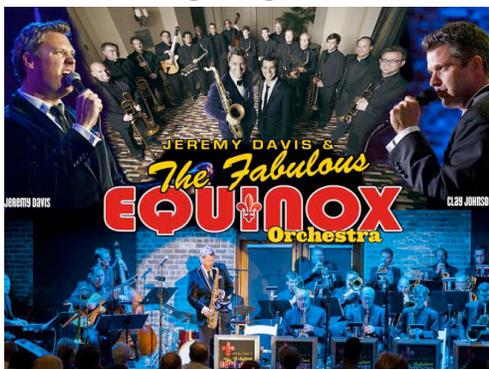
When it comes to tradition, there is one event in the 108-year history of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College that has shaped the scholarship fundraising program. It began in 1972 when Anita Bryant was the performer for an event called Dollars for Scholars and continues today in a different format titled An Evening for ABAC.

Arts Connection Director Wayne Jones said tickets are now available for An Evening for ABAC on March 4 at the University of Georgia Tifton Campus Conference Center.

"This will be a transformational year for this event," Jones said. "We're moving it to the Conference Center so we'll have more space, and we're adding a lot of additional activities for the evening."

Jones said the 2016 event will feature The Fabulous Equinox Jazz Orchestra which will play a variety of music ranging from Frank Sinatra to Elvis to Johnny Cash. The evening will include a cocktail hour, a silent auction, and a live auction. An indoor garden party atmosphere highlighted by 2,000 feet of twinkling lights will complement the Cajun-themed meal.

"Every guest at this event will be treated like a genuine VIP," Jones



said. "Starting with the valet parking and the red carpet and continuing through the dance floors on each side of the stage, this will truly be a night that people will not want to miss."

In recent years, An Evening for ABAC has filled up Gressette Gymnasium on the ABAC campus, selling all 400 seats available in 2015 with Katie Deal as the performer.

"We raised \$62,000 for student scholarships last year," Jones said. "Our intent is to raise \$100,000 for the students. Since we are a four-year institution now, we have twice the amount of need. Once we started graduating students with bachelor's degrees, we instantly increased the need for more scholarship funds. I believe the 2016 event will take us to an entirely new level."

An Evening for ABAC tickets are

\$125 for singles, \$225 for couples, and \$1,250 for a reserved table which seats eight persons. A portion of the ticket price is tax deductible. For tickets, call (229) 391-4895 or visit the web site at www.abac.edu/aneveningforabac.

Sponsorship levels include Gold for \$2,500 which sponsors one scholarship, Platinum for \$5,000 which sponsors two scholarships, Titanium for \$7,500 which sponsors three scholarships, and President's Club for \$10,000 which sponsors four scholarships.

Jones said sponsors already on board include Sodexo and Georgia Crown Distributing Company at the Titanium level; Synovus Trust Company-First Community Bank of Tifton and Southeastern Federal Credit Union at the Platinum level, and AT&T Georgia, Captain D's/Checkers, Chick-Fil-A of Tifton, Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Day, a Foundation Trustee, Hilton Garden Inn of Tifton, Mauldin and Jenkins, Bob McLendon Farms, Montgomery Family Foundation, Needmore Properties, South Georgia Banking Company, and WALB-TV at the Gold level.

ABAC
Birthdays

12 Anita White

14 Rhonda Lewis

17 Melissa Slawsky