ABAC Anglers Earn National Recognition

D.J. Thomas (left) from Willacoochee and Charles Conger (right) from Chula represented the bass fishing club at ABAC in a fine fashion by finishing seventh in the recent Carhartt Bassmaster College Series at Lake Okeechobee, Fla. Thomas and Conger caught 28 pounds and 15 ounces of fish and guaranteed themselves a place in the Carhartt Bassmaster College Series National Championship in August. A total of 130 teams representing 41 colleges and universities from across the country competed in the Okeechobee tournament. The ABAC team received one of only 18 invitations to the National Championship. The teams of Taylor Thompson and Hunter Coppolino and Kolby Bowers and Cale Mathis also represented ABAC in the tournament. The bass fishing club is one of over 50 clubs and organizations on the ABAC campus. It was established in 2008. Last year, ABAC was ranked 16th in the nation by the Cabella’s Association of Collegiate Anglers.

Audition for “Smoke on the Mountain” Mon. & Tues.

Interested in performing? Attend auditions for the Baldwin Players’ production of Connie Ray and Alan Bailey’s off-Broadway musical “Smoke on the Mountain” will be held at ABAC on Jan. Mon. and Tues. at 6:30 p.m. in Conger Hall, Room 319. Auditions are open to all ABAC students, faculty, staff, and the community. The play will run from March 6-8 at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village’s Wiregrass Opry Stage.

“Smoke on the Mountain” is musical that revolves around the Sanders family, a group of country/bluegrass gospel singers that present a Saturday Night Sing at the small, rural Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in the hills of western North Carolina. The play is set in the 1930s. Persons interested in auditioning should prepare a song to perform. This should be one verse of a country song or one verse of a traditional church hymn. Selections from this musical should NOT be selected. This vocal selection will be performed a capella or by accompanying yourself on an instrument of your choice - a piano will be available, but you can bring a guitar or banjo or fiddle. There will not be an audition accompanist. Recorded accompaniment is acceptable, but there must be no vocal tracks on the recording. In addition to the music audition, each individual will read selected passages from the script. These will be “cold readings” and do not need to be prepared.

For more information, interested persons can contact Ray at (229) 391-4969 or at bray@abac.edu.

Kilgore Retires After 26 Years of Service

Diane Kilgore celebrated her retirement with colleagues, friends and family in the Alumni House last week. The Office of College Advancement hosted a gathering for Kilgore to recognize her 26 years of service to the College. Kilgore has served as the Director of Public Service and Business Outreach Center, Continuing Education, and most recently she has worked with the ABAC Travel Program.
Nominations are now being accepted for the Athletics Hall of Fame at ABAC. The deadline for nominations is Wednesday.

ABAC Athletics Director Alan Kramer said any individual, living or deceased, can be considered for induction into the ABAC Athletics Hall of Fame. Individuals are nominated in one of three categories: Athlete, Coach, or Contributor.

The induction ceremony for the 2014 class is scheduled for April 4 as a part of the ABAC Homecoming weekend.

The inaugural Hall of Fame class in 2008 included Thomas Cheney, Bruce V. Cressette, Norman “Red” Hill, Orion Mitchell, Philip Simpson, and Milena Stanoytcheva.

The Hall of Fame class of 2009 honored the 1984 national championship men’s tennis team, Ellen Vickers, Dorsey Brooks, Cook Holliday, P.W. Bryan, Jr., and Newell “Sarge” Dorsey.

The 2010 Hall of Fame class included the 1991 national championship women’s softball team, Harley Kлепфер, Jim Sparks, Joseph Grist, and Thomas "Boo" Weekley.

The 2011 Hall of Fame class included the 1995 ABAC national championship women’s softball team; Kyle Farnsworth, Benny Dees, Harley Stewart, and A.B. Malloy.

The 2012 Hall of Fame class included Greg Tanner, Donnie Veal, Jean Francoise Lagloire, William E. Batton, and the 1996 national championship women’s softball team.

The 2013 Hall of Fame class included the 1999 national championship men’s tennis team, Henry Will Jones, Julie Conner, Z.B. Hamilton, and Derrick Racine.

Kramer said athletic achievement as well as integrity, sportsmanship, and character will be considered. He said the college is also looking for individuals who may have been good athletes while at ABAC, but who went on to coach high school or college teams to state or national titles.

Alumni as well as the general public are encouraged to nominate individuals for this honor. Hall of Fame criteria and a nomination form can be found at www.abac.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/ABAC-Nomination-Form-2014.

For more information on the 2014 Athletics Hall of Fame, interested persons can contact Shirley Wilson in the athletics’ office at (229) 391-4930.

Sign-up now for an intramural team. Spring sports include basketball, volleyball, indoor soccer, and pickleball. Leagues will begin Jan 21. Visit IMLeagues.com to register!
**Amanda Seibert—Academic Support Counselor, Academic Success Center**

Amanda Seibert is the new Academic Support Counselor. Originally from Pennsylvania where she received her bachelor’s in History from the University of Pittsburgh. For years to follow, she worked and studied at Universities all over the world. From teaching English as a foreign language in Nuremberg, Germany, where she earned a Master’s in Adult Education from Lutheran University of Applied Sciences, working as a program assistant at Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine as a program assistant for the Master of Science in Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and earning a Masters in History at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) where she met her husband Dr. Russell Pryor a History Professor here at ABAC.

Most recently Seibert worked for CMU’s satellite campus in Doha, Qatar as an Academic Assistant for Writing where her husband taught history. Seibert moved to Tifton in August 2013 when Dr. Pryor began teaching history here at ABAC. During the past fall semester Seibert taught history courses at ABAC and very much enjoyed getting to know ABAC students and the community. She’s looking forward to continue working with students and colleagues at ABAC.

She can be reached at lseibert@abac.edu or 229.391.4976

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**Bernard Green—Enrollment Counselor, Central Georgia**

Bernard Green comes back to the ABAC community as the new Enrollment Counselor. A recent Bachelor of Arts in History graduate of Georgia Southern University, Green is the new face to the ABAC Admission’s team. Green is no stranger to our institution. He attended ABAC in the Fall of 2009 where he served the campus in various student leadership roles. He was named Mr. ABAC in 2011 before continuing his education at Georgia Southern University. Green continued demonstrating his leadership there as a mentor in the Minority Advisement Program, SGA senator, and VP of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People). He is native of Tifton, GA. The ABAC family is happy to welcome Bernard Green back to the campus!

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**Heather Powell—Academic Guidance Specialist, Upward Bound**

Heather Powell began at ABAC last summer teaching language for the Migrant Education Program and now has join the institution full-time as the Academic Guidance Specialist for Upward Bound. Powell earned her Bachelors of Art in American Sign Language Interpreting from Maryville College and then worked as a Sign Language Interpreter for The Universities of Georgia and Tennessee and Sweetwater Middle School in Lawrenceville. In addition to that she’s taught language arts and intro to American Sign Language at colleges and middle schools in the Atlanta area. Powell is glad to be at ABAC and looks forward to working with the students, faculty and staff.

She can be reached at hpowell@abac.edu or 229.391.5145

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**Lisa Seibert—Academic Support Counselor , Academic Success Center**

Lisa Seibert is the new Academic Support Counselor. Originally from Pennsylvania where she received her bachelor’s in History from the University of Pittsburgh. For years to follow, she worked and studied at Universities all over the world. From teaching English as a foreign language in Nuremberg, Germany, where she earned a Master’s in Adult Education from Lutheran University of Applied Sciences, working as a program assistant at Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine as a program assistant for the Master of Science in Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and earning a Masters in History at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) where she met her husband Dr. Russell Pryor a History Professor here at ABAC.

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**Stallion Day Dates:**

- **February 15**
- **April 5**
- More info to come

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**ABAC Birthdays**

- 14 Rhonda Lewis
- 16 Chad Pierce
- 18 Dill Driscoll
- 18 Kaycee Jones

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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 for inclusion in the next FOCUS.