



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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ABAC Beats Trend with Spring Enrollment Increase

For the second consecutive semester, the enrollment at ABAC is higher than a year ago, going against a state and nationwide trend of enrollment declines.

ABAC President David Bridges said the spring term enrollment stands at 3,137, quite a jump from the 2,921 students enrolled in the spring semester of 2013. Spring term classes at ABAC began Jan. 8.

"It is wonderful to return to campus this spring to find that once again we have exceeded expectations and enrolled a near record number of students for the spring semester," Bridges said. "The record-breaking graduation numbers that we've had and the fact that enrollment is up more than six per cent from last spring shows that ABAC is 'College Done Right.'"

A total of 232 students received ABAC diplomas at the end of the 2013 fall se-



With 3,137 students, the spring term enrollment at ABAC is over six percent higher than the 2013 enrollment figure making this the second consecutive semester enrollment has increased.

semester, marking it as the largest fall graduation in history. These increases go against the trend of decreasing enrollment numbers in higher education.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Niles Reddick maintains the continued enrollment growth is partly because of ABAC's bachelor's degree programs.

"We continue to see increases in all bachelor's degrees," Reddick said. "That includes Diversified Agriculture, Biology, Turf and Golf Course Management, Forestry and Wildlife, and the one of a kind Rural Studies program with majors in Business and Economic Development, Politics and Modern Cultures, Social and Community Development, and Writing and Communications."

ABAC had a five percent enrollment increase during the fall term, the third largest increase of any of the 31 colleges and universities in the University System of Georgia. In fact, only 13 University System institutions increased their enrollment during the fall semester.

"An ABAC education continues to be an excellent investment for our students," Bridges said.

Buy Your Tickets Today For Evening for ABAC March 7

Combine a delicious meal with fantastic entertainment for a wonderful cause, and you have the annual Evening for ABAC event on March 7 at 6 p.m. in Gressette Gymnasium.

ABAC Arts Connection Director Wayne Jones is coordinating the annual ABAC Foundation fundraiser for student scholarships.

"Everything points toward an evening that our many alumni and friends will never forget," Jones said. "I believe this event will build on the legacy of the many great Dollars for Scholars programs we have had in the past."

Delicious finger foods begin the evening at 6 p.m. followed by a delightful dinner that Jones said is sure to satisfy every palate.

Evening for ABAC tickets are \$100 for singles and \$180 for couples. A reserved table for eight is available for \$1,250. A portion of the cost for each ticket is tax deductible. Tickets are available by calling (229) 391-4895.

ABAC Foundation Chief Operating Officer Jodie Snow said the Foundation depends on Evening for ABAC support to fund student scholarships including the highly competitive Foundation Scholars program.

"The Foundation Scholars are some of the top academic students from area high schools," Snow said. "They have a lot of choices as far as colleges but the



Foundation Scholars' program offers them a tremendous incentive to choose ABAC."

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Jones said sponsors are always the key to making the event a financial success for ABAC student scholarships. A Platinum sponsorship for \$5,000 funds two complete ABAC scholarships. A Gold sponsorship for \$2,500 funds one complete ABAC scholarship.

Indie-alternative folk group von Grey is the featured performer. The "Atlanta Journal-Constitution" said "see them now, because a few years down the

road, you might have to pay big bucks for nosebleed seats in an arena to catch these talented musicians."

"Billboard" praised their "crystalline harmonies, stirring lyrics and inventive melodies." They have appeared on "Late Show with David Letterman," "Conan," NBC's "Rock Center with Brian Williams," and CNN's "Road Warriors."

Members of the group of four classically trained sisters include co-lead singers/songwriters Annika (violin,

banjo, guitar, keys) and Fiona (guitar, violin, percussion) as well as Petra (keys, lap steel guitar, background vocals) and Kathryn (cello, bass, mandolin, keys, background vocals).

For the new six-song EP, "Awakening," von Grey chose to spotlight the single, "Come On." The group has opened for the Indigo Girls, Sarah McLachlan, Lindsey Stirling, Rusted Root, and Company of Thieves.

Baldwin Players 'Smoke on the Mountain' Cast Chosen

Dr. Brian Ray, Baldwin Players' director, announced the cast for the spring play. After a successful audition process and some difficult choices, he was able to match the best possible cast. The following ABAC students and one recent ABAC graduate have been selected for the cast.

Burl Sanders – Gavin Barnes

Vera Sanders – Holly Huggins

Stanley Sanders – Jonathan Meadows

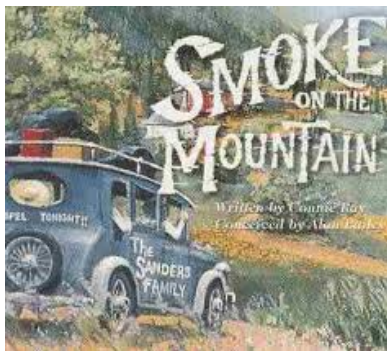
June Sanders – Slayten Carter

Denise Sanders – Alena Phillips

Dennis Sanders – Ryan Norton

Mervin Oglethorpe – Tre'mon Mills

Carter, Phillips, and Mills have all appeared in previous Baldwin Players productions. The rest of the cast are new to theatre here at ABAC. Congratulate those selected and support them by coming to the play, 'Smoke on the Mountain', March 6—8 at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture. The play is a musical comedy, with country/bluegrass/gospel music and songs. Contact Ray with any questions at bray@abac.edu.



Dyal Receives National Associate of College Stores Distinction

Tracy Dyal, Manager of the ABAC Bookstore, earned the designation of Certified Collegiate Retailer from the National Association of College Stores (NACS). Fewer than 10 percent of all eligible candidates have earned this distinction. This credential is a mark earned only by those who have demonstrated the representative knowledge essential to success in college store management, expertise on collegiate retailing issues, and commitment to the highest standards of ethical and professional conduct.



Fillies Softball Hosts Pancake Breakfast Saturday

The Fillies softball team at ABAC will hold its 13th annual Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's on Saturday from 8 – 10 a.m. Tickets for the breakfast are \$6 each. Menu items will include pancakes and a choice of beverage. Take-out orders will also be available for those who purchase tickets in advance.

Tickets can be purchased from Coach Donna Campbell or any Fillies' softball player. For more information or to purchase a ticket, interested persons can contact Campbell at (229) 391- 4929 or via e-mail at dcampbell@abac.edu.



Stallion Day Dates:
February 15
April 5
More info to come

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.

ABAC Birthdays

20 Paul Willis
20 JoAnn Brannen
24 Sue Dees
25 Mike Chason
25 Lindsey Roberts
26 Olga Contreras-Martinez

