



# FOCUS

## ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

VOLUME L

ISSUE 69

JANUARY 22, 2012

## Faculty Training for New ABAC Website Begins Today



Here is a preview of what the new site looks like.

The time has come to start preparing for the website launch. The new site will launch February 3. Prior to that date the information and links on your current faculty pages will need to be moved over. After Feb. 2 all information on the current website will no longer be accessible to you, so it is very important to move your information before the new website launches.

Public Relations will hold a drop-in training for faculty today and tomorrow from 8-12 and 1-5 in Ag Sciences 132. Just drop in when you have a few minutes. We will also offer one-on-one training in your office by appointment. Email me to set-up an appointment time.

During this training you will not only learn how to update and modify your faculty website, but you will receive your username and password. The process of moving information to the new site is comparable to using Microsoft Word and we will work to ensure you are comfortable with this process.

Area, staff and administrator training (admissions, housing etc.) will be trained next week. Be on the look out for more information regarding training for the new website.

## Fitness 5K Saturday To Benefit United Way and School of Human Sciences

The annual Fitness 5K race and one-mile fun run will be held at ABAC on Saturday. The race is sponsored by the School of Human Sciences and United Way of South Central Georgia. Registration is at 7:45 a.m., and the race begins at 9 a.m. Proceeds benefit the projects of the ABAC School of Human Sciences and the United Way of South Central Georgia.

To participate in the 5K, there is a registration fee of \$20 until Jan. 11. After that date, it will be \$25 per runner. Family registration is \$50 for a family of four (parents and their children only). Athletic teams wearing school colors will receive a special group rate if pre-registering as a group.

The race will be held on the campus of ABAC, beginning and ending at the Red Hill tennis complex. The course will be a single loop through the college campus.

In the 5K, awards will be given to the overall male and female winners, most distinguished, and age group awards. All participants under 16 who complete the one-mile race will receive a finisher's medal. There will also be awards given to the overall male and female. All pre-registered runners will receive a t-shirt.

For more information on this event, interested persons can contact ABAC Soccer Coach Jimmy Ballenger at (229) 391-4939 or Cindy Epperly at (229) 392-5082.

# United Way



## "Serving For A Cure" Saturday @ ABAC Courts



A tennis clinic fundraiser, "Serving for a Cure", will be held at ABAC on Saturday from 12-3 p.m. at the ABAC tennis courts. There is a fee of \$40 to participate in the clinic. All proceeds will benefit ABAC's Relay for Life team.

The men's and women's tennis teams will host the clinic for all local middle school and high school tennis players. Participants will be grouped based on level. Focus will be on the fundamentals of the game including serves, volley, backhand, forehands, overheads, and match tactics.

To register for this clinic, contact the ABAC Athletics Office at (229) 391-4930 or e-mail ABAC Athletics Director Alan Kramer at akramer@abac.edu. All interested in participating must register by Thursday at noon.

# ABAC Names New Members to Athletics Hall of Fame

Four individuals including a World War II hero and a national championship men's tennis team have been selected for the 2013 class of the Athletics Hall of Fame at ABAC.

Athletics Director Alan Kramer said the class reaches deep into the ABAC history book as well as honoring a coach who won the last state basketball title at the college.

"Every year I continue to be amazed at the high quality athletes and coaches who are nominated for the Hall of Fame," Kramer said. "ABAC has a rich heritage of athletics, and this is just one small way to honor some of these individuals and teams."

This year's class includes the 1999 national championship men's tennis team, Henry Will Jones from the 1936-37 baseball, basketball, and football teams; women's basketball coach Julie Conner, baseball player Z.B. Hamilton, and tennis player Derrick Racine.

Tickets are now available at a cost of \$30 per person for the induction luncheon at 1 p.m. on March 2, which is a part of the Celebrate ABAC Alumni Weekend activities. Contact the Office of College Advancement at (229) 391-4895 for tickets. Tickets will only be sold in advance.

On the last point of the last set in the career of legendary tennis coach Norman "Red" Hill before he retired, the 1999 Stallions captured the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) title. Hill was a member of the inaugural Hall of Fame class in 2008.



ABAC's 1999 Men's Tennis National Championship Team. Left to right: Norman "Red" Hill, Richard Crabtree, Gildardo Labo, Nathan Lundy, Richard Evans, Eric Von Hellens, Glenn Allsop, Rajeev Rajapakse.

Members of the team were Richard Crabtree from England, Gildardo Lobo from Venezuela, Nathan Lundy from England, Eric Von Hellens from Australia, Glenn Allsop from Australia, Rajeev

Rajapakse from Sri Lanka, and Most Valuable Player Richard Evans from England.

Jones, a Marine Captain, received the Silver Star posthumously for his bravery against the Japanese forces at Peleliu in the Palau Islands in the south Pacific in World War II. At ABAC, he played the guard position for the basketball team for Coach Orion Mitchell on the 1937 state junior college champions.



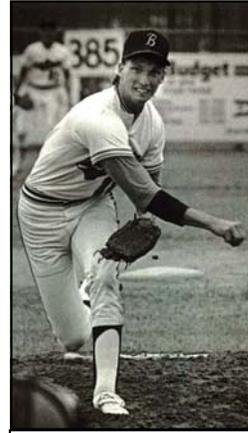
MOST DIGNIFIED BOY  
HENRY WILL JONES

Jones also played on the 1936 football team, which was the last football team ABAC ever fielded after all the uniforms and equipment were destroyed in a fire after the season. He also played on the 1937 baseball team. He received the prestigious "B" for football and basketball.

Conner, a Tift County High School graduate, was charged with reviving the women's basketball program at ABAC after a 15-year absence in 2000. In her second year, the Fillies won the 2002 state championship with a 76-72 win over Atlanta Metro.

Named as the Georgia Junior College Athletic Association Coach of the Year in 2003, Conner was also the Atlanta Tipoff Club's Naismith Award winner in 2003. In 2005-06, the Fillies rolled up a 24-9 record and lost in the state championship game to Georgia Perimeter. Conner resigned after the 2008 season to take the girls' basketball head coaching position at TCHS.

Hamilton had a standout career at TCHS, going 11-3 on the hill for the 1985 Blue Devils while compiling a 2.18 earned run average. He pitched for ABAC in 1986-87, compiling an 18-7 record. He was on the mound in the 1986 state playoffs when Coach Tom Moody's Stallions knocked off Middle Georgia when the Warriors were ranked number one in the nation.

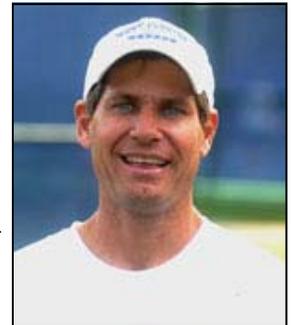


Hamilton

His pitching heroics at ABAC earned Hamilton a scholarship to Jacksonville University where he was 8-2 with two saves for the 1989 Sunbelt Conference champions who earned an NCAA tournament bid for the Dolphins. Hamilton played professional baseball with the Princeton, W.Va., Pirates of the Appalachian

League in 1989.

Racine was an All-America tennis player for the Stallions from 1984-86 and for the Valdosta State Blazers from 1986-88. But he has really made his mark as a tennis coach, winning the NAIA national championship with Mobile University men's team in 1997 and the NCAA Division II national championship with the University of West Florida men's team in 2004 and 2005.



Racine

Racine was selected as the NAIA national coach of the year in 1997 and the NCAA Division II Wilson/ITA Men's Tennis National Coach of the Year in 2003, 2005, and 2012. He was also named the NCAA Division II Wilson/ITA Women's Tennis National Coach of the Year in 2002. His men's team at West Florida has captured six Gulf South Conference titles.

**Baseball Home  
Opener Friday  
ABAC vs. St. Johns River  
@ 4 p.m. Friday at  
Stallion Field  
Come cheer on Coach  
Kilgore and the ABAC  
Stallions!**

# ABAC Presents! "Madame Butterfly January 31

Giacomo Puccini's "Madame Butterfly" will be performed by the Peach State Opera Company on Jan. 31 in Howard Auditorium at 7 p.m. on the campus of ABAC as a part of the "ABAC Presents!" performing arts series.

The Peach State Opera Company was founded in 2008 with the primary beliefs that all audiences deserve to experience the opera and that the opera world needs a place where developing vocalists can hone their craft. The idea was to offer both performance opportunities for aspiring professional singers and easily accessible opera productions for communities that do not have opera companies.

"Madame Butterfly" debuted in 1904 as a two-act opera, but is more widely known as a three-act production featuring an Italian libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa. The libretto of the opera is based in part on the 1898 short

story "Madame Butterfly" by John Luther Long, which was dramatized by David Belasco. Elements also appear to derive from the 1887 novel "Madame Chrysanthème" by Pierre Loti. According to one scholar, the story of the opera was based on events that actually occurred in Nagasaki in the early 1890s.

"Madame Butterfly" is the timeless story of a Japanese Geisha who gives up her faith and her family to marry an American naval lieutenant. The human drama is an epic tale of love, devotion, longing, betrayal, and tragedy. The opera is a staple of the standard operatic repertoire for companies around the world, and it ranks as number seven in the Operabase list of the most-performed operas worldwide.

Tickets for "Madame Butterfly" are \$15 each for adults and \$10 each for students under 18 years of age. Tickets will also be available at the door on the

day of the event. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.artsconnection.ticketleap.com](http://www.artsconnection.ticketleap.com) or by phone at (229) 391-4895.

Future performances in the series include the Vega String Quartet on March 21, and free performances by the Band of the United States Air Force Reserve on Feb. 23 and the United States Army Field Band Jazz Ambassadors on April 18. A ticket is still required for each free concert put on by the Department of Defense.

To learn more about the performances, interested persons can visit the "ABAC Presents!" web page at [www.abac.edu/arts/ap](http://www.abac.edu/arts/ap).

## Gala Ticket Deadline Today at 5:30 p.m.

The Ag. Business Club and NAMA team at will host the "Fly Over the States" Sponsorship Gala on Jan. 29 at 7 p.m. at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture.



Tickets for the gala are \$50 per person or \$350 for a table of eight. The deadline to reserve a ticket/table for this event is today. Patrons of the gala will meet past and present NAMA members and be treated to a steak dinner and quality entertainment.

This event will benefit the 2013 ABAC NAMA team. Contact Audrey Luke-Morgan at (229) 391-4807 or [alukemorgan@abac.edu](mailto:alukemorgan@abac.edu) for more info.



## New Sod on the Front Campus Lawn

Newly renovated Tift and Lewis halls provided a striking backdrop as fresh sod went down last week. Patten Seed/Super Sod, who provided the sod, President Ben Copeland, a 1964 graduate of ABAC, said 13 tractor-trailer loads of the sod which now cover 130,000 square feet arrived on the ABAC campus last week from the company's fields in Lakeland, Ga. As the project continues, don't forget to save the date for the Front Campus Rededication on March 1.



## Dodd's Cosmos

Exhibit Opening February 1

FEATURING NEVER BEFORE DISPLAYED PIECES FROM LAMAR DODD'S COSMOS SERIES

FOR INFORMATION, CALL 391-5222 OR EMAIL [PHUFF@ABAC.EDU](mailto:PHUFF@ABAC.EDU)

## THE GEORGIA MUSEUM OF AGRICULTURE & HISTORIC VILLAGE AT ABAC

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO A RECEPTION AND GALLERY TALK CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF OUR NEWEST EXHIBIT

## Dodd's Cosmos

FEATURING NEVER BEFORE DISPLAYED PIECES FROM LAMAR DODD'S COSMOS SERIES

ON LOAN FROM THE COLLECTION OF MR. C.L. MOREHEAD, JR.

WITH A GALLERY TALK BY SPECIAL GUEST IRENE DODD  
**FRIDAY, FEB. 1 @ 5:30PM**

LOCALLY GROWN RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE WIREGRASS FARMERS MARKET & THE HILTON GARDEN INN

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

- 25 Mike Chason
- 25 Lindsey Roberts
- 26 Olga Contreras Martinez
- 27 Grant Rentz

