



FOCUS

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Elad Named Dean of Stafford School of Business at ABAC

Dr. Renata Elad has been named the Dean of the Stafford School of Business at ABAC, according to an announcement today by ABAC President David Bridges.

“Dr. Elad has served as the interim dean for the past seven months, and she has done an outstanding job,” Bridges said. “She is highly educated, well prepared, and she has great experience with 17 years here as a faculty member.”

Elad was appointed as the interim dean of the Stafford School of Business on June 13, 2016, moving from her teaching position in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, where she was a Professor of Agricultural Economics.

“It’s an incredible honor for me to accept this position,” Elad said. “I tell my students that you don’t



have to always be the brightest person in the room to succeed in life. You just have to be the person who is willing to put in the effort. I know that I am willing to put in the effort to get the job done.”

Bridges is confident that Elad will do just that.

“Dr. Elad’s leadership provides

ABAC a unique opportunity to bring programs in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Stafford School of Business closer together,” Bridges said. “Her proven skills and committed leadership will move the Stafford School of Business forward.”

Elad already has three goals in mind involving enrollment, curriculum, and partnerships.

“I like the close the loop approach that Dr. Bridges uses,” Elad said. “We want to show the students not just what they get when they enroll here but what they have to look forward to when they graduate with a degree from ABAC.”

“I believe we have a solid curriculum in the Stafford School of Business but every curriculum could use some tweaking. I want to make it

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Sounds of Sinatra Will Highlight An Evening for ABAC March 3

Dine on a table packed with culinary delights and then dance the night away to the sounds of Frank Sinatra at An Evening for ABAC on March 3 in the annual student scholarship fundraiser sponsored by the ABAC Foundation at ABAC.

Wayne Jones, Director of the ABAC Arts Connection, coordinates the evening for the ABAC Foundation, which has sponsored the annual event since Anita Bryant graced the dining hall stage in 1972 for a dinner and show which came to be known as Dollars for Scholars.

With Mark Randisi and The Motor City Horns playing the timeless music of Sinatra, this year’s show at 6 p.m. on March 3 at the

University of Georgia Tifton Campus Conference Center promises to be one of the best.

“If you close your eyes, you’ll hear a familiar timbre and tone this year,” Jones said. “It will sound as if the Chairman of the Board himself is in the room but it’s really the voice of Mark Randisi, keeping the sounds of Sinatra alive. What he does is an incredible tribute to Frank Sinatra, not just an imitation. His devotion to the music is apparent, and you’ll be swept up in the emotion he brings to this performance.”

An Evening for ABAC in 2016 involved a variety of changes



to the event, including a new venue since Katie Deal filled up all 400 seats available for her Patsy Cline show in Gressette Gymnasium on the ABAC campus in 2015.

“We moved it to the Conference Center so we could have more space, and we added a lot of additional activities for the evening as well,”

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ABAC Performance Series Presents 'The Grapes of Wrath' Thursday

The Olney Theatre Center's National Players will perform John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath" at 7 p.m. on Thursday in Howard Auditorium on the campus of ABAC. The play is a part of the 2016-2017 ABAC Presents! Performing Arts Series.

In the play, Tom Joad returns home from prison to find his family farm in ruins. The family leaves the Dust Bowl of Oklahoma behind for a better life in sunny California. During their trip, the Joads discover others on the same path, all striving for their own piece of the American dream. Steinbeck's Great American Novel is one of perseverance against all odds.

One of two state theatres in Maryland, Olney Theatre Center



features the National Players who produce and present extraordinary theatre and performances on the Center's four-theatre campus for a diverse set of audiences in the local community with the purpose of educating the next generation of theatre-makers. It offers

a varying array of professional productions year-round that enrich, nurture and challenge a broad range of artists, audiences and students.

Individual tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 each for students under 18 years of age. Tickets can be purchased online at www.purplepass.com/abac or by phone at (229) 391-4895.

"The Grapes of Wrath" performance is supported in part by the Stafford Fine Arts Endowment and Tift Regional Medical Systems. ABAC Presents! is supported in part by Georgia Council for the Arts through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. Georgia Council for the Arts also receives support from its partner agency-the National Endowment for the Arts.

Purchase Valentine's Day Treats From Circle K

Would you like to say Happy Valentine's Day to a friend or co-worker or express appreciation to your student workers? ABAC's Circle K Club makes it easy with Valentine Treat Bags. For only \$5, you can send a treat bag with candy and Valentine-themed goodies to someone you care about. The treat bags must be purchased by Wednesday, February 8. Circle K will deliver the Valentine Treat Bag for you on February 13. For more information or to purchase, contact Deidre Martin at dmartin@abac.edu or 229.391.4907.

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more relevant for today's market, and I also want it to match the climate in the workplace."

Community partnerships and outreach into the Tifton area are key points in Elad's plan for the future of the Stafford School of Business.

"We must continue to keep ourselves relevant in the community," Elad said. "To be active in the community is very important."

Elad personifies that community involvement by serving on the Board of Directors for the Tiftarea Greenway Association and the Tiftarea YMCA. She is also a member of the Tifton Optimist Club.

"Tifton is my home," Elad said. "That's my way of giving back."

At one point in her life Elad thought living in the United States was going to be a part of her past, not her future. After growing up in Cameroon and gaining her undergraduate degree in agriculture from the University of Jos in Nigeria, she enrolled in a graduate degree program at the University of Georgia.

"I had bought a round trip ticket from Cameroon when I enrolled," Elad remembered with a smile. "After a week, I called my mom and said to send me the other half of my ticket. I was coming home."

Her parents convinced her to stick it out, and she ultimately earned a master's degree in agricultural economics and then a doctorate degree in applied economics from UGA in 1999. She wanted to convert that

education into a job with the United Nations. Fate intervened.

"My advisor said there is a job opening at a college in Tifton, and that I should take it," Elad said. "One of my students said that ABAC was a nice place, and that I would like it."

ABAC President Harold Loyd hired her but then had to convince her to stay after she was ready to move to a cooler climate after only a year.

"It was so hot that first year that I literally went home every day and closed the door to feel the air conditioning," Elad said. "Dr. Loyd convinced me to stay, and I am glad that I did."

"Being named to this position is a testament to effort and consistency. I have to give a lot of credit to Dr. Tim Marshall. He showed me how to appreciate ABAC in a very special way."

Saturday is Stallion Day!

For more information, questions regarding the schedule or to verify that your club/organization is represented, contact Brooke Jernigan at bjernigan@abac.edu or 229.391.5018

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
8:00 – 9:00	Check-in & Tours	Donaldson Dining Hall
9:00 - 9:20	Welcome & Overview of the Day	Donaldson Dining Hall
9:30-11:50 <i>Feel free to visit any of these areas during this time.</i>	Chart your own destination! Agriculture Environmental Horticulture* Natural Resources Management** Human Sciences/Liberal Arts*** Nursing & Health Sciences Science & Math**** Stafford School of Business Elephants in the Coffee Documentary Honors Apply for Admissions and/or Complete the FAFSA Academic Support/Academic Achievement Center Housing Q & A/Lakeside Tours	Locations: Ag Sciences Environmental Horticulture YOW Building Library, 2nd floor Nursing Building Lab Sciences, 1st & 2nd floor Lewis Hall Nursing, Room 114 Library, 2nd floor Library, 2nd floor Library, 1st floor Lakeside Lobby
3 sessions: 10-10:30 10:40-11:10 11:20-11:50	Stops along the way... • STEPS: Study Abroad, Internships, Engaged Learning Information Session • Campus Tours	Various Locations: Library, 2nd floor Library, 2nd floor
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch, Survey, & Drawings. Must be present to win! Turn in your completed bingo cards at lunch.	Donaldson Dining Hall
1:15 until...	Housing Q & A/Lakeside Tours Apply for Admissions Financial Aid Information Sessions	Lakeside Multipurpose Room Ag Sciences, Room 132 Ag Sciences, Room 139

ABAC Concert Choir Performance: 10:40-11:10, Driggers Chapel

*Turfgrass & Golf Course Management, Turfgrass Science—Environmental Horticulture

**Conservation Law Enforcement, Forestry, Wildlife—Natural Resource Management

***Ag Communications, Criminal Justice, Education, FACS, Music, Politics & Modern Cultures, Social & Community Development, Writing & Communication—Human Sciences & Liberal Arts

****Allied Health, Biology (Biochemistry, General, Pre-Professional), Engineering—Science & Math

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Jones said. "Every guest was treated like a genuine VIP. From valet parking and the red carpet through the dance floors on each side of the stage, I think it was a night everyone really enjoyed."

A cocktail hour, a silent auction, and a live auction in an indoor garden party atmosphere added glitter to a night which has been called "the social event of the year."

"Our patrons trust they are in for a great evening and great entertainment," Jones said. "Our whole purpose is to benefit student scholarships. That's what folks are spending their money for, to help students go to college."

Jones promises that An Evening for ABAC in 2017 will have lots of extra added attractions. He said it will be a night to remember not only in Tifton but in all of South Georgia. And ABAC students will

reap the rewards.

"During the past six years, we have raised almost \$300,000 for student scholarships," Jones said. "Our intent is to raise \$100,000 at An Evening for ABAC in 2017 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 2017 event will take us to an entirely new level."

An Evening for ABAC tickets are \$125 for singles, \$225 for couples, and \$1,500 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 Presidential for \$10,000 which sponsors four scholarships.

ABAC Advancement Director Deidre Martin said sponsors already on board include Sodexo and Affiliates, Inc., and Georgia Crown Distributing Company at the Titanium level and Colquitt Regional Medical Center, Southeastern Federal Credit Union, and Synovus Trust Company through the First Community Bank of Tifton at the Platinum level.

Gold level sponsors include AT&T of Georgia, South Georgia Banking Company, Vivien and Austin Scott, Needmore Properties, Bob McLendon Farms, Dr. and Mrs. Joe Day, Mr. and Mrs. James Lee Adams, Mr. and Mrs. James Holcomb, AgGeorgia Farm Credit, Captain D's Seafood, and WALB-TV.

Foundation Trustees Meet with Students from Beef Unit



ABAC Foundation Trustees Larry Montgomery and Michelle Higdon recently met with Dr. Mary Ellen Hicks, Mr. Doug Hicks and their students in beef production (Katherine Lynch, Chelsey Daughtry, Allie Williams, Charlsy Garrett, Scott Steele, Wes Russell, and Robby Stephens) to learn more about their upcoming Spring Break tour to Iowa. The tour is supported by funding from the ABAC Foundation.

The American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive on Tuesday in the Nickelodeon on the first floor of Branch Hall from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. For more information, contact Shea Register at dana.register@redcross.org

Purchase Tickets for 5th Annual Beast Feast March 4

On Saturday, March 4, the ABAC Wildlife Society will host the 5th annual Beast Feast at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture in the conference room. This wildlife supper will allow patrons to sample a variety of dishes prepared from venison, wild hog, ducks, geese, alligator, bobcat, various fish species, and more. Raffles will also be held during the event. Items raffled will include a Remington 30.06 rifle, framed prints, and much more. All attendees will be eligible to win a wide variety of free door prizes during the event as well. Doors will open at 6 p.m., with the dinner beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10.00 in advance and \$13.00 at the door. Contact Dr. William Moore (229.391.4805 or wmoore@abac.edu) or Dr. Jason Scott (229.391.4804 or jscott@abac.edu) to purchase tickets or if you need more information.

ABAC Birthdays

2 Eun-Kyung You

3 Hillery Reeves