



FOCUS

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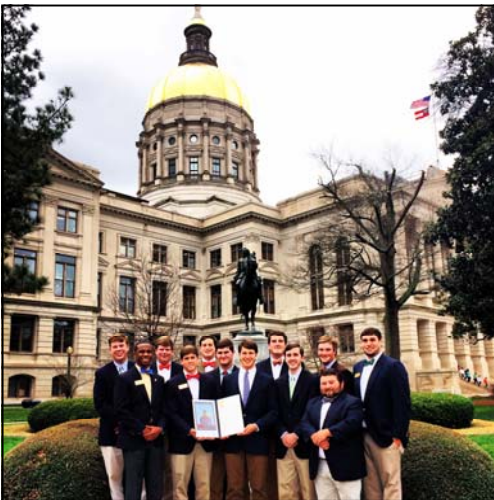


Students Represent ABAC at Citadel

ABAC students CiCi Arriaga, Seth Mann, and Mackenzie Sirmans were selected to represent the College during the 7th annual Leadership Symposium at the Citadel in Charleston, SC. Last night they were welcomed by two cadets and taken to dinner. Alan Kramer, Assistant Dean of Students, accompanied them on the trip.

Students Show Appreciation

Student Alumni Council members spent the afternoon delivering cupcakes to faculty and staff all over campus. The students used this as an opportunity to say thank you and promote the upcoming Homecoming events in April. Great job guys! Pictured (l-r) Dr. Jason Scott, Shawn Burnette, Mattison Touchstone, Ben Lineberger, Lisa Stephens and Dr. William Moore



Alpha Gamma Rho Visits State Capitol

Members of Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity were recognized with a Senate Resolution for ARG Day at the State Capitol last week. The gentlemen had the opportunity to mingle with members of the General Assembly who are also members of Alpha Gamma Rho.

Talk International Business Practices

Dave Landry, of davelandry.com, and Danny MacQuirter, Vice President and Financial Advisor and Logan Daniel, Associate from Allen, Mooney and Barnes Investment Advisors, spoke in Franzelle Pertilla's International Business Seminar class last week. During the seminar they touched on the foreign exchange market, efficiency of trade and how/when to buy stocks. Pictured: MacQuirter introduces Landry over audio conference.



Reunion of Young Family at Museum Brings Tears and Laughter

There were tears. And laughter. And lots of hugs.

It was a family reunion unlike any other because half of the 200 or so people in attendance Saturday at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC had no idea they were even related. A picture made at the H.H. Tift Cotton Mill in Tifton 105 years ago was their common bond.

Through a Georgia Humanities Council grant, Museum Curator Polly Huff and a group of English professors from ABAC brought to life a series of photographs taken by Lewis Hine, who used his camera to document the conditions of the working class in the factories and mills of the urban and rural parts of the United States in the early 20th century.

On Jan. 22, 1909, Hine took a picture of a mother and nine of her 11 children in front of their Cotton Mill village house in Tifton. That picture captured the attention of Massachusetts historian Joe Manning who sought to find the identity of the woman and her children. And he did.

On Saturday, Manning met the descendants of Catherine Young, the woman in the photo, and her children at the Museum.

"In a period of years, I was able to reconstruct the entire life of Catherine and her children," Manning told the audience in the Museum's conference room.

"They lived through all the great events of the 20th century. They were good people. They were human beings who were part of a great story."

That story took a remarkable turn three months after the Hine photo was made. Catherine Young took seven of the nine children in the photo to the South Georgia Methodist Orphan Home in Macon. Then she and the two oldest children returned to Tifton where they continued to work in the cotton mill. Two more children in the family had already left home and had gotten married before the photo was made.

"We don't know what Catherine



Nearly 100 members of the Young Family reunited at the Museum last weekend.

Young's husband, Andrew, passed away in 1907, one year after the Georgia Child Labor Law was passed. The law prohibited children under 12 from working in mills or factories unless their mother was widowed or disabled.

"They worked six days a week from 10 to 12 hours a day," Manning said. "This was their way of life. They had nothing better to compare it to."

Manning showed individual pictures of each of the nine children in the photo and then went into detail about what happened to each one of them, asking relatives of each of the children to raise their hands when

he spoke of their ancestor. In the photo, all nine children were barefoot on a January day. Manning said they all overcame their hard times, each one living to the age of 65 or older except for one, who died at the age of 18 because of an illness. Catherine Young herself lived to the age of 88 before passing away in Albany in 1957.

Dr. Earl Parker, a former ABAC Professor of Biology and Botany, had never seen the photo until Manning shared it with him in 2010. In the center of the photograph and then in another picture taken the same day, there is a smiling Eddie Lou Young. She was Parker's mother.

"I knew Mother had been in the orphan's home but I didn't know she had worked in the cotton mill," Parker said. "She never mentioned it. When Joe showed me the picture, I realized she looked a lot like my younger sister at that age."

Eddie Lou Young was eight years old when Hine snapped the photo. She lived in the orphanage for only a year before being adopted by Reese and Luella Parker who lived near Americus. Eddie Lou married Hawkins Parker on Aug. 28, 1920, and they had seven children.

When the family moved to Plains in 1941, they lived several houses away from a man who would one day be the President of the United States, Jimmy Carter.

Earl Parker was the only one of Eddie Lou's children to get a college education. He moved to Tifton in 1972 and taught 20 years at ABAC before retiring. He never knew his mother was raised in the cotton mill village, although he passed by its location many times. Eddie Lou was 79 when she died.

"I saw Catherine one time," Parker said. "It was in Albany. I had no idea about this whole story. It's just incredible."

"The Big Picture," a Tifton marketing and design company headed by ABAC alumnus Valerie Touchstone, helped to turn Hine's pictures from Tifton into a traveling exhibit which has now been in many schools around the area. The exhibit will be on display in the Museum lobby through Saturday from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Huff had tears in her eyes as she surveyed the lobby where new found relatives compared notes on their ancestors.

"This is really something," Huff said. "The story is just so heart-warming."



The nine children barefoot on a January day in 1909.

ABAC History Sits in Clayton Riehle's Yard

Clayton Riehle is not an alumnus of ABAC but he does have a big piece of ABAC history sitting in his back yard.

Originally from the northern foothills of the Allegheny Mountains on the Pennsylvania and New York state line, Riehle moved to Georgia's Ben Hill County in 2004 to be closer to the family of his wife, Michelle. His first association with ABAC came when he was selected as the administrative assistant for the ABAC institutional research office in 2005.

When they moved to Tifton in 2011, the Riehles purchased the home of former ABAC Business Administration faculty member Betty Claxton.

"Little did we know that the beautiful pavilion that sat in the back yard was actually the train depot that used to sit in front of ABAC," Riehle said. "We're not certain how long the pavilion has been in the back yard, or really how it even came to be there, but it was very neat to learn that we now owned a piece of ABAC history."

Students at ABAC once used the Moore Highway depot in front of Tift Hall to wait for the train to take them into downtown Tifton. When ABAC opened as the Second District Agricultural and Mechanical School on Feb. 20, 1908, almost 1,200 people attended, many by taking the train from Tifton.

Riehle is now the administrative assistant in the ABAC offices of Enterprise Data Services and the Registrar. Visitors to his office recognize immediately that his life isn't all about work. One can't help but notice the shirts and medals from a multitude of road races arrayed on the wall behind Riehle's smiling face.

"Running is something I do for both my physical and emotional health," Riehle said. "I'm regularly surprised by the difficulties that sort themselves out while I'm focusing only on my



Students in front of the ABAC train depot from the 1937 TABAC.

breathing, cadence and posture while running."

Riehle's activities don't stop with running. He is currently pursuing a business degree from ABAC. "With a full time job, it is taking me a little bit longer than the traditional student, but I look forward to the day I receive my

diploma from the institution I love," Riehle said. "One of the best things about ABAC is the wonderful people I get to work with on a daily basis. My coworkers and the many students I interact with definitely keep me on my toes."

Riehle means that in the literal sense because he stands at his desk instead of sitting. It keeps him in shape and allows him to be mentally and physically ready to answer questions.

ABAC Home Games This Week

Last week was full of rescheduled games, wins and losses. Below are the home games for the week. For a full schedule and results visit www.abac.edu/athletics.



Baseball: Tues. vs. Gordon College @ 5 p.m.

Join ABAC's Relay for Life Team!

Join the ABAC Relay for Life Team as an individual or by setting up your office, department or group. Contact Clayton Riehle at 229.391.4982

The Relay for Life will take place April 25.

Visit the link below to register now!

http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?fr_id=60589&pg=team&team_id=1576503

ABAC Birthdays

18 Lorie Felton 18 Sherrie Nalls
22 Kingsley Dunckley 23 Brenda Bailey

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.

Eagle Scout Daniel Smith Builds New Fence at Museum

Children of all ages are fascinated by the sound of the whistle and the sight of the 1917 steam locomotive barreling down the tracks at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC.

Now, thanks to Boy Scout Daniel Smith, one section of the railroad tracks which loop around the 95-acre Museum site, will have an extra added safety factor.

For his Eagle Scout project, Smith, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Smith of



Boy Scout Daniel Smith did a good deed for the Museum by constructing a new fence.

Tifton, chose to build a fence at the end of the play area near the railroad tracks. This fence provides an additional layer of safety for the children in the play area as the train approaches.

"Children have a tendency to run toward the train as it nears the station, and the train is unable to stop quickly," Lynn McDonald, Volunteer Coordinator at the Museum, said.

"The Museum is very thankful to Daniel for his gift of safety to our guests."

McDonald said Smith, a member of Troup 62, utilized many skills during the process from planning, measuring, budgeting, fundraising, supervising other Scouts and communicating with the Museum staff.

"Daniel met with me and started planning the project," McDonald said. "He had to work around our busy schedule and his other commitments including school and Boy Scouts."

McDonald issued a special thanks to Short and Paulk Supply Company for its donation to Smith's project.