Registered nurses in the Tifton area got a shot in the arm when ABAC President David Bridges announced that ABAC will offer a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing beginning with the 2016 summer term.

“This is like a dream come true for many of our nursing graduates in the area,” Bridges said. “I think it’s great that we are able to make this announcement during the 50th anniversary year of nursing at ABAC.”

Troy Spicer, Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences at ABAC, said the R.N. to B.S.N. completion program adds depth to one of the most popular offerings at ABAC.

“The changes have been mind boggling since the ABAC nursing program began 50 years ago,” Spicer said. “The advances in health care are just incredible. This school and this program work so very hard to graduate individuals who are ready to take care of their families and their neighbors.

“I would bet there is not a single person in South Georgia who has not been touched by a nurse who graduated from this program. If you have breathed air in the last 50 years in South Georgia, you or a member of your family have had contact with an ABAC nursing graduate.”

Associate Professor of Nursing Tami Dennis has been the point person on the project to draw up the curriculum to secure ABAC’s latest bachelor’s degree. “The ABAC nursing faculty designed the program to build on the current knowledge and professional experiences of the practicing R.N.,” Dennis said. “The program will have the added feature of a focus and application to the student’s existing place of employment.

“This focus will benefit both the student and our community partners in providing the best healthcare possible. The comradery between ABAC students and faculty fosters a positive educational experience and helps to ensure professional success.”

For more information, interested persons can call (229) 391-5020.

Among those present for the announcement of the new ABAC Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing were (lr): Dr. Gail Dillard, ABAC Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dawn Johns, Vice President for Human Resources, Colquitt Regional Medical Center; Troy Spicer, Dean, ABAC School of Nursing and Health Sciences; Scott Clanton, ABAC nursing student; Carol Smith, Vice President for Patient Care and Chief Nursing Officer, Tift Regional Health Systems; Bill Richardson, Tift Regional Health Systems CEO; Monica Gibbs, ABAC Nursing Alumnus and Registered Nurse at Colquitt Regional Medical Center; Tami Dennis, ABAC Associate Professor of Nursing; and Dr. David Bridges, ABAC President.

‘Strike Out Cancer’ Tuesday with the Fillies Softball Team

Students from the Wellness and Human Experience class along with the Fillies softball team at ABAC will help to “Strike Out Cancer” on Tuesday at Fillies Field when ABAC takes on Thomas University in a 4 p.m. doubleheader.

From 3-5:30 p.m., all spectators at the games will have the chance to help fight cancer by purchasing a balloon for $1. Participants can attach the name of a loved one who has been affected by cancer to the balloon. There will also be a Memory Wall and a Fight Wall for attendees to sign during the games. An Art Wall will be displayed on the back of the third base dugout.

In a brief ceremony between games of the twin-bill, former Coach Donna Campbell and ABAC Head Coach Jennifer Martinez will address all those present on how cancer has affected their friends and families. Their words will be followed by a release of the balloons and the start of the second game. Members of the Wellness and Human Experience class will be on hand to serve free hot dogs.

For more information on the “Strike Out Cancer” event, interested persons can contact Campbell at dcampbell@abac.edu.
Former students of ABAC will be honored at the annual ABAC Alumni Association awards ceremony as a part of the 2016 Homecoming Week on April 1 at 6 p.m. at Gressette Gymnasium on the ABAC campus. The ceremony will recognize ABAC alumni who impacted the college and their communities in significant ways. Tickets to the event are $30 per person. The deadline to purchase tickets is Monday. There will be no tickets sold at the venue. Tickets can be purchased from the College Advancement Office at (229) 391-4895. For more information on the 2016 Homecoming Week, interested persons can visit the web site at www.abac.edu/homecoming.

ABAC Will Honor Alumni April 1 at Homecoming

ABAC was recently recognized for its commitment to caring for and managing the trees on the ABAC campus. ABAC was honored during the 2016 State Arbor Day celebration at Wesleyan College for being one of Georgia’s “Tree Campus USA” communities. ABAC also received this recognition in 2014 and 2015. ABAC achieved the title for a third year in a row by meeting Tree Campus USA’s five standards, which include maintaining a tree advisory committee, a campus tree-care plan, dedicated annual expenditures for its campus tree program, an Arbor Day observance and a student service-learning project. The Tree Campus USA program, administered by the Arbor Day Foundation in Lincoln, Neb., provides the framework for community forestry management for college campuses across America that meet certain requirements.

There are 14 tree campuses in Georgia and 254 campuses across the United States with this recognition.

For more information about Georgia’s trees and services of the Georgia Forestry Commission, visit GaTrees.org. For information about becoming a Tree Campus USA and the Arbor Day Foundation, visit www.arborday.org.
ABAC Athletics Hall of Fame Announces 2016 Inductees

Six individuals and one team will be inducted on April 1 into the Athletics Hall of Fame at ABAC.

ABAC Athletics Director Alan Kramer said the 2016 class includes Wayne Cooper, Paul Fitzgerald, Tom Moody, Jackie Moore, David Owens, Ty Wright, and the 1984 Golden Fillies’ state championship basketball team.

“These are some legendary figures and standouts in our athletic history,” Kramer said. “We’re talking about some legendary coaching figures as well as some outstanding athletes in basketball, baseball, tennis, and softball.”

Tickets to the 6 p.m. ceremony in Gressette Gymnasium are $30 per person. The event also includes top award winners from the ABAC Alumni Association as a part of the 2016 Homecoming Week activities.

ABAC Celebrates Homecoming Week March 29-April 2

From club reunions to the Gee Haw Whoa Back rodeo, alumni and friends can help ABAC celebrate its week-long 2016 Homecoming activities on March 29-April 2.

ABAC Alumni Director Lynda Fisher said this year’s Homecoming festivities include the Alumni Awards and Athletics Hall of Fame Dinner, Stallion Day, the Alumni Cookout, the annual Remembrance Service in the Chapel of All Faiths, the fifth annual Run for the Nurses, the Golden Alumni reunion, and the Baldwin Players performance of the musical comedy “Nunsense.”

The festivities will begin on March 29 at 4:30 p.m. with a tailgating party before the ABAC baseball game against Gordon College. On March 30, past and present members of Greek organizations on campus will throw a Greek Toga Party for ABAC students. Located in the Nickelodeon, this event is free of charge.

The Alumni Awards and Athletics Hall of Fame ceremony will be held on April 1 at 6 p.m. in Gressette Gym. Tickets for the awards dinner are $30 per person and must be purchased in advance.

At 7:30 p.m. on April 1, the first day of the Professional Cowboy Association-sanctioned preliminary round of the Gee Haw Whoa Back Rodeo will be held at the ABAC Arena. The final round will be held on April 2. The rodeo will include saddle bronco riding, bareback riding, bull riding, team roping, calf roping, steer wrestling, break-away roping, and barrel racing.

Rodeo tickets for the general public are $10 at the gate and $5 for children ages 6–13. Children five and under and ABAC students will be admitted free of charge. Tickets will be sold in advance and at the gate on the two days of the event on April 1-2. Separate tickets must be purchased for each night of the rodeo.

The fifth annual Run for the Nurses will kick off the activities on April 2 at the Health Sciences building at 7:30 a.m. Those interested in participating in this event can go to www.active.com or visit www.abac.edu/nursing for a printable registration form through March 31. Runners can also register on race day. The annual Remembrance Service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on April 2 in the Chapel followed by a tour of Tift Hall.

Prospective students can tour the campus on April 2 during Stallion Day. Prospective students can register for Stallion Day at www.abac.edu/stalliondays.

The Alumni Cookout will be held outside Gressette Gym at 11:30 a.m. on April 2. This event is for alumni, students, and prospective students. There is a $10 registration fee that must be paid in advance.

The Stafford School of Business will offer the “Yakkling with the BOSS” kayak and canoe event at the pavilion at Lake Baldwin at 1:30 p.m. on April 2. There is no charge to participate.

One of the highlights of Homecoming, the Alumni vs. Students Softball Game, will follow at 4 p.m. at Fillies Field. Community members are welcome to be a part of the audience for this event.

The Baldwin Players will perform “Nunsense” on March 31-April 2 at 7 p.m. and a matinee performance at 3 p.m. on April 3 in Howard Auditorium. Admission is free to ABAC faculty, staff and students. The ticket cost is $7 per person for the general public.

A plant sale open to the general public will be held on March 31-April 1 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the J.G. Woodroof Farm at ABAC. Reunions of the AET Club, Baptist Student Union (BSU) and Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM), and the Golden Alumni will all take place on April 2 at 1:30 p.m. The Golden Alumni will gather at the Lakeside Lobby, the AET Club will host past members at the AET shop, and the BSU/BCM reunion will take place at the BCM building. These reunions are free of charge, and pre-registration is requested. Those interested can register online at www.abac.edu/homecoming.

The Homecoming festivities will come to an end with the finals of the Gee Haw Whoa Back rodeo at 7:30 p.m. on April 2 at the ABAC Arena, where the Stallion Cup will be announced. The Stallion Cup is awarded to the campus club or organization at ABAC that earns the most points during Homecoming Week.

For more information on the 2016 ABAC Homecoming activities or to sign up for a particular event, interested persons can go to www.abac.edu/homecoming or call (229) 391-4900.
Rebecca Cofer from ABAC has been selected to the Commission and Interest Group (CIG) appointed representative position of the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) based at Kansas State University (KSU). Cofer serves as the coordinator of the Academic Achievement Center in the Office of Academic Support at ABAC.

“I’m really excited to serve as an Appointed Representative for a division of NACADA,” Cofer said. “This association is full of amazing professionals that truly put students first so to be considered for a leadership position in this association is a real honor for me.”

Cofer was elected after a rigorous selection process between nine candidates. A survey was developed to allow for applicants to submit relevant information regarding their interest in the CIG Representative position. Invitations to apply were then sent to all current chairs and all past chairs from the past five years.

The Executive Office representative then removed all names from the applications and created a random ordering for the responses so that responses to each question could be ranked without regard for knowledge of the applicant. Finally, after a blind review, Cofer was elected by unanimous decision as a result of experience, articulation of her appreciation of diversity, and the strength and clarity of the goals she identified for her term in office.

Cofer will be serving as a representative to the executive board. She will be required to attend meetings at KSU and take part in the annual conference. She has been an active part of NACADA, previously serving as a commission chair, a steering committee member and an Emerging Leader Mentor. In 2009, she was the recipient of the national outstanding new advisor of the year award.

NACADA is an association of professional advisors, counselors, faculty, administrators, and students who work to enrich the advancement of students. The organization was established from the first National Conference on Academic Advising in 1977 and presently has over 11,000 members who represent all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Canada, and several other international countries.
ABAC Students Receive Agrium Scholarships

Hannah Wilkins of Sparta, Tenn. and Ian Bennett of Hahira are the recipients of the Agrium U.S., Inc. Tifton, Georgia Scholarship. The ABAC freshmen recently had the opportunity to meet Clint Faircloth, Terminal Supervisor for the Tifton Distribution Terminal, to thank him in person for the scholarships.

Wilkins is a diversified agriculture with an emphasis in agricultural business and agricultural education. “Without this scholarship, I wouldn’t have been able to go to college,” says Wilkins. “I decided to pursue a career in agriculture for several reasons. I grew up on a farm and have always had a passion for agriculture. I also had a wonderful agriculture teacher in high school that encouraged me to pursue agriculture as a career.”

Bennett is a diversified agriculture major. “This scholarship was huge to me and my family,” said Bennett. “Growing up and working on my family farm, college was always an option but never a serious consideration until this scholarship made it possible. I love agriculture. I grew up farming and always knew I wanted to work in the agriculture field. It’s the biggest industry in the state and I can’t wait to get started after graduation.”

Baldwin Library Hosts Research Workshop Tuesday

Struggling with your research project? Not sure where to begin? Can’t figure out if your sources are good enough? Just need some guidance? Dr. Brian Yost, Dr. Russell Pryor, and Nicholas Hardin will be hosting a research workshop on Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. in the Baldwin Library. For more information contact Nicholas Hardin at nhardin@abac.edu.

ABAC Tennis Coach Selected for Hall of Fame at Armstrong

Winning the national championship in the final tennis match of his collegiate career is a moment Dale White will never forget. His recent selection to the Athletic Hall of Fame at Armstrong State University ranks a very close second.

“Becoming a member of the Hall of Fame is one of the most memorable moments of my life,” White said. “It’s something I never thought would happen. It’s so nice to be recognized for what I achieved at Armstrong in my four years there.”


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