



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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Join us on Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. on the first floor of Lewis Hall for an exciting announcement about the *newest bachelor's degree at ABAC!*

Spicer Named Dean of School of Nursing and Health Sciences

Troy Spicer will become the new Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences at ABAC, effective April 1, according to an announcement by Dr. Niles Reddick, Vice President for Academic Affairs. Spicer has served as the Interim Dean since October, 2012.

An Ocilla native, Spicer began working at ABAC in July, 2003 as an assistant professor of nursing. He also served as coordinator of the student health center. In 2011, he was promoted to the rank of associate professor before taking the role as interim dean.

"We are excited to have Troy lead the School of Nursing and Health Sciences," Reddick said. "He is actively engaged across the campus and brings a great deal of professional experience

to lead the School."

Spicer has always played a pivotal role in the continued growth of ABAC's nursing program.

"We owe the success of the nursing program here to our excellent nursing faculty at ABAC," Spicer, who now lives in Alapaha, said. "I am grateful to have the opportunity to lead this group as we continue to educate the best nurses in the State of Georgia. Our primary challenge now is to build on past success and to make changes in the program that reflect the highly technical nature of health care."

Spicer is an ABAC alumnus, earning his associate degree in nursing in 1982.



He graduated from the Medical College of Georgia in 1988 with his bachelor's degree in nursing. He received a master's degree in 1993 from Georgia State University. He is presently in the Doctor of Nursing Science program at Kennesaw State University where he has finished his coursework and has begun his dissertation research on end of life decision-making.

Spicer is also a family nurse practitioner whose experience has been largely in nursing education and the operation of community-based clinics for the poor.



Spring Break Takes ABAC Students All Over the World

ABAC students and faculty spent their spring break traveling the world. Pictured: Top left: Seven students traveled the mid-west for the annual beef industry tour, first stop in Astoria, Ill. Top right: Journalism students in India with elephants, bottom left: the first ever ABAC group to study abroad in Belize at the Jaguar Temple at Lamani, the longest inhabited Mayan site in Central America. Bottom right: Students competed in the Forestry Conclave in Dublin, Va. for the first time.

Arbor Day Foundation Honors ABAC with Tree Campus USA Recognition

ABAC has been honored with 2013 Tree Campus USA recognition by the Arbor Day Foundation for its commitment to effective urban forest management.

Tree Campus USA is a national program created in 2008 by the Arbor Day Foundation and sponsored by Toyota to honor colleges and universities for effective campus forest management and for engaging staff and students in conservation goals. ABAC achieved the title 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 student service-learning project.

Brad Barbee, ABAC Grounds Manager and Tree Campus USA Committee Chair, said "ABAC becoming a Tree Campus USA was a goal the College has worked toward for some time now. This honor demonstrates our strong commitment to existing trees and development of future tree care practices on campus. The projects that will ultimately ensue because of this distinction serve as a bridge for community, faculty, staff and students through aware-

ness, campus learning projects and community outreach projects."

The Arbor Day Foundation and Toyota have helped campuses throughout the country plant thousands of trees, and Tree Campus USA colleges and universities invested over \$26 million in campus forest management last year. More information about the program is available at arborday.org/TreeCampusUSA.

"Students are eager to volunteer in their communities and become better stewards of the environment," said John Rosenow, founder and chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Participating in Tree Campus USA sets a fine example for other colleges and universities, while helping to create a healthier planet for us all."

"Toyota is so proud to support a program that we believe has a great impact on both reducing the environmental footprint of a college campus and inspiring college students to become conservation leaders," said Latrondra



Members of the Tree Campus USA Committee pictured L to R: Al Potts, Georgia Forestry Commission Chief Ranger; Dr. Ray Smith, Associate Professor and ABAC Agriculture Department Head; Lee Kirby, Forestry Club & Student Association of Foresters Student Chapter President; Dr. David Bridges, ABAC President; Brad Barbee, ABAC Grounds Manager; Bill Constanzarita, ABAC Grounds Supervisor; Barry Barbee, iDonate Director of Donation Programs; and Grant Rentz, ABAC Forest Resources Technician.

Newton, chief corporate social responsibility officer for Toyota Motor North America, Inc.

The Arbor Day Foundation is a million member nonprofit conservation and education organization with the mission to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. More information is available at arborday.org.

Merrill To Serve As Acting Vice President for Planning and Operations

Melvin Merrill will serve as acting Vice President for Planning and Operations. After serving in the US Army, Merrill began his career at ABAC in 1978 as President of the ABAC Foundation. Most recently he has served in the position of Director of Capitol Planning where he managed the Front Campus Renovation Project and has begun working on the new lab sciences project. Merrill assumes the duties formerly performed by John Clemens who will serve as Interim Vice President for Fiscal Affairs at Darton State College beginning April 1.

Blount Named Special Projects Coordinator at ABAC

Scott Blount has been named Special Projects Coordinator at ABAC, according to an announcement by ABAC President David Bridges.

"Scott has over 10 years of experience in higher education and spent much of that time working with the Georgia General Assembly," Bridges said. "He also brings a solid background of financial and policy analysis to this position. I am confident that Scott's experience in, understanding of and connections with Georgia higher education will be a great benefit to ABAC."

A Waycross native, Blount received his BSA in Economics from the University of Georgia in June 1998. He began



his 11-year career at the Georgia General Assembly in August 2001 and worked up to the position of Senior Financial and Policy Analyst and Higher Education Liaison. As the Higher Education expert for the Georgia House of Representatives, Blount traveled the state to work with University System of

Georgia and Technical College System of Georgia institutions. He worked with USG and TCSG presidents, budget directors and other fiscal personnel to review spending priorities and to analyze budgets to identify potential areas of increase effectiveness. Prior to his position with the General Assembly, he worked as a market analyst for AGCO Cooperation in Duluth, Ga.

"I'm very excited to join the ABAC family and I look forward to contributing to the success that this college has enjoyed under Dr. Bridges," Blount said. "I feel confident that my experience in budget planning, policy development, and relationship-building within the higher education community in Georgia, and specifically within the University System, will make me an asset to this institution."

Blount began work at ABAC in March. He will be working with leadership across the campus to conceptualize and implement key initiatives coming out of the 2013 Strategic Plan. Blount's first project will be to develop a system to track and quantitatively define performance under the new USG Performance-based funding formula.

Learn More About Fisk Jubilee Singers Before They Perform

The Fisk Jubilee Singers from Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn., will perform on Saturday at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Tifton as part of the "ABAC Presents! Performing Arts Series". Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

The Fisk Jubilee Singers were formed in 1871 at Fisk University, one of the most prestigious Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Just one year later, the group was performing at the White House. Over their 143-year history, the Singers have come to be recognized as a world authority in the singing of spirituals, as important artistically as they are historically. They have sung for Presidents, Kings and Princes, as well as heads of state throughout the world numerous times.

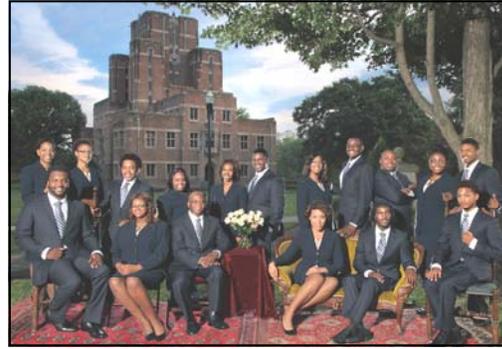
While available tickets will be sold at the door on the day of the event, Series Director Wayne Jones encourages advance purchase of tickets to ensure seating for patrons. Individual tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students under 18 years of age. Tickets can be purchased online at www.purplepass.com/fisk or by phone at (229) 391-4895.

The Fisk Jubilee Singers, under the direction of Dr. Paul Kwami, will work

with the ABAC Chamber Choir under the direction of Dr. Susan Roe, Professor of Voice and Director of Choral Music; the Colquitt County High School (CCHS) A Cappella Chorus under the direction of Travis Kern; and the Tift County High School (TCHS) Choirs under the direction of Joanie Padgett for the March 29th event.

Kwami will lead a residency in Tifton beginning on March 26 to work with the ABAC Chamber Choir, CCHS, and TCHS for the performance on March 29. This residency will educate both the students and the public regarding the historical significance of the African American Spiritual and will also include workshops and local high school choir rehearsals with Kwami.

Introductory lectures about the history of the Fisk Jubilee Singers by Dr. Toni Anderson, professor of vocal studies at LaGrange College, will also be a part of the residency.



Anderson will hold three introductory lectures in Tifton and on the campus of ABAC. Titled "The Story of the Fisk Jubilee Singers," the lectures will be held on Tues. at 2 p.m. in the TCHS Perform-

ing Arts Center and at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium on the campus of ABAC. The third session will take place on March Wed. at 7 p.m. at the Shiloh Missionary Church, Tifton. All lectures are free of charge.

The lectures will include a brief overview of the abolition movement, the formation of the American Missionary Association, the founding of Fisk University, the birth of the Jubilee Singers, and the ensemble's struggles, triumphs, and significant contribution to the advancement of civil rights.

The final performance in this series will feature jazz saxophonist Roger Pemberton on April 17 at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium.

ABAC Home Games This Week

There are many opportunities to go out and support the ABAC athletic teams this week. Below are the home games for the week. For a full schedule and results visit www.abac.edu/athletics.

Baseball: Tues. vs. East GA @ 6 p.m.

Softball: Tues. vs. Darton @ 2/4 p.m.

Men's Tennis: Wed. vs. Middle GA @ 2 p.m.

Sat. vs. Oxford @ 2 p.m.

Women's Tennis: Wed. vs. Middle GA @ 2 p.m.

Sat. vs. Oxford @ 2 p.m.



Stallion Field added something new— go check it out and cheer them on!

USG Tobacco Policy

On March 18, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia voted to create a policy that will prohibit the use of all forms of tobacco products on all USG properties. The new policy will take effect in October. Further details will be communicated as we work with faculty, staff and students to develop and implement campus guidelines.



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

Eleven Alumni To Be Honored During Homecoming

Former ABAC students will be honored at the annual ABAC Alumni Association awards ceremony as a part of the 2014 Homecoming Week on April 4 at 6 p.m. at Gressette Gym.

The ceremony will recognize ABAC alumni who impacted the college and their communities in significant ways. Advance tickets are \$30 per person. There will be no tickets sold at the event. Tickets can be purchased from the ABAC College Advancement Office at (229) 391-4895. For more infor-

mation on the 2014 Homecoming Week, interested persons can visit the web site at www.abac.edu.

ABAC Alumni Association award winners this year include Dr. **Tim Marshall** of Hahira, Distinguished Alumnus; **Alisha Hall** of Fort Valley, Helen Brown Sasser Award; **Laura Niki Knox** from Peachtree City, Outstanding Young Alumnus; **James Lee Hall** of Arlington, Va., J. Lamar Branch Award; **Lola Henning West** from Amarillo, Tex., Outstanding Educator; **James Holcomb**

from Savannah, Outstanding Business Leader; **Nancy Hilton** from Ocilla, Outstanding Health Care Professional; and **John David Moore** from Chula, Master Farmer. Honorary Alumnus selections include **Dr. Rod Brown** of Tifton, **Roger Dill** of Tifton, and **DeNean Stafford, III**, of Tifton. **The Gay family and the Howell family** from Lincolnnton, Gordon, Irwinville, and Athens will receive the Family Legacy Award.

ABAC Names New Inductees to Athletics Hall of Fame

A hot-shooting guard from Enigma who led the Stallions to the state basketball title, a longtime ABAC faculty member who directed the Fabulous Golddusters dance team and a state intercollegiate champion softball team have been selected for the 2014 class of the ABAC Athletics Hall of Fame.

Athletics Director Alan Kramer announced Thursday that **Marshall Taylor**, **Andrea Pate Willis** and the **1993 State Intercollegiate Softball Champions** will be the inductees for the seventh class of the Hall of Fame.

Tickets are now available at a cost of \$30 per person for the induction dinner in Gressette Gym at 6 p.m. on April 4, which is a part of the ABAC Homecoming Week activities. Persons who wish to attend the dinner can contact the

Office of College Advancement at (229) 391-4895 for tickets. Tickets will only be sold in advance.

For the first time this year, the Hall of Fame event will be a part of the alumni awards ceremony. For more information on the 2014 Homecoming Week activities, interested persons can visit the ABAC web site at www.abac.edu/alumni.

Registration for Homecoming Events Ends TODAY -- Register Now

Don't get left out on any of the fun! Be sure to register for the Homecoming events below. Don't be alarmed. This is definitely not everything that's taking place from March 31– April 5. There is something happening everyday that week; First Tuesday Concert, Mr. ABAC competition, Student vs. Alumni softball game, Parade and Rodeo are just a few of the events taking place that week.

Be sure to visit www.abac.edu/alumni or call 229.394.4895 to register for the events listed below! Be on the look out for a full schedule of events the week of Homecoming.

Thursday – April 3		
6:00 p.m.	Student/Alumni Softball Game Sign Up Here!	Softball Field
Friday – April 4		
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Rural Symposium (Registration fee required)	GMA
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Golden Alumni Luncheon (\$20, Registration required)	ABAC Lakeside, Atrium
6:00 p.m.	Alumni Awards/Athletics Hall of Fame Dinner (\$30 Registration Required)	Gressette Gym
Saturday – April 5		
7:30 a.m.	Run for Nurses Race/5K and 1/2 Marathon (entry fee)	Red Hill Tennis Center
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Stallion Day	Gym
12:00 noon	Alumni Cookout for alumni & students (\$10)	Outside of Gym
4:30 – 6:00 p.m.	Individual School Events	Lewis Hall

Barn Quilt Day at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture Saturday

The Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC will host Barn Quilt Day at 2 p.m. on Saturday. Barn Quilt Day will include the dedication of the Wiregrass Barn Quilt, which was created by the Wiregrass Quilters' Guild. The barn quilt features the "Churn Dash" pattern, a common quilt pattern in the Wiregrass area in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Polly Huff, the Museum's assistant director and curator, said barn quilts are painted quilt squares traditionally painted on boards and then mounted on a barn. The history of the American Barn Quilt can be traced back almost

300 years to the arrival of immigrants from Germany, Austria and the Netherlands. It is widely believed that barn painting/quilting originated in Pennsylvania with these immigrants.

The quilt will hang on the Museum's Wiregrass Opry shelter. To celebrate this event, the Museum will host an ice cream social for all the quilters who were involved in the project. An original fabric quilt made by the Guild and featuring the same pattern as the barn quilt will be permanently placed somewhere on site, and visitors will use various clues to find it. Quilters from the Guild will get free admission that day

with their valid Guild membership card.

The week following the Barn Quilt dedication will be full of events including the opening of a new Quilt Exhibit at the Gallery featuring Sue Turnquist, the 2013 American Legacy Viewers' Choice Quilter, on April 4 and the annual American Legacy Quilt Show on April 4-5. Also on April 5, visitors to the Museum can attend the Folklife Festival, Spring Flower Show, Egg Industry exhibit opening, and the season opener of the Wiregrass Farmers Market.

For more information contact Huff at phuff@abac.edu.

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.

Bruce, New ABAC Police Officer

Tom Bruce has joined the ABAC Police force. Bruce retired from Dougherty County Sheriff's Office after 29 years of service. He served four years in the Marine Corps. Bruce is President of the Ga III Chapter of the Blue Knights Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club of Albany. He and his wife have two sons and five grandchildren. He can be reached at 229.391.5060.



Stafford Hall Manna Drop April 12

Stafford Hall is sponsoring an Easter Manna Drop on April 12 at 11 a.m. at Charles Spencer School 65 Tifton-Eldorado Rd – Tifton, GA. Come join us as we give food boxes to the Tift community. Contact Elisabeth O'Quinn for more information eoquinn@abac.edu.



Sign-up to Run for the Nurses
Early registration for Run for the Nurses ends April 1. Don't miss out!
www.abac.edu/nursing

Encourage Eligible Students to Apply for Donaldson Award

The George P. Donaldson Award is presented by the ABAC Alumni Association to the institution's most outstanding graduate in both the fall and spring graduations. The Award recognizes students who have distinguished themselves through scholarship, leadership and citizenship. The Selection Committee will contact qualified students for interview and the award will be presented at Graduation May 8. Should you have questions, please contact the Office of College Advancement at 229.391.4900 or email alumni@abac.edu. Criteria is listed below:

- Must have an ABAC cumulative institutional grade point average of 3.0 or higher and have demonstrated leadership and citizenship through a variety of campus activities.
- Must participate in the graduation ceremony for which he/she has applied.
- Must be in good standing with the student judiciary.
- Application packet, including the student's Statement of Activities and three to five letters of reference from ABAC faculty and/or staff, must be submitted to the Office of College Advancement, located in the Alumni House, or address ABAC 13, by 5:00 p.m. on April 8, 2014.

ABAC Birthdays

28 Patsy Hembree 30 Shannon Hawsey

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.