



# FOCUS

## ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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### ABAC Introduces New Bachelor's Degree in Business

For the first time ever, ABAC will offer a Bachelor of Science degree in Business and Economic Development according to an announcement by ABAC President David Bridges at a news conference last week.

"This is another history-making day for ABAC," Bridges said. "Not only can students earn a business degree, but they can couple it with many of our other degrees like Agriculture or Communications to earn a degree in Ag Business or Business Communications. This provides new options for our bachelor's degree students."

Academic Affairs Vice President Niles Reddick echoed Bridges' comments.

"One student may choose to focus entirely on the business aspect," Reddick said. "Another might choose to concentrate on the economic development angle, particularly rural development. I think the degree captures a niche here because it could be all about preparing to take over a small family business."



Dill and Susan Driscoll, Deans of the Stafford School of Business at ABAC, were almost ecstatic with the endless possibilities the new degree offers.

"Let's say a student wants to focus on distribution," Dill Driscoll said. "We can send him to Lake Placid, New York for an internship where he learns the business inside and out. We already have a couple of students going to London for an internship with a small family business. They will actually do the work from beginning to the end product."

"We can truly focus on creating an educational track that fits the student's needs versus a pre-set curriculum such as marketing, accounting, or finance," Susan Driscoll said. "This degree is perfect for students who want to be managers of a business or create successful new businesses. Then we have the economic development courses for those who want to focus on building great communities through that avenue."

Building on a long standing relationship with the Coca-Cola Company and an eye-popping list of other clients, the Driscolls literally traveled the world with their marketing company, "ignition," prior to coming to ABAC in July, 2012. When they sold the company, the timing could not have been more perfect for them to step into the world of academia.

"I had spent 35 years training over 400,000 young adults to do experiential marketing," Dill Driscoll said. "I've

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### Mr. ABAC Wednesday @ 7 p.m.

Fifteen men will compete for the title of Mr. ABAC in the 23rd annual competition at 7 p.m. on Wed. in Howard Auditorium. The theme for this year's event is "Men in Uniform." The contest is sponsored, directed, and produced by the Family and Consumer Sciences Club. Tickets are \$5 per person in advance and will be available in Bowen Hall 205 or from the contestants. If the event is not a sellout, tickets will also be sold for \$7 at the door. Contact Cindy Epperly at [cepperly@abac.edu](mailto:cepperly@abac.edu) for more information.

### Submit Your Nominations for Pacesetter by April 7

The Stallion presents Pacesetter awards every year to honor those whose actions and service lead the way at ABAC. Pacesetter Awards honor students, faculty, administration and staff. Please take a moment to write a note about those who have made 2013-14 memorable. Send your nominations for Pacesetter awards to [tgrant@abac.edu](mailto:tgrant@abac.edu). Please identify the nominee clearly, write a brief explanation of why the nominee deserves consideration for the Pacesetter Awards, and include contact information for follow-up inquiries. Nominations are due by April 7. The awards are determined by the staff of The Stallion. They will be presented on April 16. If you have any questions, please contact me or Editor Beverly Manning ([bmanning@stallions.abac.edu](mailto:bmanning@stallions.abac.edu)).

# HOME COMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Date/Time	Event	Venue
<b>Monday - March 31</b>		
7:00 p.m.	Senior Supper	Alumni House
<b>Tuesday – April 1</b>		
2:00, 4:00 p.m.	Softball Game vs. East GA College	Softball Field
7:00 p.m.	First Tuesday Concert	Chapel
<b>Wednesday – April 2</b>		
7:00 p.m.	Mr. ABAC	Howard Auditorium
<b>Thursday – April 3</b>		
6:00 p.m.	Baseball game vs. South GA	Baseball Field
6:00 p.m.	Student/Alumni Softball Game	Softball Field
8:00 – 10:00 p.m.	Bonfire with Concert	Tractor Pull Area
<b>Friday – April 4</b>		
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Rural Symposium	GMA
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Plant Sale	Farm
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Golden Alumni Luncheon	Lakeside
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Alumni Board Meeting	Tift Hall
4:00 – 4:30 p.m.	Memorial Service	Chapel
6:00 p.m.	Alumni Awards/Athletics Hall of Fame Dinner	Gressette Gym
7:30 p.m.	Rodeo	Rodeo Arena
<b>Saturday –April 5, 2014</b>		
7:30 a.m.	Run for Nurses Race/5K and 1/2 Marathon	Red Hill Tennis Center
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Stallion Day	Donaldson/Gym
9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Folk Life Festival	GMA
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Plant Sale	Farm
10:45 - 11:50 a.m.	Stallion Marketplace	Gym
12:00 p.m.	Alumni Cookout for alumni & students	Outside of Gym
1:30, 2:00, 2:30 p.m.	Stallion Tours for students and alumni	Tift Hall
1:00/3:00 p.m.	Baseball game ABAC vs. South Georgia	Baseball Field
4:00 p.m.	Homecoming Parade	On Campus
4:30 – 7:00 p.m.	Individual School Events	On Campus
7:30 p.m.	Rodeo Finals	Rodeo Arena



## ABAC Rodeo—Friday & Saturday

**Gates open @ 6 p.m.**

**Rodeo begins @ 7:30 p.m.**

### Admission:

Under 6	Free
6-12 years	\$5
ABAC Student	\$5
General Admission	\$10

PCA Sanctioned Rodeo • Produced by 4L & Diamond S Rodeo

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always been a teacher and a coach."

After almost two years at the helm of the Stafford School of Business, they see the new bachelor's degree giving them the impetus they need to open the doors to the future for ABAC business majors.

"This degree makes the Stafford School of Business a legitimate resource for training future business leaders," Susan Driscoll said. "This is a win for our students as well as for our local businesses in that we can prepare great business leaders for our area."

The freshman class enrollment in the Stafford School of Business was up 55 per cent last fall and 13 per cent overall

in business. The Driscolls believe the new degree could prove to be the launching pad to greater heights.

"We anticipate that this new degree will further increase our demand since we have so many students who want to pursue a bachelor's degree in business and stay at the school of their choice," Susan Driscoll said.

Bridges said that ABAC continues to build on its foundation of bachelor's degrees with the B.S. degree in Business and Economic Development.

"We started with 40 students in our bachelor's degree programs in January of 2008," Bridges said. "Now we have over 1,000 students enrolled in bachelor's degrees. When it comes to

attracting new students, we have obviously broadened our appeal even more with this new business degree."

ABAC now offers bachelor's degrees in Biology, Diversified Agriculture, Turfgrass and Golf Course Management, Natural Resource Management with majors in Forestry and Wildlife and Rural Studies which offers concentrations in Writing and Communications, Social and Community Development, and Politics and Modern Cultures.

Students can enroll in classes for the new business degree in the summer term, which begins June 2 or the fall semester, which begins Aug. 13.

## ABAC Jazz Groups to Perform at Pensacola JazzFest Saturday

The Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Choir at ABAC will perform on Saturday from 11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. at the Pensacola JazzFest. There is no charge to attend the performance. This concert is part of an annual spring recruitment tour taken each April by ABAC's music program.

The ABAC Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Donald B. Coates, and the ABAC Jazz Choir, under the direction of Dr. Susan Kirby Roe, will perform a variety of music at the festival consisting of swing, Latin, and blues.

The ABAC Concert Band, Concert Choir, Jazz Choir, and Jazz Band will perform on April 4 prior to the Pensacola JazzFest performance in Cordele at Crisp County High School and in Sylvester at Worth County High School.

Now in its 31st year, the Pensacola JazzFest is a free jazz festival held downtown in historic Seville Square. Celebrating America's love for the unique musical form of jazz, the two-day festival is held each spring. The event is administered by the Jazz Society of Pensacola with able assistance from WUWF-FM and the Arts Council of Pensacola.

## First Tuesday Broadway Concert

TIFTON - First Tuesday Concert attendees can give their regards to Broadway on April 1 when the First Tuesday Concert Series features its annual Broadway Night at 7 p.m. in the Chapel of All Faiths. The concert is free and open to the public.

The concert will consist of ABAC vocal music majors who auditioned to sing, ABAC vocal graduates, and an ABAC professor of theater. The accompanists for this performance will be Dr. Douglas Jurs, assistant professor of piano and theory at ABAC; Gina Lawhon of Tifton, adjunct applied teacher of organ at ABAC; and Susan Spivey of Fitzgerald.

ABAC graduates Scarlett Eirish, Patrick Ireland, Daniel Gibson, and Katelyn Payne have continued their music education at Valdosta State University and will perform selections from "Jekyll and Hyde," "Wicked," "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," and Disney's latest blockbuster headed to Broadway, "Frozen."

ABAC vocal music majors Travius Burch from Sylvester, Mariah Slaughter and Erica Humbert of Thomasville, Ter-

rence Gibson, Jr., from Baxley, Lauren Lever from Tifton, and Alena Phillips from Richmond Hill will perform selections from "Phantom of the Opera," "Porgy and Bess," "Les Misérables," "Ragtime," and "Showboat."

Another featured performer, Blane Jacobs, an ABAC graduate and minister of music at the First Baptist Church of Fitzgerald, will perform selections from "Carousel" and "Annie Get Your Gun." His wife, Barbara Jacobs, along with Scott Spivey and former secondary piano instructor for the ABAC music program, Susan Spivey, will perform a selection from "Rent." All three of these featured guest performers are from Fitzgerald.

The First Tuesday performance will culminate with ABAC's own Professor of Theater, Dr. Brian Ray, who will perform selections from "Man of La Mancha" and "Fiddler on The Roof." For more information, interested persons can contact Dr. Susan Roe, Director of the ABAC music program and First Tuesday program director, at 229-391-4943.

Run for the Nurses is Saturday! Don't miss out of the race this Sat.

Early registration for the run ends Tues!

[www.abac.edu/nursing](http://www.abac.edu/nursing)

Join ABAC's Relay for Life Team!

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

# Stallion Day, Saturday

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 – 10:40 • 9:30-10:00 10:10-10:40	Student Conversation Corner  Join the experts and have your questions answered on these areas from faculty, staff, and students.	Health Sciences Building <u>Seniors</u> <i>Room 114:</i> <i>College 101 It's here, are you ready?</i> <i>Room 108:</i> <i>Student Information Panel</i>  <u>Underclassmen</u> <i>Room 254:</i> <i>College 101: Preparing for the future</i>  <i>Room 259:</i> <i>Student Information Panel</i>
9:30-10:40	Parent Conversation Corner	Howard Auditorium
10:45-11:50	Stallion Marketplace & Tours	Gressette Gymnasium
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	Gressette Gymnasium Grounds
1:00 <b>2 Session Times</b> 1:10 to 1:30/1:40 to 2:00 1:10 to 1:30/1:40 to 2:00 1:10 to 1:30/1:40 to 2:00  1:00 <i>Tours and Admissions Info continue all afternoon!</i>	<u>Information Sessions</u>  Financial Aid • Senior Session • Underclassmen Session Student Accounts/VA   Admissions Info for all students  Housing and Lakeside Tours	Ag Sciences Building:  Room 131 Room 137 Room 133  Room 143  Lakeside Multipurpose Room

## Folk Life Festival Saturday

The Folk Life festival will showcase South Georgia history, art and culture runs from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Saturday. The highlight of the Festival, the Turpentine Still, will feature a ceremonial firing at 11 a.m. for the Historic Village's annual turpentine distillation. The Festival will also include the American Legacy Quilt Show, and the Tifton Garden Club will conduct a "Welcome to Our Garden" Flower Show in the Museum Atrium. The Folklife Festival will also have demonstrations including tree debarking and hewing, mule plowing and farrier demonstrations. Little ones can also enjoy having their faces painted. There's all of this and more at the Museum Saturday. Admission is \$8 for seniors, \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 5 – 16 years of age, and free for children under five. Contact the Country Store at (229) 391-5205 for more information.

## 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](http://www.abac.edu/athletics).



**Baseball:** Thurs. vs. South GA @ 6 p.m.

Sat. vs. South GA @ 1/3 p.m.

**Softball:** Tues. vs. East GA @ 2/4 p.m.

**Women's Tennis:** Sun. vs. FSCJ @ 1 p.m.

## Wright Begins as Student Financial Services Director Tuesday

Michael Wright has been named Student Financial Services Director at, according to an announcement by ABAC President David Bridges.

“Wright comes to his new position at ABAC with much experience in financial aid and we look forward to having his knowledge at the College,” Bridges said.

A Cordele native, Wright received a BBA from Georgia Southern University in 1992 and earned his M. Ed from the University of Georgia in 2008. Wright



has been an employee at South Georgia Technical College since 1995. He has served as the Director of Financial Aid since 2007. He began his 19 year career as the Financial Aid Assistant working at the Crisp County satellite center where he managed the financial aid office and bookstore. In 1999, he moved to the position of Admissions Director of the Crisp

County Center working in recruiting, community relations and student activities.

“I am excited and honored to have the opportunity to serve the students of ABAC. The Student Financial Services office plays a critical role in supporting student retention and academic success at the institution by informing students of available resources and, also, of the academic responsibilities that are required to retain eligibility for aid,” Wright said. “We want our students to know that we care about them and I am looking forward to working with my new colleagues to assist ABAC students with their financial planning for college.”

Wright will begin work at ABAC Tuesday.

## Wiregrass Farmers Market Opens Saturday at Museum Festival

Fresh local produce, delicious jams and jellies, and even a chance to pet some piglets will be available to customers of the Wiregrass Farmers Market when it opens its spring season on Saturday underneath the pole barn at the Museum.

Along with the freshest locally grown vegetables and fruits, Market customers can stock up on cold-pressed, non-GMO oils made with sunflower seeds, peanuts, or pecans by Oliver Oil Farms. Freshly made local honey will be available for purchase, along with delicious baked goods, vegan pastries, and a variety of gluten-free baked items.

Artisan breads, cinnamon rolls,

cookies, and granola made with freshly ground whole wheat will be once again offered by the Reed Family Farm. From moon sand to play dough, parents will find a variety of natural, non-toxic and handmade toys for their children. Hand-crafted soaps made with local goats' milk, a variety of sugar herb scrubs, and free-range eggs from happy hens will be offered at the Market weekly.

Unique, natural and handmade crafts such as wooden bowls and jew-



elry will also be available. A Market Mixer featuring local music, food and games is planned for April 12 at the Museum's Wiregrass Opry Barn to officially kick off the Market season. Tickets for the Mixer will be available for sale at the Market or can be ordered by e-mailing

[wiregrassmarket@gmail.com](mailto:wiregrassmarket@gmail.com)

For questions about the Market and for vendor inquiries, interested persons can contact Market Manager Susan Schwartz at [scscarrot@hotmail.com](mailto:scscarrot@hotmail.com).

## 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](mailto: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

31	Don Coates	April	1	Jan Gregus
2	Ruth Jackson		3	Joey Johnson
3	Melvin Merril		3	Niles Reddick

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.