



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

VOLUME L

ISSUE 36

APRIL 7, 2014

Tifton Native, Ross McClellan, Chosen as Mr. ABAC 2014

Ross McClellan, a freshman biology major from Tifton, was selected as Mr. ABAC 2014 during the recent competition. The event was produced by the Family and Consumer Sciences Club.

Sponsored by the ABAC Honors Program, McClellan received the top score for the essay portion of the competition. He is the son of Nick and Pam McClellan.

"I was definitely in shock when my name was called," McClellan said. "I thought an upperclassman would win it. It's an honor for me to represent ABAC in this leadership role. I plan to serve with integrity and try to uphold the tremendous values which are a part of the history of this great school."

McClellan said he didn't win the crown on his own.

"I want God to get all the glory for this honor," McClellan said. "I also want to thank my friends and family for their support."



The top five finalist for Mr. ABAC included (l-r) Ronnie Few, Kevin Vantrees, Mr. ABAC Ross McClellan, Shawn Burnette, and Wesley Pope.

Other finalists were **Shawn Burnette**, a junior rural studies politics and modern cultures major from Cordele; **Ronnie Few**, a senior diversified agriculture major from Covington; **Wesley Pope**, a senior crop production and agribusiness major from Moultrie; and **Kevin Vantrees**, a senior diversified

agriculture major from Douglasville.

Pope received the award for the top interview score, and **Burnette** received the Contestant's Award. **Ben Lineberger**, a freshman diversified agriculture major from Perry, claimed the Mr. ABAC Spirit award for having the most audience support. Contestants were asked to design collection boxes to display during the contest with all contributions to be donated to the United Way of South Central Georgia. **Ethan Amason**, a sophomore communications major from Demorest, received

the People's Choice Award for the most contributions, and **Lineberger** received the People's Choice Award for most creative and original design of the collection box. The contest raised \$237 for the United Way of South Central Georgia.



Thompson and Andrews Named Homecoming King and Queen

Savanna Thompson, a family and consumer sciences major from Nicholls, Ga, sponsored by the Family and Consumer Science Club was named queen and Daniel Andrews, a diversified agriculture major from Jackson, S.C., sponsored by Agri Business Club were crowned Thursday at the Ben Wells Concert. Over 900 votes were cast for Phi Theta Kappa's Homecoming King and Queen competition.

Honors Day Ceremony Wednesday at 3

The Honors Day ceremony will be held on Wednesday at 3 p.m. in Gressette Gym. All employees and students who are not participating in the ceremony are encouraged to attend and help ABAC recognize our outstanding students, faculty and staff. Academic regalia for faculty will include gowns and hoods only—no caps. **Classes and labs will be dismissed at 2:30 p.m.** Please make this announcement to your classes. Also, encourage your 2 p.m. students to attend the ceremony. Students in the concert band and chorus will be participating. So that these members may set up prior to the ceremony, please excuse them by 2 p.m. A list of those participants will be sent via ABAC Announcements. Contact Brenda Doss at bdoss@abac.edu with any questions.

Employee Picnic Following Honors Day

Following the Honors Day ceremony, all faculty and staff are invited to the lawn beside Gressette Gym for an Employee Picnic where employee service and retiree recognitions will be made. During this time, Smallcakes Cupcakes, ice cream, nuts and drinks will be available for your enjoyment.

SUCCESSFUL HOMECOMING WEEK



Athletics Hall of Fame and Alumni Awards Winners



Students network with Michael LaBroad during the Rural Symposium Friday



Dr. Niles Reddick talks with prospective student and family during Stallion Day



Alumni beat current students 8-6 in softball game last week.



Many Alumni Board Members attended events last week

Ambassadors from years past got the chance to see campus and visit with current Ambassadors during one of the many reunions that took place Saturday.



Agri Business won first place for their float in the Homecoming Parade and Agronomy Club won best truck. Good job to every club that participated!



ABAC Carry the Load Rally April 24



What is Carry The Load?

How it came to be:

“I served our country as a Navy SEAL. Every Memorial Day I have a persistent, dull, deep ache. It’s the memory of all of the buddies I’ll never be able to talk to again. Several years ago, I realized I couldn’t express my feelings with words, so I put on my boots, loaded my pack and I started walking. With every step, I thought about those men I had lost. As I walked, a man stopped me and asked, ‘Son, who are you carrying?’ He understood what I couldn’t say. At that moment I knew that other people felt like me, and Carry The Load was born.”

Clint Bruce *Co-Founder, Carry The Load*

The Vision:

To restore the true meaning of Memorial Day by connecting Americans to the sacrifices of our military, law enforcement, firefighters and rescue personnel.

The Mission:

Carry The Load programs provide an interactive way for Americans to remember, honor and celebrate Memorial Day in dedication to those who sacrifice for us daily. Funds raised during *Memorial May* programs allow Carry The Load to grow its vision and execute its mission, as well as provide existing nonprofit partners with valuable visibility, resources, and meaningful connections.

Why is ABAC involved?

Twenty ABAC students will be assisting in the execution of the National Relay with Dill Driscoll, Dean of the Stafford School of Business, for a once in a lifetime learning experience. Driscoll has been a part of this National Relay through Carry the Load since its inception. Students will walk 2,000 miles with the Relay, video document the route and participants and provide support as needed.

What is ABAC doing?

ABAC is hosting the Stafford School of Business Rally on **April 24 from 12 – 6:30 p.m.** This event will happen prior to the start of the National Relay. Students, faculty, staff, and members of the Tifton community will have the opportunity to participate in our relay that day. The relay is a two mile route through the ABAC campus.

Registration Instructions for ABAC Event—April 24

Go to: carrytheload.org/abac

Register by following 1 of 3 options:

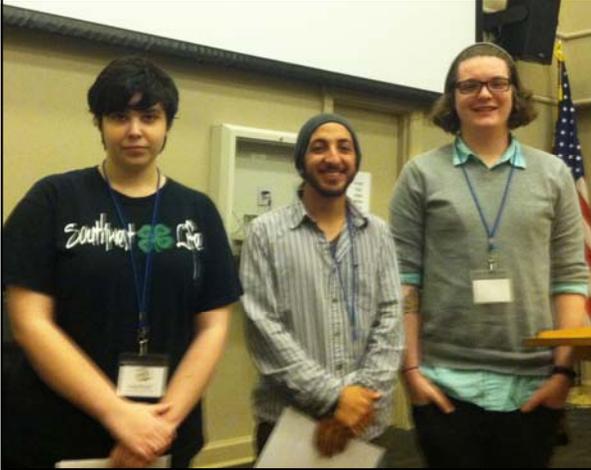
- Register as an individual – Just participate and raise money as yourself
- Start a team – Get your club or group of friends together, decide on 1 team captain and register under the team name
- Join a team – Join an already existing team (must know team name to join it) to join your friends or club members for the cause

For more information about this event, contact Public Relations at publicrelations@abac.edu

Concert Band Performs Two Nights This Week

Due to the standing room only crowd at the fall performance of the ABAC Concert Band, two spring concert performances will be held Monday and Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium. The first concert tonight will take place after the band's dress rehearsal and is catered to ABAC students and prospective high school recruits. The concert on Tuesday will be open to the community. Director of Concert Bands Johnny Folsom encourages community members to come on Tuesday evening, but if conflicts arise, guests are welcome to come to the April 7 program.

The public is invited to attend this special event and the admission is free. But, seating is limited; so you are encouraged to arrive early for a good seat. For more information contact Folsom at (229) 391-4944.



Pegasus Editors Attend Conference in Alabama

Editors for Pegasus, ABAC's literary magazine, represented the magazine and ABAC at the 22nd annual Gulf Coast Association of Creative Writing Teachers Conference at Faulkner State College in Fairhope, Alabama. This conference provides those interested in writing, editing, and publishing a chance to meet in a friendly environment with readings, panels and a book fair.



Hort. Plant Sale Success

The Horticulture Club would like to express a BIG thank you for all your support for the plant sale this past Friday and Saturday. This was very successful event. For the first time there were alumni, current students and future students in the greenhouse all at one time.



ASSETS and STEM Visit CDC

ASSETS Scholars and STEM Affiliates members visit Georgia Tech and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta to learn more about research laboratories in the biomedical field. Pictured: Sara Beth Pelham (l) and Andrea Smith try on Bio Safety Level four suits at the CDC.

Concert Choir Performs Wed. at 7 in Howard

Spirited pieces from composers ranging from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart to Irving Berlin will highlight the annual spring concert by the most talented voices at ABAC on Wed.

Music Program Director Susan Roe will lead the 75-member Concert Choir in its annual performance at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium. The concert is open to the public at no charge.

For more information, interested persons can contact Roe at (229) 391-4943.

ABAC Birthdays

10 Diantha Ellis 10 Bernice Hughes
11 Kelly Scott 11 Austin Lawton
11 Yvonne Smith
13 Marvin Holtz



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.