ABAC Honors Top Faculty, Staff, Administrator, Advisor

The top faculty member, staff member, administrator, and academic advisor for the 2015-2016 academic year were recognized during Wednesday’s Honors Day ceremony at ABAC.

Dr. James Galt-Brown, Professor of History, received the W. Bruce and Rosalyn Ray Donaldson Award for Teaching Excellence. Emily Cheek, Assistant to the Registrar, was honored with the Roy R. Jackson, Sr., Award for Staff Excellence. Troy Spicer, Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences, received the E. Lanier Carson Leadership Award for College Administrators, and Dr. Cynthia Hall, an Associate Professor of English, received the W. Bruce and Rosalyn Ray Donaldson Excellence in Advising Award.

Galt-Brown’s colleagues wrote, “when walking past his class, one is reminded of a rock concert, comedy act, and Harvard lecture all rolled into one.” A student wrote, “after taking World History in his class, I am happy to say he has left an indelible mark on me.”

An ABAC faculty member since 2003, Spicer has taken a number of nursing students to rural Nicaragua to aid in the medical care of the country’s impoverished population. This mission expanded into a collaboration with Dr. Jerry Baker, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, to write a paper on basic human

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Sylvester Student Wins Top Academic Award at ABAC Honors Day

Hayley L. Dupree, a senior business and economic development major from Sylvester, was named the top academic student at ABAC when she received the J.G. Woodroof Award at Wednesday’s Honors Day ceremony.

Dupree has been on the President’s or Dean’s List for each semester she has attended ABAC and has an overall grade point average of 3.83. She has completed an internship with State Farm through the Stafford School of Business, which has led to a job when she graduates in May.

Woodroof was the first president of ABAC in 1933. Each of the 30 units of the University System of Georgia selects a top student as the Academic Recognition Day Student and Board of Regents’ meeting in March.

A total of 21 discipline awards were also presented at the Honors Day ceremony to ABAC students who excelled in their individual disciplines. Discipline award winners obtaining associate degrees in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources included Davis H. Pollock from Cairo, Diversified Agriculture; Ricky D. Powell from Mableton, Environmental Horticulture Technology; and Ryan M. Falk from Dublin, Forestry Technology.

Discipline award winners working toward a bachelor’s degree in diversified agriculture included Amanda L. Stitt from Sharpsburg, Agribusiness; David B. Sutherland of Cordele, Crop Production;

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Dr. Gene Theodori Presents Colloquium During ABAC Homecoming

As part of the ABAC 2016 Homecoming festivities, the Schools of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Human Sciences and Liberal Arts joined together to host guest lecturer, Dr. Gene Theodori, rural sociologist and founder of the Center for Rural Studies at Sam Houston State University in Texas.

Theodori teaches, conducts basic and applied research, and writes professional and popular articles on rural and community development issues, energy and natural resource concerns, and related topics. The multi-day event was made possible by the generosity of the Jim Andrews Family Foundation Student Enhancement Initiative.

On March 31, Dr. Theodori conducted a presentation titled “The Use of Community in Natural Resource Management” to students and faculty. During his visit, faculty in the three schools participated in a round-table discussion with Dr. Theodori titled “The ‘Rural’ in Rural Studies: Noun or Adjective?”

On April 1, Dr. Theodori presented to a room full of faculty and students from across the college on “Cultivating Place: Toward a Framework for Sustainable Rural Community Development.”
right of access to the benefits of technology that will be presented at the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates.

In a career spanning 20 years, Cheek has served in a variety of capacities at ABAC including library assistant, records coordinator and assistant to the registrar.

One colleague says of Cheek, “a lot of her work is done behind the scenes, yet we couldn’t function without her. Her knowledge of ABAC’s policies and procedures is amazing.” And another peer notes, “She is a great person to work with because she finds the answers even if it is not her job to do so.”

Cheek has helped with the Relay for Life fundraiser, contributed during water and Gatorade drives in support of local firefighters, and provided treats in appreciation for ABAC’s Sodexo partners.

Hall joined the ABAC faculty in 2008 and describes herself as “a life advisor, a career advisor, a social advisor, and an all-around ABAC mom.” Her advisees agree saying, “she is able to see so much potential from everyone she meets and every one of her students.”

Besides her teaching and advising duties, Hall also serves as director of ABAC’s Honors Program and director of the Move On When Ready program.

### ‘Bottles and Brushes’ Art Class at Museum of Agriculture on Friday

The Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC will host the “Bottles and Brushes” art class on Friday from 6-8 p.m. Participants will paint “Sunflower” by Brenda Rose, a local artist and the “Bottles and Brushes” instructor.

Rose will guide participants through the process of recreating her original work, while students create their own interpretation before their eyes. Participants can bring their favorite beverage while enjoying an evening of creativity and fun. The Gallery at the Museum will provide the paint, canvas and brushes.

Registration for the class is on a first come, first served basis upon payment of the fee. Space is limited so early registration is important. Participants must register ahead of time by contacting Huff at phuff@abac.edu. The class fee is $25 per person or $40 for couples. It is non-refundable and non-transferable. The fee includes all supplies and instruction.

### ABAC Employees Receive Service Awards

Twenty-eight employees who have been a part of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College for a combined 345 years were recently honored at the annual faculty-staff service awards ceremony on the ABAC campus.

Two 30-year service awards went to Kip Hall, Head of the Forestry Technology Program and an assistant professor in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Pam Leonard, the Executive Assistant to the President. Those recognized for 20 years of service were Michelle Barton, credential data processor II in the Office of Enterprise Information Services, and Vickie Wilson, administrative associate in the Office of the Dean of Students.

Stephanie Coney, Olga Contreras Martinez, Brenda Graham, Wendy Harrison, Dr. Marvin Holtz, Polly Huff, and Dr. Jewrell Rivers were honored for 15 years of service.

Those honored for 10 years of service included President David Bridges, Vickie Holloway, Ruth Jackson, Brooke Jernigan, Avijit Kar, Esthela Lopez Flores, Dr. Tim Marshall, Ryan Myers, Jeannie Paulk, Becca Turner, and Gina Wilson.

Those receiving awards for five years of service were Dr. Joseph Brown, Deidra Jackson, David King, Joy Lott, Richard Spancake, and Dr. Eun-Kyunk You.

Pam Leonard, Executive Assistant to the President, received a 30-year plaque from President David Bridges at the recent service awards ceremony at ABAC. Kip Hall, an Assistant Professor in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, also received a 30-year plaque but was unable to attend the ceremony.

### Nominations Due Today for Pacesetter Awards

*The Stallion* presents Pacesetter Awards to students, faculty, staff and administrators each year. Nominations are accepted through today. Please send your nominations to *Stallion* Editor Shelby Evans at sevans19@stallions.abac.edu. The nomination should include the name of the nominee, and what he or she has done to lead the way at ABAC.
2016 ABAC STEP-OFF RALLY • APRIL 28, 2016
ABAC FRONT CAMPUS • 1 - 5 P.M.

WHAT IS CARRY THE LOAD?

Carry The Load is a non-profit organization dedicated to restoring the true meaning of Memorial Day. It is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit that provides active ways to honor the military, law enforcement, firefighters, and rescue personnel who dedicate their lives to keeping our country safe.

WHAT’S HAPPENING THIS YEAR?

Join ABAC students, faculty, staff, and members of the Tifton community for the 3rd annual Carry The Load Step-off Rally on April 28 from 1 – 5 p.m. This annual event takes place prior to the beginning of the Carry The Load National Relay and serves as a send-off for the ABAC students who will walk in the relay during the month of May. This event is open to the public and free of charge. A schedule of events for the day is below.

1 p.m. - Opening ceremony and two-mile walking route through the ABAC campus
2 - 4:30 p.m. - One mile route around the Front Circle (three laps) occurring every 30 minutes
5 p.m. - Closing ceremony and send-off of National Relay Team

Register for ABAC Step-off at: carrytheload.org/tifton
Register for the ABAC Step-off by one of these options:
1. Register as an individual
2. Start a team
3. Join an existing team

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
Tifton, Ga.
Internationally acclaimed saxophonist Gregory Tardy will perform with the ABAC Jazz Ensemble at the ABAC Jazz Festival on April 21 on the campus of ABAC. Prior to the concert, the festival will feature high school jazz bands from across Georgia performing all day on the ABAC campus. The 7 p.m. concert in Howard Auditorium also represents the final segment of the ABAC Presents! performing arts series for the 2015-16 year. This performance is now sold out. All ticket holders are encouraged to be seated by 6:45 for the ABAC Presents! performance.

Sponsored by the ABAC School of Liberal Arts and the ABAC Arts Connection, the Jazz Festival promotes jazz and jazz education in South Georgia. Activities begin at 10 a.m. at The Meadows with free performances from 12 high school jazz bands.

A Jazz Clinic for the high school students will be held at 4 p.m. in Howard Auditorium following the performances. Visitors can bring their own lunch or just come and listen to the music. In the event of rain, the Jazz Festival will take place in Howard Auditorium.

**ABAC Cattlemen’s Association and Young Farmers Host Joint Meeting**

Colin Woodall, Vice President of Government Affairs for the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association in Washington, D.C recently spoke at a joint meeting hosted by the ABAC Cattlemen’s Association and the ABAC Young Farmers.

Woodall serves as NCBA’s chief lobbyist on Capitol Hill and leads the Washington office in developing strategies to ensure that the cattle industry’s voice is being heard by policy makers.

Woodall was also available to visit with students during the Annual Ag Awareness Day held in the ABAC Meadows.

**Spring Concert Features ABAC Concert Band Tonight and Tuesday**

Music from Germany, Italy, Russia, Ireland, and the USA will be spotlighted at 7 p.m. tonight and Tuesday when the Concert Band at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College presents its spring concert, “World Travels,” in Howard Auditorium.

Concert Band Director Johnny Folsom said the concert tonight will be directed mainly toward ABAC students and prospective ABAC students from area high schools. He said the concert on Tuesday is directed toward members of the community. Both events are free of charge to anyone who would like to attend.

The concert begins with the classic “Ride of the Valkyries.” And, since air transportation will be required for world travels, the band will then perform “Lord Guard and Guide the Men Who Fly,” based on the U.S. Air Force Hymn of the same title.

Italy is the next stop with “Italian Holiday.” Folsom was inspired to include the song when he witnessed his son-in-law conduct the piece at standing-room only concerts on the Mississippi State University Wind Ensemble tour of Italy.

By this time in the musical journey jet lag may have set in. The ABAC Band reflects this mood with a beautiful rendition of “Poor Wayfaring Stranger.” After being refreshed, the audience will be whisked off to Russia to listen to “Waltz No. 2.”

No trip abroad would be complete without a visit to Ireland. From the shamrocks to the tin-whistle flutes and drums, there are many inspiring melodies on the enchanted isle through “Ireland: Legend and Lore.”

And as the wheels touch down back on American soil, no tune could be more appropriate than to celebrate with John Philip Sousa’s “Stars and Stripes Forever.”

Seating is limited each night so concert goers should arrive early for a good seat. For more information, interested persons can contact Folsom at (229) 391-4944.