



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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Enigma Student Wins Top Academic Award at ABAC Honors Day

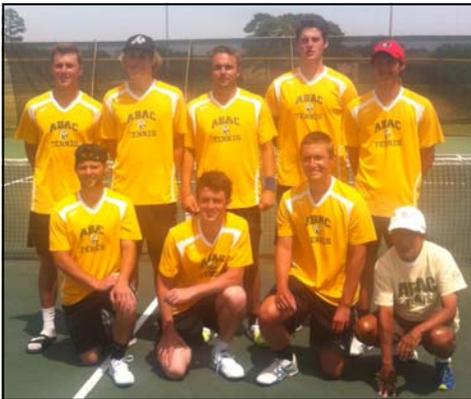
Jordan N. Gill, a rural studies major from Enigma, was named the top academic student at ABAC during Wednesday's Honors Day ceremony.

Gill received the J. G. Woodroof Scholar Award, given annually to a student at Honors Day in recognition of top academic standing at the institution.

Woodroof was president of ABAC from 1933-34. Each of the 31 units of the University System of Georgia selects a top student as the Academic Recognition Day Student of the Year who is also honored in a proclamation by the Georgia General Assembly.

While completing her studies at ABAC, Gill was involved in Phi Theta Kappa and finished two internships with the Georgia Alzheimer's Association and the Georgia Museum of Agriculture. She also participated in a study abroad trip to Nicaragua. She graduated summa cum laude in December, maintaining a perfect 4.0 grade point average and being named to the President's List each semester at ABAC.

Before attending ABAC, Gill was enrolled in a home-school program and received her General Education Diploma. She currently attends graduate school at Valdosta State University.



Stallions Tennis Team Wins State Title

ABAC's Stallion Tennis won the Region XVII Championship Friday during the GCAA Regional held on the ABAC campus. The team beat Georgia Perimeter 6-3, and the win qualified the men for the national tournament next month in Texas. Joshua Page, a freshman from the United Kingdom, was named MVP. Page has only lost one match this spring. Head Coach Dale White was also named Coach of the Year. The Fillies finished second in the GCAA Tournament, losing to Georgia Perimeter Friday afternoon.

ABAC Honors Top Faculty, Staff, Administrator and Advisor

The top faculty member, staff member, administrator, and academic advisor for the 2013-2014 academic year were recognized during Wednesday's Honors Day ceremony.

Amy Warren, Assistant Professor of Education, received the W. Bruce and Rosalyn Ray Donaldson Award for Teaching Excellence. **Brenda Doss**, Administrative Associate in the Office of Academic Affairs, was honored with the Roy R. Jackson, Sr., Award for Staff Excellence. **Paul Willis**, Chief of Staff and Vice President for External Affairs, received the E. Lanier Carson Leadership Award for College Administrators, and **Dr. Abul Sheikh**, Associate Professor of Business in the Stafford School of Business, received the W. Bruce and

Rosalyn Ray Donaldson Excellence in Advising Award.

Warren earned her bachelor's degree and her master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Florida State University. She joined the ABAC faculty in 2007. At ABAC, she is an Assistant Professor of Education and Department Coordinator for the education and family and consumer sciences programs within the School of Human Sciences.

Warren serves locally with the Tift County Foundation for Educational Excellence, the Preschool Advisory Board, and the Tift County Child Abuse Council. On the state lev-



(l-r) Willis, Warren, Doss, Sheikh

el, she is on the Educator Preparation Academic Advisory Committee. In any

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

given year, Warren makes two to four professional presentations at meetings across the nation. Her work to bring pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes to the ABAC campus to support her scholarly interest of creating a college-going culture has been well received by surrounding schools. **Warren** received a plaque and a check for \$2,500 from the ABAC Foundation.

Doss has served in the Office of Academic Affairs for 16 years. She earned her associate's degree from ABAC in information technology in 2009, and she is graduating this semester with her bachelor's degree from ABAC in rural studies.

Doss and her daughter, Christina Norton, made ABAC history as the only mother and daughter ever to win

ABAC's top academic award, the J.G. Woodroof Scholar. Norton won the award in 2008, and Doss followed suit in 2012. Doss received a plaque and a check for \$1,250 from the ABAC Foundation.

Willis earned his bachelor's degree in 1983 from the University of Florida, majoring in food and resource economics. He had a long administrative career at the University of Florida before coming to ABAC in 2009 as the Director of College Enrichment. In 2012 he became the Chief of Staff and Vice President for External Affairs at ABAC.

Willis was instrumental in bringing Greek life to the campus, particularly the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. He was also charged with the task of assimilating the Georgia Museum of Ag-

riculture and Historic Village into the ABAC campus. Under his direction, the Museum has expanded with three new historic buildings and increased the number of special events, workshops, and a total of 17 special exhibits in three years at the Museum's Gallery. **Willis** received a plaque and a check for \$1,250 from the ABAC Foundation.

Sheikh received his bachelor's degree in agricultural engineering from Bangladesh Agricultural University; his master's degree in computer science from North Dakota State University; and his Doctor of Education degree from Valdosta State University.

Sheikh joined the ABAC faculty in 1990. He received a plaque and a check for \$1,250 from the ABAC Foundation.

Academic Achievement Center Hosting Open House Thursday @ 2

The Academic Achievement Center (AAC) is hosting an open house on Thursday. The event begins at 2 p.m. in the tutoring center on campus - underneath the library in the Carlton Center. Come see what tutoring at ABAC is all about and why it matters to faculty, staff, students and tutors. The AAC will host an open house with lots of yummy treats and great info about tutoring both as a whole and at ABAC. Now is your chance to meet some of our certified tutors and learn more about what the AAC does. Faculty & staff are welcome.



Another Successful Pre-K Day

Today over 320 children from Tift County's Pre-K program visited campus Friday for a morning of activities and fun. Accompanied by their teachers and many parents, these four and five year olds were introduced to various parts of campus life. Eighty-nine ABAC students will be worked to ensure that the time the 'class of 2027' spends with us is memorable. This a great teaching opportunity for the students that planned and executed the events that day and the children who attended.

ABAC Golf Team Takes Second Place at State Competition

The golf team at ABAC took home second place at the Region XVII Golf Championship earlier this month at Bagby State Park in Fort Gaines. The currently competing in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) District Four Golf Tournament at Stonebridge County Club in Albany.

On the first day of play the Stallion golfers had a score of 297, followed by a second day score of 301 for a total of 598. The third day of championship was cancelled due to inclement weather and finished with only seven strokes behind the lead, Darton College, who won the championship with a score of 591. Other colleges in the state tournament included Andrew College with a total score of 601 and Georgia Military College with a total score of 659.

During the championship, captain Chris Rogers from Dawson and Lee Wright of Moultrie were selected as 1st Team All-Region players. Both players were also tied for third out of 20 play-

ers. Robbie Johnson from Canada finished 7th, Guellermo Ratana of Spain placed 10th, and Clay Degler from Greenville finished 15th of the top 20 players.

"Coach Chelsey and I are very proud of the ABAC golf team," said Jimmy Ballenger, Head Coach. "Some of our players get to the golf course at 1 p.m. and don't leave until 8 p.m. They have great team chemistry.

Rogers adds, "I was very happy with the way we played at state. I feel like this was one of our most solid tournaments all year and we gained a lot of confidence heading into the district tournament. Two of our players were in the top five and three of the four top players with the most pars were from ABAC."

With the state championship behind them the team now has all their focus on the NJCAA District Four Tournament where they will compete with 11 other teams from across the south for the

district title.

"The team is playing really well and hopefully we can carry the energy from the state championship into the tournament," said Rogers.

"Stonebridge is a great course and we are excited about playing there but we have an extremely tough district so just placing high enough to make it to nationals is a big accomplishment and that is our goal."

The team's hard work has really paid off but Ballenger would also like to give credit to former head coach of the ABAC golf team, Herb Hendrix, who has contributed to their success this year.

"One of our goals has been to build upon the foundation established by Herb Hendrix and compete in state, districts, and nationals," Ballenger said. "Without him, none of these players would be at ABAC."

ABAC Employees Receive Service Awards Last Week

Four retirees were honored, and service awards were presented to 30 other employees in a recent ceremony.

Retirees included Dr. Rod Brown, Wanda Golden, Bobbie Baldree, and Dr. Doug Waid. Brown, department head of forestry and wildlife for the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, had 30 years of service. Golden, the Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences, had 15 years of service. Baldree, administrative associate in the Office of College Advancement, had 30 years of service to the college and Waid, professor of forest resources in the School of Agriculture

and Natural Resources, was a faculty member for 13 years.

Dr. Kay Weeks, professor of communication and English in the School of Liberal Arts, was honored for 35 years of service to ABAC. A 30-year service award went to Shirley Wilson, administrative assistant in the School of Human Sciences.

Those recognized for 25 years of service to the college are Cindy Barber, Janet Haughton, Dr. Mary Ellen Hicks, and Wayne Jones. Rebecca Arnold was recognized for 20 years of service to ABAC.

Dr. Rena Elad, Anthony Fitzgerald, Philip Hightower, Katrina McCrae, and Beverly Wesley were honored for 15 years of commitment to the college.

Those honored for 10 years of service to ABAC include Nancy Anthony, Emily Cheek, Shawn Cox, Teri Mathis, Deborah Pyles, and Keisha Spears.

Those receiving awards for five years of service are Elaine Auger, Christina Dent, Dr. Kinsley Dunkley, Dr. Cynthia Hall, Nicholas Hardin, Robbie Hawsey, Joseph Johnson, Debbie McComas, John Layton, Mickie Tompkins, Amada Urquhart, and Donna Webb.

ABAC Carry the Load Rally April 24

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.



WHO ARE YOU CARRYING?

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

Donate to STEM and SLIME Your Coworkers

The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Affiliates Club is hosting a Slime Your Professor event on Tuesday to raise funds for travel to various STEM research locations across the southeast. Students, faculty, and staff have the opportunity to donate money towards one of the participants. The top three participants with the highest balance will be slimed Tuesday around lunch. As of now the top three are Dr. Cyndy Hall, Dr. Johnny Evans and Amanda Urquhart. Donate today and have your coworker slimed! Contact Amanda Urquhart at aurquhart@abac.edu for more information on how to donate.



Run for the Nurses Raises Upwards of \$10,000 for Scholars

The 3rd Annual Run for the Nurses event was held on April 5 with 218 runners participating in the 1/2 marathon, 5K, and 1 mile fun run. Runners ranged in age from 8 to 75 years old. The event drew participants from Georgia, Florida, Alabama, and North Carolina. Over \$10,000 in sponsor monies were donated for the Lisa Purvis Allison "Spirit of Nursing Scholarship" through the event. Thanks to all of the sponsors, volunteers, and runners who made the event a success.

Jazz Festival, George Scott Day Thursday in the Meadows

Internationally acclaimed saxophonist Roger Pemberton and high school jazz bands from across the state of Georgia will perform at the 36th annual ABAC Jazz Festival on Thursday as a part of George Scott Day, an annual Celebration of the Arts.

Sponsored by the ABAC School of Liberal Arts, George Scott Day is a tribute to Scott, an associate professor of English at ABAC who passed away in 1994. The ABAC 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.

High schools from around the area will begin performing at 10. An ABAC art exhibit will also be on display at The Meadows and in the Bowen Hall Gallery from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. featuring artwork from ABAC students. 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.

As the final concert of the "ABAC Presents!" performing arts series, Pemberton will perform with the ABAC Jazz Ensemble in Howard Auditorium on the ABAC campus at 7 p.m. The concert is already a complete sellout.

For additional information on George Scott Day, interested persons can call the ABAC music program office at (229) 391-4945.



Stafford Hall Hosted Easter Manna Drop

Members of Stafford Hall spent their Saturday giving out food for the Easter Manna Drop. The event took place at Charles Spencer Elementary School and Stafford Hall students were able to give away around 600 boxes of food. Thanks to everyone that helped raise money and make this cause possible.

Saylor Begins In Business Office

Joann Saylor, a native of Cordele is now working in the ABAC Business Office. Saylor received her BBA degree from Valdosta State University and MBA from Albany State University. Before coming to ABAC, she worked at Bowen, Phillips & Carmichael CPA firm as a Senior Accountant for 10 years, at Tift Regional Medical Center as a Financial Analyst and most recently at the Tift County Board of Education as an Accounting Assistant/Comptroller Trainee.



Saylor is thrilled to be a part of the Business Office team at ABAC. She is responsible for all post-award grant operations, as well as assisting with periodic reporting requirements, assisting with year-end close, and various other duties as assigned. Saylor is married to Allen Saylor, who works in the EDS Department at ABAC. She can be contacted at jsaylor@abac.edu or 229.391.4867. Help give her a warm ABAC welcome!

Students Perform in Sing-Off

Have you ever found yourself at "The Right Place" at the right time? ABAC's CAB program is hosting a sing-off competition to show off



some of ABAC's most talented singers and performers: Terrance Gibson, Erica Humbert, Rilea Stapf, Mackenzie Sirmans, Andy Hicks, Jessie and Paige Still, Donnorious Shelton, Kendall Singleton, Austin Kilby, Jessica West and Shelby Riviero. Kevin Sport a television host in Nashville, Tennessee, is coming to ABAC on Tuesday to select one lucky winner to go to Nashville and appear on "The Right Place with Kevin Sport." The show features a mix of interviews and performances by country music artists from all around the country airs on RFD TV. The event will be located in Gressette Gym at 7 p.m. and is free with you gold card. Feel free to come out and join in the fun.

Join ABAC's Relay for Life Team!

Visit the link below to register now!

http://main.acevents.org/site/TR?fr_id=60589&pg=team&team_id=1576503



Stafford Hall Students Visit Chick-fil-A Headquarters

Students in the Stafford School of Business traveled to the Chick-fil-A headquarters in Atlanta on Friday. While there the students were able to take a tour of Hatch, the innovation center for Chick-fil-A, and get a Home Office Back Stage Tour (HOBST) so the students could learn more about the company and see their creative area. They also met with David Salyer, Vice President of Marketing for Chick-fil-A.

ABAC Birthdays

14 Donna Campbell	14 Elizabeth Wilcox
16 James Gault-Brown	17 Brooke Jernigan
17 Anthony Fitzgerald	19 Maggie Martin

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.