Frank Strickland is the new Chief of Police at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College after serving in an interim capacity for the past five months. Two other officers have received promotions, and four ABAC officers have received corporal designations.

Officers receiving promotions included Sergeant Debbie Pyles, who was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and assistant chief of police, and Officer Tom Bruce, who was promoted to the rank of sergeant. Officers Todd Daunhauer, Pooja Patel, Jamie Powers, and Joe Weatherford received the designation as corporals. The new designation gives the officers additional responsibilities and duties. When necessary, they also serve in the absence of the sergeant.

Strickland has served as Chief of Police and Public Safety Director in the towns of Griffin, Toccoa, and Fort Valley. He has also worked as the Chief of Police for the Medical College of Georgia and served as a police officer and supervisor for the University of Georgia's Police Department in Athens over his 35-year career in law enforcement.

Pyles began her career with the ABAC Police Department in 2004 after receiving her criminal justice degree and completing the ABAC Police Academy. In 2007, she was promoted to Sergeant and Field Training Officer. She earned a managerial and supervision certificate through Columbus State in 2010. During her 12 years as a police officer at ABAC, she was named Officer of the Year for the department in 2007 and 2014.

Bruce served 29 years with the Dougherty County Sheriff's Office. He was the night shift supervisor for 23 of those years. Bruce has been a part of ABAC's police force for just over two years.

Daunhauer joined the ABAC staff as a computer services specialist on Feb. 19, 2007. He transferred to the ABAC Police Department on April 15, 2013 and serves as the crime prevention security specialist and IT specialist for the department.

Powers worked as both a correctional officer and probation officer for the Georgia Department of Corrections before joining the department on Jan. 6, 2014 as a police officer.

Weatherford was a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army before taking a post as a police officer at ABAC on July 7, 2014.
Pacesetters Named at ABAC Leadership Banquet

Twelve Pacesetter awards were presented by the campus newspaper’s editorial board at the recent Student Leadership Banquet at ABAC.

ABAC’s award-winning student newspaper, “The Stallion,” extends Pacesetter recognition annually to those who have worked for ABAC through their actions and exemplary service. Pacesetters are chosen from the student body, the administration, the faculty, and the staff. Through their hard work, talent, and devotion, recipients embody the spirit of the college.

This year’s faculty and staff Pacesetter recipients included Dr. Kay Weeks, professor of communication and English in the School of Liberal Arts; Polly Huff, Georgia Museum of Agriculture assistant director and curator; Dr. Justin Ng, assistant professor of agronomy in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Dr. Heather Cathcart, assistant professor of biology in the School of Science and Mathematics; Andrell Durden, African American Male Initiative Coordinator in the Office of Multicultural Education; Stoney Lord, a rural studies-writing and communication major from Conyers; and Rachel Reeves, a rural studies-agricultural communication major from Macon; Hillery Hart, recreational sports director in the Office of Athletics; Dr. Jordan Cofer, assistant vice president of academic affairs, learning resources; and Dr. Gail Dillard, interim vice president of academic affairs.

The students awarded Pacesetters included Cici Arriaga, a rural studies–writing and communication major from Macon; Page Johnson, an animal science major from Conyers; and Rachel Lord, a rural studies-writing and communication major from Rochelle.

Georgia Museum of Agriculture Offers Summer Camps For Kids

Children from four to 11 years old can explore southern Georgia’s rich history and natural resources through hands-on activities, games, and crafts this summer through Camp Wiregrass at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC.

Camp Director Kelly Scott said that Camp Wiregrass provides a fun, interactive and educational environment in a unique setting. Each camp or workshop session offers age appropriate activities and themes.

To register for any session of Camp Wiregrass, interested persons can e-mail Scott at museumcamp@abac.edu or register online at www.abac.edu/museum/kids-camp.

Discounts are available for siblings, ABAC employees, and Friends of the Museum.

The summer kicks off with Munchkin camp for 4-5 year-olds on May 31-June 3 from 8:30 a.m.-noon with “Down on the Farm.” Campers will meet the local animal residents, go on wagon rides, and explore the garden. Camp activities will include cane pole fishing, wagon rides, and gardening, and “old-fashion” chores. The cost for this camp is $60 and includes snack, t-shirt, and all supplies. Campers will be going home before lunch.

Two different weeklong sessions are available for the Explorer Campers, children ages 6-8 years old. They can attend either or both “Wilderness 101” and “Step Back in Time.” The cost of each camp is $110 and includes snack, t-shirt, supplies, and afternoon water games. Campers must bring a sack lunch.

“Wilderness 101” on June 13-17 will focus on exploring the surrounding forest while learning various outdoor survival skills. Campers will build shelters, visit the Langdale Nature Center’s resident animals, and learn basic orienteering skills.

Explorers will discover Georgia’s history from the early Native American to the late 19th century with “Step Back in Time” on June 27-July 1. Campers will participate in archery, cane pole fishing, historic baseball, wagon rides, and traditional games.

Trekkers, ages 9-11 years old, can take part in the “Good Ole Days” camp from June 20-24 at the Museum. Campers will experience mid-1800s southern Georgia culture through interactive activities such as wool processing, wagon rides, cane pole fishing, and traditional games. The cost for this session is $110 per camper and campers must bring a sack lunch. This cost includes snack, t-shirt, supplies, and afternoon water games.

Female campers from 8-12 years old can also enjoy the “Victorian Adventures” camp from June 6-10. Campers will explore high society and working class as they learn how to host tea time, play games, cook a traditional 1800s meal, and embroider. The week will end with the girls hosting an afternoon tea for their special invited guest. Girls will need a clean, white shirt. The cost for this camp is $110 per camper and includes snack, t-shirt, supplies, and afternoon water games. Campers need to bring a sack lunch.

For more information on, contact Scott at (229) 391-5221, via e-mail at museumcamp@abac.edu, or visit the website www.abac.edu/museum/kids-camp.
Central Intelligence Agency to Host Session at on Wednesday

The Central Intelligence Agency is offering a special learning opportunity for students at ABAC. This opportunity is based around demystifying what it is actually like to work for the CIA. The event will take place on Wednesday at 3 p.m. in Bowen Hall Room 100.

You are invited to participate in this question and answer dialogue where the presenter will share insight pertaining to work-life balance, security process, company culture, and much more. During this event you will learn about careers in Clandestine Operations, Analysis, Science and Technology and Business operations. This session will bring a variety of opportunities such as scholarships, internships, and careers. For more information, contact Andrell Durden at adurden@abac.edu.

ABAC Nurses Implement Hands-on Learning

Julie Richardson, a graduating nursing student, built and painted a ply board stage prop called “Snotty Dotty” to teach children about how to properly wash their hands. She and a group of nursing students recently went to Lake Park Elementary and used “Snotty Dotty” to teach the children about germs and hand hygiene. It is as gross as it sounds, but it is a fun and effective way to drive an important health lesson home to this age group. Students lead the program in front. Behind the prop, which has PVC pipe nostrils, is another student with a bucket of treats on one side and a bucket of slime on the other. The students take turns “picking” Dotty’s nose. The slime has glitter in it and the students have to practice correct handwashing to completely clean their hands. ABAC nursing students lead this as well as many other health education projects in area schools.

ABAC Hosts FFA Weld Off Competition

ABAC hosted the Area Five and Six FFA Weld Off for the Southern Region of Ag Education on Monday, April 18. This competition was the culmination of earlier competitions and required students to compete in four welding events. Judges for this year’s competition were Devaughn Harris, Jimmy Grubbs, Melvin Thompson and Bobby Perry. Students competing were from Bacon County, Brantley County, Colquitt County, Crisp County, and Seminole County. The winner of the 2016 Weld Off was Blake Litchard of Colquitt County High School. He is a junior from Berlin, Georgia who plans to attend ABAC and will receive the “FFA Welding Scholarship.” His advisor is Stacey Beacham, Chair of the Agriculture Department at Colquitt County High School. Other winners were Quinton Brooks of Brantley County in Second Place and Ben Cunningham of Seminole County in Third Place. Pictured (left to right): Melvin Thompson, Devaughn Harris, Stacey Beacham, Blake Litchard, Jimmy Grubbs and Bobby Perry.

Scott Speaks to Students from Multicultural Education Programs

Vivien Scott, a Trustee of the ABAC Foundation, spoke to the Multicultural Education Programs on April 19. The motivational speech by Scott included a little bit of background on Women’s History Month. She advised the students to not be afraid to fail. She particularly addressed three key components of being successful which were: work hard, build reputation and credibility, and get started! After her speech there was a question and answer session which included her personal, educational and professional life. The Latina students were grateful that she would take time out of her schedule to talk to them.
ABAC Celebrates 50 Years of Nursing Excellence on May 4

The School of Nursing and Health Sciences at ABAC will host the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Nursing Excellence on May 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC. The event celebrates 50 years of nursing at ABAC and will feature entertainment by David Glickman, a popular health care humorist.

Tickets for the golden anniversary event are $40 per person and can be purchased through the ABAC website at www.abac.edu/50yearsofnursing.

Graduates of the very first nursing class in 1967 will be the guests of honor. The original five students, Suzette Helen Cofer, Warren Marilyn Jackson, Thresia Wayne Matthews, Emily Bernice Shivers, and Georgia Bledsoe Simmons, transferred from the Nursing Training Program housed at Norman Park College in January of 1966. In addition to members of the first class, guests of honor will also include retired nursing faculty from across the decades.

The event is open to students, former students, families and friends as well as anyone who wishes to celebrate this historic milestone with a group which gives so much back to the community. For more information on the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Nursing Excellence, interested persons can contact Yvonne Smith in the School of Nursing and Health Sciences at ysmith@abac.edu or go to www.abac.edu/nursing.

Glickman has been presenting programs to health care professionals for over 20 years. He began his career as Director of Public Relations for the American Heart Association of Greater Miami in Florida. He has presented over 2,000 programs since that time, specializing in finding humor in the hectic health care environment.

Selected as the winner of the Entenmann’s National “Funniest Person in America” Contest from over 500 contestants, Glickman was personally selected by Steve Martin from over 100 comics for an appearance on a CBS comedy program.

Glickman has also appeared on “Evening at the Improv” and has been featured in Rolling Stone magazine and scores of other publications. He has been the opening act for stars such as The Beach Boys, Ellen DeGeneres, and Ray Romano. Glickman resides in Tampa, Fla., with his wife and two sons.
Asselin to Attend Bread Loaf Orion Environmental Writer’s Conference

Dr. Bonnie Asselin, Associate Professor in English, will be attending the third annual Bread Loaf Orion Environmental Writers’ Conference, June 3 - 9, at Middlebury College in Vermont. The conference offers small workshops, lectures, readings, and discussions designed for writers who want to write about the natural world. Dr. Asselin will bring her manuscript of creative nonfiction to the conference workshops that will be led by nationally known writers Belle Boggs, Jane Brox, David James Duncan, Scott Russell Sanders and others. Book and magazine publishers will also attend.

The conference combines the efforts of the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference, Orion Magazine, and Middlebury College. Writers have been convening mid-August every year since 1926 for Bread Loaf, which was first envisioned by Robert Frost, and later featured many prominent writers. Orion Magazine is a leading publisher of environmental creative nonfiction, fiction, narrative journalism and poetry. Middlebury College has the country’s oldest environmental studies program, which is one of the college’s largest majors.

ABAC Grounds Crew Celebrate Earth Day

The ABAC Grounds Department celebrated Earth Day on Friday with the planting of a historical black walnut tree. Since 1908 the landscaping at ABAC has changed significantly, one of these changes is the removal of trees. A notable exception to the practice was the preservation of the black walnut tree that still stands in front of the Health Sciences Building. The tree’s origin on the campus is said to be the work of Vernon Yow, Professor of Forestry, and former Dean of Men at ABAC and the namesake of the Yow Forestry - Wildlife building. The black walnut he planted stood outside what was once the Women’s Dorm, later renamed Creswell Hall. Eventually Creswell Hall was torn down to allow construction of the Health Sciences Building and many oak, dogwood, and pecan trees had to be removed to make way for the change. However, thanks to the insistence of Wanda Golden and the Nursing Faculty, efforts were made to try and keep it alive. Against all odds, Brad Barbee and the ABAC Grounds Department were able to revitalize the tree, and now its fruit provides new trees to beautify the Campus. The black walnut planted on Friday in celebration of Earth Day serves as a living record of those who shared and cared, and its offspring forges new memories for those who help perpetuate it.

Purchase Your Patriotic Shirt and Support a Veteran Memorial

In preparation of Carry The Load on Thursday, the ABAC Business Office will be selling Patriotic ABAC t-shirts. The shirt prices are $15 for Adult S – XL, $17 for XXL, and $18 for XXXL. For every shirt sold $1 will be donated to the expense of creating a veteran memorial on campus. Both cash and check will be accepted for payment. Checks should be made out to “ABAC.” They will be selling the shirts in the Dining Hall on Monday and Tuesday or you can email Deidra Jackson at deidrejackson@abac.edu or Kristin Beasley at kbeasley@abac.edu to reserve your shirt.

ABAC Birthdays

25 Jerry Baker
27 Bridgett Mobley
27 Tammy Carter
28 Kristen McHugh
29 Jessica Gandy