



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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ABAC Carries the Load at Stafford School of Business Rally



ABAC student Matt Fryman from Acworth and Kim Bridges, wife of ABAC President David Bridges, led the way on Thursday when ABAC staged a Carry The Load tribute to honor the sacrifices of the military, law enforcement, firefighters, and rescue personnel. ABAC students, faculty, staff and administrators participated as well as the Regional Police Academy at ABAC and some students from Tiftarea Academy. The walk served as a prelude to the National Carry The Load Relay which begins in West Point, N.Y., on April 29 and ends in Dallas, Texas on May 25. Stafford School of Business Dean Dill Driscoll will make the entire 2,000-mile trek with seven ABAC students and Placement Coordinator Lyndsey Walters. Driscoll said the vision of Carry The Load is to restore the true meaning of Memorial Day. For more information, visit carrytheload.org/abac. Who are you carrying?

Newberry Named Poet in Residence at ABAC

Dr. Jeff Newberry, Associate Professor of English in the School of Liberal Arts, was recently named the first ever Poet in Residence at ABAC.

Newberry is the author of "Brackish" and "A Visible Sign." With Brent House, he is the co-editor of "The Gulf Stream: Poems of the Gulf Coast." He was named as one of three finalists for the Richard Peterson Poetry prize awarded by "Crab Orchard Review." Newberry's works have appeared in a number of print and online journals including "The Florida Review," "The Cortland Review," "New South," "Hobble Creek Review," "Saw Palm: Florida Literature and Art," "storySouth," "Barn Owl Review," and the online anthology "Best of the Net 2008."

Twice nominated for a prestigious Pushcart Prize, Newberry has given talks and led panels at the Flannery

O'Connor and Other Georgia Writers Conference, The Conference on Christianity and Literature, The Florida Literary Arts Coalition's Other Words Conference, and the Gulf Coast Association of Creative Writing Teachers Conference.

The recipient of a Tennessee Williams Scholarship from the Sewanee Writers' Conference, Newberry serves on the conference committee for the Gulf Coast Association of Creative Writing Teachers. He is also a co-advisor for the award-winning ABAC literary magazine, "Pegasus."

Through his work with "Pegasus," Newberry has sponsored and coordi-



Dr. Jeff Newberry reads his work during a ceremony in honor of his new designation.

nated the Writers' Harvest, an annual food drive and poetry event held every October, and monthly "Open Mic" events within the Tifton community that showcase ABAC and local talent. Newberry received his bachelor's degree in English in 1998 and his master's degree in

English and Creative Writing in 2000, both from the University of West Florida. In 2010, he earned his doctorate degree from the University of Georgia where he majored in Creative Writing/Poetry with minors in 20th Century American Literature and 20th Century British Literature.

Disabled Artists Exhibit Begins Thursday at Museum of Agriculture

Fifty works of art crafted by artisans with disabilities will be on display at the Gallery at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC beginning Thursday. Museum Assistant Director and Curator Polly Huff said the exhibit includes paintings, photographs, woodcarving, clay pottery, mosaics, textiles and other works.

"All the pieces in the exhibit are by artists who refuse to allow a disability to hinder their artistic expression," Huff said. "We are honored to have the opportunity to host this special exhibit and to spotlight the Georgia artists who are featured in it."

The Pilot Clubs of Metropolitan Atlanta founded Georgia Artists with DisAbilities, Inc., in 1985. Disabled artists throughout Georgia have the opportunity to display and sell their



'Charlie Revisited' by Georgia artist Forrest Ridenhour will be a part of the new exhibit at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture Gallery beginning May 1. The exhibit spotlights the work of disabled artists and craftsmen within the state.

original art. They are eligible to compete for awards and have the opportunity for their artwork to be displayed in a statewide tour and exhibit.

The nine-city tour kicked off in Moultrie in September, 2013 and ends in Douglasville in July. The exhibit will remain at the Museum through May 31. The Museum Gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The mission of Georgia Artists with DisAbilities is to provide avenues through which Georgia artists with disabilities can display their artistic accomplishments in all disciplines of the arts and to create public

awareness of the artistic skills these artists have developed by overcoming the obstacles of their disabilities.

"Georgia Artists with DisAbilities continues to be an avenue that allows hundreds of disabled artists to achieve recognition and commercial opportunities for their unique pieces of art," said Glynice Hayes, GAWD chair. "We're proud to be an advocate for the disabled in communities across Georgia and honored to put their art on display every year for the public to see and enjoy."

For more information about Georgia Artists with DisAbilities and to see the remaining stops on this year's exhibit tour, interested persons can visit www.georgiaartistswd.org.

Admission to the Museum Gallery is included in the Museum's general admission and is free to Season Pass holders. Season passes can be purchased Monday through Saturday in the Country Store.

Academic Achievement Center at ABAC Receives CRLA Recertification Through 2017

The Academic Achievement Center (AAC) at ABAC has received recertification through 2017 from the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA).

"The recertification of the AAC through CRLA essentially means that our Center has met the high standards of this certification organization and continues to do so each semester," said AAC Coordinator Rebecca Cofer. "Getting recertified for an additional three years indicates that our tutor training is consistent and above average, as evidenced by the strict application process for this certification. We have seen increased traffic in the AAC, and I believe this is, in part, due to the certified tutors we have."

Cofer said the AAC offers free tutoring to all ABAC students in almost every subject. The AAC is located on the first floor of the Carlton Center.

This recertification allows ABAC to continue to certify tutors on three levels including certified tutor, advanced certified tutor, and master certified tutor.



Rebecca Cofer, AAC coordinator, works with a tutor in the AAC.

These levels require more than 10 hours of training and 25 contact hours. All tutors will be required to meet the certified tutor level with the proper training that will be administered through the AAC. Tutors must maintain their certification and continue this process each semester.

One year ago, the AAC received International Tutor Training Program Certification (ITTPC). The ITTPC certifies tutor training in post-secondary educational institutions. It also authorizes each certified tutor training program to make sure that its tutors have met the approved ITTPC tutor training program requirements.

The CRLA is a group of student-oriented professionals active in the fields of reading, learning assistance, developmental education, tutoring, and mentoring at the college level.

For more information on tutoring at ABAC, interested persons can contact Cofer at (229) 391-4918 or at rcofer@abac.edu.

Golf Team Finishes Eighth in District Championship

The golf team at ABAC wound up the year with an eighth place finish in the National Junior College Athletic Association District 4 Championship in Albany at Stonebridge Country Club. On the first day of play, the Stallion golfers had a score of 311, followed by a second day score of 292, and a final day score of 321 for a total of 924 for the tournament.

Darton State College won the championship with a score of 895. Eleven colleges from the southern part of the United States participated in the district championship. The Stallions played in the district tournament as a result of their second place finish in the NJCAA Region XVII tournament earlier this month.

Two of the ABAC golfers finished in the top 20 in the district tournament standings. Chris Rogers of Dawson, who was the captain of the ABAC team, finished in 15th place, and Clay Degler from Greenville finished 20th.

ABAC Coach Jimmy Ballenger said fall golf practice begins on Aug. 1.





ABAC Celebrates Arbor Day with Tree Planting On Campus

ABAC, recently honored with Tree Campus USA recognition by the Arbor Day Foundation, planted an *Eastern Hophornbeam* tree in observance of Arbor Day April 25. The *Eastern Hophornbeam* is a native species to Georgia. Having this particular tree on campus will be beneficial for students due to the limited number of this species near campus. The tree was planted by forestry and wildlife students in the Nature Study Area and were donated by Sodexo, Inc. Tree Campus USA is a national program created by the Arbor Day Foundation and sponsored by Toyota to honor colleges and universities for effective campus forest management and for engaging staff and students in conservation goals. In addition to this, ABAC Tree Campus USA committee members were excited to announce the future plans for an ABAC silvicultural arboretum. The arboretum will provide an invaluable learning tool for many students on campus and strive to maximize diversity of species native to the Coastal Plain region. In attendance for the planting were representatives from the ABAC School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Forestry Club & Society of American Foresters Student Chapter, the ABAC Wildlife Society Student Chapter, administration, faculty, and staff.

The Bowen Gallery presents an art show featuring Crystal Hauber.
Opening Reception is Tuesday from 4-6:30 pm.
Bowen Gallery is located on the first floor of Bowen Hall.
It will be on display until May 8th.
Refreshments will be provided.



ABAC Birthdays

29 Jessica Gandy

May

2 April Abbott

2 Amanda Urquhart

4 Nancy Brannen

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.