Students Receive Larry Allen Leadership Awards

Dr. Jerry Baker, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources at ABAC, recently honored two students with Larry Allen Leadership awards. The students included Gabe Strother, a senior natural resource major from Washington, and Amanda Stitt, a senior diversified agriculture major, from Sharpsburg. The award is presented annually to students who best exemplify the characteristics demonstrated and encouraged by Dr. Larry D. Allen, Division Chair from 1994-2005. The characteristics include solid academic performance, strong leadership skills, devotion to the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources and ABAC, and a genuine desire to make the world a better place.
The ABAC golf team will compete in the national tournament May 22–27 at Swan Lake Resort in Plymouth, Ind. All seven members of the team will attend the tournament, and the top five will play in the 72-hole competition.

Under the direction of second-year head coach Larry Byrnes, ABAC won the Georgia Collegiate Athletic Association Division II championship in April to gain the trip to the national event. ABAC last won the state title in 2012 followed by second place finishes in 2013, 2014, and 2015.

The top five golfers who will play for ABAC are Ty Gore, a business and economic development major from Tifton; Davis Verner, an environmental horticulture technology major from Watkinsville; Colton Wyllie, an economics major from Ontario, Canada; Jeb Stewart, an environmental horticulture technology major from Swainsboro; and McKenzie Blanchett, a business and economic development major from Moultrie.

“Only five can participate in the national tournament,” Byrnes said. “I will be taking all seven though because everyone has worked hard, and they deserve the opportunity to experience a national tournament.”

Team members Daniel Nunn, a turfgrass and golf course management major from Swainsboro, and Lane Jowers, an undeclared major from Brunswick, round out the squad.

The tournament will consist of practice rounds on May 22–23 before the competition begins on May 24. The Golden Stallions will play 18 holes a day through May 27. The national tournament is a team event that takes the top four scores of each day from the five players participating for each college.

“Our basic strategy is to go up there, enjoy the moment, and try to play par golf or better,” said Byrnes. “Par golf will win you a lot of tournaments in stroke play.”

Continued on Page 5
# Student Orientation Schedule for Friday, May 27

## Time | Event | Location | Description
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8:00-9:00 a.m. | Check-In | Donaldson Hall | Financial Literacy and Student Engagement.
9:00-9:40 a.m. | Welcome Session | Donaldson Hall |
9:45-10:45 a.m. | **Student Session** | | You will be divided into different groups and visit the locations below. Your Stallion Society member will have the appropriate schedule.

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| 10:50 a.m. | Group Picture with Thunder | Branch Student Center (outside in front) | Meet Thunder in front of Branch Hall by the Stallion to take a group picture with your classmates.

## Time | Event | Location | Description
--- | --- | --- | ---
11:00 am – 12:00 p.m. | Dean’s Welcome, Academic Planning, and Focus | School of Agriculture & Natural Resources: ..........AG Sciences 139<br>Stafford School of Business.............................Lewis Hall 104<br>School of Human Sciences ..............................Conger 319<br>School of Liberal Arts & Undeclared..................Conger 319<br>School of Nursing.............................................Health Sciences 257<br>School of Science & Mathematics......................Conger 107 | Meet with school administration, faculty, and staff to learn about resources and degree requirements. **STUDENTS ONLY**

## Time | Event | Location | Description
--- | --- | --- | ---
12:00 p.m. | Lunch | Dining Hall | Enjoy lunch with faculty, staff, and your classmates. You have a ticket for free lunch in your packet. **Don’t forget to place your signature on our Class of 2020 banner!**

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| 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. | **Stallion Check Out**<br>Orientation T-shirt<br>Meet with Financial Aid<br>Campus Bookstore<br>Computer Resources<br>Campus Tours<br>Housing Tours<br>Student Development<br>Schedule Adjustments | Branch Student Center 2nd floor<br> | Let us know how we did! Don’t leave campus without all your questions being answered. Don’t forget to pick up your free t-shirt!

Financial Aid will be available to answer your questions.

Visit the Campus Bookstore located on the bottom floor of the Branch Hall.

Visit the Technology Helpdesk and make sure you can access Banner Web & your Stallion Email.

Take a quick campus tour at 12:30, 1:00, or 1:30 p.m.

Take a tour of campus housing at 12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, or 2:30 p.m.

Receive information regarding accommodations for disabilities.

Schedule adjustments are available for mitigating circumstances.

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**Upcoming Orientation Dates**

June 3, July 8, July 15, July 22, July 29, August 5
ABAC Health Center Hosts Zumba Class
The ABAC Health Center offers healthy opportunities for ABAC employees. A group of employees had fun in a Zumba class taught by Tracy Shreves, a Zumba instructor from the Tiftarea YMCA. The Health Center is looking to offer a weekly Zumba class on campus starting in Fall Semester. If this is something you’d be interested in, please email Carmen Counts at ccounts@abac.edu

ABAC Enrollment Management Hosts Commitment Night in Newton County
On Wednesday, May 11, 2016 future stallions, guests, and ABAC staff gathered at the Newton County College and Career Academy to recognize the success of seven future students that will be attending ABAC this fall. Enrollment Counselor, Kristen McHugh, came up with the initial idea to host a commitment night in which the students would sign certificates signifying their commitment to academic excellence and enrollment in ABAC. The ceremony sparked excitement within these future students as Marcus Pollard, ABAC Alumni and Agricultural Education teacher at the Newton County College and Career Academy, gave a warm welcome, and ABAC Ambassador, Kerstin Hilley, former student at the Newton County College and Career Academy, gave a student perspective of life at ABAC. During the event McHugh read quotes of each student as they signed their certificates. Closing the ceremony, Dr. Gail Dillard, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs, gave students words of wisdom as they begin this new chapter.

Space Available in Georgia Museum of Agriculture Summer Camps
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 at ABAC.

Camp Director Kelly Scott said that Camp Wiregrass provides a fun, interactive and educational environment in a unique setting. Space is still available in all the camps, and one session has been added in the camp for 4-5 year-olds.

Due to the high volume of children interested in the Munchkin camp “Down on the Farm,” the morning session is now full and an additional afternoon session has been added. The afternoon session will take place on May 31-June 3 from 1-4:30 p.m. The camp is geared to children 4-5 years of age. 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.

Two different week-long sessions are available for the Explorer Campers, catering to 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. 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.

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. Museum.
**Lee County Students Visit ABAC’s Forest Lakes Golf Course**

Ninety Lee County sixth graders took hands-on learning about soils and the environment to the next level in a recent visit to the ABAC golf course.

The Lee County Middle School West students, along with their teachers Dolly Gill, Sharon King, and Audra Davis, took a field trip to ABAC’s Forest Lakes Golf Club to expand their knowledge about their recent soils curriculum.

“Forest Lakes Golf Club has entered into a partnership with the school to help the middle school classes grow a successful STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) program to incorporate into their learning,” said Austin Lawton, golf course superintendent.

“In return, the golf course gains exposure in the South Georgia community. The trip was a great recruitment tool for the ABAC turfgrass program. We will continue this partnership for years to come.”

During their visit, the students took a tour of the first couple of fairways and greens on the course to learn the basics of golf. They then visited different areas to learn more about the golf course and the turfgrass industry as a whole. Lawton headed up the area where students learned about career paths related to turf.

Other areas focused on technical questions related to turfgrass with Dr. James McCrimmon, ABAC Professor of Environmental Horticulture; various pieces of turf equipment used on a golf course with turfgrass majors and employees Brett Everett and Chris Termunde; and the environmental impact of growing turfgrass on a golf course with turfgrass major and employee Jay Harrelson. The visiting students also measured off an area to be re-sprigged with bermudagrass on the driving range and took soil samples of the driving range to return to their classroom to analyze.

“The students are working on a proposal to present to the golf course on planting an improved variety of turfgrass on the driving range,” Lawton said. “The driving range currently has some bahiagrass, which is undesirable in many ways including its overall appearance, the wear and tear it inflicts on the equipment, and the overall health of the driving range itself.

“Student turf majors at ABAC employed at Forest Lakes as well as students in the ABAC turfgrass class labs plan to give the driving range an overhaul in August starting with taking out the bahiagrass and planting bermudagrass. The new bermudagrass will grow in fully and quickly as a result.”

Lawton said the second phase this winter will involve widening the driving range tee box to allow more golfers to utilize the driving range tee. The irrigation on the driving range has already been upgraded by turf students thanks to a donation of over $12,000 worth of irrigation supplies from Hunter Golf, a Forest Lakes partner for over two years.

“This has been on our radar for quite some time due to the increase in golf classes that use the tee box each semester and the recent return of the ABAC golf team utilizing the tee box for daily practice,” said Lawton.

The 2016-17 academic year will bring about a big change for the ABAC golf team. Byrnes has only one returning player from this year’s squad but he has already signed four others to play for ABAC. He will also hold walk-on tryouts when the fall semester begins Aug. 10.

For more information on the golf team or any of ABAC’s athletic programs go to www.abac.edu/athletics.