Stallions Finish 10th in National Tournament

The Golden Stallions finished 10th in the recent National Junior College Athletic Association Division II national golf tournament in Plymouth, Ind. Coach Larry Byrnes’ team won the NJCAA XVII Division II title in April to qualify for the national tournament. ABAC golfers participating in the tournament were Jeb Stewart, Colton Wyllie, Ty Gore, McKenzie Blanchett, and Davis Verner.

ABAC Names Jack Thompson Scholarship Recipients

Three ABAC students are the first recipients of The Jack Thompson Scholarship Fund launched by the Georgia Pecan Growers Association to honor the legacy and memory of Thompson. Through generous support of the scholarship, GPGA is able to award one-time, $500 scholarships to Pyne Greene, Sydney Pinder, and Jeffery Wingate.

Greene is the son of a pecan farmer and grew up working with his father in Americus. He currently is majoring in diversified agriculture at ABAC. Greene works at the University of Georgia-Tifton Extension Office with Dr. Lenny Wells and is considering joining the Marines after graduating from ABAC. He is an Eagle Scout, a search and rescue diver, a graduate of the National Youth Leadership Training Organization, and a graduate and instructor with the National League of Junior Cotillons.

Pinder is at ABAC pursuing a degree in diversified agriculture with a concentration in agribusiness. While at ABAC, the Jonesboro native has been actively involved in the Cattlemen’s Association and has earned a spot on the President’s List several times due to superior academic achievement. Pinder worked at Gibbs Farm in Abbeville selling and promoting local pecans. She has also worked at Calhoun Produce in Cordele and Oliver Farms in Pitts.

Wingate grew up on a small family farm in Hartsfield and says farming is a way of life for him. He is majoring in diversified agriculture with a concentration in crop production. Wingate is the current vice-president of the Doerun chapter of the Colquitt County Young Farmers and manager of Thigpen Farms in Doerun. He completed an internship with R.W. Griffin at Mitchell County Farm Service and was able to learn about pecan production through this experience taking tissue and soil samples.

Funds for The Jack Thompson Scholarship Fund were raised by direct donations, as well as through profits from sales of the book “They Must Have Been Nuts: The Innovators, Speculators, and Giant Personalities who Created the Modern Pecan Industry,” which was written by Dewayne McCasland.

McCasland notes, “I’m hoping this book will remind you of some of those individuals who helped build your love for the pecan industry and magnify your desire to continue.”

Thompson was arguably one such individual in the lives of many fellow growers. As a former director and active member of the Southeastern Pecan Growers Association, Thompson mentored others interested in pecans. For 31 years, he served other farmers through his work at Albany Tractor Company in southwest Georgia.
Holcomb Presents Scholarship to Bethesda Student
The ABAC Enrollment Management team, along with many others, attended 20 honors programs this spring at high schools across the state to recognize outstanding scholarship recipients who will be attending ABAC in the fall. ABAC Foundation Trustee James Holcomb attended Bethesda’s Honors Program to present Sean Lewis with his ABAC Foundation Scholarship. Over $500,000 has been awarded to current and new students. Pictured: Holcomb (back row on right) presents scholarship to Lewis (front center) and his family.

Summer Tennis Camp at ABAC July 18-21
Middle school and high school tennis players who want to improve all phases of their games should sign up for the summer tennis camp on July 18-21 at ABAC. Space is limited, and pre-registration is required.

The camp runs from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. each day at a total cost of $199 per camper. The cost includes lunch each day. All campers will also receive a t-shirt.

Directed by ABAC Tennis Coach Dale White, the camp will focus on technical, tactical and mental components of tennis to help players in competitive play. Former ABAC tennis players will serve as instructors for the camp. A waiver form must be received prior to the camp or completed on the first morning of the camp. The

Upcoming Orientation Dates: July 8, July 15, July 22, July 29, August 5

’Bottles and Brushes’ Art Class at Museum of Agriculture on June 24
The Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC will host the “Bottles and Brushes” art class on June 24 from 6–8 p.m. Participants will paint “Summer Vase” 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 serve basis upon payment of the fee. Space is limited so early registration is important. Participants must register ahead of time by contacting Polly Huff, assistant director and curator of the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village, 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.

Companies who are looking for a unique team-building experience or a way to reward exceptional employees can participate in the corporate edition of “Bottles and Brushes.” The corporate painting will be custom-tailored to fit each company’s mascot, theme, or idea. Gift certificates are available for future classes.
Mixon Awarded at Bar Association Luncheon

During a luncheon at ABAC May 24, ABAC alumnus Eunice Mixon was honored by the Tifton Bar Association with the Liberty Bell Award in appreciation for her many years of work on behalf of the community and the state. ABAC President David Bridges and Representative Penny Houston were on hand to join in the festivities. Pictured (l-r) Bridges, Mixon and Houston.

Prices/Packages:
1. $70 for Ticket and Charter Bus - includes ticket, a seat on a charter bus to and from the game, parking, tip, and snacks.
   The bus will depart from ABAC at 2 p.m. and return after 1 a.m.
2. $20 for Tickets Only - Those traveling independently will be provided with parking information and seating guidelines.
3. $20 Donation to Sponsor a Chamber Singer’s travel expenses

Ross Hired as Event and Information Coordinator

Sunny Ross has recently been hired as the Event and Information Coordinator. Her office is located in Tift Hall and she will be responsible for managing facility scheduling and event coordination. She graduated from ABAC with a bachelor’s degree in business and economic development in 2014 and is currently working on her MBA at Valdosta State University. Ross most recently worked for South Georgia Banking Company. If you need assistance planning your event or reserving a facility, please contact her at 229.391.5057 sross@abac.edu.

ABAC Takes Turner Field on August 20 - Register Now

Join the ABAC Alumni Association on August 20 for one of the final Atlanta Braves games ever to be played at Turner Field! The ABAC Chamber Singers will begin the game by singing the National Anthem. Enjoy some baseball with alumni and friends from all over the southeast as well as a post-game concert by Grammy-nominated artist Tori Kelly, best known for her smash radio hit “Hollow.” The tickets are along the first base line in Sections 405 and 407. Tickets can be picked up at ABAC’s Alumni House or mailed directly to you. Visit www.abac.edu/travel for registration information and more details.

Prices/Packages:
1. $70 for Ticket and Charter Bus - includes ticket, a seat on a charter bus to and from the game, parking, tip, and snacks.
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2. $20 for Tickets Only - Those traveling independently will be provided with parking information and seating guidelines.
3. $20 Donation to Sponsor a Chamber Singer’s travel expenses

ABAC Financial Aid Priority Deadline is July 1

New students who wish to receive financial aid at ABAC during the 2016-2017 academic year should complete the FAFSA application and verification process by the priority deadline of July 1.

The purpose of the priority deadline is to complete financial aid processing that determines financial aid eligibility before the fee payment deadline at 4:30 p.m. on Aug. 3. Students submitting FAFSA applications after the priority deadline are subject to paying their fees out of pocket by the payment deadline or subject to schedules being dropped. Students missing the deadline and paying fees out of pocket will be awarded all eligible funds once the FAFSA application has been received and processed for determination of eligibility of awards.

For more information regarding financial aid, students can contact ABAC’s Office of Financial Aid at (229) 391-4910, by e-mail at finaid@abac.edu, or by visiting the office located on the second floor of the J. Lamar Branch Student Center on the campus.

Fall semester classes begin at ABAC on Aug. 10.