



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

VOLUME LII

ISSUE 3

August 1, 2016

New Building Makes ABAC 'Destination' for Science Students

Opening a new \$8.5 million laboratory sciences building sends a message to students considering careers in health care, science, and mathematics, according to Dr. Johnny Evans, Dean of the School of Science and Mathematics at ABAC.

"ABAC is now a destination for students who will find cures for diseases, invent amazing technology, and solve the toughest problems the world has ever faced," Evans said at Wednesday's opening ceremony for the 20,966 square foot facility. "This new building is focused on meeting students' needs and providing a space for discovery, research, and creativity."

Other speakers at the opening ceremony in the spectacular atrium of the new facility were ABAC President David Bridges, Kenna Scragg, vice president of operations



Dr. Johnny Evans used a portable lighter to burn through a DNA Helix paper ribbon designed by Sarah and Hannah Rooks to symbolize the opening of the Lab Sciences Building on Wednesday. Pictured (l-r): Appleton, Lynn Lovett, Evans, Bridges, Kenna Scragg, Rob Evans, and Rooks.

for International City Builders; Rob Evans, president of the IPG architectural firm; and Brooke Appleton, a senior biology major at ABAC from Albany.

"Faith, hope, and love are three words you probably don't associate with a ceremony such as this," Bridges said. "For this project to come to its fruition, there had to be a lot of hope that this day would come, faith that help would arrive, and love for our students because we are providing them with a building they

richly deserve."

In his remarks, Bridges thanked University System of Georgia Chancellor Hank Huckaby as well as Georgia lawmakers including Greg Kirk, Tyler Harper, Jack Hill, and Jeff Mullis from the State Senate and Penny Houston, Sam Watson, Clay Pirkle, Amy Carter, Jay Powell, Earl Ehrhart, Terry England, and former representative Jay Roberts from the House of Representatives.

Continued on page 2

ABAC Alumnus to Speak at Freshman Convocation August 9

Buzzing with nervous anticipation, hundreds of freshmen will enter Gressette Gymnasium on Aug. 9 for the 12th annual Freshman Convocation at ABAC. The 11 a.m. ceremony serves as the opening of the academic year as the students embark on a path to gain a college diploma.

Dr. Gail Dillard, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, said convocation is a formal induction ceremony of the freshman class each fall semester into the academic community of ABAC.

"The ceremony signals the beginning of a college career,"

Dillard said. "The program communicates to students their roles both as people who learn from others and as people who contribute to the vitality of the college."

This year's convocation speaker is Dr. Thomas Turcotte. A native of Jasper, he graduated from Pickens County High School before entering ABAC in 2008. As a student he was an ABAC Ambassador, a Campus Assistant, a Welcome Week Leader, a math and science tutor, an ASSETS Scholar, and an active member in multiple clubs.

Turcotte was one of the first students at ABAC to take advantage

of the junior and senior level classes leading to a bachelor's degree in biology. He received his ABAC bachelor's degree in biology in the spring of 2012 and was accepted into the Auburn University veterinary medicine program in the fall of 2012. He graduated from Auburn this year and is now a veterinarian at Barnesville Animal Clinic, treating both small and large animals.

ABAC fall semester classes begin Aug. 10.

Georgia Museum of Agriculture Sets August Hours

Portions of the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC will be temporarily closed during the month of August for scheduled seasonal updates.

Museum Director Garrett Boone said the Historic Village, Gallery, and the Museum will be closed until Sept.

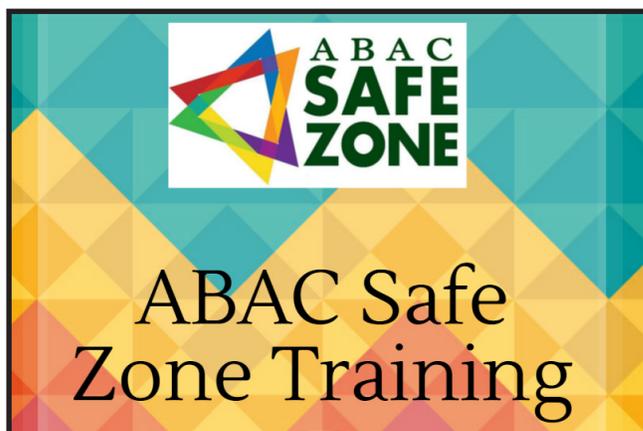
3. The administrative offices will remain open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.–5 p.m. during August. Conference facilities will also remain available throughout the month of August, and the Country Store will continue to operate on its normal schedule of Monday–Saturday from

9 a.m.–5 p.m.

For more information on the Georgia Museum of Agriculture, interested persons can call (229) 391-5205 or visit the web site at www.abac.edu/museum.

Register for Safe Zone Training

Mark your calendar and preregister for Safe Zone training this fall. The two sessions will be held on September 8 from 3-5 p.m. and October 28 from 1-3 p.m. A Safe Zone is a place where all people feel welcome and included. This training aims to increase awareness, knowledge and skills surrounding the LGBTQ+ community. Safe Zone trainings have the goal of increasing the number of allies on campus. Safe Zone trainings are voluntary and space is limited to 12 people per session. To reserve your spot in the session, email Rebecca Cofer at rcofer@abac.edu.



Lab continued from page 1

“I can’t leave out the ABAC Foundation,” Bridges said. “Foundation President Lynn Lovett and the trustees committed \$1.5 million to this building. We would not be standing here today without their support.”

Appleton shared the excitement of the ABAC student body, particularly those students who are majoring in

the bachelor’s degree in biology.

“ABAC is a school that cares for its students,” Appleton said. “That care is shown through this facility. The new equipment and all the technology available to us in this building will help us succeed in the world as scientists. In the future, this building will see many students come through its doors. What they

learn here will be a stepping stone toward their dreams and goals.”

The Lab Sciences Building contains eight laboratories focusing on general biology, microbiology, molecular biology, general chemistry, tissue culture, organic chemistry, and anatomy/physiology.

Fall semester classes begin at ABAC on Aug. 10.

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. 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



Fall Faculty and Staff Conference - Thursday

Time	Location	Event
8:30 AM	Howard Auditorium	Refreshments (Faculty and Staff) <i>Refreshments courtesy of Office of the President</i>
8:45 AM	Howard Auditorium	Welcome (Faculty and Staff) Introduction of new Faculty: <i>Dr. Gail Dillard</i> Introduction of new Staff: <i>Richard Spancake</i>
9:00 AM	Howard Auditorium	Presidential Address (Faculty and Staff) Speaker: <i>Dr. David Bridges</i>
10:00 AM	Howard Auditorium	STEPS Program and the QEP (Faculty and Staff) Speaker: <i>Dr. Darby Sewell</i>
10:30 AM	Howard Auditorium	Human Resources Title IX Seminar (Faculty & Staff) Speaker: <i>Richard Spancake</i>
11:00 AM	Faculty Relocate to Bowen 100	
11:10 AM	Bowen 100	VPAA Updates & Reaffirmation Process (Faculty) Speaker: <i>Dr. Gail Dillard & Danielle Buehrer</i>
12:00 PM	ABAC Dining Hall	LUNCH Provided for Faculty & Staff <i>Courtesy of SODEXO</i>
1:30 PM	Bowen 100	Faculty Engagement (Faculty) Speaker: <i>Dr. Darby Sewell & Dr. Jordan Cofer</i> Topics: STEPS Program: Role of the Faculty Faculty Enrichment Fund Library and Learning Resources
2:15 PM	Bowen 100	Title IX Panel (Faculty) Speakers: <i>Dr. Maggie Martin, Dean Bernice Hughes, Alan Kramer, Richard Spancake</i> Topic: "What is Title IX & how does it affect me in my daily work?"
3:00 PM	Bowen 100	Advising Updates & Academic Support (Faculty) Speaker: <i>Nick Urquhart</i>

ABAC
Birthdays

3 Bobbie Robinson 3 Donna Sledge
4 Mireya Jackson 6 Beth Thornton