



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

VOLUME LI

ISSUE 4

AUGUST 11, 2014

Langdale to Speak at ABAC Convocation on Thursday

John Wesley Langdale, III, will be the featured speaker on Thursday at the annual freshman convocation at ABAC. The 3:30 p.m. ceremony in Gressette Gym will conclude the Welcome Week activities at ABAC.

Now serving as the president of The Langdale Company, Langdale studied forestry at ABAC beginning in 1989. He continued his education at the University of Georgia where he earned his bachelor's degree in speech communication.

Langdale is a part of the fourth generation of family leadership for The Langdale Company that began in 1894. The Langdale Company has developed into a highly diversified business that includes forestry, forest products and



Langdale

other affiliate companies that extend to the automotive, banking, hospitality and land development industries.

In its first 50 years, The Langdale Company established economic opportunities for the communities in which it worked through the naval stores business. In the last 50 years, the company has progressed into manu-

facturing and beyond.

The Langdale Company's evolution has followed a consistent path to make the most of limited natural and human resources through innovation. Each year since the 1930s, the company has planted more trees than it has harvested, and it is now on the verge of planting its one hundred millionth seedling.

That commitment to environmental stewardship provides wildlife habitat, clean air and water.

Langdale serves as Chairman of the Board of the Georgia Forestry Commission. He is also a board member of the Georgia Forestry Association and the Georgia Conservancy and serves as a Steering Committee Member for the Greater Okefenokee Association of Landowners. Langdale has been a member of the ABAC Foundation Board of Trustees since 2013.

Langdale was honored as the 2014 Forest Landowner of the Year by the Forest Landowners Association (FLA) during its national conference in Virginia Beach, Va. Langdale and his wife, Kim, have two children, Caroline and John Wesley, IV.

Classes begin for the 2014 fall term at ABAC on Wednesday.



Thank you to everyone that assisted with moving students in to housing this weekend!

New Parking Decals and Gold Cards

All ABAC faculty, staff and students are required to get a new ABAC gold card and parking decal prior to the start of classes Wednesday.

Parking Decals—You may go to <http://www.abac.edu/police> then click on "Parking Decal signup form". Click the link at the bottom to start the application. Once you finish and print the application bring it to the police department in Evans Hall with a picture ID to receive your assigned decal.

Employee Gold Cards—You may be required to have a new picture taken. You will need to provide either your old Gold Card or a picture ID to receive your new Gold Card. New employees will be required to have the "New Employee Gold Card Registration" form completed from Human Resources and a picture ID in order to receive their new Gold Card.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the police department at 229-391-5060.



President Bridges Welcome Faculty and Staff to Campus

Dr. Bridges welcomed faculty and staff back for the 2014 academic year last week during the faculty/staff conference. Check your email for the informational handout that was distributed at the opening session. Special thanks to Fender-Goggans Orthodontics who provided for the water bottles and toothbrushes for everyone!

Promotions Approved For ABAC Faculty Members

Nine faculty members at ABAC received academic promotions, effective Aug. 1, according to Dr. Gail Dillard, ABAC Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Chrissy Dent and John Layton were promoted to the rank of assistant professor from instructor. Dr. Joseph Brown, Dr. Eunkyung You, and Amy Warren moved to the rank of associate professor from assistant professor. Dr. Erin Campbell, Dr. Jeff Newberry, Dr. Brian Ray, and Dr. Abul Sheikh received promotions to the rank of professor from associate professor.

Dent has been a part of the faculty in the School of Nursing and Health Sciences since 2010. She received her A.S. in Nursing from ABAC. She furthered her education by attaining both her B.S.N. and M.S.N. in Nursing from Valdosta State University.

Layton obtained his M.S. in Turfgrass Science and his B.S. in Chemistry from Mississippi State University. He has been teaching in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources since 2010.

Brown joined the faculty in the School of Liberal Arts at ABAC in 2010. He earned his A.B. in English and Political Science from the University of Georgia, his M.A. in English from Auburn University, and his Ph.D. in English from Louisiana State University.

You received her B.S. in Mathematics from Seoul Woman's University in South Korea and her Ph.D. in Mathematics from Indiana University-Bloomington. She has been a part of the faculty in the School of Science and Mathematics since 2010.

Warren received both her B.S. and M.S. degrees in Early Childhood Education from Florida State University. She became a faculty member in the School of Human Sciences in 2007.

Campbell joined the ABAC faculty in 2002 and teaches in the School of Liberal Arts. She received her A.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies from St. Petersburg Junior College, her B.A. in English from the University of Tampa, her M.A. in English from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and her Ph.D.

in English from the University of Mississippi.

Newberry earned his B.A. and M.A. degrees in English from the University of West Florida. He earned his Ph.D. in English from the University of Georgia. Newberry has been a faculty member in the School of Liberal Arts since 2002.

Ray has been a member of the ABAC faculty since 2005 in the School of Liberal Arts. He serves as director of ABAC's theatre troupe, the Baldwin Players. He received his B. A. in Theatre from Yankton College, his M.A. in English from the University of South Dakota, and his Ph.D. in English from Middle Tennessee State University.

Sheikh received his B.S. in Agricultural Engineering from Bangladesh Agricultural University, his M.S. in Computer Science from North Dakota State University, and his Doctor of Education degree from Valdosta State University. He has been a member of the ABAC faculty since 1990 and teaches in the Stafford School of Business.

Tenure Approved For Five ABAC Faculty Members

Five members of the faculty at ABAC have been approved for tenure, effective Aug. 1, according to Dr. Gail Dillard, ABAC Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Those receiving tenure include **Dr. Bonnie Asselin, Dr. Jordan Cofer, Todd Hicks, Dr. Hans Schmeisser, and Dr. Ray Smith.**

Asselin received her M.A. in English from the University of Massachusetts and her Ph.D. in English from Northeastern University. She became a part of the School of Liberal Arts faculty in 2009.

Cofer earned his B.A. in English from Southwest Baptist University; his M.A. in English from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; and his Ph.D. in English from Texas Tech University. He has been a faculty member at ABAC

in the School of Liberal Arts since 2009. He currently serves as the Director of the Writing Center and is the English Department representative for the faculty senate and co-chair of the Literature Committee. Most recently, he has become the head of the Literature and Language Department in the School of Liberal Arts.

Hicks is an assistant professor of agricultural engineering in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources. He received his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering Technology from Southern Polytechnic State University and his M.S. in Ag Leadership from the University of Georgia. He has been a member of the ABAC faculty since 2010.

Schmeisser began his teaching career at ABAC as an instructor of political science in 2009. He was named an as-

stant professor of political science at ABAC in the School of Liberal Arts in 2012. He earned his B.A. in Political Science from Mercer University, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Florida.

Smith is the Department Head in Agriculture and Associate Professor of Crop Science in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources. He earned his B.S. in Agronomy from Pennsylvania State University and both his M.S. and Ph.D. in Agronomy from the University of Georgia. He has been a part of the ABAC faculty since 2011.

Tenure may be granted to a faculty member who has served at least five years as an assistant professor and has shown the potential for making significant contributions to the college and in the professor's field.



Welcome New Faculty Members

New faculty members stop for a quick photo during new faculty orientation last week. **1st row (l-r):** Dr. Alison Mann, Political Science and History; Dr. Charlotte Klesman, Communication and Fine Arts; Dr. Carrie Thurber, Science ; Dr. Vanessa Lane, Forest Resources **2nd row:** Dr. Mark Richardson, Literature and Language; Sabrina Powell-Cobb, Nursing; Carla Dean, Science; Dr. Renaldo Arroyo, Forest Resources **3rd Row:** Dr. Jerry Baker, School of Agriculture and Natural Resources; April Abbott, Math; Dr. Brian Yost, Literature and Language; Dr. Ben Wright, Political Science and History **4th Row:** Dr. Thomas Heflin, Communication and Fine Arts and Dr. John Shugart, Science; **5th row:** Carlos Lopes, Business and Peter Guevara, Science

Welcome New Staff Members



Sue Mastrario
Stafford School of
Business Coordinator



Larry Byrnes
Head Golf Coach



Kristen Ray
Admissions



Blake Ayscue
Admissions



Andrew Morris
Science

ABAC Birthdays

- 11 Jimmy Felton
- 12 Kristin Beasley
- 12 Collee Leu
- 14 Cindy Epperly
- 16 Amy Williams
- 17 Vickie Sherling



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.

Town and Gown Event on Aug. 21

The 7th Annual Town and Gown Connection will take place on Aug. 21 from 4 – 6 p.m. in the Gressette Gymnasium at ABAC. The event will feature businesses and churches that will welcome new and returning students to Tifton.

Churches can take part in this event for \$10, businesses can participate for \$25, and all non-profit organizations can participate free of charge. Businesses are invited to bring samples, freebies, coupons, or even job applications. One table and two chairs will be provided for each church or business. A drawing for door prizes will take place at the end of the event.

For more information or to register for the Town and Gown event, businesses and churches can contact Bernice Hughes, Dean of Students, at bhughes@abac.edu.

