



# FOCUS

## ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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### Evans Named Dean of School of Arts and Sciences

Taking a leadership role in the academic structure at ABAC is nothing new for Dr. Johnny Evans. That's why he was well suited to assume the position of Dean of the newly created School of Arts and Sciences at ABAC on July 1.

Evans, Dean of the School of Science and Mathematics since 2013, looks forward to the new structure which also includes three other schools of study, the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the School of Nursing and Health Sciences, and the Stafford School of Business.

"Because we offer the core curriculum within our school, we serve as the foundation of academic success for all ABAC students," Evans said. "Core curriculum develops critical thinking skills, writing and creativity. And since all the core curriculum is now under

one umbrella we can streamline and improve core classes more easily."

The School of Arts and Sciences will now house the departments of English and Communication, Fine Arts, History and Political Science, Science and Mathematics, and Rural Sociology.

"With the consolidation into one school we needed an experienced Dean to lead and guide the programs," said Dr. Jerry Baker, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. "This consolidation will also merge the faculty and the cultures that have allowed the previous



programs to be successful."

ABAC President David Bridges announced last year that the previous six schools of study would be consolidated into four. Dr. Darby Sewell is now the Acting Dean of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources since Baker left that position to become the Provost and Vice

President of Academic Affairs upon the retirement of Dr. Gail Dillard.

"Students won't really feel the effect of the restructuring because all the department heads and faculty will be the same, as will the classes," Evans said. "We are simply combining the administration. I have a great team of department heads who will do a wonderful job for the School."

You are invited  
*to the*

Grand Opening  
*of the newly renovated*

King Hall

Thursday, August 10  
4 p.m.

*Light refreshments will be served*

For more information,  
contact Lindsey Roberts at 229-391-5066



## ABAC Faculty Members Promoted; Six Granted Tenure

Seven members of the faculty at ABAC have been approved for promotion, according to Dr. Jerry Baker, ABAC Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Six faculty members have also been granted tenure at the college.

Those faculty members receiving promotions include Donna Campbell, Dr. Heather Cathcart, Dr. Kingsley Dunkley, Dr. Thomas Grant, Dr. Jan Gregus, Dr. Chris Kiser, and Dr. Hans Schmeisser.

Cathcart, Grant, Gregus, Kiser, Robin Crumley, and Shawn Seat received tenure from ABAC. 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 faculty member's field of study.

A member of the ABAC faculty since 1995, **Campbell** has been promoted from assistant professor to associate professor of health in the School of Nursing and Health Sciences. She earned her associate degree from Middle Georgia College, and her bachelor's and master's degrees in health and physical education from Georgia College and State University.

**Cathcart** earned her bachelor's degree in biology from Armstrong Atlantic State University; her master's in biology from Georgia Southern University; and her Ph.D. in cellular biology and anatomy from Georgia Health Sciences University. An ABAC faculty member since 2012, she has been promoted from assistant

professor to associate professor in the School of Arts and Sciences.

**Dunkley** earned his bachelor's degree in agriculture and master's degree in animal science from Prairie View Agricultural and Mechanical University and his Ph. D. in poultry science from Texas A&M University. He has been promoted to the rank of professor from associate professor of biology in the School of Arts and Sciences. Dunkley has been a part of the ABAC faculty since 2008.

**Grant** received his bachelor's degree in English from Washington State University and his master's degree in journalism from Columbia University. He then received his Ph.D. in journalism from the University of Utah. Grant joined the ABAC faculty in 2012. He has been promoted from assistant professor to

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### Fall Conference Schedule Set for Thursday

Time	Location	Event
8:15 AM	Thrash Gymnasium	<b>Refreshments (Faculty and Staff)</b> <i>Refreshments courtesy of Office of the President</i>
8:45 AM	Howard Auditorium	<b>Welcome (Faculty and Staff)</b> Introduction of new Faculty: <i>Dr. Jerry Baker</i> Introduction of new Staff: <i>Richard Spancake</i>
9:00 AM	Howard Auditorium	<b>State of ABAC Address</b> Speaker: <i>Dr. David Bridges</i>
10:00 AM	Howard Auditorium	<b>Advising Matters Keynote</b> <a href="#">Dr. Charlie Nutt</a> , NACADA
11:00 AM	<b>Faculty Relocate to Bowen 100</b>	
11:10 AM	Bowen 100	<b>Provost Updates</b> Speaker: Dr. Jerry Baker
12:00 PM	ABAC Dining Hall	<b>LUNCH Provided for Faculty &amp; Staff</b> <i>Courtesy of SODEXO</i>
1:30 PM	Bowen 100	<b>Advising Workshop</b> Speaker: <a href="#">Dr. Charlie Nutt</a>
3:00 PM	Bowen 100	<b>Advising &amp; Catalog Update</b> Speaker: <i>Nick Urquhart</i>
4:00	King Hall	<b>King Hall Opening Ceremony</b>

### ABAC Ambassador Application Deadline Aug. 18

Applications are now being accepted for the ABAC Ambassadors, one of the most prestigious student organizations at ABAC.

The Ambassadors represent the college at events such as Stallion Day, Homecoming, Honors Day, An Evening for ABAC, commencement, and more.

Ambassador applications are available on the ABAC website at [www.abac.edu/ambassadors](http://www.abac.edu/ambassadors). Applications must be completed online by 3 p.m. on Aug. 18. Two letters of recommendation are also required.

All applicants will attend a social on Aug. 21 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. on the first floor of Tift Hall and complete an interview with the selection committee on Aug. 22. Those students who are selected as ABAC Ambassadors will attend the mandatory leadership retreat on Aug. 25-27.

For more information on the Ambassadors, email [Lindsey Roberts](mailto:Lindsey.Roberts@aba.edu) at [lroberts@aba.edu](mailto:lroberts@aba.edu).



## Dobbs Named Assistant Baseball Coach at ABAC

Aaron Dobbs is the new assistant baseball coach at ABAC, according to an announcement today by ABAC Coach Brandon Reeder.

“It’s good to have a coach of Aaron’s caliber come on board to help us continue to build momentum with our baseball program,” Reeder said.

“He has some great relationships with coaches around the Southeast that will really benefit us from a recruiting standpoint.”

Dobbs will serve as the Golden Stallions’ hitting coach and work with the infielders. He joins the ABAC staff after a four-year stint coaching travel baseball with 5 Star



National in Warner Robins. In his tenure with 5 Star National, formerly known as Chain Baseball, Dobbs coached nearly 100 players who went on to sign with NCAA Division I schools and nine Major League Baseball draft picks.

“I’m ready to get started,” Dobbs said.

“Everyone that I’ve met so far at ABAC has been very nice and welcoming. This place has everything to offer. I’m excited to be a Stallion and eager to work toward the goal of winning a conference championship.”

Dobbs finished his collegiate baseball playing career with two seasons at Division I Kennesaw

State University after playing two years at Gordon State College. He earned First Team All-Atlantic Sun Conference in both seasons at KSU, his junior season as an outfielder, and his senior season as a third baseman. Dobbs was also named to the Atlantic Sun All-Tournament Team after leading the Owls to the A-Sun title game.

Dobbs set the Gordon State single season record for games played, walks, and triples during his sophomore season. He finished his career at Gordon with a .338 batting average and led the team in stolen bases with 49 in 2010.

“I’ve known Aaron for a long time,” Reeder said. “He brings a lot to the table by way of knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm. Our players will benefit greatly from having him around every day.”

## RHA Begins Professional Clothing Closet and Food Pantry for ABAC Students

Over the last year, the Residence Life and Housing department has been working diligently to firmly establish the ABAC Residence Hall Association (RHA). RHA is a national, student-run organization that serves to represent residential students and functions on a model that is similar to a standard, university-level Student Government Association.

The RHA executive board has established a firm foundation upon which to build their organization and, as such, are now implementing two running programs.

First, donations of professional wear, business casual and formal wear of all sizes, genders, and including shoes. The running program, a professional clothing closet, will be open to all ABAC students and will offer students the opportunity to "rent" professional wear for interviews and other pre-professional endeavors for free.

Second, donations of canned goods to start a food pantry that will be available to all ABAC students regardless of whether or not they live on campus. The food pantry will be operationally confidential and each of the executive board members will be signing a letter of confidentiality before being allowed access to the food pantry.

For more information about these programs, or to donate, contact Trent Hester at [thester@abac.edu](mailto:thester@abac.edu).



## Town and Gown Event August 24 in Gressette Gymnasium

The 10th Annual Town and Gown Connection will take place on Aug. 24 from 4–6 p.m. in Gressette Gymnasium at ABAC. The event gives local businesses and churches an opportunity to welcome new and returning ABAC students to Tifton.

Businesses can participate for \$25, churches can take part for

\$10, and all other non-profit organizations can join in free of charge. All churches, businesses, and non-profit organizations must register ahead of time.

Businesses are invited to bring samples, freebies, coupons, or even job applications. One table and two chairs will be provided

for each participant. 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, interested persons can contact Bernice Hughes, Dean of Students, at [bhughes@abac.edu](mailto:bhughes@abac.edu).

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associate professor of English and Communication in the School of Arts and Sciences. He also serves as the faculty advisor of "The Stallion" newspaper and Stallion TV.

An ABAC faculty member since 2012, **Gregus** has been promoted from the rank of assistant professor to associate professor of mathematics in the School of Arts and Sciences. Gregus received his bachelor's degree in physics from Comenius University in Slovakia and his master's and doctorate degrees in mathematics from the University of Florida.

**Kiser** joined the ABAC faculty in 2012. He earned his B.S. in

environmental science from Ferrum College and his M.S. and Ph.D. in forestry from Virginia Tech University. He has been promoted to associate professor from his previous position of assistant professor of forest resources in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

**Schmeisser** earned his bachelor's degree in political science from Mercer University and his master's and doctorate degrees in political science from the University of Florida. He has been promoted from assistant professor to associate professor of history and political science in the School of Arts and Sciences. He has served as an ABAC faculty member since

2009.

**Crumley** has been a part of the faculty in the School of Nursing and Health Sciences since 2010. She received her associate's degree in nursing from ABAC and earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from Valdosta State University. She has been promoted from assistant professor to associate professor of nursing.

**Seat** holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry and a master's degree in educational leadership from Valdosta State University. An ABAC faculty member since 2007, he has been promoted from assistant professor to associate professor of physics in the School of Arts and Sciences.

## Welcome Week Activities August 12-15 at ABAC

Entering freshmen will experience college life for the first time this Saturday with the start of Welcome Week at ABAC.

Director of Enrollment Management Donna Webb said Welcome Week introduces new students to the college through various activities and experiences, leading to the first day of the fall semester on Aug. 16.

"Our goal is to blend academic engagement with social activities," Webb said. "This year we will feature 'Weeks of Welcome,' an extension of New Student Orientation and Welcome Week, which will occur from the first day of class through Aug. 31."

Welcome Week begins on Saturday with New Student Move-In from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at ABAC Lakeside. A mandatory housing meeting will take place in Gressette Gym at 7 p.m. followed by the No-Booza-Palooza in the Lakeside Lobby and the opening of the Thrash Wellness Center and the Foundation Legacy Pool.

On Sunday, students can have lunch with their Community Assistant (CA) followed by The Great Lake Race, the Natural Ecology of Lake Baldwin guided



tour, and time at the pool.

On Aug. 14, students can take tours of the Thrash Wellness Center, the Academic Achievement Center and their class route. Four different sessions on "How to Thrive, Not Just Survive" focusing on budget planning, stress management, technology, and information on the ABAC Health Center will be available. From 1:30-3 p.m., five more sessions will be available including Finish in Four: Mastering Your Academic Schedule, Where to Go: Services Available on Campus, Library Resources, Social Media Beware, and additional technology sessions. From 3-6 p.m. students can take advantage of the pool and Wellness Center. The evening presentation is titled "College Success Lessons from the Dance Floor" in Gressette Gym at 7:30 p.m.

On Aug. 15, School Connections sessions are geared to the various academic programs

and will focus on setting academic expectations and engaged learning opportunities. Freshman Convocation featuring ABAC alumna Louise Hill is at 11 a.m. in Gressette Gym.

Presidential Scholar Jamie

Worsley will give the freshman response. After lunch, students can attend sessions on staying healthy, time management, tools for critical thinking in college and beyond, health professions, and agricultural education.

Students will join the Deans and Department Heads for ice cream on the ABAC Lakeside lawn from 3:30-4 p.m., followed by fun on the water slides and a movie on the Lakeside Lawn. One of the highlights of the "Weeks of Welcome" is the premiere of the documentary, "Elephants in the Coffee," on Aug. 30 at 6 p.m. in Howard Auditorium. The one-hour documentary produced by Associate Professor of Journalism Thomas Grant and his students, shows how the expansion of coffee plantations in Southern India led to conflicts between humans and elephants.

Fall semester classes extend through Dec. 6. The fall commencement ceremony is scheduled for Dec. 14.

## Masonic Lodge Funds New ABAC Scholarship

Matthew King and Thomas King are the first recipients of the newly created Masonic Lodge of Tifton #47 and #745 F&AM Scholarship to ABAC.

“Establishing this scholarship means a lot to us,” Bert Connell, Master of Tifton Lodge #47, said. “Our organization is dedicated to helping the next generation and this scholarship allows us to keep our presence in the community known while giving back.”

Both scholarship recipients are Tift County High School graduates and have recently achieved Eagle Scout status. They will begin their ABAC careers when classes begin on Aug. 16.

“We are delighted to award this scholarship which came into being thanks to the great efforts of Gerald Branch and the late Lamar Jackson,” Robert Kicklighter, Master of Tiftarea Lodge #745, said.



The scholarship presentation at the at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture at ABAC included (l-r): Neil Clements, Randy Clements, Bert Connell, Matthew King, Thomas King, Robert Kicklighter, John Johnson, David King, and Garrett Boone.

“Our motto is to take a good man and make a better man out of him. We couldn’t be more pleased to have two such fine recipients in Matthew and Thomas. As Eagle Scouts, they have demonstrated their character and integrity.”

The criteria for the scholarship requires that it be awarded to students enrolled full-time at ABAC with a grade point average of 2.5 or higher. The

students must be graduates of a Tift County school and demonstrate high standards of character and personal integrity.

“We are so appreciative of these organizations’ generosity to our students,” ABAC Chief Development Officer Deidre Martin said. “They are demonstrating their commitment to our community and to young people by helping them achieve their dream of a college education.”



### Barbee Named Incoming President of Keep Tift Beautiful

In July, Brad Barbee, certified grounds manager at ABAC, was voted as the incoming president for the Keep Tift Beautiful board. Barbee was serving as an ABAC representatives prior to the election.

Keep Tift Beautiful is an affiliate group of Keep America Beautiful and Keep Georgia Beautiful. They focus efforts in three main areas: litter reduction, beautification, and recycling. They encourage the community to take pride in their part of helping to keep Tifton and Tift County a clean, healthy, and beautiful place to live. They also strive to educate the community about the importance of recycling and the benefits of living in a litter-free area.

The mission of Keep Tift Beautiful is to work together as a unified community to create good stewards of the earth through beautification, education, and conservation.

### ABAC Police Chief to Host Training on House Bill 280

ABAC Police Chief Frank Strickland will lead another educational training session on House Bill 280, commonly known as “Campus Carry,” on Monday, August 14 at 1 p.m. in Bowen 100. President David Bridges encourages all staff and faculty who were unable to hear Chief Strickland at his initial meeting on June 20 to attend this session to hear the facts on House Bill 280, which became law on July 1.