



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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Ellington to Address Constitution Day Event at ABAC Sept. 17

Georgia Court of Appeals Judge John Ellington will be the guest speaker at the Constitution Day event at ABAC on Sept. 17 at 1:30 p.m. in the Chapel of All Faiths.

Ellington was sworn in as the 66th Judge of the Georgia Court of Appeals by Governor Roy Barnes on July 12, 1999. He was elected statewide to a full six-year term in 2000 and re-elected in 2006 and 2012.

Constitution Day will celebrate the signing of the United States Constitution by 39 men on Sept. 17, 1787 in Philadelphia's Independence Hall. Abraham Baldwin, the namesake for Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, and William Few were the only Georgia signers of the document.

The event is hosted by the ABAC Student Government Association (SGA) and the Department of History and Political

Science in the School of Liberal Arts. The Constitution Day ceremony will begin with a welcome from ABAC President David Bridges followed by a performance of "The Star-Spangled Banner" from the ABAC Chamber Singers.

Student Government Association President Taylor Martin, a diversified agriculture major from Wrightsville, will introduce Ellington, who graduated from ABAC with degrees in business and political science. As a student he served as SGA president and received the George P. Donaldson Award as the outstanding graduate at the 1980 spring commencement ceremony.



Judge John Ellington to speak at Constitution Day event on Sept. 17.

Ellington will address the audience, answer questions, and announce the winner of the Constitution Day Essay Contest, which is sponsored by the SGA and the Department of History and Political Science.

After completing his ABAC education, Ellington attended the University of Georgia, graduating with a BBA degree in accounting in 1982. He received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Georgia Law School

in 1985. He was admitted to the Georgia Bar the same year.

Ellington became one of the youngest trial court judges in Georgia in 1991 when he was

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ABAC Fall Term Events Range from Golf to Shakespeare

From golf to Shakespeare to jazz, the fall semester at ABAC offers something for everyone.

Events during the semester include the 15th Annual Ag Classic at ABAC's Forest Lakes Golf Club on Oct. 5. Co-eds will compete in the annual Ms. ABAC contest on Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium. Two sets of Nursing Information Sessions will be available at 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Sept. 22 and Nov. 17 in the



Health Sciences building. High school students interested in attending ABAC can visit the campus on Nov. 14 for Stallion Day.

Fall events from the ABAC Presents! Performing Arts Series will feature the Albany Symphony Orchestra on Sept. 27 at 3 p.m. at the Tift County High School Performing Arts Center, the National Players production of William Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar" on Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium, and the United States

Army Field Band and Soldiers' Chorus at the Tift County High School Performing Arts Center on Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. All performances require a ticket for admittance.

Other musical performances this fall include the First Tuesday Concert Series, which begins its 14th season. Performances will include "A Night of Jazz" featuring ABAC instructor Thomas Heflin and friends at 7 p.m. on Oct. 6; "A Night of Woodwinds" featuring Pitches in Stilettos at 7 p.m. on Nov. 3; and the annual Christmas Concert at 5 p.m. on Dec. 1. All First Tuesday performances take place in the

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appointed State Court Judge of Treutlen County. He was re-elected to that post in 1992 and 1996. He has additionally served as a Superior Court Judge by designation in five circuits – 29 counties – throughout South Georgia and as a Municipal Court Judge. In 2001, 2006, and again in 2007, Ellington was awarded the prestigious Distinguished Judicial Service Award by the Younger Lawyers Division of the State Bar which recognized his outstanding service and commitment to improving the practice of law.

Ellington was named the Outstanding Young Alumnus by the ABAC Alumni Association in 1994. He is a member of the President's Club at ABAC and serves as a trustee on the ABAC Foundation. A member of the First Baptist Church in Soperton, where he has taught Sunday School and served as chair of the Board of Deacons, Ellington and his wife, Sandra Kate, live on a family farm in Treutlen County.

Ellington's remarks will touch on the significance of the United States Constitution, which was the culmination of the efforts of 55 men who attended the four-month long Constitutional Convention and produced the 4,543-word document, the oldest and shortest national constitution. Georgia representatives William Houston and William Pierce had already departed when the document was

signed, leaving Baldwin and Few to make their mark on history.

ABAC President David Bridges said Baldwin was a key figure on the national level as well as in the history of Georgia.

"We are proud that our college is named for an individual who set the stage for higher education in Georgia and then helped to shape a document on the national level that has now lasted 228 years," Bridges said. "One of our historical exhibits in Tift Hall honors Abraham Baldwin and his many accomplishments."

The Baldwin exhibit is one of several historical panels on the lower floor of Tift Hall. Other panels focus on Tifton founder Henry Harding Tift, ABAC alumnus George T. Smith, and the history of the college from 1908 to present day. All the exhibits are open to the public. Tours can be arranged by calling (229) 391-5055.

Baldwin was born on Nov. 22, 1754 as the son of a Connecticut blacksmith. He enrolled at Yale University at the age of 14 and completed his degree four years later. He served on George Washington's staff as a chaplain during the Revolutionary War before beginning a study of law. After being admitted to the bar, he moved to Georgia in 1783 to set up a law practice near Augusta. One year later, Baldwin was elected to the Georgia House of Assembly and in 1787 he represented Georgia

as a member of the Constitutional Convention.

Responding to a request by Georgia Governor Lyman Hall, Baldwin was the architect for an educational plan for both secondary and higher education in Georgia. Because of his leadership in this area, the state approved a charter for the University of Georgia in 1785. Baldwin served as the first president of UGA from 1785 until 1801, prior to the time students actually attended the institution.

Baldwin never had a wife or children but had strong convictions about the importance of a quality education for the youth of Georgia. He believed Georgia should "place the youth under the forming hand of Society, that by instruction they may be moulded to the love of Virtue and good Order."

Beginning in 1789, Baldwin served Georgia for five consecutive terms as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. He was then elected for two terms in the U.S. Senate, one of those as president pro-tem. Baldwin passed away on March 4, 1807 while serving in the Senate. Baldwin County is named for him.

On July 1, 1933, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia opened the institution known as Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in his honor.



The speed limit on Davis Road has been lowered from 45 mph to 35 mph. The Tifton Police Department will be patrolling the area to help remind people of the speed reduction.

Two Nursing Information Sessions September 22 at ABAC

Two information sessions on the nursing program at ABAC will be held in the ABAC Health Sciences building on Sept. 22 from 8-9 a.m. and 4-5 p.m.

Associate Professor of Nursing Becky Arnold said prospective students will be provided with information about the nursing program, and faculty will be on hand to answer any questions regarding the program. The nursing program at ABAC prepares students to take the Registered Nurse (R.N.) licensure examination.

"Nursing faculty will be available to discuss the associate degree nursing program in both a group and a one-on-one setting," said Arnold. "The sessions are a great time to meet faculty and get your questions answered as you prepare to begin your nursing education."

For more information on this session, interested persons can contact the School of Nursing and Health Sciences at (229) 391-5020. Spring semester classes begin at ABAC on Jan. 6.

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Chapel of All Faiths on the campus of ABAC.

Other musical events include the Fall Choral Concert at 7 p.m. on Nov. 10 in Howard Auditorium, the Fall Band Concert at the Tift Theatre in downtown Tifton on Nov. 17 at 7 p.m., the Fall Jazz Concert on Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium, and the Virtuoso Chamber Music

Series featuring the Georgia Brass Quintet at 7 p.m. on Sept. 29 in Howard Auditorium.

The Baldwin Players will perform Thornton Wilder's "The Skin of My Teeth" at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium Oct. 29-31. Tickets are \$7 at the door and free to ABAC faculty, staff, and students.

During the fall term, students

and faculty will enjoy the Fall Break on Oct. 19-20 and Thanksgiving holidays on Nov. 25-27.

Final exams will take place on Dec. 3-4 and Dec. 7-8. The fall commencement ceremony will be held in Gressette Gym on Dec. 10 at 10 a.m. For more information, interested persons can visit the ABAC web site at www.abac.edu or call (229) 391-5004.



Submit Artwork for the Hispanic Heritage Day Art Show

All ABAC students, faculty and staff are invited to enter their original art work for display during the Heritage Day Art Show.

The theme for the Art Show is Heritage and all pieces should depict the heritage of the individual submitting it. Deadline for application is Monday, September 14.

The Art will be shown during the Hispanic Heritage Day Celebration, September 24 in the Meadows on the ABAC Campus from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.

For more information, contact Nancy Anthony at nanthony@abac.edu.

Ag Classic Golf Tournament October 5

The 15th Annual Ag Classic Golf Tournament at ABAC will be held on Oct. 5 at ABAC's Forest Lakes Golf Course. There will be an 8 a.m. flight and a 1 p.m. flight. A complimentary lunch will be served between flights.

The tournament is hosted by the ABAC Ag Alumni Council and the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources to generate scholarship funds for students in that area of study. The student scholarship funds are raised by tournament sponsorships and player registration fees. There are six sponsorship levels from \$100 for a Century Level Sponsor to \$5,000 for a Stallion Level Sponsor.

Open to the first 100 golfers who register, the tournament will



be a four-man scramble with a shotgun start. There is an entry fee of \$125 per person or a \$500 entry fee for each four-person team that includes lunch, cart, greens fees, and an embroidered golf shirt with tournament logo.

Prizes will be awarded

to the first and second place teams in each flight. Prizes will also be awarded for the longest drive, hole-in-one, and closest shot to the pin on designated holes.

The Ag Classic's ball drop event will be back for its second year. Individuals can purchase numbered golf balls for a small fee for a chance to win. Participants can purchase one golf ball for \$5, three golf balls for \$10, or seven golf balls for \$20.

All the balls sold with unique individual numbers will be placed

in the bucket of a front end loader and dropped onto the putting green at Forest Lakes Golf Course. The ball that rolls closest to/or drops into a pre-selected designated hole on the putting green will be declared the winner. The number on each ball will be associated with an individual that purchased a chance(s) to win. The grand prize is a Visa gift card with a designated value equal to 50 per cent (nearest \$10) of the numbered golf balls sold.

To participate in the tournament or the ball drop event, interested persons can contact tournament coordinator Vonda Fenn at (229) 391.5067, at vfenn@abac.edu, or by going online at www.abac.edu/academics/schools/ag-natural-resources/outreach/ag-classic. The opportunity to participate in the ball drop event is open until the event takes place at 12:45 p.m. on Oct. 5.

Fillies Take Perfect Record into Today's Game

The ABAC women's soccer team takes an unblemished 2-0 record into today's 5 p.m. contest against Andrew College at the ABAC soccer field. Coach Jimmy Ballenger's team defeated Gordon 4-1 in its season opener and then upended Georgia Military 4-2 last Tuesday. The Fillies will be back at home against always powerful Darton at 5 p.m. on Sept. 14.





ABAC Baseball Team Hosts Blood Drive Wednesday

The ABAC Baseball Team is sponsoring an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. It will be located upstairs in the Branch Student Center. If you are interested in signing up to donate, or know someone who is, email Coach Brandon Reeder at breeder@abac.edu to set-up an appointment. Appointments are not required to donate. Each pint of blood given saves three lives. The Red Cross has set a goal for ABAC at 87 donors. Let's knock that out of the ballpark!



Save the Date for the 7th Annual Career Connections

November 17, 2015 • 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Agriculture and Horticulture Careers- Ag Sciences Building
Forestry and Wildlife Careers- Yow Forestry Wildlife Building
For more information, contact Vonda Fenn at vfenn@abac.edu.

Healthy Relationship Seminar Thursday

The School of Human Sciences and the ABAC Fillies Soccer Team are hosting a Healthy Relationships Seminar on Thursday at 4 p.m. in Bowen 100. For the past two years, they have worked together to hold similar events focused under the same topic of "healthy relationships." This year Coach Jimmy Ballenger coordinated with the Executive Director of Ruth's Cottage and The Patticake House, Nancy Bryan, and the Senior Legal Advocate, Divayna Esquivel, for the delivery of a session focused on the following topics:

Types of Abuse: emotional, psychological, physical, sexual, and economic • Cycle of Violence • Role of the Legal System • Myths and Facts Surrounding Domestic Violence

Additional Sessions:

History of Ruth's Cottage and The Patticake House • Overview of the Ruth's Cottage and The Patticake House programs and services • Outreach and Education Volunteers • Funding

Encourage students to attend the event. A sign-up sheet will be provided. Notify Dr. Darby Sewell, dsewell@abac.edu, if you would like a record of attendance after the event. This is open to all students, faculty, and staff.

Submit information by **Thursday at noon** to Lindsey Roberts at lroberts@abac.edu for inclusion in the next edition of the FOCUS.

ABAC AET TRUCK & TRACTOR PULL

Thursday—Saturday OCTOBER 1-3, 2015
Where? ABAC Pulling Track!

Thursday



Stock Truck Night! 7PM

\$5 for admission \$5 per pull

Including a Student ONLY pulling class!

Southern Pullers Trucks & Tractor's will be offered practice pulls on Thursday!

***NEW**

Admission: Adults \$15, 6-10 \$10,
5 & under FREE,
ABAC Students \$10 w/ Current I.D

Friday 7PM

Southern Pullers
Association

Saturday 6PM

Southern Pullers
Association



Don't miss out on ABAC's 2nd sanctioned
Truck & Tractor Pull since the 1980's!

ABAC Birthdays

8 Shawn Cox 11 Allen Saylor 11 Jamie Kinsley
12 Becca Turner 12 Clayton Riehle
12 Jennifer Gunn 12 Robbie Hawsey 13 Erin Campbell