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.

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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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Constitution from page 1

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.
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 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.

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!

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**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.

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**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 Paticake 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 Paticake House
- Overview of the Ruth’s Cottage and The Paticake 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.

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

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**ABAC AET Truck & Tractor Pull**

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

*NEW*

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!

Friday

- Southern Pullers Association
- 7PM

Saturday

- Southern Pullers Association
- 6PM

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

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**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