For IMMEDIATE Release

February 20, 2013

The Gee Haw Whoa Back Rodeo at 6 p.m. on March 2 and 1 p.m. on March 3 is just one of the many events taking place during the 2013 Celebrate ABAC Alumni Weekend on March 1-3.

Campus Opens Doors for Celebrate ABAC Weekend on March 1-3

TIFTON – From touring the newly-renovated front campus to the thrill of watching bull riding at the rodeo, alumni and friends will help Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College celebrate its 105th birthday on March 1-3 with the annual Celebrate ABAC Alumni Weekend.
The Celebrate ABAC schedule includes the Front Campus Rededication Ceremony, An Evening for ABAC Scholarship Dinner, the Alumni Awards Brunch, the Athletics Hall of Fame induction luncheon, and the always-popular Gee Haw Whoa Back Rodeo. All event tickets except for the rodeo must be purchased in advance through the Office of College Advancement at (229) 391-4895. Rodeo tickets will be sold at the gate on the two days of the event.

The celebration begins with the Golden Alumni Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on March 1. Tickets for this event are $20 per person and must be purchased in advance. The rededication of Tift, Herring, and Lewis Halls begins at 1:30 p.m. on the front steps of Tift Hall. The ceremony will include the unveiling of the George Thorne well Smith Parlor and The History Room located in the newly-renovated Tift Hall.

The Herring Hall Open House will be held from 2:30-4 p.m. The Stafford School of Business Dedication Ceremony will begin at 3 p.m. in Lewis Hall. At 4 p.m., a Candlelight Remembrance Service will take place in the Chapel of All Faiths as a way to honor ABAC alumni and friends who have passed away during the past year. That event will be followed by An Evening for ABAC, the annual benefit to fund student scholarships, at 6 p.m. in Gressette Gym.

The featured performers for the Evening for ABAC event will be the college’s own award-winning ABAC Jazz Band followed by an exclusive tour of the newly-remodeled Tift Hall.

Advance tickets for the Evening for ABAC performance and dinner are available for $100 a person or $180 a couple. Reserved tables for eight people are $1,250. Proceeds from this event go to support ABAC student scholarships.
The March 1 festivities will culminate with a Concert in the Meadow featuring MainStream Band at 6:30 p.m. and a Fireworks Display Over Tift Hall at 8:30 p.m.

On March 2, the college will honor alumni with the Alumni Awards Brunch beginning at 11 a.m. at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture on the ABAC campus. Advance tickets must be purchased for this event at a cost of $25 per person.

On the afternoon of March 2, alumni can take part in the Alumni Day at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village beginning at 1 p.m. Admission is free to alumni and their families. Alumni can stop by the Country Store, ride the Vulcan Steam Train, and grab a root beer float from the Drug Store before experiencing life in a 19th century rural community.

The Athletics Hall of Fame induction luncheon will take place at 1 p.m. in Gressette Gym. Tickets are $30 per person for this event. Inductees include Julie Conner, Z.B. Hamilton, Henry Will Jones, Derrick Racine, and the 1999 national championship tennis team.

ABAC will host the PCA-sanctioned preliminary round of the Gee Haw Whoa Back Rodeo at 6 p.m. in the ABAC Arena. The final round will be held March 3 at 1 p.m.

The rodeo will include saddle bronco riding, bareback riding, bull riding, team roping, calf roping, steer wrestling, break-away roping, and barrel racing. The rodeo will also feature audience participation activities for kids and adults. Tickets can be purchased at the gate for $10. Children five and under will be admitted free of charge.

For more information on Celebrate ABAC or to purchase tickets to any of the Celebrate ABAC events, interested persons can contact the Office of College Advancement at (229) 391-
4895 or visit the web site at www.abac.edu/more/office-of-college-advancement-alumni/alumni-association/celebrate-abac.

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