PGA Golfer from Sylvester Named to ABAC Hall of Fame

TIFTON—Sonny Skinner has received many tips on how to be a better golfer during his 54 years on this earth. But he credits his golf coach at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College for making the biggest impact on his life.
“I would not have become the player or the person that I developed into if it had not been for Wayne Cooper,” Skinner, who played on the PGA Tour in 1990, 1992, 1997, and 1998, said. “He was the person, other than my father, who took time with me to share his knowledge and understanding on life as well as the game of golf.”

For his golfing exploits at ABAC and as a professional golfer, Skinner has been named to the 2015 class of the ABAC Athletics Hall of Fame.

Tickets are now available at a cost of $30 per person for the induction dinner in Gressette Gym at 6 p.m. on April 10. The dinner is a part of the ABAC Homecoming Week activities. Athletics Director Alan Kramer said that persons who wish to attend the dinner can contact the Office of College Advancement at (229) 391-4895 for tickets. Tickets will only be sold in advance.

The Hall of Fame event will be a part of the alumni awards ceremony. For more information on the 2015 Homecoming Week activities, interested persons can visit the ABAC web site at www.abac.edu/alumni.

Skinner was named to the National Junior College Athletic Association All Region 17 team as a freshman and sophomore when he played golf for Cooper’s ABAC Golden Stallions in 1979 and 1980. He turned professional in 1982.

“Wayne and I have been friends for the past 37 years,” Skinner said. “I went to ABAC because of him, and I have been forever grateful.”

A Sylvester resident since 1968, Skinner has also played on the Canadian Tour, the Nationwide Tour and the Champions Tour. He won the Nike Shreveport Open in 1993 and the

Skinner, a recipient of the Worth County Goodwill Ambassador Award, became the only Georgia PGA member to win the PGA Professional Player of the Year in 2008 and the PGA Senior Professional Player of the Year in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. He is the only player in PGA of America history to win both awards and the only PGA of America member to win the PGA Senior Professional Player of the Year award five times.

A Georgia Section PGA Class A member for 23 years, Skinner finished in second place in the 2008 and 2010 National PGA Professional Championship. He never lost a match when he played for the 2009 and 2011 PGA Cup Teams playing against the Great Britain/Ireland team. Skinner was the only Georgia PGA member to finish as the low club pro at the 2011 Senior PGA Championship at Valhalla. He also made the cut in the Senior PGA Championship in 2012, 2013, and 2014.

A winner of 18 Georgia PGA Senior events in four years, Skinner has qualified for 24 Champions Tour events. He has also played in two U.S. Senior Open tournaments, finishing 26th in 2014. Skinner played in the PGA Championship on the PGA Tour in 2008, 2010, and 2013. He has had 18 holes-in-one and two double eagles in tournaments.

Algenia, Skinner’s wife for the past 25 years, also attended ABAC. They have a 20-year-old daughter, Marlee. Other 2015 inductees include Monika Lalewicz, Ralph Bryant, Tommy Dial, Dr. Larry and Debra Moorman, and the 1999 ABAC women’s tennis team.