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Moormans to Enter ABAC Athletics Hall of Fame

TIFTON—Dr. Larry Moorman calls it “the best thing I’ve ever done.” Students at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College are in perfect agreement.
Moorman, a Tifton ophthalmologist, and his wife, Debra, donated the Forest Lakes Golf Course to the ABAC Foundation in 2002. In 2009, they donated the clubhouse at the nine-hole course as well.

For their philanthropic efforts, the Moormans will be inducted into 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/homecoming.

Thanks to the Moormans, the ABAC Foundation now owns the Forest Lakes course, and it is operated by the college as an outdoor learning laboratory. It is also open to the general public from 8 a.m. until sunset each day.

“You would not believe the number of students who see us out somewhere and walk up to say ‘thank you,’” Debra Moorman said. “It makes you feel good.”

“It helped everybody,” Dr. Larry Moorman said. “It’s the best thing I’ve ever done. Every time I go out there now I see students doing something.”
ABAC students use the course on almost a daily basis in the ABAC bachelor’s degree program in Turfgrass and Golf Course Management. Students in many other programs such as horticulture, agricultural engineering, forestry, wildlife, physical education, and agricultural equipment technology utilize the 91-acre course as well. The ABAC golf team also practices at the course.

“It’s a perfect fit,” Dr. Larry Moorman said in 2002. “A golf course used for educational purposes is great for the students. I am a big supporter of ABAC, and for me, this donation is all about ABAC.

“The course will provide valuable hands-on experience, putting students in real-life situations. Actually being on a golf course will give students a totally different perspective than what they learn in text books.”

The Moormans also donated a golf ball-washing machine to the driving range at the course in 2014.

Other 2015 Hall of Fame inductees include Monika Lalewicz, Ralph Bryant, Tommy Dial, Sonny Skinner, and the 1999 ABAC women’s tennis team.

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