Governor Nathan Deal and Comission of Agriculture Gary Black visit with the ABAC Ambassadors at the Sunbelt Expo. The newly-remodeled ABAC exhibit opens its doors Oct. 20-22 for the 2015 Expo at Spence Field near Moultrie.

ABAC Revamps Exhibit for 2015 Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition

TIFTON—When Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College hosted an event called Dealer Days on its campus in 1964, not even the famous prognosticator Nostradamus could have
foreseen the growth of the agricultural trade show into the mammoth extravaganza called the Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition of today.

The Expo moved to its present Spence Field site near Moultrie in 1978. Ironically, ABAC once held classes at Spence Field for American soldiers returning to South Georgia after World War II. On Oct. 20-22, Spence Field will come alive with the sounds of tractors, harvesters, and combines and the smell of sawdust, hamburgers, and fresh squeezed lemonade when the Expo opens for its 2015 show.

“ABAC and Expo have certainly changed over the years but we both still have a commitment to agriculture, which continues to be Georgia’s largest industry,” ABAC President David Bridges said. “The Expo represents a great opportunity for me to connect with ABAC alumni, many of whom are on site as exhibitors.”

Lindsey Roberts, director of marketing and communications at ABAC, said visitors will see major changes in the college’s Expo exhibit this year. She said a grand re-opening of the ABAC exhibit will take place at 9:05 a.m. on Oct. 20 just after ABAC student Landon Rowe sings the National Anthem over the Spence Field public address system.

“We are really proud of our ABAC alumni, and Expo visitors will get to find out more about them and their contributions to agriculture in our new Alumni Spotlight area,” Roberts said. “We’ll also showcase the new bachelor’s degrees in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources.”

Roberts said the new look includes a front porch with rocking chairs, a replica of the statue of The Stallion college mascot, and five separate areas inside the building which focus on different segments of the college. Students, faculty, staff, and administrators from ABAC will be
on hand to greet visitors as they enter the exhibit. Interactive games will allow guests to learn more about ABAC.

ABAC alumni can find out more about the Alumni Association and its many activities, including an entire week devoted to Homecoming. Copies of ABAC yearbooks will be available so that alumni can walk through the pages of days gone by. Prospective ABAC students can get a taste of ABAC through conversations with existing ABAC students who are more than willing to share their love for the campus in Tifton. Talented ABAC students will also offer some entertainment options for Expo visitors.

The Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village became a part of the ABAC campus in 2010, and a special part of the ABAC building at Expo will be devoted to cooking on a wood-burning stove, demonstrations, and the Country Store on wheels.

ABAC souvenirs including t-shirts, sweatshirts, and caps will be available for Expo-goers, both young and old. For more information, visit the ABAC web site at www.abac.edu.

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