



Tracy L. Brundage
President, ABAC

Dr. Brundage became the 11th president in the history of ABAC on August 1, 2022. Dr. Brundage brings to ABAC 30 years of experience in academic and operational leadership, strategic planning, and organizational development in both higher education and in the private sector. President of Keystone (Pa.) College since 2018, Dr. Brundage served as Keystone's provost and vice president for academic affairs for the 2017-2018 academic year. Prior to coming to Keystone, Dr. Brundage served for more than 10 years as vice president for workforce development at Pennsylvania College of Technology, a special mission affiliate of Penn State University. Dr. Brundage holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Gettysburg College, a Master of Education degree in training and development, and a doctorate in workforce education and development, both from Penn State University. In the private sector, she has owned and operated a Victorian bed and breakfast in Lock Haven, Pa., and worked as an information technology instructor with a private firm in Lancaster, Pa., while also living on a small farm in the county.



Bill Burke
Partner of Burke, Worsham & Harrell, LLC.

Bill Burke joined Burke, Worsham & Harrell, LLC. as a partner in 1983. Bill provides a variety of services to clients in tax-related areas, as well as trust services and estate planning. He graduated with honors from Georgia Southwestern State University in 1977 with a Bachelor of Science degree. He received a Master of Accounting (Taxation) degree in 1979 from the University of Georgia. He is a graduate of Leadership Georgia and a former member of the national faculty of the American Institute of CPAs. He is also a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Georgia Society of Certified Public Accountants, and the Florida Society of Certified Public Accountants. He is a recipient of the AICPA's "Discussion Leader of the Year" award. Bill is currently active on the board of First Port City Bank, Donalsonville Hospital, Inc., Southwest Georgia Health Clinic, the Community Foundation, Southwest Georgia Regional Library foundation, the Bainbridge Rotary Club and Friendship United Methodist Church.



Ray Cross
President and Co-Founder, AllHealth CHOICE

Ray Cross graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration (BBA) from University of Georgia - Terry College of Business and a Master's degree in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Colorado Denver. He is the President and Co-Founder of AllHealth CHOICE located in Atlanta, GA. Previously, Ray Cross worked in the Information Technology and Services, and Medical Practice. Ray is married to Judge Melanie Cross, and together, they have three boys. The Cross family resides in Tifton, where they are active in the community.



John Ellington
Justice, Georgia Supreme Court

John is a justice on the Georgia Supreme Court. A 1980 graduate of ABAC, Ellington was a double major in business and political science. He served as president of the Student Government Association and won the prestigious Donaldson Award. Ellington graduated from the University of Georgia with a degree in accounting in 1982 and stayed in Athens to complete his UGA law degree in 1985. Then he went back to Soperton to practice law for eight years. Ellington then served as a trial judge in the State court and in the Superior court for eight years before being appointed by Governor Roy Barnes to the Georgia Court of Appeals in 1999. Ellington served as the Chief Judge on the Court of Appeals from 2010 to 2013. A longtime member of the ABAC Foundation's President's Club, Ellington is a past president of the ABAC Alumni Association.



Buster Evans

Executive Director, Teachers Retirement System of Georgia

In addition to attending ABAC, Dr. Evans - or Buster as he is known by his friends - earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Valdosta State College and his doctoral degree from the University of Georgia. Buster serves as the Executive Director of the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia. As Executive Director, he oversees the operations of Georgia's 90-billion-dollar teacher pension system serving more than half of a million educators from public schools, colleges and universities, and other covered employers. He previously served as the Assistant Commissioner of Education with the Georgia Department of Corrections, as Superintendent of Forsyth County Schools, and as Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent for the Bleckley County School System. He has a long list of well-earned awards and recognitions for his professional achievements. Buster has been involved in organizations across the state including the North Georgia Center for Business Ethics, Rotary International, Bleckley and Forsyth County Health Departments, several Chamber of Commerce groups, and the Jekyll Island Authority.



Jaclyn Ford, Chair

Co-owner, Dixon Gin Co. Inc.

Jaclyn is the Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer of Dixon Gin Co., Inc. and serves as the company's Director of Commodities Marketing. She served on the Georgia Farm Service Agency State Committee from 2011-2017 and she served as a producer delegate for the National Cotton Council. Jaclyn was recently appointed by Governor Kemp to the Georgia Department of Economic Development Board of Directors. She is a part of the 2019 National Cotton Council Emerging Leaders Program and serves as an alternate on the Cotton Board. Jaclyn is a 2018 graduate of Leadership Georgia She graduated from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Communications.



Chad Hancock - Alumni Association Vice President

Vice President/Regional Manager, F&W Forestry Services, Inc.

Chad Hancock is a V.P./Regional Manager for F&W Forestry Services, Inc., an international forest resource management and consulting firm dedicated to helping landowners and investors gain the most value and enjoyment per acre from their timberland. Chad has worked with F&W Forestry Service since 1995 acting as a forester, forest/timberland appraiser, and most recently a V.P./Regional Manager. He received an associate of applied science in forest technology from ABAC in 1995. He then received a bachelor of business in finance from Valdosta State University in 2000. Chad serves on the Alumni Association board and is a lifetime member of the association. In addition to serving on the alumni board, he has also served on the ABAC Ag Alumni Council.



Tyler Harper

Commissioner of Agriculture, State of Georgia

Since 2013, Tyler has worked to defend Georgia's largest sector as a State Senator. During this time, he served on the leadership on the Natural Resources, Public Safety, and Agriculture Committees. Additionally, Tyler currently serves as the Commissioner of Agriculture. Over the years, he has championed our farms and farmers, worked to make them more competitive at home and abroad, and helped cultivate the next generation of Georgia agriculture. Tyler lives in Ocilla and is a lifelong resident of South Georgia. He graduated from the University of Georgia with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering and holds an associate's degree from ABAC. He is an active member in his local community and has helped lead organizations across the state - from his local rotary club to the Georgia Young Farmers Association, to the UGA College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences.



James Holcomb
Owner, Ardry Trading Company, Inc.

James is the owner of Ardry Trading Company, Inc., in Savannah. Capitalizing on the opportunity to initiate service to the then-emerging South American market, the company was established as a sole proprietorship in New York City in 1940. Ardry moved to Savannah in 2003, a move that enabled the company to expand its headquarters and gain access to the Savannah seaport for improved logistics. Ardry specializes in supplying electrical and industrial material, particularly capital equipment, for electric utilities and industrial firms. James graduated from ABAC in 1970, earned a BBA from the University of Georgia in 1973, and did post-graduate work at Tennessee Tech and Middle Tennessee State.



John W. "Wesley" Langdale

John Wesley Langdale, III is a self-employed member of a natural resource conservation and management business. He is an active member and past chair of the Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College Foundation Board. Mr. Langdale serves on the Georgia Forestry Association Board of Directors and is a past Georgia Forestry Foundation Board Member. He also served as past chairman and as a board member of the Georgia Forestry Commission. Mr. Langdale attend Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and the University of Georgia where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Communication. He and his wife live in Valdosta and have two children.



Jim Matney
CEO, Colquitt Regional Medical Center

Jim is the President and CEO of Colquitt Regional Medical Center. Under his leadership, Colquitt Regional Medical Center has twice been named a "Top Rural Hospital in the United States" by the Leapfrog Group. He resides in Moultrie, GA. He was named the 2015 "Man of the Year" by the Moultrie-Colquitt County Chamber of Commerce. Jim earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Berea College and a master's degree in Healthcare Administration from Virginia



Joy Burch Meeks
CFO, FMR Burch Farms

Joy currently serves as the chief financial officer of FMR Burch Farms. She is a member of the board of directors of Altamaha Technical College, the executive committee of the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce and the executive council of the Okefenokee Council of Boy Scouts. Joy resides in Screven, GA and earned a bachelor's degree from Mercer University



Mark Mobley
President, Mobley Gin

Mark is the owner and president of Mobley Gin Company in Doerun. He is also a partner in several other family-owned businesses such as Mobley Greenhouses and Mobley Plant Company. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Georgia Development Authority, the Board of Directors of the Ameris Bank, and the Colquitt County Hospital Authority. Mark resides in Moultrie and attended ABAC and the University of Georgia.



James "Jim" H. Moore, III
Managing Partner, Moore, Clarke, DuVall & Rogers PC

Jim is a founding partner of the law firm of Moore, Clarke, DuVall & Rodgers, P.C., in Albany. Founded on July 1, 1994, the firm has become one of the largest in South Georgia. The group is a major provider of legal services to the business community, not only in South Georgia but throughout the state. His areas of practice include General Civil Practice, Commercial Law, Business Law, Banking Law, Bankruptcy Law, and Health Care. James is a 1976 ABAC alumnus who continued his education at the University of Georgia, receiving his B.S.A., magna cum laude in 1978 and his J.D., cum laude, in 1981.



Melissa Pierzchajlo - Alumni Association President
Co-owner, Sole Medical Spa

Melissa is a proud ABAC alumnus. She is married to Richard Pierzchajlo M.D., is the mother of twins Noah and Garret (ABAC Alumni), the bonus mother of triplets Joe, Katie and Carol (1 ABAC Alumni), and a bonus mother to her nephew Elijah (ABAC Alumni). Melissa is an experienced pilot and says being a pilot played an instrumental part in building her business career. A Bachelor's in Business Administration (BBA), gave her the foundation for a successful diverse professional portfolio that includes hospitality, project development, property management, a medical spa business and medical office management. She has a passion for cooking, design, traveling, hosting events, politics, and exploring different cultures.



Marcus Pollard
Agriculture Educator, Newton College & Career Academy

Marcus teaches agricultural education at Newton College & Career Academy and resides in Covington, GA. He is a member of the Georgia Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association. He is the current past president of the ABAC Alumni Association Board of Directors. Marcus received his associate degree in wildlife technology from ABAC in 2003 before completing his bachelor's degree in wildlife and fisheries science from Tennessee Technological University. He then completed his M.A. of Education from Lipscomb University, his Education Specialist in Workforce Education from the University of Georgia, and his doctorate in Agricultural Education from Murray State University.



Jordan Pope
Owner, Pope, The Real Estate Company

Jordan Pope is a proud life-long resident of Tift County with his wife Marcy and his two children, Banks and Graham. He is a graduate of Tift County High School and studied Business at ABAC. While at ABAC, he was active in the Agricultural Engineering Technology (AET) Club. Jordan has a passion for Tift County and the state of GA and an interest in improving the future, for his children and others, through the development of the City of Tifton. He specializes in residential, land and commercial properties. He brings ambition and eagerness to Tifton and the real estate community. Jordan has had many Achievements, Designations & Memberships and include: Circle of Excellence· Top Producer Sales Associate for Century 21 Smith Brandi & Pope Tifton Office from 2010-2014· Quality Service Award· Tift area Board of Realtors· SFR Designated· Georgia Association of Realtors· National Association of Realtors· Member of First Baptist Church. Currently serves as a member of Synovus Board, previous member Sertoma Club, YMCA Board, Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Development Authority.



Jay Roberts - Vice Chair
Partner, GeorgiaLink Public Affairs Group

James H. "Jay" Roberts is Partner with the GeorgiaLink Public Affairs Group. Prior to joining GeorgiaLink, he served in the Georgia State House of Representatives (2003-2015). While in the House, Jay was elected as both Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the House Majority Caucus by his peers. Jay was named the Chairman of the House Transportation Committee by the Speaker of the House in 2010. and served for 6 years. During his tenure in the House, Jay served on the Agriculture & Consumer Affairs, Ethics, Economic Development & Tourism, Ways & Means, Appropriations, Rules, Game & Fish, and Transportation Committees. Governor Nathan Deal appointed Jay to the distinguished position of Director of Planning for the State of Georgia at the Georgia Department of Transportation. Governor Kemp asked Jay to serve on his transition team. He was then asked by Governor Brian Kemp to continue to serve him as the Director of Planning. He and his wife Sarah have two children and three grandsons, and they reside in Irwin County.



Margaret Richardson-Nixon
Internal Medicine/Primary Care, Southwell

Dr. Richardson-Nixon graduated from the University of Alabama School of Medicine in 2001. She completed her residency at Baptist Health Systems in 2004. Dr. Richardson-Nixon is affiliated with Tift Regional Medical Center and specializes in Internal Medicine. She is part of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). The DDA as catalysts for economic development in downtown Tifton. She is also on the Tifton Council for the Arts Board of Directors, Tift Regional Medical Center Foundation Board of Directors, a member of the Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Tifton Merchants Association. She co-owns Dream Visions Properties and Towne Center Lofts with her husband. Most importantly, she is also the mother to two handsome young men.



Vivien Scott
Owner, The Southern Group

Vivien owns and operates The Southern Group as a Registered Principal Representative. She was a banker for 7 years before becoming an insurance broker. She then transitioned to Principal Financial Group as a Senior Financial Representative. As a Senior Financial Representative, she provides a wide array of financial services to individual clients and businesses ranging from retirement and income protection strategies to group benefits, healthcare and investment options. She earned two undergraduate degrees from Oglethorpe University, in Psychology and Business Administration.



Jodie Snow
COO, The ABAC Foundation, Inc.

Jodie serves the ABAC Foundation as the Chief Operating Officer. She is responsible for the operation and fiscal management of the Foundation's assets including investments, endowments, and real estate. Previously, she has practiced law as an attorney with the State of Florida in Tallahassee, FL, and McGagee & Perez, P.L. in Clewiston, FL. and she maintains her certification in the Georgia and Florida State Bar. Jodie serves her community as a board member for the South Georgia Nonprofit Network and the treasurer for the Governor's Office of Student Achievement's Innovation Fund. Jodie is a Class of 2000 ABAC graduate. She also received a BBA from the University of Georgia, an MBA from Stetson University, and a Juris Doctor from Stetson Law.



Beverly Sparks

Retired Director, University of Georgia Extension

Beverly recently retired as the Associate Dean for the UGA Cooperative Extension Service. An extension urban entomologist at Texas A&M University from 1983-89, she was the first female extension agricultural specialist for the university's agricultural extension service. She was also the first female president of the Southeastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America and the first female Associate Dean for Extension at UGA. From 2002-2006, Beverly was District Extension Director for the North and Northeast districts. She was Assistant Dean and Interim Associate Dean for Cooperative Extension from 2006-2007 and Associate Dean for Cooperative Extension from 2007 until her retirement. She is a 1976 ABAC graduate, earning her associate degree in agricultural science. She received a bachelor's degree in horticulture and a master's degree in entomology from UGA. Beverly earned her Ph.D. in entomology from Louisiana State University.



Cain Thurmond

FarmLend Manager, Farm Credit Services of America

Cain is a 2011 ABAC graduate who is a Leadership Development Associate in Sales and Marketing at CSX in Jacksonville, Fla. While a student at ABAC, he served as Freshman Class President and as an ABAC Ambassador. A founding father of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity at ABAC, he is a former National FFA Vice President. After completing his ABAC education, he received his bachelor of science degree in Agricultural and Applied Economics from the University of Georgia in 2014.



Niki Vanderslice - Past Chair

Managing Partner, Maxfield Investments, LLC

Prior to her role with Maxfield Investments, LLC, Niki served as the Executive Director of Business Development and External Affairs for the Technical College System of Georgia's Quick Start program and as Director of Governmental Relations for the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Niki is Chairman of the Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) Foundation Board, Vice-Chair of the Fayette County Development Authority, and past president of the Georgia Downtown Association and ABAC Alumni Association. She is also a 2010 graduate of Leadership Georgia and a graduate of Leadership Lowndes and New Century Leaders (Coffee County). Niki holds an Associate of Arts degree from ABAC, a B.A. in Business Administration from Georgia Southwestern State University, and a Master's in Organizational Development and Leadership from Saint Joseph's University. She and her husband, Ed, and their daughters Katie and Addie, reside in Fayette County.



Emily Watson

Marketing Director, Colquitt Regional Medical Center

Emily serves as the Marketing Director for Colquitt Regional Medical Center. Prior to joining the administration of Colquitt Regional in 2014, she was the Archway Public Health Professional for Colquitt County for seven years. Emily has also served on the staff of Congressman Jack Kingston, first as a legislative aide in Washington, D.C., and later as a field representative/ag liaison in his Valdosta office. The Watsons reside in Colquitt County where they are involved in the production of vegetables, cattle, and hay. She is a 2003 graduate of the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences where she majored in Agribusiness.