

ALUMNI AWARDS DESCRIPTION

Distinguished Alumnus

The Distinguished Alumnus Award is presented annually in recognition of alumni who have distinguished themselves through professional achievement, community service and service to ABAC. Past recipients have included the well-known and the hardly-known. It is the highest honor bestowed on an alumnus by the Alumni Association. It was first presented in 1969.

Master Farmer

The Master Farmer Award has been presented annually since 1955 in recognition of alumni who have distinguished themselves as outstanding farmers. The award is based on leadership in the home, church, and community, as well as the use of wise and unique ideas in farm management and operation. Support of ABAC is also taken into consideration. The Master Farmer must earn two-thirds of his income on the farm. It is the oldest of the awards presented by the Alumni Association.

Helen Brown Sasser Award

The Helen Brown Sasser Award was formerly known as the Master Homemaker Award. It is presented annually in recognition of alumni who have distinguished themselves by successfully balancing traditional family values with career and community service. Support of ABAC is also taken into consideration. The award was begun in 1959, during the administration of Helen Brown Sasser, the first female president of the ABAC Alumni Association. The second oldest award presented by the Alumni Association, it was renamed in her memory in 1997.

Outstanding Business Leader

The Outstanding Business Leader Award is presented in recognition of alumni who have distinguished themselves in the business world. The award is based on leadership in business, church and community and service to ABAC. This award was first presented in 1979 but became an annual award in 1986.

Outstanding Young Alumnus

The Outstanding Young Alumnus Award recognizes young alumni, 39 and younger, who have distinguished themselves through professional achievement, community service and service to the college. The Outstanding Young Alumnus Award was initiated in 1981 by a group of former publications editors and staffers in honor of Helen Strickland.

Rising Star Award

Similar to the Outstanding Young Alumnus award, this award recognizes those young alumni who have distinguished themselves through professional achievement, community service and service to the college. Awarded for the first time in 2018, this award will be presented to individuals who are age 29 or younger.

J. Lamar Branch Award

The J. Lamar Branch Award was established as the Outstanding Agricultural Leader Award in 1987 to recognize alumni who have distinguished themselves in the various non-farming areas of agriculture, including education, extension, research and business. In 1989 the Alumni Board of Directors voted to name this award in memory of J. Lamar Branch, an alumnus who was himself an outstanding agricultural leader in the area of agricultural education. It is based on professional achievement, community service and support of ABAC.

Outstanding Health Care Professional

The Outstanding Health Care Professional is presented by the ABAC Alumni Association in recognition of alumni who have distinguished themselves through professional achievement, community service and service to the college. This award is designed to recognize individuals in the various areas of health care including but not limited to medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, or health care administration. Eligible individuals could be doctors, dentists, nurses, hospital or extended care administrators, pharmacists, or registered dietitians. This award was established in 1995.

Outstanding Educator

The Outstanding Educator is presented by the ABAC Alumni Association in recognition of alumni who have distinguished themselves through professional achievement community service and service to the college. This award seeks to recognize individuals in education including, but not limited to, elementary, secondary, post-secondary and college, classroom teachers and administrators, active and retired. This award was established in 1995.

Family Legacy Award

The Family Legacy Award was established in 1998 to recognize families with five or more family members spanning two or more generations who have attended ABAC and made a significant contribution to the college thereby creating a legacy for their own family and leaving a legacy to ABAC.



Honorary Alumnus

Honorary alumnus status is awarded to individuals who did not attend Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College but who have exhibited dedicated service and loyalty to ABAC, its students and its alumni. Past recipients of this award have included faculty/staff members, community leaders and faithful donors. Honorary Alumnus status is granted with a two-thirds vote of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and up to three awards may be presented each year.