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Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

AGRICULTURAL

ABAC

ALDW

2020-2021



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Photos on front cover, page one, and page four by Landon Rowe, Charley Lollis, and Josie Smith



# **Greetings from Our President**

Yep. You heard it right. I am retiring from the position of President of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. I have some other things in my life that I want to do. I believe it is the right time. ABAC is on solid footing for the future.

My plan is to retire from the position on December 31, 2021, but I am willing to stay until the end of the spring semester, if that is the desire of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (USG). I have talked with USG Acting Chancellor Teresa MacCartney about my decision, and I appreciate her kind remarks on my behalf.

When I was a student at ABAC, I never thought about being president of ABAC but now that I have been here going on 16 years, I am certainly glad that I pursued the position when it came open. My goal was to transform ABAC from a twoyear college into a senior college of excellence. I believe we have done that. ABAC is the leading producer of undergraduates who work and lead Georgia's number one industry, agriculture. In my opinion, ABAC also has the largest and best nursing program in South Georgia.

ABAC now offers 12 different bachelor's degrees with an enrollment of about 4,000 students from 155 of Georgia's 159 counties, 52 of Florida's 67 counties, 19 countries, and 18 states.

People ask me what I think ABAC's greatest accomplishment was during my tenure as President. There is one obvious answer--the addition of bachelor's degrees changed ABAC forever. In 2006, ABAC had been a two-year college for 75 years, but it needed to be a senior college and offer bachelor's degrees.

Many people doubted whether ABAC could ever offer a bachelor's degree in Forestry or Agricultural Education. It did take a long time, but we did it.

I love the results of the Front of Campus project. Tift Hall, Lewis Hall, and Herring Hall needed some help. Over a period of years, we were able to get that project completed. I will always have strong feelings about the Freedom Gallery. Kim and I agreed that when we leave ABAC, we want to make sure there is a place, a program, and a structure in place that will honor veterans and provide a platform to educate future generations of ABAC students about service to our country.

The Foundation's net assets have doubled since I came in 2006, and you can give credit to a lot of volunteers who worked hard to make that happen. I am pleased to say that the Foundation now funds over \$800,000 in scholarships for ABAC students. That's wonderful, and I hope to see that figure go up.

What am I going to miss? Lots of things. Graduation days are the days I will miss the most. Seeing those students walk across that stage in Tifton and Bainbridge are always my favorite days at ABAC.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve my alma mater. It has been the greatest of times for me. Thank you for your support of ABAC.

Danies C Bridges

# A Message from Our Foundation Chair

As the Chair of the ABAC Foundation and an ABAC alumnus, I am honored to represent more than 50,000 alumni and countless friends who believe in ABAC. I think we would all agree that ABAC is a very special place that has touched the lives of so many in it's 113 year history.

We are living in challenging times, but also times of great promise and growth for ABAC in our facilities, our student body, and our fundraising support. I know you join with me in celebrating the many accomplishments of Dr. David Bridges as our President. As an alumnus of the College, his love for ABAC has been evident in every action he has taken to improve this wonderful campus and make it stronger and better. His impact on ABAC has set the course for a bright future in the days ahead.



### In this 2020-2021 Annual Report, we look back

on the previous year to say a sincere "thank you" for your generosity to this great College. This was a great year of support for ABAC from our alumni and donors. Your generosity makes it possible for us to continue the great tradition of this College for future generations. We look forward to having you join us on campus to see the growth that continues to take place. A few examples include:

- Newly renovated Carlton Center and King Hall
- New Edwards Hall home to the Fine Arts
- Construction beginning soon on a new Ag Technology facility
- Renovations planned for the Chambliss Building and Forest Lakes Golf Course



Please commit to joining me in making your own investment in ABAC's future in the years ahead. On behalf of the ABAC Foundation, thank you. You are truly making a difference in the lives of our students.

Niki Yandevetica

Niki Knox Vanderslice Chair, ABAC Foundation Board of Trustees Class of 2000

Niki is pictured above (second from left) with her husband Ed Vanderslice, Class of 1987 (left) and Kim Bridges (second from right) and David Bridges (right). Emily Staton is pictured left.



# VELCONE CLASS OF 2025



# Finish Strong.



# Start Strong.





# Year in Review: 2020-2021 ABAC Highlights

### Harley Langdale Jr. Foundation Extends Support to Destination Ag

The Harley Langdale Jr. Foundation, Inc., will extend its support of Destination Ag for three more years at ABAC's Georgia Museum of Agriculture. Donnie Warren, Executive Director of the Harley Langdale Jr. Foundation, Inc., made this announcement: "The Harley Langdale Jr. Foundation is very pleased to continue

our partnership with ABAC's Destination Ag. We believe it is vitally important to educate our youth about the importance of agriculture and natural resources in their daily lives. We are proud of the success of this great program, now entering its sixth year of outreach to South Georgia, and we are excited about the teachers and children who will attend programs at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture this school year." Museum Director Garrett Boone said a total of 36,590 children attended Destination Ag programming during the first five years at the Museum. Over 14,000 students are expected to attend Destination Ag classes at the Museum during the 2021-22 year. "ABAC's Georgia Museum of Agriculture is focused on providing educational opportunities for youth within our region and state," Boone said. "We are proud to continue our partnership with the Harley Langdale Jr. Foundation, a



partnership that allows us to enhance our offerings and provide an experiential Agriculture and Natural Resources educational program taught by ABAC students for Georgia's youth in pre-k through fifth grade. Through our partnership with the Harley Langdale Jr. Foundation, Destination Ag has been able to connect over 36,000 young learners throughout Georgia with the vital roles agriculture and natural resources have in our daily lives."



### Pandemic Expands Need for ABAC Nursing Students

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the shortage of nurses in America has become more acute. Dr. Jeffrey Ross, Dean of ABAC's School of Nursing and Health Sciences, says ABAC is ready to come to the rescue. "During the 2020 fall semester, there were more students enrolled in nursing classes at ABAC than at any other time in our history," Ross said. "Currently, we have more students in the RN-BSN program than we have had since the program began." Dr. Amy Willis, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, said 326 students were enrolled in associate degree nursing classes at ABAC Tifton and ABAC Bainbridge during the 2020 fall term. A total of 895 ABAC students pursued nursing degrees in the 2020 fall semester, many of those taking core curriculum classes to prepare them to enter the nursing program.

### Alpha Gamma Rho Creates Endowed Scholarship at ABAC

Alumni of ABAC's Alpha Gamma Rho (AGR) fraternity have created a new endowed scholarship, and the former advisor to the organization and his wife led the charge. Paul Willis, former Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration at ABAC, served as the inaugural advisor when AGR was established at ABAC. Willis retired Jan. 29, and now he and his wife, Shari, are providing a portion of the initial funding for the scholarship. "Shari and I are pleased to support this effort to create an endowment for the Gamma Delta Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho at ABAC," Willis said. "It was such a great experience to help them charter this chapter at ABAC and work with them for over 10 years. This endowment will ensure that funds are available to help develop future members and recognize their accomplishments, academically and otherwise. We believe providing matching funds to those given by alumni and friends is a good investment of resources for the future of AGR and ABAC." ABAC AGR Alumni President Mitchel Sheffield said funding for the scholarship grew to over \$30,000 through the support of AGR alumni and friends.

### ABAC's Horseman Press Hosts Book Launch for "Jerry"

The Horseman Press at ABAC hosted a book launch featuring a new edition of Sarah Barnwell Elliott's novel, "Jerry," on April 15 under the Opry Shelter at ABAC's Georgia Museum of Agriculture. Dr. Rachael Price, Assistant Professor of English and the Horseman Press advisor, said Horseman Press is the only student-staffed undergraduate teaching press in the state of Georgia. Price spoke on Elliott's career and the numerous obstacles Elliott had to overcome as a female writer in the South in the 1890s. "This new edition of Sarah Barnwell Elliott's novel has been typeset and designed by students in ABAC's publishing course," Price said. All titles for the press are produced by students in the ENGL 3130 course, the Publishing Process. The mission of the Horseman Press is to provide students with firsthand experience and training in all aspects of book production, including editing, design, and marketing. The secondary goal is to promote forgotten works of rural American literature. "I am excited not only for the launch of the book itself, but for the formal debut of the Horseman Press," Price said. "This press gives students invaluable experience in all aspects of the publishing process that they would not ordinarily have access to at the student level."

### School of Arts and Sciences Continues to Thrive

ABAC's School of Arts and Sciences (SAS) continues to thrive despite the many challenges imposed by the global pandemic. Dr. Matthew Anderson, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, said the

school is working hard to keep everyone safe while still providing the student-focused and life-changing educational experiences that define ABAC. "The trials we are presently facing in the world should remind us that no one knows exactly what the future holds," Anderson said. "Given this uncertainty, the value of a high-quality comprehensive education cannot be underestimated. The broad training ABAC students receive provides them a wide knowledge base and skill set, allowing them to think on their feet and be prepared for whatever the future brings." Bachelor's degree programs in the SAS have given students a firm foundation in the pursuit of graduate school after ABAC. Increasingly, ABAC SAS alumni have headed to pharmacy, veterinary, law, and medical school, along with a variety of other graduate programs.



### Stafford School of Business Occupies Unique Position in Georgia

ABAC's Stafford School of Business is unique in that ABAC is the only college in Georgia that offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Business. ABAC business students are given unmatched opportunities to receive an excellent education. "The Stafford School of Business is committed to shaping life-long learning leaders who can discover innovative and ethical solutions to emerging and changing business conditions," Dr. Renata Elad, Dean of the Stafford School of Business, said. Stafford School of Business students conducted a survey in October 2020 on labor needs in the community. It revealed that about 80 percent of business managers were optimistic about the business climate. "This mirrors the employment trend of our graduates. The Stafford School of Business demonstrated its grit in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic" Elad said. The Stafford School of Business has maintained a sustainable growth rate of 10 percent and currently has around 323 students enrolled in the business program.

### ABAC Provides Certification Program to Combat Agriculture Teacher Shortage

ABAC's Department of Agricultural Education and Communication is providing opportunities to combat the shortage of agricultural educators in Georgia. ABAC and the Georgia Professional Standards Commission have collaborated to provide a one-year teaching certification program for agricultural education. Dr. Frank Flanders, coordinator of the agricultural education program at ABAC, said the post baccalaureate teacher certification program is targeted toward students who have completed or are in the process of completing a Bachelor of Science degree in any area of agriculture. Students enrolled in the certification program will be on the ABAC campus for a fall semester to take education classes, pedagogy and instruction, community development, and agricultural educator in a Georgia public school and they leave the program equipped with the skills they need to positively impact future generations of ag leaders.



# ClicR + ABAC: An Essential Upgrade

"Embrace technology or get left behind" is a phrase that Joseph "Joey" Spicola Sr., entrepreneur and CEO of ClicRtechnologies, often uses.

Joey has been involved in all aspects of the agriculture industry for decades. His journey into the industry began when he started raising cattle in Alabama and later became part of a team of investors who built a 3,000-acre stocker operation in Texas. After becoming experienced in the industry, he noticed that there was room for improvement in the process of getting cattle to the scales leading to the idea of the ClicRweight Bovine Solution.

The process of getting the right team and working out the logistics of the technology was a difficult one. Joey says that there were times when he believed that it could not be done and had to rely greatly on his faith to guide him. "Every time I prayed, everything just kept working out," recalls Joey. After finding the right team and lots of time dedicated to make the technology work, his dream came to life. During the time of its development, he received calls to create ClicRweight Solutions for hogs, alligators, and even humans.

ClicRweight Bovine Solutions makes the process of weighing cattle tremendously easy and practical. Instead of moving the cattle onto traditional gravity scales, the system is discreetly built into your cattle watering structure. ClicRweight has an RFID chip reader positioned where the animal approaches the watering trough, a 3D camera positioned above the stall captures a 3D picture and uploads data into the system. This system's algorithm allows a rancher to see the weight of each animal and also provides a variety of ways to sort the data.

Joey's son, Joseph Spicola Jr., attended ABAC and graduated with a degree in agriculture with a concentration in animal science and livestock health. Dr. Mary Ellen Hicks and her husband, Doug, became mentors to Joseph and his father and have kept a strong relationship with them since he departed from ABAC. This strong connection was key in choosing ABAC as a partner.

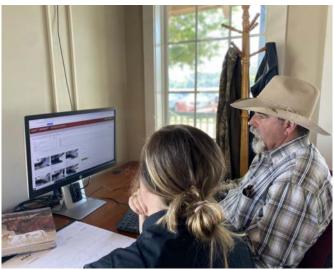
On March 25, 2021, Joey provided ABAC with a donation valued at \$40,000, including three ClicRweight Bovine Solutions for the cattle operations at the school. ABAC

offered to provide feedback on insights and information that students and professors have collected while using the equipment. American Cattlemen Magazine also offered to publish the findings of the professors and students to help people better understand the ClicRweight system. Joey says, "It is an excellent opportunity to showcase our technology while underlining the importance of agricultural colleges having the newest technology used in ranching to advance their studies."

Different degree programs at ABAC will explore this new technology and provide feedback according to their area of study. The Agricultural Technology and Systems Management program will dive into how ClicRweight Bovine Solution advances farming by enhancing the way animals are weighed and the efficiency of maintaining the system. The Animal Science Department will use the technology to explore how daily weights can lead to improved health of animals and the Agribusiness Department will give insight into the specific ways the ClicRweight systems can save ranchers time and money.

Many of the faculty and staff are eager to use the technology and see how it will advance the intake of information within their classrooms and labs. Doug Hicks, ABAC Beef Unit Manager, says, "The ClicRweight Bovine Solution is one more important tool to maximize our operations and to provide a meaningful learning experience while demonstrating best practices." It





was an interesting process to get the cattle accustomed to the system. Hicks says that at first, they were very curious and nervous but to help them adjust, he moved a stock tank up closer to the installation as well as his mineral feeder to draw them in.

Doug has been providing feedback to the ClicRweight team and giving insight on techniques that have worked best for setting up watering stations. optimum water levels, and other issues like animals in heat or smaller calves entering and exiting the installation. The data the system collects

has allowed Assistant Professor of Agriculture Engineering, Dr. Alex McLemore, and his students, the opportunity to study and predict future trends faster than traditional systems. Alex is confident in the technology and the advancements it will bring. "As the barrier to camera technology, especially 3D systems, become lower and advances in computer models evolve, I suspect we will see numerous impacts in the near future," he said.

The Agribusiness Department at ABAC is utilizing the ClicRweight Bovine Solutions system to investigate the profitability of the system and how it can benefit ranchers. Dr. Audrey Luke-Morgan, Associate Professor of Agribusiness, says, "Ranchers can efficiently monitor changes in their cattle on a schedule that works for them. They can use the information gained to make effective management decisions related to production and marketing."

Many ABAC students are taking an interest in this new technology. From Agricultural Communication students to Agriculture Technology students, this new remote sensing technology benefits everyone in between. As younger generations take over family farms, they must implement the newest technology to keep up with the changing times and prosper. "The ClicRweight system represents a piece of technology that has been missing," says Sam Monarch, ABAC Agricultural Communication student.

This technology allows students to gain knowledge and experience for their future career fields and has also allowed professors to teach more efficiently. All of this was because one man had a dream to make the cattle industry run more productively.

Article by Lizzy Parks and Bridget Dixon, photos by Deidre Martin

# Elijah Alford: Magic in the Music

On any given afternoon, a classic jazz melody can be heard floating through the lobby of Edwards Hall on ABAC's Tifton campus. That melody is undoubtedly coming from Elijah Alford's saxophone as he works to perfect his craft. Elijah is a sophomore in the Associate's of Fine Arts in Music program and plans to attend graduate school and teach the magic of music to the next generation.

"I was excited about coming to ABAC a long time before I was actually old enough to be here," Elijah recalls. "I started attending First Tuesday concerts and recitals when I was young, I attended Upward Bound, and both of my parents went to ABAC. The music here has always inspired me." Now he is playing on stage for First Tuesday concerts and performing his own recitals. He credits the entire music faculty for pushing him to be his best, and considers Ms. Sherry Wyles to be a profound influence on his musical career. "She expects excellence in her private lessons and that has taken me a long way," he says fondly.

Elijah believes that music is an important form of expression for students of all ages and looks forward to making an impact on the future of Georgia's music education. The scholarships and support he has received from the ABAC Foundation have made his education possible and his dreams attainable.

# Research in the Sciences: Faculty Enrichment Fund at Work

An ABAC education is centered upon a family environment with excellent teaching at its core. Faculty and staff across campus work tirelessly to engage our students in life-changing experiences and impact them with one-on-one care and concern. Those foundational principles make their way into everything that happens on campus - including the work of dedicated professors in the School of Arts and Sciences. Tucked into the inner hallways of Conger Hall, science faculty are conducting ground-breaking research and involving students in the hands-on way that is signature to ABAC.

With the assistance of the Faculty Enrichment Fund award, Dr. Heather Cathcart, Dr. Kennon Deal, Dr. Kingsley Dunkley, and Dr. Andrew McIntosh are examining unique research questions that directly impact our region and our world.

Heather is working on a project titled "Maze Runners: Determining the Effects of Antioxidants on Memory in a Caenorhabditis Elegans," with Caenorhabditis Elegans being more commonly known as round worms.

Kennon continues ongoing research titled "Utilizing Microfluidics for the Investigation of Herbicide, Pesticide, and Soil Nutrient Content of South Georgia Area Agricultural Environments" and his research is imporant for soil health in ABAC's district. This project will involve a collaboration with faculty at Auburn University where ABAC students will be able to use a Level 10 Clean Room while working with microfluids. He is pictured below with Hannah Lindmeier, a senior Biology student.

Kingsley's work is titled "Predicting Volatile Fatty Acids, Lactic Acid, and other Metabolites Profile of Shigella Flexnari Propagated in LB Broth." Shigella Flexnari affects the digestive system of humans. Andrew studies and writes about "Functional Morphology and Evolution of the Rodent Post-Cranial Skeleton." His students will be working with the faculty and staff of the University of Florida and will have some cross over with some of our faculty in the Department of Forest Resources.





# Beverly Bauerband: Leaving a Legacy

"I may have forgotten a lot of things but I'll always remember how to get to ABAC."

From her time as a dedicated student to her years as an even more dedicated alumnus, Beverly Husdon Bauerband is not ashamed to admit her passion for ABAC. Beverly began her education at ABAC in 1949. At only sixteen years old, she just knew that the University of Georgia was the right place for her. However, her seven older brothers had a different plan in mind for her.

Beverly's older brothers told her that she had to go to ABAC first because ABAC was their family's school. Through the encouragement of her family, Beverly attended ABAC for summer school and within a week realized that ABAC had always been the right choice for her.

Beverly made a big entrance upon arriving at ABAC when she rolled up in the back of a cop car. Many students were peering out of the windows as her brother unloaded her things out of an Irwin County Sheriff's squad car while Beverly was getting out of the back. Because no one on

campus knew Beverly's father was the sheriff of Irwin County, many students were baffled at the sight.

Life was centralized on campus in 1949, and the women of ABAC could only venture off campus on certain days. On Wednesdays, the girls gathered together and traveled downtown. On her trips to town, Beverly would walk to the bakery and get something sweet before going back to campus for dinner. Through these exciting trips with her friends, Beverly fell in love with ABAC. "I loved campus so much that I was only 20 miles from home, and I didn't go home from ABAC until Thanksgiving"

Beverly has many memories of ABAC and, her favorite memory is playing basketball and traveling with her teammates to different colleges around the state. Beverly made many life-long friends through being involved on campus. After graduating from ABAC, Beverly attended the University of Georgia and graduated with her degree in Physical Education. Not long after graduation, she married her college sweetheart and had 36 wonderful years of marriage.

Beverly always felt very connected to ABAC and knew that she would one day want to give back to the college that gave her so much. Attending ABAC helped Beverly realize that she wanted to become an educator. She strives to help students know that ABAC can set them on the path to their dreams as it did for her. Beverly served a decade on the Alumni Association Board of Directors and never missed a single Homecoming for 25 years.

The Dudley D. Hudson Endowed Scholarship is in memory of Beverly's father and, she established it to honor his passion for education. Her father helped her with her homework and was incredibly fascinated with ancient history even though he only had a 9th grade education. He had a great love for people and worked in politics to better his community, and he encouraged his children to attend college. Beverly remembers and recognizes his contributions to their success.

Beverly continues to encourage all high school students to attend college and pursue an education as her father did for her and her brothers. She hopes that the student who receives this endowed scholarship will use it to pursue their dreams and do the very best they can to improve their lives and the lives of the generations beyond their own. "ABAC was where I was molded and made," says Beverly. Beverly credits ABAC for the success she has had in her life and believes that all students can achieve greatness through ABAC.

# Cora Cadiz Barton: Building a Future

Brave, courageous, empathetic, and loving are just a few words to describe today's heroes. In the medical field, nurses are the first ones in and the last ones out. It truly takes someone of a kind heart to be able to hold the hand of a mother in labor, pray with the family of patients, and be the voice of encouragement when those around them feel as though they can't go on anymore.

It takes someone very passionate about their work and people to be a great nurse. ABAC nursing major Cora Cadiz Barton has the passion, drive, and faith to become an amazing nurse.

Growing up in a rural island area in the Philippines, Cora gained an appreciation and love for the nursing profession early in life. While her village did have a clinic, it only housed one nurse who served the entire community. "I often had to watch our neighbors and friends suffer needlessly from the lack of proper medical care and medical supplies," said Cora. The closest hospital to Cora's village was an hour away in another city. After seeing an endless number of friends suffer due to lack of resources, a spark ignited in Cora, and she began to see the importance of good healthcare.



Once Cora got older, she married and moved to America. Moving to a foreign culture was challenging as she knew no one except her husband. Her relationship with him became dangerous to her safety, and she didn't have anyone to turn to until she was in the hospital having her first child. The nursing staff sensed that something wasn't right and remained attentive to the situation. These few nurses made a difference in Cora's life without even realizing it. Cora says they were the first people in America who were kind and interested in her situation and took action to help her. She says, "I will always remember the role they played in starting my journey to freedom."

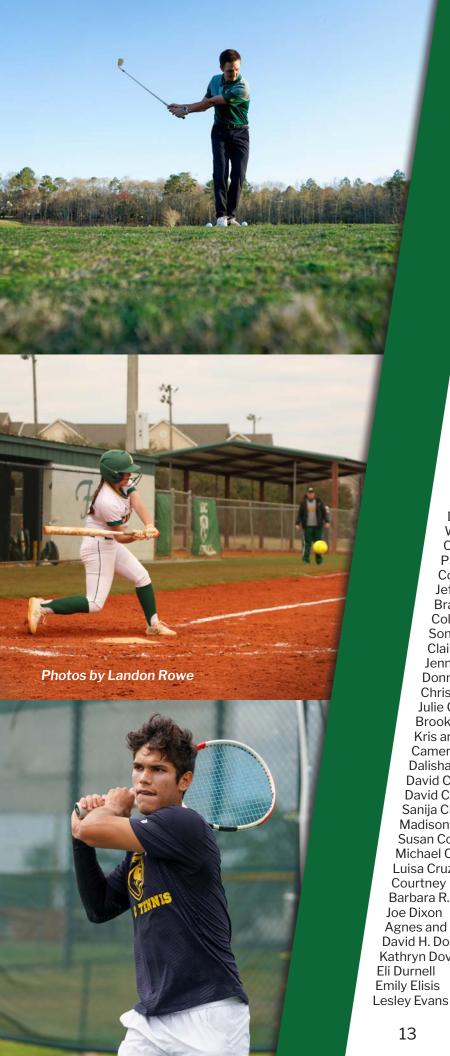
These acts of kindness alongside the memories of her village in the Philippines led Cora to pursue a career in nursing. The nursing program at ABAC is highly respected in the medical community, and Cora was drawn to it because of its difficulty and rigor. Cora was enthusiastic about beginning her journey to her career in nursing because of ABAC's reputation of having well-trained nurses.

Nursing has always been Cora's calling. After the recent death of her father, Cora is certain that nursing is and always has been the right path for her. After graduating in the spring, Cora wants to use her talents and skills in a hospital setting. This way she can have one-on-one time with her patients, get to know them, and care for them the way she has always dreamed of doing. Danielle Kistler, simulation lab coordinator, works closely with Cora while doing clinicals and labs. "Cora brings empathy for patients and an understanding of what they go through," says Danielle.

Being a single mother and the sole proprietor of her household has been challenging for Cora and drives her to work hard to provide for her family. She says that the JH Dorminy Nursing Scholarship and support that Cora received from ABAC faculty and staff have helped her tremendously. It also reminds Cora that people are generous, and they believe in her. Nursing is very tough and time-consuming. Cora spends all her spare time studying, but knowing that people believe in her keeps her motivated to succeed in her career field.

"God placed me in Tifton." Cora has a strong faith in people, herself, and most importantly, God. Her faith drives her to be a helping hand and a smiling face to those in need. Cora can use her life experiences to help patients and others surrounding her going through similar things. "He used my life experiences to shape me into who I am today."

Article by Bridget Dixon, Advancement Intern, photo by Josie Smith



# Supporters of **ABAC Athletics**

Organizations Chad Sumner State Farm Insurance Charities Aid Foundation of America/State Farm The Diamond Club Hobbs Sporting Goods, Inc. Ocmulgee Outdoors, Inc. Owen & Williams Fish Farm, Inc. UFP Industries, Inc.

Individuals Lino Acosta Charles Adamek Scarlett Alberson Andra Alexander Stephanie Ayala Joy and Jimmy Ballenger Amanda and Jason Barksdale Katrina Barron Sonja Bass Max Beck-Berendsen Drew Billings Whitner Bobo Christy and Eric Bozeman Patrick Breen Cody Brewer Jeff Brooks **Bravden Browder** Colby Bryant Sonva J. Burns Claire and Ryan Byrnes Jennifer and Brock Callison Donna C. Campbell **Christine Cantrell** Julie Caputo **Brooklyn Cersey** Kris and Michael Chason Cameron Chastain **Dalisha** Childree David Childs David Clower Saniia Clowers Madison Colev Susan Cooper Michael Corn Luisa Cruz Courtney Davis Barbara R. Dixon Joe Dixon Agnes and John Dockery David H. Dorsett Kathryn Dove

Logan Evans Katie Everett Sean Fields **Brooke Flakes Shannon Flowers** Veronica Flynn **Davis Frachiseur** Lauren Fresh Eddv Frost Liberty Fulghum Amanda and Nathan Gabel Rhonda and Robert Gerhart Tammie Gernert Shayla E. Giddens Matt Gill Sonva Godwin Burns Heather Goff Tommy Goodale Amanda Goodman Patrick Goodman Jeff Gore Robin Graham Paige Graham Ethan Grandchamp Carly Gravitt Matt Gray Lvndsae O. Griffin Krista and William Griffin Will Griffis Amv Grist **Brooks Gulley** Miranda Hale Joanna R. Hand John Harper Jennifer Harper Randall Harrelson Natalie Harris Mark Harris Dennis Hartsfield Kelly Haviland Jason Haywood Trenton Hedgepeth Kristen Hewitt Jenna Hobbs Casey Hogan Sandra and Cook Holliday **Brad Holmes** Amanda Hughes Brett Hunter William Jackson Alice and Nathan Johnson Kenny Jones Sharmilee Joyner Angela Justice **Cheryl Kennedy** 

Larry Kent Kelly Kimball Kevin Kotkiewicz Barbara Lee and David Kramer Alan M. Kramer Vernice Larry Andy Lewis Robert Lewis Haves Lightsey Jodi Ligon Brandi Long Christy Lust **Daniel Malev** Zacharv Marchant Shannon Marion Linda Martin Lakisha Matthews Amber Mauldin Leisa Maxwell Lindsev McClain Cody McCrary John McCullough Lexie McDaniel Dakota McEntyre Chad McLeod Wanda and Larry Meeks Lorena Mendieta Stan Mercer Kristi Merritt Elizabeth Mincey Ginger Mitchell Elizabeth Mitchell Kristin Mitchem Joelv and Matthew Mixon Bridgett and Martin Mobley Jessica Molina Effie Monaco **Debby Monfort** Michael Moore Brooke and Dean Moore James Morgan Tasha Musgrove Makenzie Osborn Paige Owens Alicen Owens Shan and Robert Owens David Padgett Kaitlyn Parsons Joy and Josh Pate Usha Patel Avani Patel Jack Paulk Nerissa Pennington Kristi Peters **Rusty Poitevint** Tammy Potter Jeffrey Prescott **Ginny Price** Ina Grace Purvis **Catherine and Mitch Raines** Matt Redmond Traci E. Reeves Amy Richards Kevin Richardson

Megan Robinson Shannon Ross Alexia Rottkamp Julie Rowland Jennifer Roy Beth Rucker Belinda Rushton Jason Saturdav Anita and Charles Scarborough Ashlev Sevor Kendall Sheffield Kelly Sheppard Logan Slaughter Mandy Smith **Terrence Smith** Myra M. Smith Nancy Smith Hannah Spencer **Kimberly Spencer** Jessica Spinosa Dawn Starling John Stinson Leonard Stone Lawrence Stroud Jenny Stubbs Leigh and Chad Sumner Traci Tawzer Patricia Taylor Kristie Teague Hunter Thomas Trev Thomas Sean Thompson Danny Thompson Tommy and Margaret Treadway Kevin Treio Gloria Trejo Tony and Laura Tucker Alexander Valenzuela Holly Walker Dana Walker Naimaa Walker-Potts William Walling Hope Weaver Molly Wells Macy West **Kimberly Wilcox** Grevson Wild **Cameron Williams** Jodi E. Willingham Andrea and Vernon Willis Jackson Willis Andrew Wilson Shirlev and Drew Wilson Max Windham Brian Wood **Billy Wood** Steven Wood **Bobby Yarbrough** Jov Yost Katie Ziehme

BAC TENNIS

# Green & G.O.L.D. Society

# **Gold Level**

John C. Grist Joshua C. Thurmond Allen W. Sanders **Daniel M. Bentley** Suzanne B. Bentley Jordan N. Beard Holly E. White Reba W. Selph Brenda N. Doss Faith N. Dupree Laurel N. Higginbotham Sue Mastrario Caitlin M. Slaughter Andrew E. Smith Sunny N. Sparrow M. Kyle Basko Nathan H. Dupree **Cassidy N. Forbes** Sarah A. Rooks **Shelia Sanders Justin Exum** Josie L. Smith Brittney M. Turner Taylor R. Turner Matthew A. Fisher Amanda L. Moore Jonathan J. Moore Alexandra N. Ikner Jesse T. Burton Michael J. DuVall

Members as of October 1, 2021 are listed. If you are a graduate of the classes of 2011-2021 and would like to be a part of the Green and G.O.L.D. Society, learn more at www.abac.edu/alumni or contact Amanda Stitt Moore at astitt@abac.edu. Graduate Of the Last Decade



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### **Emerald Level**

Jeffrey A. Griffin Michael B. Wilson Ernesto Ortiz-Ariza Zeb Luster Matthew C. Reid Shelia Ridlev Karla G. Basko Arthur W. Buchanan, III Ronnie M. Few Brad S. Barbee Kavtlvn A. Cobb Matthew T. Gonzales Gabriel A. Outlaw Vivian K. Russum Cody E. Whiddon Victoria L. Whiddon Charlsv C. Godowns Taylor M. Outlaw Brice A. Bonds Carmen A. Counts Coleman W. Hice Landon P. Rowe Mitchel L. Sheffield Michaela L. Smith Lauren Stanley Heather E. Kinsey

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### Bronze Level

Racheal G. Gay Richard A. Sepanski Kevin D. Varnadoe Alexander S. Fells Kristen N. McHugh Ashley F. Varnum Benjamin S. Varnum Sarah J. Herring Seth T. Poppell Riley G. Davis **Dixon J. Fletcher** Kayla C. Gonzalez Jacob M. Nyhuis Trena C. Prewitt Jazmin C. Thomas Lori W. White Julia B. Wooldridge Zachary M. Wooldridge Laura Agundis Tonia A. Carpenter

Slayten M. Carter Kendall C. Cooper Randall T. Chambers Ana Martinez Shelia J. Norvell Shane A. Rahn Eliceo C. Soto Brianna Young Benjamin R. Carson Gentry D. Cater Lissi G. Chism Hillery S. Culpepper Randall T. Hester Luis I. Mendez Jarad E. Plair Schyler S. Slaybaugh Skyler M. Alexander Tagjuan J. Bivens Jay G. Branch, Jr. Benjamin R. Casey Alexis K. Floyd Daniel C. Fordham Craig A. Garey Houston C. Harbour Benjamin K. Harris Hanna C. Ivey Zachary T. Postin Kyle D. Robinson Stephanie L. Sheffield Scott G. Steele	2015 2015 2015 2015 2015 2015 2015 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016
2017 Shelby L. Waldroup Taylor A. Walker Casey L. Weredyk Jeffery T. Wingate Taylor M. Bruce Michael C. Crews Austin S. Kilby Amanda H. McMillan Silent A. Penn William B. Buchner Elizabeth A. Buttram Neal A. Farmer Alexander A. Gilreath Michael L. Goodnight Cole R. Harper Justin C. Henderson Accacia Q. Lawson Justin C. Martin Alexis J. Meadows Hannah K. Roberts Courtney C. Smith Dakota G. Sloan Dalton E. Spangler Ethan A. Walker Louie M. Canevari Brendan C. Hooten Grant G. Hudson Holly D. Sanders	2017 2017 2017 2018 2018 2018 2018 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019

# Luis Rodriguez, Class of 2019

In 2011, Luis Rodriguez sat in the bleachers of the Gressette Gymnasium and watched a family friend graduate from ABAC. This was the first person in his life to graduate with a college degree. "ABAC was the first gateway to what it was like for someone who was Hispanic like me to have a degree—I was amazed."

Five years later Luis stepped onto ABAC's campus to begin his own pursuit of higher education. His sights were set on medical school.

While at ABAC, Luis quickly found a home within the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP). "CAMP was a blessing and was influential in my decision to go to ABAC. The program not only provided tutoring and scholastic support, but it also gave me an opportunity to connect with students like me." Through the CAMP program and the Cultural Latina Club, Luis met some of his best friends. He fondly recalls the many intramural soccer games they competed in together—most of which they won.

His teammates weren't the only key players that made his time at ABAC a success. As a biology major, Luis was involved in organizations like STEM Affiliates and ATOM, a group designed for students who are interested in going to professional schools in the medical field after college. Between campus organizations and the small class sizes in the program, Luis connected with students who shared similar goals, and built relationships with the professors who were preparing them for success.

Luis shares that his professors went above and beyond to make sure they were ready



for medical school. "The first module of medical school is a foundation and despite going to a small school, I felt just as prepared—if not more preparedthan my peers who went to larger universities." The dedication of his ABAC professors didn't stop after graduation. While preparing for the MCAT exam, Luis would study in the Carlton Center and despite being an alumnus, he was always welcomed by his former professors when he had questions or needed help.

His time at ABAC is full of fond

memories. Luis recalls spending hours in the dining hall with his friends, watching weekly soccer tournaments, and playing pool in Town Hall. He shares that his favorite traditions were the finals events planned on campus. "I went to all the finals events, but my favorite was the chicken and waffles—I still miss them when I am studying for my exams in medical school."

It is unusual to hear an alumnus fondly recall 8:00 AM classes, but Luis chuckles as he explains he is grateful for his early schedule junior year. "Thanks to those early classes, tardiness, and bad parking spots, I met my fiancé." Despite a global pandemic, the couple is celebrating their engagement and enjoying the wedding planning process.

After graduating from ABAC, Luis was offered a scholarship to attend medical school at Medical College of Georgia (MCG). He is also involved in the MCG 3+ Program which condenses the first three years of medical school allowing Luis and his cohorts to begin their residency a year early. After medical school, Luis would like to return to the Adel or Tifton area to serve the communities where he grew up.

As a member of the Green & GOLD Society, a program designed specifically for ABAC's Graduates Of the Last Decade, Luis believes in giving back and supporting students. He shares "I received a lot of help from the ABAC Foundation as a scholarship recipient when I was a student. I was also inspired and helped by other members of the ABAC family. One day, I want to help students like me and be the person on the other end - I want to inspire students."

Article by Amanda Stitt; Photo courtesy of Luis Rodriguez











# Beauty Amidst Trials: Capturing a Pandemic Year

The Arts and Sciences Alumni Council hosted their first-ever photography contest as a fundraiser to support the initiatives of the School of Arts and Sciences. The *Beauty Amidst Trials* theme showcased the emotion of a difficult year and also honored the memory of Donna Hatcher (*pictured above*), a beloved ABAC art professor who passed away in 2020.



Best in Show Award Easter 2020 by Kevin Sackenheim







1. Long Live by Alisha McKellar, first place in Nature and People; 2. Pedaling in a Pandemic by Linda Powell, honorable mention in Nature and People; 3. 950 by Charley Lollis, first place in Agriculture; 4. Cuddles by Leslie Pannell, honorable mention in Agriculture; 5. BathHouse by Suzanna Dorminy, first place in Architecture; 6. Straight from the Heart by Jean Gay, first place in Abstract; 7. Solitude by Landon Rowe, first place in Landscape; 8. Primitive Baptist Church by Sydney Cromer, honorable mention in Architecture; 9. Autumn by Daniel Shippey, honorable mention in Abstract; 10. I Talk to Trees by Catherine Wilson, honorable mention in Landscape







# Taking Strides: The Business Advisory Council

The Business Advisory Council has been a dream in the mind of Dr. Renata Elad since she became the Dean of the Stafford School of Business.

"My focus as a dean was to position the School within our regional community to serve our businesses and in turn the people of this area." To serve the people means being connected with the community and Renata is connecting with the community through business leaders." For many of us, March 12, 2020, was the day that our world shut down. For Renata, it was the day that her dream became a reality. The inaugural meeting for the council was held at 10:00 that morning. By 3:30 that afternoon, Dr. David Bridges held a meeting to inform the Deans that ABAC would be moving online.

The year 2020 is now deemed as the missing year by many. However, Renata felt it was crucial for the members to stay in touch during this "missing year" because the Business Advisory Council was still in its beginning stages. During the time of uncertainty, the council never stopped working and began formulating plans to become involved within the school and community.

The Business Advisory Council thrives on the mission of connecting Stafford School of Business with the business community. "It is important to the Council to introduce ABAC's future business leaders to current business and community leaders. These connections are vital to the students at the Stafford School of Business and contributes to them becoming outstanding leaders themselves," said Renata.

Networking and Fundraising, Student Engagement, and Strategic and Curriculum are the three sub-committees within the Business Advisory Council. These committees have initiatives underway to provide students with the best possible skills and knowledge of the business industry.

A suggestion for an industry showcase from the Student Engagement Committee is allowing students to gather experience and advice from the industry's professionals. "Coming out of the classroom, students need hands-on, realworld experiences to prepare them for the next step," said Renata. "This opportunity for students to gather career guidance and get networking assistance from the council brings the students closer to the business community and council members."

During the Summer of 2021. Claire Ryland, a student intern, surveyed businesses in the community at the request of the Council to learn what they are looking for in graduates. "This survey aims to give the Stafford School of Business a better understanding of what employers in South Georgia are looking for in new hires," said Claire. Through this survey, the council will use the information gathered to impact curriculum decisions around the qualities and skills that the businesses are currently looking for in new employees.

Many of the council members are influential members of the community in both the business and philanthropic world. The council includes company presidents, executive directors, business owners, and superintendents - all focused on ensuring student success while at ABAC and beyond. Frank Jones, President of Stafford Development Company, is one of the many ABAC alumna on the council and also serves as the Council Chair. "The College is a key ingredient to not only our community but the surrounding ones also. Like all things today, if it does not continue to improve it will not be successful and survive."

Keri Jones, ABAC alumnus and council member, is hopeful for the next year the advisory council has planned. "Our goals for the next year are to continue evaluating, developing, and providing solid support to foster success for students who will hopefully become permanent employees in our business communities." The council is growing and prospering year by year and, all council members are excited to see what the future for the council may hold.

### Business Advisory Council Members

Frank Jones. **Executive Committee Chair** Keri Jones. **Executive Committee Vice Chair** Dr. Renata Elad. **Executive Committee**, **Faculty Vice Chair** Chris Beckham, Legacy Village Todd Brey, American Textile Jay Carmichael, Southwell Chris Cutts, South Georgia Banking Company Mike Davis, Colony Bank Jay Hall, Collins Event Space Adam Hathaway, **Tift County Schools** Macie Hegwood. The Flossy Peach Dan Hobby, State Farm Insurance Dr. Deidre Martin, ABAC College Advancement Sharon Nixon, Nixon Law Firm Melissa Pierzchajlo, Sole Medical Spa Matt Seale, City of Ocilla/ Irwinomics Tyron Spearman, **Tifton Tift County Tourism** 

### **ABAC Faculty Members**

Dr. Ryan Currie Dianthia Ellis Dr. Paul Ewell Dr. Franzelle Mathis-Pertilla Randy Minton Randy Reagan Jennifer Reid Dr. Abul Sheikh Dr. Jeffrey Ward Dr. Yu Zhang

### Student Members

Kaitlyn McKenzie Seth Bishoff John Scully

### Support

Tia Kohler Rhonda Hill

Article by Bridget Dixon, Advancement Intern; Photo by Josie Smith









# ABAC on the Move: The Agronomy Club Farm Tour

Twenty four ABAC students experienced large-scale agriculture during the trip of a lifetime when the ABAC Agronomy Club made its annual Farm Tour to Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Under the guidance of Dr. Ray Smith, Department Head of Agriculture, and Dr. Taylor Hendricks, Professor of Agronomy, members of the club were immersed in the practices and procedures of agriculture in the midwest.

These Stallions crossed 4,420 miles and visited a sugar beet farm, a cannibis production location, a major corn and cattle operation, an irrigation research station, and a commercial dairy with an on-site milk condenser - plus Mt. Rushmore, the Badlands, Custer State Park, and Rocky Mountain National Park.

"Our goal is to expose these ABAC students to agriculture that goes beyond what we see in the South," Taylor reflects. "We squeeze in as much region-specific information as possible into five days." Ray feels that this type of experience sets ABAC apart from other institutions: "This trip opened up a world of connections for each student who attended. Many of them will build their careers around the things they see and do on the farm tour."





# Alumni Association Lifetime Members

### For information on becoming an annual or lifetime member of the Alumni Association, visit www.abac.edu/alumni or call 229.391.4900. Monthly contribution plans are available for lifetime memberships.

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# Honor Roll of 2020-2021 Donors

The ABAC Foundation acknowledges those who made contributions to the College during the 2020-2021 school year. On behalf of all of the students who benefit from your support, we thank you! Every effort has been made to present a complete list of donors who made gifts between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. However, if we have omitted or misspelled your name, please accept our apologies and contact the ABAC Foundation at 229.391.4907 so we can correct the error.

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Gifts of \$25,000 and above made during the 2020-2021 school year

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Cumulative Giving to ABAC of \$250,000 and above by individuals

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## **Golden Achievement Level**

Cumulative Giving to ABAC of \$100,000 to \$249,999 by individuals

Kathy and M.H. Allen Anonymous Kathy and Courtney Brinson John H. Dorminy William J. Dorminy Robert M. Dutton, Sr. Myra and Edwin Hortman Angela and George Dallas Hunt Julie E. Hunt Marci and Stanley Hutchinson Sandra S. Kemp Joyce and Earl Parker Betty Jean and John Prince Lutrelle T. Rankin Alice W. Rigdon

## Silver Achievement Level

Cumulative Giving to ABAC of \$50,000 to \$99,999 by individuals

Lynda Lee and Greg Anderson Howard Andrews Anonymous Margaret and Martin T. Bailey Matt Bentley Betts Berry Kim and David Bridges Beverly K. Brownlow and Ronald J. Hoffman Kelly and William I. Bowen Miriam Bulloch and The Honorable John Bulloch Ina and J. Perry Conger H. Gordon Davis, Jr. Susan and Mark "Dill" Driscoll Sandra and The Hon. John Ellington Susan and D. Lane Green Susan and Jody Haley L. Michelle Higdon Teresa Lasseter Niki and Lawrence Hill Wanda and Lawrence Norman Hill Angela and Dallas Hunt Lounell R. Jensen Lynn and Jim Lovett Julie and James Mann Anita and Melvin Merrill Judy and John Mark Mobley Cynthia K. Moon Kathy and Raymond Moreno Brenda and Armond Morris Sally Stafford Perez Caroline and Jack Perry Charles W. Powell, III Nelda Hargett Powell Mary John Reinhardt Sherri and Ronnie Rollins Mary W. Sumner Bette and Joseph Turner Faith Tyson Robert G. Varnadoe

## **Bronze Achievement Level**

Cumulative Giving to ABAC of \$25,000 to \$49,999

Jimmy L. Alberson Quay and Jimmy Allen Libby and Buck Anderson Cheryl E. Bedgood J.C. and Jo Bell Caroline and Leon Benefield Betts Berry Carolyn Bowen Mary Frances Branch Carolyn and W. Dan Branch Judy and John Clark Ashley and Dean Copelan Rita and H. Lane Dennard JoAnn and Roger Dill William J. Dorminey Nancy and Darvin Eason Jane Grogan Gibbs Jerry C. Grimsley Wanda Grogan Jemique Harrell Shirley and Marvin Eugene Harrell Virginia and Scott Hart Irene and Jerry Heller Linda and Vernon Ingram Jimmie W. Jackson Leilah and Alexander Kemp Luann and Robert Lowrance

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## **President's Club Level**

Cumulative Giving to ABAC of \$10,000 to \$24,999

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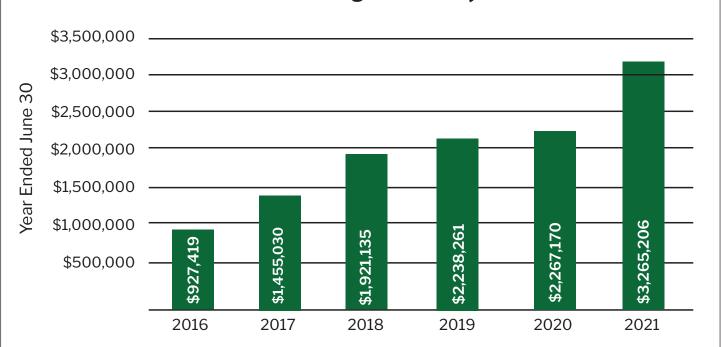
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# Fundraising Totals by Year



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This designation recognizes organizations that empower and give voice to nurses.

We are proud to partner with ABAC in hiring and training the next generation of nurses!



## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION For the Year ended June 30, 2021

#### ASSETS

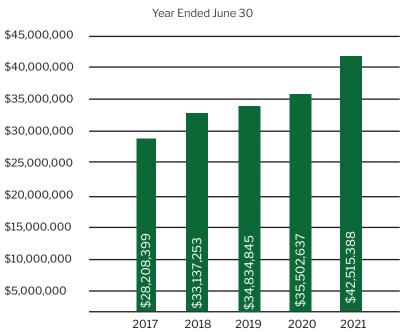
Cash and cash equivalents Investments Investment in real estate Investment in limited partnerships Property and equipment, net Unconditional promises to give, net Cash Surrender Value, Life Insurand Other	4,618,213 26,416,424 2,450,000 201,893 7,628,738 948,138 243,061 8,921
Total assets	\$ 35,502,637
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Liabilities Accounts payable Notes payable	\$ 466,002 2,160,000
Total liabilities	\$ 2,626,002
Net assets Without donor restrictions Designated by board With donor restrictions	\$ 15,591,268 2,727,242 21,570,876
Total net assets	\$ 32,994,401
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 42,515,388

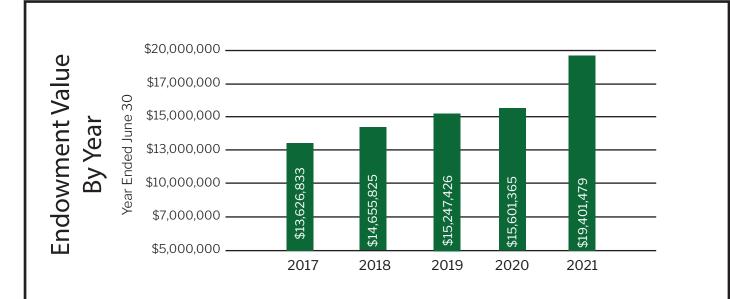
## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES For the Year ended June 30, 2021

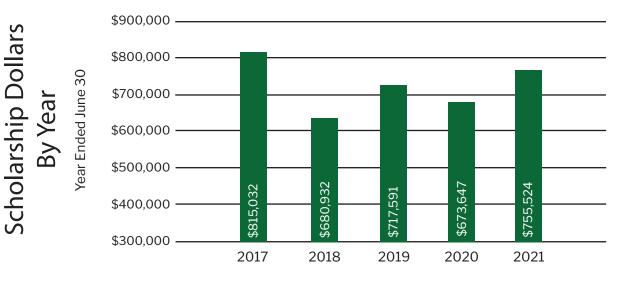
#### **REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT**

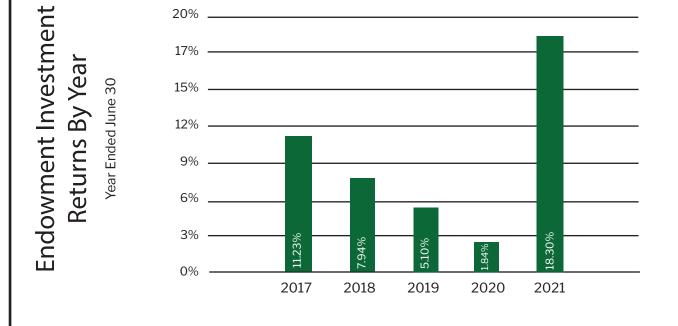
Contributions In-kind contributions Investment income, net Net realized and unrealized gains on investment Rental Revenues Other	\$ 3,262,122 405,414 404,089 4,910,508 259,082 202,282
Total revenues and other support	\$ 9,443,497
EXPENSES	
Program Services Academic and education Other program support	\$ 1,106,916 412,799
Support Services Administrative and general Fundraising	546,258 482,539
Total expenses	\$ 2,548,512
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	6,894,985
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING	32,994,401
NET ASSETS, ENDING	\$ 39,889,386

# Total Assets by Year















ABAC Foundation 2802 Moore Highway, Box 13 Tifton, Georgia 31793 229.391.4900 • foundation@abac.edu www.abac.edu/foundation