

2023-2024 Donor Impact Report





From Our Foundation Chair

Jaclyn Ford

It has been my privilege to serve as the Chair of the ABAC Foundation. I'm inspired by our students and their impact on our region. The ABAC Foundation's commitment to providing an affordable, accessible education is stronger than ever, and we're grateful for the support of our donors. Our donors' continued support is essential to maintaining ABAC's position as a leading state college. ABAC provides a life-changing experience while preparing our students to make a positive impact on our world. We are thankful for the leadership of our president, Dr. Tracy Brundage, who has been instrumental in the move to four-year athletics and preparing our students for their future careers or graduate studies.

As we look to the future of ABAC and the ABAC Foundation, your support is vital to ABAC's ability to strengthen our fiscal and institutional viability. The strength of the ABAC Foundation's Annual and Endowed Scholarship program allows the majority of our students to graduate free from student loan debt. Together, we can make certain that ABAC continues to thrive and shape the future of our community.

As highlighted in our 2023-2024 Annual Report, we extend our sincere thanks to our generous donors. Your support has been instrumental in the growth of the ABAC Foundation, with total assets reaching over \$40 million. Your commitment ensures that ABAC can continue providing affordable, high-quality education that prepares students for life.

I invite you to join me in expressing our gratitude to our students, faculty, staff, President Brundage, and our fellow donors for their unwavering commitment to ABAC and the ABAC Foundation.

Jaclyn Dixon Ford, Chair, ABAC Foundation Board of Trustees



President Brundage with the ABAC mascots during the first double-header basketball games of the season.



From Our President

Dr. Tracy Brundage

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for your generous support, which has played a vital role in our achievements. Thanks to you, we have made significant strides in enhancing the educational experience at ABAC, and we are excited to share some of our accomplishments with you.

This year, we proudly opened the new Agricultural Technology Building, a state-of-the-art facility that spans 27,500 square feet. This building showcases our commitment to staying at the forefront of agricultural education and serves as a powerful message to our students and industry partners about the evolving landscape of agricultural technology.

In addition, we recently completed the new clubhouse at Forest Lakes Golf Club, which serves as both a practice facility for our Stallions' golf team and a dynamic learning environment for students in turfgrass science, golf course management, wildlife, and forestry. This multipurpose space enriches our curriculum and enhances hands-on learning.

We are thrilled to announce the return of men's and women's basketball to ABAC after a sixteen-year absence. With the recent improvements to Gressette Gym, both teams began competition this fall. Our membership in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) marks a significant milestone as we transition to four-year athletics. We eagerly anticipate the exciting rivalries that will develop in our new Southern States Athletic Conference.

This year also saw the implementation of two new four-year programs: BS in Agricultural Technology Management and BS in Criminal Justice, both of which have shown strong initial enrollment. We are actively developing additional programs to meet the evolving needs of our students and our community.

In response to student feedback, ABAC Bainbridge is now offering night classes, including a "Nursing at Night" program set to launch in spring 2025. This initiative reflects our commitment to providing flexible educational options for working students and the medical community.

We take great pride in our value proposition at ABAC, and this year we launched The ABAC Advantage to highlight the benefits of an ABAC degree. With our low tuition rates, over \$1 million in scholarships awarded annually, and our focus on providing low and no-cost course materials, we are proud to help more than half of our students graduate debt-free.

Lastly, we have established a new Career Center to centralize career services and implement a four-year career readiness plan, ensuring our students are well-prepared for successful careers post-graduation.

Your continued support makes all of this possible. Thank you for believing in our mission and for being an integral part of our community. Together, we are shaping the future of our students and the broader community.

Dr. Tracy Brundage, President of ABAC

Another Great Year at ABAC!

ABAC Ag Ed Named Best in Nation by National Organization

The ABAC Agricultural Education program was named the Outstanding Post Secondary Agriculture Program for Region V by the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) in November 2023. This award recognizes programs that are developing humble leaders energized by shaping the future of agriculture one student at a time.

ABAC prepares outstanding teacher candidates through engagement, teaching, coaching, mentorship, and relevant experiences. To accomplish its mission and goals, ABAC provides a unique blend of coursework to meet the needs of students in a technologically complex and diverse global society. Students are also involved in local, state, and national organizations.

In May 2023, ABAC Ag Ed graduated its largest cohort class of future agriculture teachers with 44 graduates. Over 90 percent of those graduates secured a teaching position and began teaching in the 2023-2024 school year. This marks the fifth year that graduates are certified by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC).

To date, ABAC Ag Ed has prepared over 150 new teachers, who are now working in public schools. It is the second largest Agricultural Education program in the United States and the largest program East of the Mississippi.

ABAC Bainbridge to Offer Evening Program for Nursing ASN degree

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College's Bainbridge campus will begin offering a "Nursing at Night" program in the spring of 2025. ABAC hopes to attract students interested in pursuing an Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) degree, but who may have conflicts with a more traditional schedule.

"ABAC Bainbridge decided to offer this program to not only meet the needs of our healthcare partners, but also to offer an alternative to students who want to be a nurse but cannot attend the program during the day because of work, childcare responsibilities, or other obstacles," said Dr. Jeffrey Ross, Dean of the School of Nursing at ABAC. "Taking advantage of the Nursing at Night program allows students to continue to work during the day or utilize other forms of childcare, providing the opportunity to pursue a new career or advance their current career."

The evening program will follow the same pathway as traditional, daytime classes, with students being eligible to take the registered nurse licensure exam (NCLEX-RN) to become a Professional Registered Nurse (RN) after four semesters. The curriculum for the evening classes will mirror the curriculum of the traditional nursing program offered during the day. Classes, including skills labs and clinical, will begin at 6 p.m. and will be offered three to four times a week.



Highlights from 2023-2024

“Listen to the Land” Multimedia Project Wins State Museum Award

“Listen to the Land,” a student-run and produced multimedia collaboration between the Gallery at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College’s Georgia Museum of Agriculture and the ABAC School of Arts and Sciences, was named the recipient of the 2024 Multimedia Award by the Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries.

The Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries is comprised of more than 250 members statewide including individuals, businesses, and museums. The award was announced during this year’s annual museums conference which took place in January 2024.

This collaboration launched in the fall 2022 with funding from the Gail Dillard Faculty Enrichment Grant and the Georgia Pecan Growers Association.

The opening event on April 7, 2023, featured a podcast premiere, visual arts exhibition, written word display, a digital mapping software, a scent library interactive display and a Georgia-grown foods reception at the Gallery.

This was the Gallery’s first multimedia event to combine sound, visual, writing, digital, scent, and taste all into one project.

ABAC and Albany State Partner to Assist Criminal Justice Students

ABAC and Albany State University signed a joint articulation agreement in February 2024 allowing a streamlined pathway for ABAC criminal justice students.

This partnership allows ABAC criminal justice graduates to join ASU’s Master of Science in Criminal Justice degree program by providing guaranteed admission for qualified ABAC graduates and a waived application fee. ABAC began offering an online bachelor’s degree in criminal justice in 2022.

The two institutions hope that the partnership will encourage students to remain in South Georgia after their graduation and apply their knowledge to local communities.

The ASU criminal justice graduate program is a 30-credit-hour degree delivered both face-to-face and online with concentrations in law enforcement, corrections, forensic science, and public administration. The corrections and law enforcement concentrations are offered fully online.

The campuses are approximately 45 minutes apart.





Basketball is Back at ABAC

Introducing the White Family Basketball Scholarship

Cheering fans can be heard in Gressette Gym once again as men's and women's basketball returned to ABAC this fall! The Stallions and the Fillies are playing on the court for the first time in more than a decade.

Calvin Sinkfield, men's basketball coach and assistant athletic director at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, said the challenge of rebuilding ABAC's men's program is exciting. "Restarting a program brings with it many challenges and opportunities," he said. "But I can already tell that ABAC basketball is even bigger than I imagined. I see the possibility of a lot of growth now that we're going to be a four-year program for the first time, it really stretches the imagination."

Attending a basketball game at ABAC was one of the draws for alumnus Buck White when he was deciding what college to attend. "I was really looking forward to being part of the Rowdies. Unfortunately, it ended when I was a senior in high school." Looking back, White fondly remembers visiting campus often with his mom, Anita, who works in the Health Center. "We were always on campus. My memories go back a long time at ABAC." White ultimately decided to go to ABAC even though it didn't have basketball and loved his time there. His favorite memory as a student was playing in intramural sports. "We would go all out and I even found a sponsor so that we could have matching jerseys for our basketball team," he said.

Buck also proposed to his wife Holly in front of the chapel at ABAC. "ABAC holds a lot of really good memories for me."

After visiting with Alumni Director Lynda Fisher and former Chief Advancement Officer Deidre Martin last year, Buck knew he was in a position where he could give back. "When they announced basketball was coming back, I was just excited!"

He worked with the Office of College Advancement to create the White Family Basketball Scholarship. "I received an ABAC Foundation scholarship when I was a student and now, for me, I'm at a point where I can help somebody out. It just felt right. The basketball program is back. I can't wait to watch it and take my family; I want to be a part of it and give back to somebody that needs it and give back to the school."

"I have never regretted giving to a good cause. If somebody is wondering if they should or shouldn't give; yes, if you have the means, do it! You can help someone out and that's really what it's all about."

If you are interested in supporting the athletics department at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, reach out to the Office of College Advancement at 229-391-4900 or visit link.abac.edu/AthleticsGiving

ABAC Office of College Advancement Honored with Institutional Excellence Award

The Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College's Office of College Advancement was honored with the Overall Institutional Excellence in Advancement Award at the Georgia Education Advancement Council (GEAC) annual conference on November 14, 2023.

This award is the highest award presented by GEAC to an entire staff at an institution that demonstrates outstanding achievement and commitment to the field of higher education advancement. The ABAC Office of College Advancement (OCA) includes the ABAC Foundation, development, alumni, advancement services, and advancement communications offices.

"When you look back at your career, there are times when you realize you are extremely fortunate to be working with some of the finest people you could ever imagine," said Dr. Deidre Martin, former chief advancement officer. "Co-workers who are dedicated to the institution and who are a joy to work with every day. I found that place in the Office of College Advancement at ABAC, and it was a great honor to nominate this group of advancement professionals for this award."

ABAC's OCA earned this high-level honor by increasing overall fundraising by 470 percent within an eight-year period, from \$648,566 in 2015 to \$3.7 million annually. Total assets have surged from \$28 million in 2015 to more than \$42 million, and scholarship support for students has risen from \$680,000 to more than \$1.1 million under this team's dedicated efforts. The Foundation's success includes acquiring significant amounts of land for expansion as well as backing several capital projects.

"This recognition is well-deserved for our Office of College Advancement," said ABAC President Tracy Brundage. "The financial support from our donors

is crucial to the advancement of our overall mission. But what is also important are the relationships they cultivate. Every individual in this office understands how important ABAC is for our students, our community, and our region. They play such a pivotal role in our success and this award reflects their success."

"Through challenging times and adversity, this remarkable team has exemplified resilience," said Dr. Amy Maison, GEAC board member. "They have encountered significant hardships, including navigating leadership changes, coping with tragedy and personal loss, and facing health challenges. Despite it all, they come to work each day with positivity, determination, and a steadfast commitment to exceed expectations. Above all, this remarkable team is not just a force within the institution but respected throughout the community and region. They actively serve on committees, volunteer in countless ways, and have built strong connections with faculty and staff, demonstrating care and commitment to all they encounter. The impact of the Office of College Advancement at ABAC extends far beyond the walls of the institution. Their dedication, innovation, and unwavering commitment have created a legacy of excellence and enduring relationships."

In addition to Martin, 2023 team members included: Jodie Snow, chief operating officer of the ABAC Foundation; Lynda Fisher, director of alumni relations and special events; Sue Mastrario, director of operations and accounting; Randi Hickman, development officer; Victoria Whiddon, advancement officer; Jordan Bentley, advancement communications coordinator; Andrew Smith, gift processing coordinator; Karin Law, Foundation administrative assistant; as well as former Office of College Advancement employees Ric Stewart (Georgia Southern University) and Amanda Stitt Moore (University of West Georgia).



Alpha Gamma Rho Endowment Established in Honor of Alumnus Jared Plair



Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College's Alpha Gamma Rho (AGR) fraternity has created the Jared Plair AGR Leadership Endowment to provide support for training and other professional experiences for students actively involved in the organization.

The endowment, established by Bernie and Elaine Lester, aims to recognize Plair's accomplishments and strengthen the value of AGR. Bernie Lester, a distinguished figure in the agricultural industry, has been inducted into the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame and the Florida Ag Hall of Fame. His wife Elaine shares his passion for supporting the next generation of agricultural leaders.

Plair, who was initiated into AGR in fall 2013, earned a bachelor's degree from ABAC in 2016 and a master's degree in business administration from Warner University. Currently working for US Sugar, he remains actively involved in state and local agriculture organizations.

"This has been incredibly humbling and an incredible honor to be able to do something like this for this chapter. But none of it would be possible without Dr. Lester," said Plair. "He's been a role model and mentor to me my entire life, both personally and professionally. I know that without a doubt I would not be the person I am today without having him be that shining light in my life. The same is true for this chapter, I know that I wouldn't be the man I am today without having been a brother of this chapter. I really hope this endowment helps us get out there and helps us perpetuate the purpose of this fraternity to make better men and future leaders of the agricultural industry. There are really no words to describe the feeling of being able to do something like this for an organization that has meant so much to me."



"I'm pleased to announce this gift that honors two AGR men who have accomplished much," said Paul Willis, former AGR Chapter Advisor. "One of those through a long, distinguished career of service to the ag industry and one who is just beginning to make his mark in our industry. One who has been a mentor for the other and one who is emulating his mentor in his career steps. Both of whom represent the purpose of AGR of making better men."

This marks the second endowment to support ABAC's AGR members and leaders, bringing the total support to over \$60,000. The funds will provide opportunities for the chapter to thrive and develop future leaders in the agricultural industry.

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Leaving it on the Field

Honoring Ellen Vickers, ABAC Hall of Fame Coach

The 2023-2024 season was an exciting one for the ABAC Fillies Softball team. With 19 freshmen and only 4 sophomores, they were named National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Mid-Atlantic District Champions. Their hard work took them all the way to the National Championship tournament in Oxford, Alabama.

“It’s the best teams in the country and I’m proud that we’re in that group, especially since it’s our last year before moving up (to National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics competition),” Coach Mike Reed said. Although they didn’t bring home the national title this year, the Fillies are looking forward to a strong start to the season as they kick off their NAIA debut this year.

Diamonds and Divisional Wins

Not only did the team make it to Nationals, but they also received several divisional honors. Fillies in-fielder Laney McGhee was named Gulf Coast Athletic Association (GCAA) Player of the Year. Five girls were named to GCAA First Team, three were named to the All-Academic Team, and two players were selected for the Second team.

Reed who has coached for more than 30 years at the high school and college levels, as well as coaching travel ball, stepped in as ABAC’s head softball coach in June 2023. After making it to the National Playoffs, he was honored as the Division Coach of the Year for the 2023-2024 season. “I have three priorities with our players,” he said. “First, whatever degree they’re here to try and achieve, my number one responsibility is to help them achieve it. Second is to try to make them better young ladies that are ready for this world, and third is to win ball games. I’ve found that if I take care of one and two, three takes care of itself.” Although the girls play on a dirt covered diamond, they shine in the classroom, maintaining the needed grade point averages to be eligible to play and hold various student leadership roles on campus.

More than a Game

Moving up to a more competitive division requires more players, more equipment, farther travel, and overnight stays for our teams. This comes with added expenses

and need for more support to make it happen.

Someone who believes in supporting ABAC athletics is Ivey Vickers, former head softball coach at Tift County High School. Her love for the College and its athletics programs runs deep. Ivey grew up riding the bus to away games, watching afternoon practices from atop the gym balcony, and learning how to lead a team from one of her greatest role models, her mom Ellen Vickers. Ellen, who coached several sports over the years, including tennis, cheerleading and softball, was no stranger to hard work and determination. Growing up on a farm family, she learned discipline and organization, which served her well in her college coaching career.

The Golden Fillies Softball Team won the state championship in six of the seven years Ellen coached and captured a national title in 1991. The title represented the first national title for a women’s intercollegiate athletics team at ABAC.

As a way to honor her mom, Ivey recently made a gift to the ABAC Foundation to purchase a new and much needed scoreboard for the ABAC Fillies Softball Field. When asked about her motivation for making such a special gift, she said, “ABAC is just a place that means more than you realize. It meant so much to me growing up and provided for our family. My mom, as well as my dad, put a lot of her heart and soul into coaching, so we wanted to give back and help the program out. I can’t express what that program means to me, we have a lot of good memories there, and it just means a lot.”

The scoreboard was officially dedicated in April 2024, but Ivey hopes that it’s a reminder to the girls that they mean a lot to this community, whether they know it or not. “The scoreboard means so much to me and my family, but for the dirt that they are playing on, that’s where it’s at. The friends that they are going to make, the memories they’ll make, that means more to me than anything. I never put on that uniform and even though I never attended a class at ABAC, that’s my life out there.”





“Destination Ag” Continues to Enrich Youth During 8th Consecutive Year

Now in its eighth year, ABAC’s Georgia Museum of Agriculture’s Destination Ag program continues to fulfill its original mission. The program provides dynamic agricultural literacy about the importance of agriculture and natural resources to students, teachers, and parents of South Georgia and beyond.

The program began in 2016 thanks to an initial gift of \$250,000 from the Harley Langdale, Jr. Foundation to the ABAC Foundation. In 2017, the Harley Langdale, Jr. Foundation committed \$1 million over the next four years to continue the program.

Destination Ag provides free programming to public schools in the following districts: Ben Hill, Berrien, Brooks, Colquitt, Cook, Echols, Irwin, Lanier, Lowndes, Tift, Turner, Valdosta City, and Worth. Grades PreK, first, third, and fifth from these schools can visit Destination Ag for no program cost. Resources are available upon request to public and private entities outside of this region at no charge. All curriculum is tied to Georgia’s state educational standards and incorporates principles of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture, and Math).

Since 2016, more than 65,000 students have visited the site and have learned from ABAC students, who serve as the instructors for the program. More than 105 ABAC students have received real-world teaching experience through this interactive and hands-on learning opportunity.

During spring 2024, Destination Ag had a rare opportunity to go on the road to the Langboard OSB plant in Quitman, where over 120 kindergarten and third grade students enjoyed two days full of activities. Destination Ag students were joined by the Georgia Forestry Commission, including Smokey the Bear. Officials with the Langdale Company said this was the first year that ABAC’s Destination Ag program was involved, and it turned out to be the best so far.

The Harley Langdale, Jr. Foundation has recently committed to supporting an additional three years of the program.

For more information about Destination Ag, or to donate to the program, visit gma.abac.edu

A Legacy of Love

Remembering Joyce Mims

Joyce Mims valued education and believed in helping all students succeed. She was a graduate of Alabama State University, where she received her B.S. in Education. She also received her Master's and Educational Specialist degrees from Valdosta State University. After a thirty-year career in education as a classroom teacher and administrator, Joyce became an entrepreneur and continued helping local youth. She was a community liaison for Southern Regional Technical College where she monitored the progress of students referred by judges from their pre-trial intervention programs. She also founded Mims Kids, Inc. as a way to support the youth in Tift County.

“When she was asked to serve on the ABAC Foundation Board, it gave her another opportunity to impact young people to help them further their education,” said Judge Larry Mims, her husband. “She jumped right into that role and began to be an advocate for ABAC; getting students to enroll, helping students who had problems, helping parents who didn't really know how to navigate the system. She was an ambassador for ABAC because she knew it was a place where they could get a good quality education.”

One thing stands out to Judge Mims about Joyce's time serving at ABAC, “When ABAC still had a women's basketball team, Julie (Conner) Johnson, asked Joyce to be part of the coaching staff - not basketball coaching, but life coaching,” he said. She would invite the girls out to the house for dinner and would get to know them. She became “Mama Joyce” to the team. When they had problems with anything, they would call her to talk and she encouraged them. She was always right there at every game on the bench cheering them on. She was just an integral part and it was something she really enjoyed doing.”

“Joyce Mims was an exceptional ABAC Foundation board member who truly made a difference,” said Jodie Snow, Chief Operating Officer for the ABAC Foundation. “Whether she was volunteering to assist with events, recruiting students or taking care of our current students, she prioritized helping

others. Her dedication, love, and giving spirit had a positive impact on ABAC and its students.” Sadly, Joyce passed away in January 2024 after battling throat cancer. ABAC and the community lost a shining star that exemplified love and touched so many lives.

“She was always fully committed to the board and making sure kids had access to what they needed. She was such a giving person. She would do anything for any of the kids or her fellow board members,” Joyce's son, M. Jay Hall, said.

“She would go into a room, and she would talk to people,” Judge Mims said. “When we would get home, they had exchanged numbers and were still talking on the phone! You instantly became a friend with Joyce, and she took that role very seriously. She formed so many lasting friendships.” He said, “The only word I can use to describe her is ‘love.’ She personified love. She was an example of what God talks about when he talks about agape love.” It's been noted by many that Joyce never ended a phone call or said goodbye without saying “I love you.” She wanted everyone to know they had someone who cared for them.

When asked what is one thing we can all learn from Mrs. Joyce, Judge Mims said it best. “The most valuable commodity that we have is time. If you spend the time and give the time to somebody, you're actually doing a service. This world is so busy, and everyone is going a thousand miles an hour and we normally just throw up our hands in passing to say ‘hi.’ But she was that person that would stop and say ‘Hello! How's your day? What's your name? I'm Joyce,’ and give you that time and open that door. So, I think the message is this, we have to be giving of our time. Give in a way that benefits the people we are trying to reach.”

The ABAC Foundation is truly humbled and so grateful for the service and time that Joyce Mims devoted to supporting our students, her fellow board members, and the College. She leaves behind a lasting legacy that can never be forgotten. By her example, we can all choose love.



Alumni Spotlight

Amy & Phil Hightower

Amy and Philip Hightower are both ABAC alumni and have found a way to give back in unique ways that directly support students in need.

“I felt more at home during my time at ABAC,” Amy said. Both Phil and Amy attended ABAC, along with many of their family members.

“When we reached a stage where we were able to give back, we both felt that there always seems to be enough funds, in our mind, to pay for tuition,” she said. “If you have the grades, you can get HOPE. I don’t remember being out of pocket because I had HOPE in college.”

“Our first venture was with Phil being in the science department, he saw that these students had enough for their tuition, but then the fees that they had to pay to take the MCAT or whatever exams they had to take to go pre-med, those are pretty substantial fees for those tests. That was the first donation to ABAC, it was a fund for a scholarship for testing fees for advanced degrees. I can’t remember how many years we contributed to that fund, but it sort of caught on and someone else ended up endowing that. So, when that happened, we stepped back and looked to see where resources were needed.”

That’s when Amy had a client mention how they were giving to support a college student who was homeless. Never having realized it was a common issue, Amy did some research and found that food insecurity was more common than you would think. “Almost a third of college students have food insecurity,” said Amy. So, they wanted to support students in another way.

“You know school is expensive, but it seems to us that, if you have the grades, there’s a way to pay for tuition. But what about all of the other stuff?” Amy said, “I worked through college, but I had parents that could support me, so if I needed money for gas, they helped me. What about the kids that don’t have that?”

The Hightowers have endowed a scholarship to assist in covering dining fees for a student each semester. If for some reason there isn’t a student in need, the money can be used for the on-campus food pantry. “For me it says ‘wow, you’re working really, really hard, and I applaud them for what they are doing.’ I didn’t do it on my own, so they shouldn’t have to do it on their own. It’s not a handout, it’s allowing someone else to help lift you up.”



Student Spotlight

Brooke Huckaby



ABAC sophomore Brooke Huckaby made national headlines after becoming the youngest female mayor in US history. At the age of 20, she was elected Mayor of Arabi, a small town of around 500 citizens in Crisp County, Georgia.

The now 21-year-old lives a fairly typical college life while pursuing her Agricultural Technology Management degree at ABAC. She attends classes, studies hard, and even works part-time with the Georgia Department of Agriculture, but must be very diligent with her time management.

Being a full-time student, part-time employee and the mayor of a small town are all very demanding roles to juggle. Thankfully, her professors are very understanding, accomodating and encouraging to her situation. They are dedicated to ensuring she remains on track with her degree requirements.

Though she is young, Brooke is no stranger to local government. Her father, Craig Huckaby, was mayor of their beloved town for 10 years and the first to encourage her to run for the seat.

She was puzzled when her father made the decision to not run for re-election. She questioned her father who replied, "Well Brooke, if you think it's so great, then why don't you do it?" It was at that moment she decided to head down to City Hall and place her name on the ballot during the qualifying period.

Campaigning as a young woman in South Georgia wasn't easy. Her most difficult obstacle to overcome was convincing people that new ideas weren't bad ideas. "I told everyone I wasn't coming in to try and make big changes and completely flip everything upside down," she said. "I just want to continue what we've had going and invest in ourselves, and the community really came together to support me."

Brooke has big plans for her hometown. Arabi is part of the Planning Rural Opportunities for Prosperity and Economic Leadership (PROPEL) program, which is aimed at bringing prosperity and economic development to rural cities in Georgia. It is also in the process of creating a police department, a project which she is heavily involved. She also sits on several boards, one of which focuses on youth enrichment, illiteracy rates, and juvenile crime.

"It's a tough gig, but I enjoy it," she said. "We're really trying to target the younger generations in our small communities ... let them know that somebody's there, that somebody cares about them and their future. You've got so many people leaving where they were raised because they don't feel like there's anything there for them. But nothing's going to be there unless people try to come back and rejuvenate it and put something into it."

Brooke is an ambitious young lady - that is so easy to see. She would eventually like to find herself in the Governor's Mansion in Atlanta. "I want to get high enough in politics where I can influence change, but not high enough to where the politics start to influence me. I feel like at a state level, I'll still be able to balance everything else in my life too," she said.

For now, Brooke is dedicated to her town, her studies, and encouraging her peers and other young people to get involved in their communities.

Alumni Association Award Winners

The ABAC Alumni Association recognizes outstanding alumni each year during Homecoming, and it is our distinct pleasure to showcase the accomplishments and contributions of these individuals. Alumni awards have been a tradition at ABAC since the Master Farmer Award was first presented in 1955. Our 2024 class of award winners is representative of many different generations of outstanding alumni.

Distinguished Alumnus Award - Justice John Ellington, Class of 1980

John began his legal career as a general trial lawyer. In 1991, he became one of the youngest trial court judges in Georgia. He then served as a Superior Court Judge by designation in five judicial circuits (29 counties) throughout South Georgia. He also was sworn in as 66th Judge of the Georgia Court of Appeals by Governor Barnes in 1999 and then reelected for 6-year terms in 2000, 2006, and 2012. He was elected to the Supreme Court of Georgia in 2018 where he still serves. John is a very active member in his community, great supporter of ABAC, serves on the ABAC Foundation Board of Trustees, and was named a Georgia Trend Magazine 40 Under 40 in the year 2000.

Master Agriculturalist Award - Wade Purvis, Class of 1983

After college, Wade started farming with only 100 rented acres. He now operates 2,350 acres of owned and rented land. In conjunction with crop production, Purvis Farms also operates Alliance Packing, where 1.5 million packages are processed each year. In recent years, he teamed up with other local farmers to create Farmers Alliance, their own marketing company to market their locally produced crops. Wade was named the 2023 Florida Farmer of the Year by the Sunbelt Ag Expo.

J. Lamar Branch Award for Outstanding Leadership in Agriculture - Sara Will, Class of 2020

Sara is currently a K-5 agriculture teacher at Turner County Elementary and also serves on the PBIS (Positive Behavior and Plan Incentives) team. She has received numerous awards including the first Georgia Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association (GVATA) Outstanding Elementary Agriculture Teacher, 2023 Georgia Young Farmer Young Ag Professional Award, and Turner County Elementary School Teacher of the Month in October 2022 and September 2023. Sara is an active participant in Turner County Young Farmers, regularly visits campus for events such as the Truck & Tractor Pull, and supports the Sigma Alpha sorority.

Outstanding Educator Award - Dr. Michael Maw, Class of 2006

Michael joined ABAC's School of Agriculture and Natural Resources as a Professor of Agronomy in 2017. He teaches five classes each semester, advises more than 90 students each semester, receives grant funding for learning opportunities, mentors students, and more. He received the 2022 Teaching Award of Merit from North American Colleges & Teachers of Agriculture. He has also been nominated for several awards including the ABAC Donaldson Award for Excellence in Advising and nominee for the ABAC Donaldson Award for Excellence in Student Engagement.

Outstanding Business Leader Award - Melissa Pierzchajlo, Class of 2001 & 2002

Melissa started her first business before her college graduation and has been in CEO and CFO positions since. She is currently the owner, CEO, and CFO of Sole Medical Spa in Tifton, and four real estate investment companies across the US. Melissa enjoys aviation and is an Instrument Rated Pilot (IFR) and Women in Aviation International Member and Mentor. She is also a Lifetime Member of the ABAC Alumni Association, Alumni Board President, and can be found actively supporting and volunteering for events like Homecoming, the SANR Golf Classic, Run for Nurses, and An Evening for ABAC.

Outstanding Healthcare Professional Award - Kristoff Cohran, Class of 2016

Kristoff is currently the Program Administrator for the Georgia South Psychiatry Residency Program, a program for which he developed and attained accreditation with a \$750K Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant. He is also CEO & Co-Founder M3E, Inc., a nonprofit organization that helps empower young adults with leadership training and life skills. Kristoff serves on many boards and councils including the Colquitt County Educational Foundation, Colquitt County Chamber of Commerce, and UGA Archway Executive Committee. Due to his active involvement, he was named a 2021 GeorgiaTrend Magazine 40 Under 40.

Outstanding Young Alumnus Award - Zebb Luster, Class of 2013

Zebb is currently the Vice President and General Manager of River House Artists in Nashville, Tennessee where he is responsible for signing many recognizable country artists and managing the songwriting division. Recently, he created a family-owned apparel brand called YNOT, and actively hosts a podcast called "MI HYW." Zebb is an ABAC Alpha Gamma Rho alumnus and has served on its board since graduating.



Wade Purvis



Sara Will



Michael Maw



Melissa Pierzchajlo



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Zebb Luster



Hillery Culpepper



Deidre Martin



The Legg Family



John Ellington

Family Legacy Award - Jack Legg Family

The Legg Family spans three generations and began with four siblings - Jack, Marion, Bill, and Douglas. Their ABAC lineage has grown to seven family members, which includes a current nursing student, Lauren Morris. The family has a rich history with ABAC; Marion Legg was the very first Miss Baldwin Beauty in 1957, Jack Legg is a past Alumni Association and ABAC Foundation board member, and Lisa Legg Roper was a member of the ABAC Golddusters.

Miles A. Drummond Rising Star Award - Hillery Reeves Culpepper, Class of 2016

Hillery is currently the Main Street Manager for the City of Tifton. In this role, she serves as a voice, resource, and liaison for our Downtown Tifton merchants to help promote, raise awareness, and increase business. She was previously the Assistant Executive Director for the Georgia FFA Foundation where she assisted with fundraising and event planning. Hillery is very involved with her community and has received several awards for her outreach efforts.

Honorary Alumnus Award - Dr. Deidre Mercer Martin

Deidre has worked in higher education for nearly 40 years at several institutions. At ABAC, she served in the Office of College Advancement from 2015 until her recent retirement on January 1, 2024. In her leadership role as Chief Advancement Officer, fundraising at ABAC increased nearly 500 percent with the addition of new scholarships, new facilities, and programs, and has received numerous awards. Though not an alumna of ABAC, Deidre has been an active donor, Lifetime Member of the ABAC Alumni Association, and regular attendee at various events.

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An Appointment



Alumni Spotlight

Clint Johnson aka “RVSHVD”

Willacoochee is a small town in Atkinson County located just about 30 minutes from Tifton. This small town of 1,200 is known for the “Famous No Name Bar” and now for the up-and-coming country singer and songwriter Clint Johnson, aka RVSHVD (pronounced RA-SHAD).

Growing up in rural South Georgia, Clint envisioned a music career in the hip-hop genre until he heard “Sweet Thing” by Keith Urban. He then found inspiration from other country artists like Florida Georgia Line, Jason Aldean, Luke Bryan, George Strait, Alan Jackson, and Brooks & Dunn.

Clint’s grassroots music career took off while attending ABAC as a writing and communications student. In 2018, he began recording and self-publishing his music from his ABAC Place dorm. Since then, his music has become widely popular in the country-rap crossover genre. His song, “Ballin” went viral on TikTok, YouTube, Spotify, and Apple with over 25 million streams. His popularity and catalog of streams have continued to grow to include more than 150 million streams.

He has toured with various artists ranging from Dwight Yoakam to T-Pain, has taken the stage at CMA Fest, and made his debut at the (Grand Ole) Opry in 2023. He has received praise from music platforms like Billboard and CMT and was named a “Country Rookie of the Month” by Billboard and an “Artist To Watch 2024” by CMT.

Clint has recently released an album titled “IT’S RASHAD” and plans to continue touring and writing his music.



New Agricultural Technology Building



Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College held a ribbon cutting for the college’s new Agricultural Technology Building on September 18, 2024.

Located on Moore Highway at the north end of campus, the recently completed building has a total of 27,500 square feet, with 7,500 square feet of agricultural demonstration and multi purpose space, an 8,200 square foot demonstration and simulation lab, offices and classrooms to meet the needs of

Agriculture and Agricultural Technology Management students.

The Agricultural Technology Management bachelor’s degree, started in 2022, is the newest four-year degree at ABAC. It is one of 14 bachelor’s degrees offered at ABAC. Consisting of two long-span, high-bay spaces, one enclosed and one open-air, to be used for instruction, the building will be used for experiential learning provided not only by ABAC faculty, but by industry partners.

“The instruction that will take place in this new facility will meet the needs of our Agriculture and Agricultural Technology Management students, including the utilization of our industry partners to provide hands-on experiences to prepare students for the workforce,” said ABAC President Tracy Brundage. “This commitment to industry ready graduates is an essential part of ABAC’s core mission and can be seen in all our strategic goals at the institution. I want to express my sincere gratitude to our industry partners for this support. ABAC is fortunate to have your partnership.”

Honor Roll of Donors

The ABAC Foundation acknowledges those who made contributions during the 2023-2024 fiscal 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, 2023 and June 30, 2024. However, if we have omitted or misspelled your name, please accept our apologies and contact the ABAC Foundation at 229.391.4900 so we can correct the error.

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A special thank you to all of the ABAC Faculty and Staff that have supported our fundraising efforts throughout the last year!

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The New Clubhouse and Cart Barn are Now Open at Forest Lakes Golf Club!

ABAC has owned and operated the Forest Lakes Golf Club since 2002 when Dr. Larry Moorman, and his wife Debra, generously donated the golf course to The ABAC Foundation.

This donation created the opportunity for real world experiences by way of an outdoor learning lab for students in a variety of majors. The 9-hole course has been, and continues to be, maintained by an elite group of ABAC environmental horticulture students.

Since the original donation, ABAC has operated out of the original clubhouse and pro-shop.

We were proud to unveil the new clubhouse and cart barn during a ribbon cutting on May 17, 2024.

The new building provides an updated pro-shop area, complete with a snack counter, several meeting spaces that are available for rent, and more!

In addition to this beautiful building, the club now offers an illuminated driving range with a self-service ball kiosk. We hope you will come enjoy this new, upscale experience with us! Learn more at www.abac.edu/forest-lakes-golf-club.

Naming opportunities are available for the clubhouse and its interior spaces. For more information, please contact the ABAC Office of College Advancement via 229-391-4900 or foundation@abac.edu

The President's Club: Honoring Cumulative Giving

The ABAC Foundation gratefully acknowledges the faithful support of our donors over time through cumulative giving. Members of The President's Club include those individuals who have made cumulative gifts of at least \$10,000. There are several levels of achievement within The President's Club:

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Every effort has been made to present a complete list of The President's Club members as of June 30, 2024. However, if we have omitted or misspelled your name, please accept our apologies and contact the ABAC Foundation at 229-391-4900 so that we may make the necessary corrections.

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Flint Ag and Turf Division
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Georgia Agrirama Foundation, Inc.
Georgia FFA Alumni Association
Georgia Forestry Association, Inc.
Georgia Forestry Foundation, Inc.
Georgia Power Company
Greenview Farms, Inc.
Harold W. Still Trust
Indigo FG&G, Inc.
J. H. Services, Inc.
Lee Foundation
McCall & Associates, Inc.
Middle South Georgia Soil and Water
Conservation Commission
Mobley Gin
National Christian Foundation
Pennington Seed
Pike Creek Turf, Inc.
Prestolite Wire Division
R. M. Dutton Realty & Associates
Reinhardt, Whitney, Summerlin and
Pittman, PC
Rotary Club of Tifton
S & S Marketing, Inc.
Satilla River Soil and Water
Conservation District
Southeastern Credit Union
State Farm Companies Foundation
SunTrust Bank
Sycamore Peanut and Grain
The Celia and Marcos Family
Institute
The Kenneth H Montgomery
Foundation

The Langdale Company
Thomas S. Teabeaut Post 41
Memorial Trust
Tifton's Great Seafood, Inc.
Union Camp Charitable Trust
W.L. Amos Sr. Foundation Inc.
Willing Workers Community Club

**President's Club Level
Cumulative Giving to ABAC of
\$10,000 to \$24,999**

ABAC Agronomy Club
ABAC Baseball Program
Affinity Foundation
AGCO Corporation
Allen & Carolyn Conger
Foundation, Inc.
Allstate Construction Group
Ambling Construction Company, LLC
Anonymous
ARAMARK
Baldwin Women's Club
Belk
Bio-Plus, Inc.
Bobcat of Thomasville
Bowen-Donaldson Home
for Funerals, Inc.
Bradley-Turner Foundation, Inc.
Branch's Veterinary Clinic, P.C.
Cal-Maine Foods, Inc.
CareOne Home Health
Chad Sumner State Farm Insurance
Circle of Anonymity of Princeton
Area Community Foundation
Citizens and Southern Corp.
Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Consolidated
Colony Bank
Colquitt Co. Economic
Development Corp.
Credit Bureau Associates of Georgia
Curtis Packing Company
Daewoo Heavy Industries
America Corporation
Deep South Kawasaki
Dixie Oil Company
Double A Concrete Products
F & W Forestry Services, Inc.
Georgia Agribusiness Council
Georgia Agricultural Commodity
Commission for Peanuts
Georgia Cooperative Council
Georgia Crown Distributing
Company
Georgia Feed & Grain Assn., Inc.
Georgia Plant Food
Educational Society
Georgia Rural Caucus

Georgia Sports Medicine &
Orthopedic Clinic, PC
Georgia Vegetable Company, Inc.
Georgia Young Farmers Association
Gibbs Patrick Farms, Inc.
Greenville Turf & Tractor
Haley Jewelers
Heatcraft, Inc.
Holder Ag Consulting
International Paper
Ivey Lakes Farms, LLP
J & B Power Equipment, Inc.
J. H. Services, Inc.
Jack L. Perry Enterprises, Inc.
Joiner International, Inc.
Jones Chrysler-Plymouth-Dodge, Inc.
Jones Peanut Company, Inc.
Killeen Construction Co., Inc.
La Fiesta del Pueblo, Inc.
Lang Printing and Office Supply
LMC Ag
Masonic Lodge of Tifton #47
Masonic Lodge of Tifton #745
F&AM
McDonald's Restaruant #4239
McLendon Acres, Inc.
Moridge Manufacturing
Paradigm Administrators, Inc.
Partners Benefit Group, LLC
Patten Seed Company
Philadelphia College of
Osteopathic Medicine
Riverside Ford, Inc.
RMD Consulting
Robert McLendon Farms, LLC
Roger C. Dill Consulting
Savannah Golf Club
SEDCO, Inc.
Shiver Diesel Injection &
Turbocharger, Inc.
South Georgia Banking Company
- Ashburn Branch
South Georgia Food Services, Inc.
Southeast Produce Council
Southeast United Dairy
Industry Association
Southwest Georgia Chapter
of Quail Forever
Stafford School of Business
T & S Electric Motors, Inc.
Takeuchi Manufacturing, LTD
Target Stores
The Barnes Law Group, LLC
The Dow Chemical
Company Foundation
The Heritage Bank
The Howard Center for
Women's Health
The Jay Deason Fund
The Spearman Agency

The Thomas T. and Bernice F.
Irvin Foundation Inc.
Tift Electric Supply
Tifton Banking Company
Tifton Machine Works
Tifton Radiology, PC
Tropical Air Heating &
Conditioning, LLC
Tru-Turf Pty, LTD
U.S. Poultry & Egg's Harold E.
Ford Foundation
Valent
Veqo Farms
Weyerhaeuser NR Company
Williams Family Foundation
of Georgia, Inc.
Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of
Georgia Foundation
Winn-Dixie Stores Foundation
Yon Family Farms

Gifts from Individuals

**Platinum Achievement Level
Cumulative Giving to ABAC of
\$250,000 and above by individuals**

James Lee Adams, Jr.
Sandy and Rick Bostelman
Ann and Mike Bunn
Juliana and Sam Bynum
Karen and Mike Bynum
Phyllis and Blair Bynum
Bettye J. Carson
Lenna and Lanier Carson
Joe Dana
Rosalyn R. Donaldson
John E. Downs
Lee Ann and James Holcomb
Joyce and James Kirk
Johnny Langdale, Jr.
Kimberly and Wesley Langdale
Mary and Larry Montgomery
Debra and Larry Moorman
Darla and Dan Pennington
Reginald Rogers
Gayle and Jay Short V,
Patty and DeNean Stafford
Beverly and Danny Sterling
Tony Tucker
Betty and George Turk
Michael Wright
Layne and Robert Varnedoe

The minimum gift to create an endowment through the ABAC Foundation is \$25,000 over five years. If you are interested in creating an endowment, please contact us at foundation@abac.edu or 229-391-4900.

**Golden Achievement Level
Cumulative Giving to ABAC of
\$100,000 to \$249,999 by
individuals**

M. H. and Kathy Allen, Jr.
Kathy and Courtney Brinson
Glenn Davis
Bob M. Dutton Sr.
Myra and Ed Hortman, Jr.
Julie E. Hunt
Marci and Stan Hutchinson
Sandra S. Kemp
Earl S. Parker, Sr.
Betty and John Prince
Alice W. Rigdon
James H. Tillman

**Silver Achievement Level
Cumulative Giving to ABAC of
\$50,000 to \$99,999 by individuals**

Quay and Jimmy Allen, Sr.
Dr. and Mrs. Greg Anderson
Howard Andrews
Dr. and Mrs. Martin Bailey
Matt Bentley
Betts Berry
Kelly and William Bowen
Kim and David Bridges
Beverly K. Brownlow and
Ronald J. Hoffman
Miriam and John Bulloch
Dona and William Burke
Dolores and Perry Conger
Gordon G. Davis, Jr.
Susan and Dill Driscoll
Justice and Mrs. John Ellington
Susan and Lane Green
Susan and Jody Haley
Michelle M. Higdon-Rector
Wanda and Red Hill
Nikki and Skip Hill, Jr.
Angela and Dallas Hunt, IV
Lounell and Ray Jensen
Teresa Lasseter
Lynn and Jim Lovett
Julie and Jamie Mann
Jill and Jim Matney
Anita and Melvin Merrill
Marolyn W. Mixon
Judy and Mark Mobley, Jr.
Kathy and Ray Moreno
Cynthia K. Moon
Brenda and Armond Morris
Danielle and David Orlofsky
Vicky Orr
Sally and Anthony Perez
Sue and Jack Perry

Charles W. Powell, III
Nelda Powell
DeNean Stafford, Jr.
Mary Sumner
Joe M. Turner
Faith Tyson
Mary John and Bob Reinhardt
Sherri and Ronnie Rollins
Sally and Anthony Perez
Rachel Y. Willis

**Bronze Achievement Level
Cumulative Giving to ABAC of
\$25,000 to \$49,999**

Jimmy Alberson
Libby and Buck Anderson, Jr.
Andrew Avery, Jr.
Roy Barnes
Beverly H. Bauerband
Cheryl E. Bedgood
Jo and JC Bell
Caroline and Leon Benefield
Carolyn Bowen
Carolyn and Dan Branch
Mary Frances Branch
Joy Burch-Meeks and Steven Meeks
Judy and Brant Burke-Bynum
Judy and John Clark
Ashley and Dean Copelan
Lane Dennard
Jim J. Dorminy
Nancy and Darvin Eason
Frank B. Flanders
Jaclyn and Jacob Ford
Jane G. Gibbs
Jerry C. Grimsley
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Jemique T. Harrell
Shirley and Marvin Harrell
Virginia and Scott Hart
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Amy and Philip Hightower
Linda and Vernon Ingram
Jimmie W. Jackson
Leilah and Charles Kemp
Alan M. Kramer
Bernie Lester
Luann and Robert Lowrance
Clydene and Harold Loyd
Palmer P. Maples, Jr.
Tim Marshall
Laurie and Rusty McCall, Jr.
Janet and Frank McGill
Barbara and Bob McLendon
Mr. and Mrs. James H. Moore, III
Vernon Ongram

Stephen Orlofsky
Tommy Perry, Jr.
Sunny and Dale Pflug
Keith N. Phillippi, MD
Cindy and Mike Phillips
Marjorie and Harold Ragan
Jeannie and Steve Rigdon
Cynthia and Frank Sauls
Anita and Chuck Scarborough, Jr.
J. D. Scott, Jr.
Vivien and Austin Scott
Beverly L. Sparks and Allen L.
Tibbetts
Elaine and Steven Spooner
Patricia and Walter Stephens
Meg and Michael Stitt
Janis and Carden Summers
Ruby and Frank Thomas
Darryl Vickers
Tom T. Wade
Charles Webb
Laura S. Whitfield
Shari and Paul Willis
Laura Lee Wood
Kathryn and Donald Yates

**President's Club Level
Cumulative Giving to ABAC of
\$10,000 to \$24,999**

Lucy and Russell Acree
Jane and Lawrence Akers
Jeanie and Larry Allen
Tammy Allen
Linda and Pat Atwater
Kathy and Jerry Baker
Linda and Benjie Baldree
Merle and Max Bass
Alisha and Lawton Bassett
Dottie and John Bassett
Charlotte W. Bedell
Jerry W. Bishop
Margaret and Stewart Bloodworth
Marlene Bowen
Dina and Bennie Branch
Elna M. Bragdon
Keetra C. Branch
Laverne and Gerald Branch
June and Earl Branch
Julie and James Branch
Ron Branch
Worth W. Bridges, Jr.
Mary Anne Britton-Croom
Ginger and Brinson Brock
Harold L. Brooker
Jack L. Brooker
Sally and Jim Burran
Judy and Tom Call
Donna and Roy Cannon

Tonja L. Carson
Kris and Mike Chason
Pattie and Shawn Clark
Carolyn and Allen Conger
Nancy and Thomas Coleman
Dawn and Christopher Cordell
Doris and Randy Cowart
Cader Cox
Cathy C. Cox and Mark Dehler
Yvonne and Johnny Crawford
Melanie and Ray Cross
Peggy and Greg Crumley
Jerri Davis
Concepcion and Michael Dawson
Caroline and Homer Day
Kelly and Stanley Dean
Gail and Peter Dillard
Paula and Heck Dodson
Jan and Chip Dorminy, III
Alice Dorminy
Emma Myrtice M. Dorminy
Virginia E. Dorminey
Howard Dorsett
Evelyn Edwards
Amy and Daniel Eidson
Bobbie S. Ellis
Virginia and Thomas Ellis
Beth and Steve English
Debbie and Buster Evans
Rachel and David Flake
Alicia and Jim Floyd
Mary and Robert Fuoto
Lisa and Jeff Gibbs
Maggie C. Glennon
Victoria and Michael Golen
Mary Ann Grant
Tom Grant
Susan and Don Griffin
Starling and Paul Grisham
Ruth Grist
Ann and Jimmy Grubbs
Mike Gudely
Linda and Buddy Harden
Dot Harper
Wendy and Gerald Harrison
Janet and Kenneth Haughton
Kimberly and Thomas Hawkins
Linda and James Herndon
Ed Herring
Harriett and Jake Herring
James H. Herring
Ann B. Herzog
Marsha and Emerson Hoffman
Bettie R. Horne
Lynn W. Inman
Tommy T. Irvin
Judith and Daniel Israel
Felicity and Dan Jeter
Rosalind and Jimmy Jeter

Sandra and Bobby Johnson
Betty Sue Jones
Keri L. Jones
Wayne P. Jones
Bobbie and Don Jordan
Frances and Riley Jordan
Cathy and Darrell Jordan
Diane P. Kilgore
Fred W. Kinard, Jr.
Connie Keith
Cheryl and Don Koehler
Elizabeth and David Koran
Tammie and Jon Koran
Gary L. Lee
Lynn and George Lee
Jo Edith Lindsey
Shirley and Ben Lowery, Jr.
James M. Martin
Phyllis and Jimmy Martin
Maggie Martin
Carolyn Massey
Betty and Gary McCorvey
Joe A. McNair
Jay McPherson
Carla and Robert Miles
Gudrun and Ben Mills
Ann and John Morehead
Monica and Jason Morris
Betty and Bobby Moss
Jeannie and Alan Myers
Linda and Roger Nalls
Marcia and Randy Nichols
Debra and Ronnie Noble
Linda and John O'Connor
Laurie and Danny Oldham
Pamela and John Packer
Angela and James Palmer
Sharon and Richard Parkman
Susanne and Stephen Pass
Wendy and Wayne Pearson
Becky and Louie Perry, Jr.
Charles and Terry Perry
Judy C. Perry
Jeffrey J. Peters
Chris and Roger Peterson
Charlotte and Pete Pfeiffer
Melissa and Richard Pierzchajlo
Catherine T. Porter
Hazel and Virgil Purvis
Ruth and Dan Raines
Mary Jensen Rainey
Eleanor and Tom Ratchford
Kenny J. Ray
Michelle and Niles Reddick
Linda and Richard Reeves
Beth E. Reynolds
Susan and Raymond Reynolds
Sarah and Jay Roberts
Priscilla and Phillip Roberts

Susan and Wayne Roe
Chrystle and Michael Ross
Andrea and Stanley Savage
Holly and James Scott
Becky Scott-Hill and Bobby Hill
Richey Seaton
Darby and Jeff Sewell
Martha Sharpton
Martha and Troy Sharpton
Janet and Brooks Sheldon
Nancy and Gerald Shiver
Becky and John Shoemaker
Mary Anne and Gary Simmons
Susan and Sam Sims, III
Caitlin M. Slaughter
Merle and Tommy Smallwood
Joan Smith
Jodie and Matt Snow
Christy and James Sparks
Sandra and Tyron Spearman
Daisy L. Speight
Troy Spicer and Kevin A. Sackenheim
Phillis Spikes-Miller and Gerald Miller
Veronica and Harold Still
Ann and Jack Stone, Jr.
Heather and John Stripling
Cecilia and Dale Sumner
Ann Sutton
Carolyn and Leon Sutton
Ann Sutton
Vickie Tatum
Vann Thornton
Nancy Torbett
Jan Tulp
Mike Turner
Sara and Jerry Turner
Diane and Gus Upshaw
Becky and Hoyt Vance
Niki and Ed Vanderslice
John Vitange, Jr.
Melanie and Stewart Veness
Lennas and Michael Vollmer
Bret B. Wagenhorst
Carlene and Clifford Walker
Vicki L. Walker
Emily and Sam Watson
Virginia and Neil Widstrom
Hayley and Perry White
Bertha and Lorenzo Williams
Judy and J.W. Willis
Karen and Glenn Willis
Twila and Harvey Willis
Carolyn S. Wilson
Shirley and Drew Wilson
Betty and Del Williams
Loron E. Williams, III
Donna and Garth Webb
Douglas N. Wood
Anita D. Yow



Meet Thunder and Lightning, the newest ABAC mascots!

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Elaine Wright

Matching Gifts = Maximum Impact



Did you know that many corporations will match your gift to the ABAC Foundation?

For over 30 consecutive years, Jack and Sue Perry have donated diligently to the ABAC Foundation. Jack is an honorary alumnus of ABAC, served as the Chair of the ABAC Foundation, and is now a Trustee Emeritus of the ABAC Foundation. Jack, a retiree from Georgia Power, exemplifies the power of company matching programs. His gifts have been generously matched by his former employer, maximizing his impact on ABAC. Jack and Sue have established the Hugh and Norma Erwin Perry Scholarship in memory of Jack's parents. They are members of ABAC's President's Club and have attended An Evening for ABAC scholarship gala over 40 times. Their dedication to ABAC is apparent through their continuous support and is enhanced through Georgia Power Foundation, Inc.'s educational matching gift program. Many of our donors enjoy similar benefits of a corporate matching gift program.

Learn more by contacting the ABAC Office of College Advancement at 229-391-4900 or foundation@abac.edu

Live for Today. Plan for Tomorrow.

Ed and Niki Vanderslice are already planning for the future of their daughters Addie (7) and Katie (8) while also planning to leave a legacy at ABAC. They are both ABAC graduates who started looking forward on the day they walked across the graduation stage. Their goal is to invest in the future of their children, as well as the education of future students at their alma mater. In the process of choosing how to designate their assets, Ed and Niki selected ABAC as a beneficiary of one of their life insurance policies. This choice allows them to support the next generation of ABAC students and provides peace of mind as they prepare for Katie and Addie to grow up.

The Vanderslices are proud of their ABAC legacy, and they hope the girls will choose ABAC for their education one day. "Obviously, we will support them no matter what

school they choose - but we are definitely partial to ABAC," Niki said fondly as she walked across campus during one of her many visits. She has served in several capacities in our volunteer organizations including Chair of the ABAC Foundation, Inc. and President of the ABAC Alumni Association.

Jodie Snow, ABAC Foundation COO, expressed her gratitude for Niki and Ed's legacy gift. "Their generous planned gift will have a lasting impact on ABAC and future generations of students. We are honored by their dedication to ABAC and their choice to support our institution through a planned gift."

For more information about how you may leave your legacy, please contact the ABAC Office of College Advancement at 229-391-4900 or foundation@abac.edu



Register Now

WELCOME

to the *Fabulous*
An Evening for
ABAC

February 22, 2025 at the Tifton Conference Center
Cocktail Reception | Live Auction | Dinner | Entertainment
www.abac.edu/evening



Save the Date
for Homecoming!

April 4-5, 2025

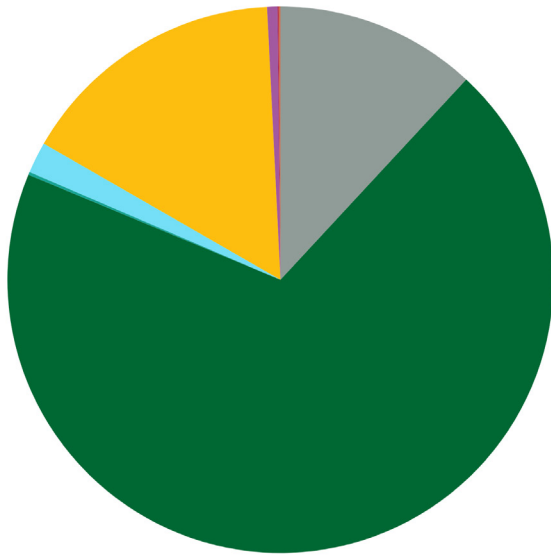
A full schedule, hotel accommodations,
and more will be available soon at
www.abac.edu/homecoming



Abraham Baldwin
Agricultural College

Alumni Association

Total Assets
Year Ended June 30



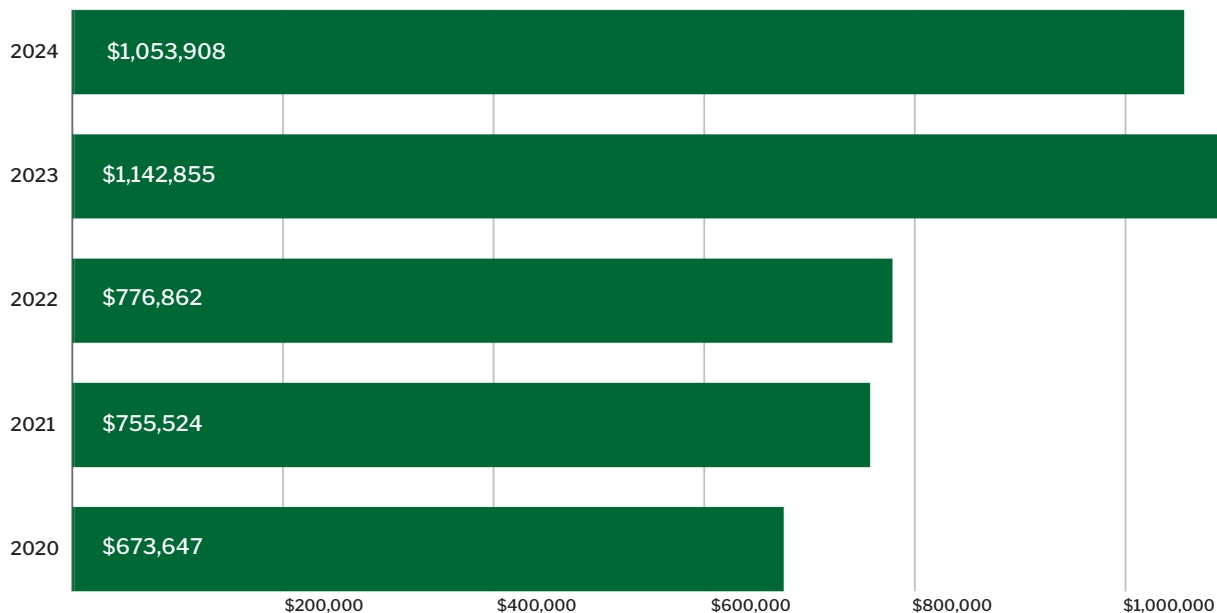
- Investments: \$30,931,963
- Property and Equipment: \$7,094,844
- Cash and Cash Equivalents: \$5,308,046
- Unconditional Promises to Give: \$824,878
- Life Insurance Cash Value: \$272,342
- Investment in Limited Partnership: \$76,465
- Assets Held in Gift Annuity Trust: \$52,026
- Other assets: \$25,400

TOTAL ASSETS: \$44,585,964

Total Assets By Year
Year Ended June 30



Scholarship Dollars By Year
Year Ended June 30



CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the Year ended June 30, 2024

REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT

Contributions and special events	\$ 2,417,429
In-kind contribution	337,636
Investment income, net	1,018,943
Realized and unrealized gains on investment	2,978,073
Rental Revenues	130,972
Other	346,301
(Losses) Recovery of uncollectible contributions receivables	(70,446)
(Loss) on disposal of property and equipment	(370,562)

Total revenues and other support \$ 6,788,346

EXPENSES

Program Services

Academic and education	2,421,831
Other program support	1,024,104

Total program services \$ 3,445,935

Support Services

Administrative and general	543,003
Fundraising	438,879

Total Support Services 981,882

Total expenses \$ 4,427,817

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS 2,360,529

NET ASSETS, BEGINNING 40,357,118

NET ASSETS, ENDING \$ 42,717,647



Thank you for investing in our students!



195 Total
Endowments



\$1 Million in
Scholarships Awarded



659 Students
Received Scholarships



3,825 Students Enrolled for
the Fall 2024 Semester



Enrolled Students Represent
20 US States and 23 Countries

2023-2024 Highlights

Our Mission

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College is a State College within the University System of Georgia. ABAC's mission is to provide excellent education by engaging, teaching, coaching, mentoring, and providing relevant experiences that prepare the graduate for life.

Our Vision

ABAC aspires to be an institutional destination of greatness, a college where committed students seek a life-changing experience and are prepared to contribute positively to the communities in which they live and work.



**Abraham Baldwin
Agricultural College
Foundation**

2802 Moore Highway, Box 13
Tifton, Georgia 31793

229-391-4900 | foundation@abac.edu | abac.edu/foundation