



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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Moreno Receives 2015 Outstanding Educator Award

Kathy Moreno, a certified public accountant and an assistant professor in the Stafford School of Business at ABAC, received the 2015 Outstanding Accounting Educator Award from The Educational Foundation of The Georgia Society of Certified Public Accountants, Inc.



The Outstanding Accounting Educator Award recognizes individuals who exhibit leadership in professional and civic organizations, as well as writing, speaking and curriculum development and

research.

“I was driving my car when I got a (hands-free) phone call from Nikelle Klareich of the Georgia Society of CPAs to let me know that I had received the honor,” Moreno said. “I pulled over because I was so stunned. I thought I misunderstood what I had heard and asked her

to repeat it. When I realized I had heard correctly, I was excited beyond words.”

Moreno received the award in Atlanta during the organization’s council meeting. She will be recognized again for her

accomplishments in the field of accounting in February where she will be honored by her peers at the Georgia Association of Accounting Educators’ annual meeting.

“It is very humbling and a huge responsibility to receive this award,” Moreno said. “Personally, I know some of the other college professors who have received this award. They are amazing, accomplished individuals. I feel responsible to uphold their standards for teaching excellence and the standards of The Georgia Society of CPAs.”

Moreno began her own studies in the field of accounting simply because she was intrigued by the subject and wanted to learn more.

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Two Students Win Top Honors at ABAC Commencement

Two students received top honors as the most outstanding graduates during Thursday’s fall commencement ceremony.

Matthew Daniel, a rural studies-social and community development major from Summerville, was named the recipient of the ABAC Alumni Association Award for bachelor’s degree graduates, and Marlee Mathis, a nursing major from Nashville, received the George P. Donaldson award for associate degree graduates.

Each recipient was selected through an application and interview process conducted by the ABAC Alumni Association. Both recipients received a plaque and a check for \$500 from the ABAC Alumni Association.

ABAC Alumni Director Lynda Fisher said the Donaldson Award

has been a part of the commencement ceremony for many years, and the Alumni Association decided to add the additional award for bachelor’s degree graduates in the fall 2014 ceremony.

Keri Jones, a 1999 ABAC graduate, was the commencement speaker. Jones told the graduates to “pursue growth and learning throughout your life. Capitalize on making your strengths stronger. Learn them and grow them.



Pictured (l-r): ABAC Alumni Association President Chuck Scarborough, Marlee Mathis, Matthew Daniel, and President David Bridges.

“Force yourself to be around people who are not like you. It is likely that the people who are going to be keys to your success won’t be anything like you.”

Daniel has been an active member of a variety of campus

organizations throughout his ABAC career. He served as a senator with the Student Government Association from 2010-2011, was a participating member of the Rural Studies Club

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from 2013-2015, and played both intramural football and softball. He has also been a member of the Baptist Collegiate Ministries, serving as an officer since 2012, and ABAC's collegiate 4-H, serving as president from 2011-2012.

A community assistant with the ABAC Housing Office from 2011-2015, Daniel was named community assistant of the month (March) and community assistant of the semester (spring) in 2013. He has excelled academically, garnering him an ABAC Foundation Scholarship from 2012-2015. Daniel also made the Dean's List in spring and fall of 2014 and the spring of 2015.

The son of David and Nancy Daniel, he has immersed himself in the community, volunteering with the Tift County Extension, Lifehouse Ministries, Ruth's Cottage and the Patticake House, the Tift County Council of Child Abuse and the Tift County Commission on Children and Youth. He is a member of Northside Baptist Church.

"During my time at ABAC I have experienced my share of personal trials and triumphs," Daniel said. "I held onto the feeling that ABAC is where I needed to be. Through all of the hardships that I have faced during my journey at ABAC this has been the place that has supported me and played a part in molding me into the man I am today. There is truly no place like ABAC."

Daniel will begin a year-long internship with Northside Baptist Church in Tifton in preparation for

his enrollment at a seminary in the near future, a goal that Daniel sees as attainable because of the support ABAC has given him.

Mathis has held positions in the Georgia Association of Nursing Students (GANS), serving as both the historian and president. She served as the Student Government Association representative for the School of Nursing. But nursing wasn't her first career choice.

"I was in sixth grade, and I was still adamant that I wanted to be an astronaut," Mathis said. "It wasn't until I came to ABAC and took a First Aid and CPR class that I finally realized nursing was the job for me."

Mathis has been very active in the community through her studies. As a representative of ABAC and its Nursing Program, Mathis attended Cook High School's Career Day, volunteered with the annual Run for the Nurses, the Alzheimer's Benefit Ball, the Georgia Cancer Coalition Organization's "Play Day for Hope," and Carry The Load. She also helped plan events for charitable causes including diabetes awareness and prevention of domestic violence.

Mathis has received the ABAC Foundation Scholarship, the Christy V. Murphy Nursing Scholarship, the J. H. Dorminy Nursing Scholarship, the Pattie G. Clark Memorial Scholarship, the ABAC Scholars Scholarship, and the Ms. ABAC Scholarship.

The daughter of Greg and Tammy Mathis, she was crowned as Ms. ABAC 2015, a role she embraced

as a representative for the college. As Ms. ABAC, Mathis visited Carl Vinson VA Medical Center in Dublin to show ABAC's support for America's Heroes and was a guest speaker at the Tift County Rotary Club meeting.

Mathis was recognized as an ABAC honors student during the 2014 and 2015 Honors Day events. She was also named to the fall 2012 President's List and the spring 2013 Dean's List.

"My journey through the nursing program has been difficult," Mathis said. "I have faced every obstacle imaginable that I never believed I could overcome. Through this experience, I have come to believe that God handpicks our nurses. Until someone has sat down and prayed with a patient and their family or held the hand of a dying man until his very last breath, no one will ever be able to understand that being a nurse is not just a job; it is a way of life."

Mathis plans to further her education and obtain a bachelor's and a master's degree in nursing. She has always been fascinated with emergency trauma patients and the operating room, so she wants to earn the certification and credentials to become a surgical nurse practitioner and work at a Level 1 Trauma Center.

A total of 173 graduates participated in the ceremony. ABAC will close for the holidays on Dec. 23 and reopen on Jan. 4, 2016. Classes begin for the spring semester on Jan. 6, 2016.

Christmas Luncheon

When: Wednesday at noon

Where: The Nickelodeon

- Join Staff Forum for the Annual Employee Christmas Luncheon.
- The President's Office will provide the meats, and employees are asked to bring a covered dish. All ABAC faculty, staff and Sodexo employees are invited to attend. RSVP at <https://iweb.abac.edu/fs/luncheon/Holiday/RSVP.cfm>. If you have any questions, contact Sue Mastrario at smastrario@abac.edu.



ABAC Faculty and Staff welcomed new Stafford School of Business Dean Perry Johnson and celebrated the outstanding work of former Dean Dill Driscoll and the retirement of Earl Denham Wednesday afternoon in Lewis Hall.

ABAC Holiday Hours

The College will close December 23 at 5:30 p.m. and reopen for normal business hours January 4 at 8 a.m.

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After receiving a Bachelor of Science in Human Nutrition degree from the University of Florida in 1978, Moreno returned to the classroom to earn an Associate of Science in Business Administration in 1996 from ABAC and a Masters of Accountancy in 2000 from Valdosta State University (VSU).

While at VSU, she received an academic scholarship from the Valdosta Chapter of The Georgia Society of CPAs and an academic excellence award from The Educational Foundation.

"I was grateful to The Georgia Society of CPAs for that scholarship then, and I have been grateful ever since," Moreno said. "In turn, I have tried to help others by recognizing their academic achievements."

After graduation from VSU, Moreno accepted a position with

Allen, Pritchett and Bassett, LLP as a staff accountant. In 2002, she became a licensed CPA and joined the ABAC faculty as a full-time instructor.

Moreno's teaching style has been called interactive, entertaining, and fun. Her concern for the professional development of her students has earned her rave reviews, as indicated by her students' evaluations who say she has a "unique ability to motivate" and consistently goes "out of her way to make sure her students are learning."

Moreno's involvement in the accounting profession goes beyond the classroom. She has published five editions of an accounting workbook that accompanies the classroom text, given a number of workshop presentations at national conferences, and served on multiple committees within the college.

In the Tifton community she serves as president-elect for the Board of Directors of the Tifton Museum of Arts and Heritage. Professionally she has been a member of The Georgia Association of Accounting Educators, where she served as an officer from 2008-2012, and has been a member of The Georgia Society of CPAs since 1998. She currently serves on the board of The Educational Foundation and holds the position of secretary.

Moreno was also the 2008 recipient of the Gaye Anderson Award of Excellence and the 2009 and 2014 recipient of the Faculty Presenter Award for the Alpha Beta Gamma Business Honors Society. At ABAC, she was nominated for the 2013 Advising Award and the 2014 Stafford School of Business Donaldson Teaching Award.

Museum Holiday Hours

The Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village will be closed from Dec. 24, 2015 through Jan. 3, 2016 for the holidays.

Hours of operation from January 5-31, 2016 will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday-Friday for the Museum and Gallery only.

The Country Store will reopen January 4 and remain open Monday-Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the month of January.

On Saturdays in January, the Museum, Gallery, and Historic Village will be open from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The Vulcan Steam Train will be operating each Saturday in January, except for Jan. 2.



ABAC alumna Keri Jones (Class of '99) addressed the graduates during the fall commencement ceremony.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

The FOCUS will return on January 4, 2016

ABAC Birthdays

14 Sarah Beach	14 Vickie Holloway	17 Marcie Smith
19 Ana Martinez	20 Maria Aguilar	20 Donna Webb
23 Ray Lundy	24 Kip Hall	24 Susan Thompson
25 Gwendolyn Anderson	25 Shubha Chatterjee	30 Avijit Kar
2 Abul Sheikh	2 Mark Richardson	3 Vickie Wilson