



FOCUS

Stafford Foundation Donates Steinway for Howard

The Stafford family through the Stafford Foundation has donated a nine-foot concert grand Steinway piano for use by Abraham Baldwin in Howard Auditorium.

Mrs. DeNean Stafford, Jr., and her children, DeNean Stafford, III, Sally Perez, and Mary Jane Theden, were present on Thursday for the unveiling of the piano on the recently renovated Howard Auditorium stage. ABAC President Mike Vollmer said the \$80,000 gift will be put to good use.

"We appreciate so much what the Stafford family and the Stafford Foundation have done for ABAC," Vollmer said. "They do so much for this community, and we certainly appreciate all they do for our college. It is a wonderful gift which is



President Mike Vollmer thanks the Stafford family for their Steinway contribution. Pictured are (l-r) Mary Jane Theden, DeNean Stafford, III, Vollmer, Mrs. DeNean Stafford, Jr., and Sally Perez.

going to allow us to make beautiful music for many year into the future."

DeNean Stafford, III, said, "We wanted to support ABAC and the arts in

conjunction with enhancing Howard Auditorium. "

His sister, Mary Jane Theden, said, "We grew up in a home where music was important. I started playing the piano, mainly classical music, and my dad loved opera. My mother plays the piano, and I gave my very first senior piano recital on this stage. We wanted the community to have a wise and wonderful investment to listen to. This is quite a quality instrument, and even after many years of use, it can be totally rebuilt."

Wayne Jones, who directs the Abraham Baldwin Arts Connection, said an introductory concert will be held at some point in the near future.

Baldwin Players on Stage This Week

The Baldwin Players of Abraham Baldwin will present a hilarious 20-minute comedy production Thursday-Saturday in Room 319 in Conger Hall. Showtime is at 7:30 p.m. each night. There is no charge for the event. Latecomers cannot be seated.

Student Chase Nickelson of Tifton will direct "Bake Off!," a hilarious farce about a very bitter woman returning to a famous baking competition, only to find that there are more and more male participants. No one is safe from this madwoman, including the fa-

mous Pillsbury Doughboy himself.

Jessica Lee of Moultrie plays the embittered Rita. Local teacher and journalist Tom Mark plays her unsuspecting adversary, and Joe Hall of Tifton is the Doughboy.

Dr. John Galyean, Director of the Baldwin Players, was to direct "Reese and Babe," for the second comedy play of the three-night run, but due to "unforeseen circumstances," Galyean cancelled the production this morning.

Galyean said "Bake Off" will be well worth the time for theatre goers and encouraged everyone to attend.

Parttime Writer's Position Open

Lisa Lewis has departed her parttime writer's spot in the public relations office. Lewis began her fulltime job as a reporter for the Tifton Gazette this morning.

The 19-hour per week writer's position is now open. If you know of someone who is interested in the job, please have them contact Public Relations Director Mike Chason by 5 p.m. on Tuesday at 386-3264 or email mchason@abac.edu.

Mike's Corner



A new and wonderful project called Telephony is coming your way soon. You'll find out lots more about it from Dr. Chrystle Ross and her staff of experts over in Informa-

tion Technology.

According to what the distinguished Dr. Ross tells me, Telephony is going to revitalize our entire campus phone system and hopefully provide the guidance for our other 33 sister institutions. I envision something like the old Dick Tracy picture phone watches, but I don't believe that's what Dr. Ross has in mind.

Look for Telephony to come your way sometime in the next two months. ABAC again proves itself to be on the cutting edge of information technology.

Fillies & Stallions in Tournaments



The Golden Fillies of Coach Julie Conner and the Golden Stallions of Coach Todd Sheppard will be involved in the state basketball tournament this week.

The Fillies will play Middle Georgia on Thursday at 6 p.m. at Georgia Perimeter. The

Stallions will play at Atlanta Metro on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Winners advance to the semifinal round Friday at Georgia Perimeter. The Stallions would play at 2 p.m. and the Fillies at 4 p.m.

Good luck to both these fine coaches and their ABAC teams as they get ready for March Madness!

Spring Sports Update

The Golden Fillies' fastpitch softball team of Coach Donna Campbell will host Coastal Community College for a 3 p.m. doubleheader at Fillie Field on Thursday. They will also host North Florida for a 1 p.m. doubleheader on Saturday.

The Golden Stallions of Coach Steve Janousek will host John Wood for a 1 p.m. baseball doubleheader at Stallion Field on Friday.

Come out and support ABAC softball



Coach Donna Campbell (center) and the Golden Fillies' softball team will be in action on Thursday and Saturday at Fillie Field.

and baseball. As the weather gets warmer, the Stallions and the Fillies have some night games planned. Stay tuned for updates.

Open Campus Day A Great Success

Admissions Director Angie Palmer reports that 883 students attended last week's Winter Open Campus Day, along with 204 parents, teachers, and counselors for a total visitor count of 1,087. Last year's total count was 982.

A total of 665 of the visitors ate lunch in the Donaldson Dining Hall, com-

pared to last year's lunch total of 484.

The ABAC Place apartments were the center of attention all day long as many students signed up for apartments for the 2004 fall term.

Thanks again to everyone who helped to make Open Campus Day a fantastic event.



The ABAC Ambassadors braved cold, rainy weather to give tours to prospective students on Open Campus Day. Pictured during the event with President Mike Vollmer are (l-r) Ambassadors Elton Baldy, Ross Cargle, and Jesse McMillan.

Stafford Series Presents Marlene Bowen Group on Tuesday

The Stafford Fine Arts Series will present The Marlene Bowen Group in concert at the next event in the First Tuesday Performance Series on Tuesday at 7 p.m. at ABAC. Featured performers will include Marlene Bowen, mezzo-soprano; Vann Thornton, trumpet; Kevin Bales, piano; Billy Thornton, bass; and Pauly Lentz, drums. The Stafford Foundation has made it possible for the concert to be open to the public at no charge.

As part of the Arts and Entertainment Series, sponsored by the Abraham Baldwin Arts Connection, regional professional artists will be featured on the first Tues-



The Marlene Bowen Group

day of every month in the Chapel of All Faiths on the ABAC campus. The con-

certs are designed to be light, entertaining, and informative.

For more information about the First Tuesday Performance Series, contact Dr. Susan Roe, First Tuesday Program Coordinator, at (229) 386-3097.

In conjunction with the First Tuesday Performance Series concert, there will be an art exhibit in the Music Building, adjacent to the Chapel of All Faiths. Donna Hatcher, assistant professor of art, will feature works by her students. The exhibit will feature paintings, drawings, and two-dimensional designs by ABAC art students. The exhibit will be open for viewing before and after the concert.

ACE Seminar Successfully Prepares Adults for College

Adults who have always wanted to further their education are building their confidence and making the decision to begin or re-enter college, thanks to the Adult College Entry (ACE) Seminar offered by ABAC.

The unique 11-week seminar, which ABAC began offering in January 2003, focuses on learning opportunities for adults and provides a system of support services that prepares them for college entry and success. In the ACE Seminar, students are in a comfortable setting with other adults who are also just starting college. They learn valuable skills to help them succeed, including note taking, time management, and various study skills in a program tailored to their personal needs and goals.

Prospective students also learn important information about admissions, financial aid, placement testing, and career and transfer programs available at ABAC. The ACE Seminar is a collaboration among ABAC admissions, financial aid, student development, evening and off-campus programs, learning support, registrar, and faculty.

This semester, 45 students who have successfully completed the ACE Seminar are enrolled in ABAC classes. Ten of these students are in their first semester. The average institutional GPA of the 35 students who have attended ABAC prior to this semester is 3.22. The average number of hours earned is 7.8.

Linda West of Naylor, who is enrolled

in ABAC's new certificate program for paraprofessionals that leads to an A.S. degree in education, said going through the ACE Seminar was one of the best things in her life.

"Being with others my own age made me feel more comfortable about going to college," West said. "Dr. [Gail] Dillard [ABAC's Director of Evening and Off-Campus Programs] was wonderful. She kept us informed about everything we needed to know in order to register, and she continues to be a great support to me. I would highly recommend the ACE Seminar to others who are interested in starting or re-entering college. The seminar helped me realize that it is never too late to get a college education. I plan to continue until I graduate with a degree that will enable me to teach children."

Melinda Ray, a human services major from Sparks, also found the ACE Seminar to be very helpful with her enrollment into ABAC.

"Since I am 24 years old, I really didn't feel too uncomfortable about entering college during this point in my life, so I didn't really need reassurance," Ray said. "What I needed most from the ACE Seminar was a helping hand in actually enrolling in college. During the seminar, everything was very convenient for us. For example, representatives from the financial aid office came over and personally helped us fill out our paperwork. I'm the type of person who needs that helping hand to get started, and once I'm started, I'll be on my way."

Ray, who is currently in her second semester at ABAC, plans to work as a Family Case Manager with the Head-Start Program when she graduates from ABAC. While employed at Head-Start, she plans to attend Valdosta State University to earn her bachelor's degree. After receiving her bachelor's degree, she would like to work for the Department of Family and Children's Services.

The percentage of adults who enroll at ABAC after completing the ACE Seminar is proof positive that the seminar is beneficial to its participants and helps ease their transition into college.

During the 2003 fall semester, 77.8 percent of students who completed the ACE Seminar were enrolled at ABAC, and 71 percent are currently enrolled during the 2004 spring semester.

Dillard said working with the ACE Seminar participants is the best part of her job.

"It is extremely gratifying to witness the excitement these adults experience as they prepare for college and then actually enroll in classes," she said. "Fear seems to be a great barrier to adult entry into college. The ACE program alleviates that fear by providing individual attention and a support system that convinces prospective adult students that they can be successful."

An ACE Seminar is scheduled to begin May 18 in Moultrie. For additional information, contact Dillard at 386-7154, or e-mail her at gdillard@abac.edu.

ABAC Public Relations

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Mark Your Calendar

Mark your calendar for March 25 when a Spring Fling Picnic for the faculty and staff will be held through lunchtime. Details to follow!

Blackmarr at Cordell

ABAC alumna Amy Blackmarr enthralled an audience at the Cordell Lecture Series on Thursday night with her words and several passages from her books. The books are available in the bookstore.

Town Hall Meeting March 10

The ABAC Student Government Association will host a Town Hall Meeting on March 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Cordell Conference Room. Please encourage your students to attend.



Peachnet is Out

If your email address still includes peachnet, forget about it. You are not going to get messages with peachnet in your address. It will bounce back to the sender. If you have business cards with peachnet listed in the address, get them changed also.



Note of Thanks

"Thank you" seems to be so inadequate to express my great appreciation for all the thoughtfulness extended to my family after the sudden death of my son-in-law, Richard Allison: the kind words of sympathy and concern, acts of kindness, food, cards, plants, notes, and phone calls, visits to my daughter's home, as well as those who attended the visitation and funeral service, and especially your prayers.

Your thoughtfulness and caring expressions have helped to make a very sad and traumatic situation bearable. Thank you for helping ease our pain. God bless each of you!
Hazel Purvis

Note of Sympathy

The ABAC Family expresses sympathy to Nancy Brannen and JoAnn Brannen whose father-in-law, Robert Brannen, passed away last week.

Sympathy is also extended to the family of ABAC student Joshua Edward Browning who died in an automobile accident Feb. 17.

Please keep both these families in your thoughts and prayers.



ABAC Family

Pattie Clark and **Tammy Groover** attended the 2004 Georgia Nursing Law workshop in Macon on Feb. 26.

Pattie Clark and **Kitty Ray** attended the Georgia League for Nursing workshop entitled "Exploring New Horizons in Nursing Education and Practice" on Feb. 19-20 in Savannah.

In recruiting activities during the week of Feb. 16-20, **Bruce Applewhite** visited high schools in Forsyth, Dade, and Washington counties. He also attended a high school counselors workshop at Kennesaw State. **Carlos Howard** visited high schools in Brantley, Macon, Wilcox, and Thomas counties. **Angie Palmer** visited high schools in Turner and Irwin counties, and **Robin Poor** visited high schools in Douglas County. **Anita Hobbs** attended the Georgia Association of International Educators Conference in Atlanta.

Calendar of Events

Monday, March 1

6:30 p.m.-Christian Student Fellowship (Chapel)

Tuesday, March 2

11 a.m.-Student Support Services Workshop (Cordell Conf. Rm A)

6 p.m.-ACE Program Dinner (Magnolia Room)

7 p.m.-First Tuesday Concert (Chapel)

Thursday, March 4

11 a.m.-Faculty/Staff Luncheon (Magnolia Room)

3 p.m.-Softball: Fillies vs. Coastal CC (Fillie Field) *Doubleheader*

7:30 p.m.-Baldwin Players Production (Conger 319)

Friday, March 5

1 p.m.-Baseball: Stallions vs. John Wood (Stallion Field)

Doubleheader

6 p.m.-Yarborough/Crowe Wedding Rehearsal (Chapel)

7 p.m.-President's Club Dinner (Dining Hall)

7:30 p.m.-Baldwin Players Production (Conger 319)

Saturday, March 6

1 p.m.-Softball: Fillies vs. N. Florida (Fillie Field) *Doubleheader*

3 p.m.-Yarborough/Crowe Wedding (Chapel)

4 p.m.-Yarborough/Crowe Wedding Reception (Dining Hall)

7:30 p.m.-Baldwin Players Production (Conger 319)

Sunday, March 7

Noon-Raley Sunday School Class (Magnolia Room0)

Monday, March 8

6 p.m.-Tifton-Tift Co. Arts Council (Cordell Conf. Room A)

6:30 p.m.-Christian Student Fellowship (Chapel)

Care & Concern

Fran Kinchen's sister, Quincy Neloms, is recuperating after undergoing back surgery on Feb. 24 at Emory in Atlanta. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Celebrating Birthdays

March

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 2 | Joyce Cogdell |
| 4 | Diane Kilgore |
| 7 | Fran Kinchen |
| 8 | Delmer Bullington |
| 8 | Julie Cartwright |
| 8 | Jokabeth Villalobos |

