

# FOCUS

## ABAC Activities Fill Up Homecoming Weekend

From the words of Governor Sonny Perdue to the shout of a cowboy as he's thrown from the back of a wild bull, it promises to be quite a weekend at ABAC.



**Sonny Perdue**

Count your opportunities. Buy a new plant or two at the Horticulture Club Plant Sale on Friday between 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Also, on Friday, you can take in a couple of Golden Fillies' fastpitch softball games against South Georgia at Fillies' Field at 3 p.m.

You can also attend the 6:30 p.m. Chapel service to light a candle in honor of those former ABAC students or ABAC Family members who have passed on to their great rewards. Then you can attend the 7:30 p.m. Homecoming Dinner and Dance in the

Donaldson Dining Hall featuring the Jim Newton Band.

After a hearty meal and some time on the dance floor, you can head over to the ABAC Rodeo Arena for the Peach State Stampede Rodeo. Bronco bustin', barrel racing, and bull riding will be high on the must-see list.

Saturday opens up a brave new world of options. Check out the 10:30 a.m. Ag Forum in the Ag Sciences Building featuring USDA Rural Business Cooperative Specialist Craig Scroggs. Buy another plant at the Plant Sale from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Perdue will be the keynote speaker at the annual Homecoming awards luncheon at noon in the dining hall. Alumni of all shapes and sizes will be present to receive some very deserving commendations.

Bring your kids out to the Fillies free fastpitch clinic from 1-4 p.m. at Fillies' Field. Donations will be received for

the American Cancer Society.

At 1:45 p.m., step outside the dining hall for the "Concrete Cracking" to open Phase Three of the Pedestrian Mall. President Mike Vollmer will be swinging his ABAC sledge hammer at the wall around Holly Gardens.

From 2-4 p.m., the Carlton Center will be a beehive of activity as Admissions Director Angie Palmer and the ABAC Ambassadors host prospective students for the Spring Open Campus Day. ABAC Place tours will be the highlight of this event.

For your evening meal, you can return to the dining hall for the 6:30 p.m. AET/Ag Engineering students' reunion honoring Jimmy Grubbs and Dr. Jerry Davis upon their retirements. Then you can head back over to the rodeo arena for the second night of the Stallion Stampede.

There's always something to do at ABAC!

### Dinner & Dance Friday at Homecoming 2004

ABAC is hosting the Homecoming Dinner and Dance on Friday at 7:30 p.m. The event will be held at the Donaldson Dining Hall and is open to alumni and the general public.

Guests can attend both the dinner and dance for a fee of \$21 per person. Dinner participants can dine on the seafood buffet and dessert extravaganza provided by Aramark. The dinner will begin at 7:30 p.m.

To attend just the Homecoming Dance there is a fee of \$5 per person. The dance is scheduled for 8:30 p.m. The theme for this year is "Lost in the Fifties Tonight", featuring the Jim Newton Band, providing music from that era for participants to enjoy.

For more information, call Nancy Coleman, Director of Alumni Relations at 386-3321.



**President Mike Vollmer and Jimmy Grubbs were the chief cooks for the annual Spring Fling last Thursday. Faculty and staff enjoyed burgers at The Meadow**



**The ABAC Jazz Ensemble will perform as part of the Music Program's Spring Concert on April 8 in Howard Auditorium. There is no charge for the event.**

## Bands to Perform April 8 in Howard

The Abraham Baldwin Concert Band, under the direction of Eugene Wyles, and the Abraham Baldwin Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Don Coates, will present their annual spring concert on April 8 at 7:30 p.m. in Howard Auditorium on the ABAC campus. The concert is free of charge to the public.

The ABAC Concert Band will perform a medley of songs in various styles, including a tribute to the Armed Forces, with such anthems as "Armed Forces Salute", "The Marines' Hymn", "The U.S. Air Force", and "Anchors Aweigh".

The ABAC Jazz Ensemble will also perform a variety of selections as well. One noted piece to be played is

"Won't You Be My Neighbor". Recorded by Fred Rogers in 1967 for the famed children's show "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood", the piece will be performed in samba form as arranged by Mike Tomaro in the memory of Fred Rogers who passed away this past year. Featured soloists in the ABAC Jazz Ensemble performance are Jeffery Cribb on drums, Evan Zebley and Eugene Wyles on saxophone, Derrick Dove on guitar, and Brandon Van Hall on trombone.

The Spring Concert will be the last formal concert for the 2003-04 year for both the Concert Band and the Jazz Ensemble. For additional information please contact Coates at 386-3094.

## Peach State Stampede Begins Friday

The Eleventh Annual Peach State Stampede will be held Friday and Saturday at the ABAC Rodeo Arena. Gates open at 6:30 p.m., and the rodeo begins at 8 p.m. The event is sponsored by the ABAC Rodeo Club.

Members of the Professional Cowboys Association will compete in a number of events. Men's events include bareback, saddle bronc, steer wrestling, team roping, calf roping, and bull riding. Women will compete in barrel racing.

Spectators can take part in a steer dressing or pig wheeling contest for a fee of \$10, as well as try their luck on the mechanical bull.



**Professional Cowboys Association members will compete this weekend at the ABAC Arena**

General admission to the Stampede is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children ages 7 - 12. It is free to ABAC students and faculty with I.D. and children 6 years of age and under.

Call the ABAC Ag Division at 386-3255 for more information.

## Ag Forum on Saturday in Ag Sciences Bldg.

A Forum on Agriculture will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday as part of the Homecoming activities at ABAC. The forum will be held in Room 139 of the new \$7.1 million Ag Sciences Building.

USDA Rural Business Cooperative Specialist Craig Scroggs will be the guest speaker for this event. Scroggs will discuss new and innovative ways of marketing, as well as addressing the various resources needed to advance to the next stage and beyond in the field of agriculture.

Governor Sonny Perdue will highlight the Homecoming weekend with his address to all ABAC alumni at the noontime awards luncheon on Saturday in the Donaldson Dining Hall. Tickets for the luncheon are \$14 in advance and \$16 at the door. Call 386-3321 for ticket information..

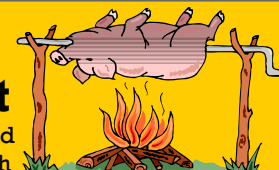
Also on the agenda for that day will be an Ag Sciences Building Open House at 10 a.m., a Horticulture Club plant sale, tours of the new ABAC Place apartments, and the Spring Open Campus Day at 2 p.m. for prospective students. The annual Peach State Stampede Rodeo will take place at 8 p.m. at the ABAC Rodeo Arena.

The AET/AG Engineering Reunion will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, also at the Donaldson Dining Hall. All alumni are welcome to attend. Tickets are \$14 in advance and \$16 at the door. The reunion will pay special tribute to the retirements of Jimmy Grubbs and Dr. Jerry Davis.

The annual Homecoming dinner and dance at 7:30 p.m. on Friday features the Jim Newton Band. Alumni Relations Director Nancy Coleman said the event is open to anyone.

For more information on any of these events, call the alumni office at 386-3321.

**Don't Forget**



If you placed an order with the ABAC Ambassadors for a cooked Boston butt, don't forget to pick it up on Thursday. The meat should be picked up between 4-7 p.m. in the parking lot of the Ag Sciences Building.

Thank you for your support of the ABAC Ambassadors!

## Open Campus in Carlton Saturday

Tours of the \$32 million ABAC Place apartments will be the highlight of the Spring Open Campus Day on Saturday from 2-4 p.m. at Abraham Baldwin.

Admissions Director Angie Palmer said campus visitors will get an opportunity to actually visit inside the apartments, which are already open for business for over 200 ABAC students. The visitation day is open to any prospective ABAC student.

"Construction will continue on ABAC Place until all 835 private rooms are ready, and that will be sometime before classes begin for the fall term on August 23," Palmer said. "We have a lot of good comments from the students who are living there now."

Most of the apartments are four bedrooms with two full bathrooms. A few two-bedroom and three bedroom units are available. All the apartments are fully furnished with a complete kitchen. All utilities are included in the monthly rent.

Palmer said Open Campus Day registration begins in the Carlton Center at 2 p.m.. Academic exhibits will be on display, and ABAC Ambassadors will



*Admissions Counselor Carlos Howard will be on hand to talk with prospective students at Saturday's Spring Open Campus Day in the Cordell Conference Room*

lead walking tours of the campus. A bus will also be in use for tours of the farm and wildlife area.

"This day coincides with our annual Homecoming celebration," Palmer said. "Alumni can take in all the Homecoming activities and bring along their prospective students so

they can experience ABAC for themselves."

Financial aid and admissions personnel will make special presentations. For more information, interested persons can contact the admissions office at 800-733-3653.

## Jazz Sax Great at ABAC on April 15

Award-winning jazz saxophonist Joe Lovano, known for the chemistry created by improvisation in a trio environment, will perform at the Donaldson Dining Hall on April 15 at 7:30 p.m. His performance, called "Trio Fascination," is the concluding event in this year's Arts and Entertainment Series and is held in conjunction with ABAC's Jazz Festival.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students under 18. Admission is free to ABAC students with a valid ID. Tickets are available online at [www.abac.edu/arts](http://www.abac.edu/arts) or by calling ABAC Arts Connection at 386-3558.

The concert is presented in a dinner theater format with a gourmet meal being served by the dining hall staff for \$15 per person. Reservations for dinner are required no later than April 8 by calling the Arts Connection at 386-3558. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.

Lovano has been named Musician of the Year by jazz magazines throughout the last 10 years. He embellishes jazz standards with his unique style and renders his own compositions with frequent variations of instruments in-



*Jazz saxophonist Joe Lovano*

cluding tenor sax, alto sax, straight alto sax and curved soprano sax. Five Grammy nominations are interspersed through his list of jazz awards.

*The New York Times* stated that he is one of the greatest musicians in jazz history.

## Poetry Reading Set For Library Thursday

The Baldwin Library will launch its National Poetry Month Celebration on Thursday when Jeff Newberry, ABAC's unofficial Poet-in-Residence, and Francisco Agostini, Secretary & Liaison to the Hispanic Community for the Divine Savior Catholic Church, will be highlighted at a poetry reading at 2 p.m. in Room 139 of the Ag Sciences Building.

April was established as National Poetry Month in 1996 by the Academy of American Poets. There are seven goals for National Poetry Month. The campus celebration will focus on two of those goals: to highlight the extraordinary legacy and ongoing achievement of poets and to introduce more people to the pleasures of reading poetry.

Other events will include *Poetry & Desserts* featuring Nikki Giovanni on April 9 at 12:30 p.m. in Ag Sciences, Room 139. On April 23, *Poet Laureates Read* will be held at 12:30 p.m. in Carlton Center, Room 202.

Visit the Academy of American Poets website, [www.poets.org](http://www.poets.org) for additional information about the celebration.

## First Tuesday Series Performance April 6

The final concert of the semester in the First Tuesday Performance Series will take place April 6 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel of All Faiths.

Individual tickets for the performance may be purchased at the door. The cost is \$3 for adults and \$1 for students. ABAC students are admitted free with ID. Patrons of the Arts and Entertainment Series can also attend at no charge. For additional information contact Dr. Susan Roe, program director of the First Tuesday Series, at 386-3097.

The concert, titled "A Night of Ensemble Music," will feature performances by the ABAC Brass Quintet, the ABAC Clarinet Choir, the ABAC Saxo-

phone Quartet, the ABAC Jazz Choir, and a woodwind trio that features two of ABAC's adjunct music instructors, students and featured soloists.

The ABAC Brass Quintet, organized and directed by Don Coates, Director of the Music Program at ABAC, includes Coates, trumpet; Jordan Brock, trumpet; Don Wauchope, French horn; Brandon Van Hall, trombone; and Michael Kitchens, tuba.

The ABAC Clarinet Choir, organized by Eugene Wyles, Director of Bands at ABAC, includes Wyles, Leigh Ann Farmer, Alicia Griffin, Sabrina Oliver, and Robert Grabowski.

Members of the ABAC Saxophone Quartet, also organized by Wyles, in-

clude Wyles, Nguyen Ly, Evan Zebly, and David Durden.

The ABAC Jazz Choir directed by Wayne Jones, Director of Choral Music at ABAC as well as Director of the Arts Connection, includes Katie Brinkley, Josh Calhoun, Brian Chandler, Derrick Dove, Michele Grice, Ashley Harris, Quentin Hall, Rachel Jones, Nguyen Ly, Ashley May, Charles McCormick, Alana Pearce, Justin Pitts, Deena Roberts, and Katina Robinson.

As part of the Arts and Entertainment Series sponsored by the ABAC Arts Connection, regional professional artists are featured on the first Tuesday of every month in the Chapel of All Faiths on the ABAC campus.

### Donaldson Nominations Due by 5 p.m. on April 5

The ABAC Alumni Association is now accepting nominations for the George P. Donaldson Award to be presented at graduation on May 11. To simplify the process, you may nominate students by emailing Alumni Director Nancy Coleman at [ncoleman@abac.edu](mailto:ncoleman@abac.edu). The deadline for nominations is 5 p.m. on April 5.

Send the student's name and a brief statement on why you think the student should receive the award. The nominee must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher and must have demonstrated outstanding leadership and citizenship through campus activities. The student must participate in the ceremony.

### Retirement Reception In Dining Hall April 20

Mark your calendar for the annual retirement reception on April 20 at 4 p.m. in the Donaldson Dining Hall. Those scheduled to be honored include Hazel Purvis, Ray Wells, Verlin Scott, Ray E. Miller, Charles Turner, and Nathaniel Varnadoe. The Years of Service awards will also be presented at the event for those faculty and staff members who have achieved five, 10, 15, 20, and 30 years of ABAC service.

### Honors Day on April 7

Classes and labs at ABAC will be dismissed at 10:30 a.m. on April 7 for the annual Honors Day ceremony. Classes and labs will resume at 2 p.m. All Honors Day participants should be in place by 10:45 a.m. at Gressette Gym.

## Tickets Selling at Record Pace for Dollars for ABAC Scholars Event

Tickets are now available for the annual Dollars for ABAC Scholars event on May 14. Featuring country music star John Berry and the brand new voice of ABAC alumna and Tifton native Jennifer Moorman, the annual benefit banquet and show begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Donaldson Dining Hall.

ABAC Development Resources Coordinator Missy Hutto said approximately 275 tickets remain for the limited seating show. Sponsored by the ABAC Foundation as a fund raising event to benefit the student scholarship program at the college, tickets are \$125 each. Reserved tables for eight people each are available at a cost of \$1,250. Interested persons can call the ABAC Foundation Office at 386-3265 to purchase tickets. Hutto said, "It looks like it will be another sold out show."

The event has featured a lavish buffet and top-quality entertainment from its first show in 1972. Over the past 32 years, the annual event has generated over one million dollars in scholarships for ABAC students.

With multiple gold and platinum albums and nominations from the Country Music Association, the Academy of Country Music, and the Grammys, Berry has one of the most distinctive voices in country music. Born in Aiken, S.C., and raised in the Atlanta area, Berry grew up in an eclectic musical household.

In 1992, Berry signed with Capitol Records, raising his profile from re-



John Berry

gional singer to national celebrity. He gained his first number one single in April, 1994 with his signature song, "Your Love Amazes Me." Berry has also established an international presence for himself, with a trio of gold and platinum certifications in Canada and successful concert tours in Canada, Europe, and Australia.

This year, Dollars for ABAC Scholars will also feature an opening performance by Moorman, a 1999 ABAC alumna. Moorman grew up in Tifton, where she was active in theater as well as the school and church choirs. Her debut album, *Who is this Woman*, has a life and personality of its own. From the catchy opening song "I Don't Know You" to the soulful title track "Who is this Woman," Moorman captivates her fans with her powerful voice and heartfelt singing.

## ABAC Public Relations

ABAC 30, 2802 Moore Highway  
Tifton, GA 31793-2601  
(229) 386-3264

### Spicer First High Five Winner



Troy Spicer is the first winner of the ABAC weekly High Five Award. Spicer is a Nurse Practitioner and Instructor in the Division of Nursing and Health Services.

A comment from his nomination form: "He has many duties yet he keeps his cool. He does extra to make our Health Center more up to date. We're so fortunate to have such an employee working with us here at ABAC."

Spicer will receive a certificate of appreciation and a t-shirt from the ABAC Bookstore. His name will also go into the monthly drawing of the four weekly winners. The monthly winner will receive a gift certificate for \$50, which can be used at a number of local merchants.

Submit your nominations for faculty and staff members who have gone above and beyond the call of duty for this week's High Five winner. Nomination forms are available on the Human Resources page of the ABAC website. A drawing will be held on Thursday mornings to select the weekly winner. For questions, call Bertha Daniel in College Services or Jane Thompson in Human Resources.

## ABAC Family

**Dr. Kay Dukas Weeks** attended the annual conference of the Southeastern Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in Savannah, March 4-6, where she presented her paper, "'Misbegotten Wretches': Illegitimacy in *The History of Tom Jones, a Foundling*." As chair-elect of the Graduate Student Essay Prize Committee, she also presented a cash prize to the author of the winning essay.

**Stephanie Holcombe** presented at the National Association for Developmental Education Conference held March 10-13 in St. Louis, Mo. The title of her presentation was "Hands-on Instruction (Intermediate Algebra) with Handheld PDAs replacing TI-Graphing Calculators." She also presided over the Georgia chapter meeting at the national conference.



## Summer Hours Begin May 10

Summer office hours at ABAC begin on May 10 and continue through Aug. 13. The college will be open from 8 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Friday. Business casual—no jeans—will be the summer hours dress code.

## Notes of Thanks

*It is with mixed emotions that I say "Goodbye" to ABAC and to all my friends and co-workers. While I am entering a "new" phase of my life's journey, I cannot forget all the wonderful friends I've made and the good times I've had during my 25-year tenure at ABAC. Oh, sure, there have been a few "bumps in the road," so-to-speak, but overall ABAC has been a good place to work and I have enjoyed knowing each of you.*

*Thank you to everyone who shared with me in some special way as I entered into the "retirement phase." Your gifts, cards, phone calls, emails and visits to the office (thanks Nancy and Teresa for that last "coffee break") made leaving so much easier. And, a special thank you to all of you (retirees included) who were able to come by the Magnolia Room and bless me with your presence and well wishes: it made my retirement reception all the more enjoyable and special.*

*Again, thank you to a great bunch of south Georgia people from a "retired" southern California girl! Hey, that's "from" -- I'm one of you now; just a good ole' southern gal. The only difference between you and me is that you're still working and I'm ENJOYING retirement!!!*

*I'll see "you all" soon. I may be retired, but I'll be back . . . when you least expect it. So keep SMILING (or at least trying to).*

*God bless us every one!  
Hazel Purvis*

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*Dear ABAC Family,*

*My husband Alan, my brother Daryl, and I thank you for the beautiful arrangement of mums and a peace lily you sent at the time of my mother's death. We also greatly appreciate your cards, emails, and other comforting expressions of sympathy. I am truly thankful for so many of you who have shown me love and understanding these last years of my mother's illness. Your kindness is a great blessing.*

*Jennifer Murphy*

## Celebrating Birthdays

### March

29 Bonnie Nipper  
29 Janice Payne  
29 Lidis Yarbettey  
30 Debbie Cagle  
30 Annie Sims  
31 Don Coates

### April

1 Cheryl Biggs  
1 Maria Cahill  
3 Richard Hollingsworth  
3 David Keller  
3 Melvin Merrill  
3 Marge Senkbiel



## Calendar of Events

### Monday, March 29

5 p.m.-Tifton-Tift Co. Arts Council  
(Cordell Conf. Room A)  
6:30 p.m.-Christian Student Fellowship  
(Chapel)

### Tuesday, March 30

8 a.m.-Insurance Training  
(Cordell Conf. Room C)  
11 a.m.-Student Support Services  
(Cordell Conf. Room A)  
4 p.m.-Softball: Fillies vs. Andrew  
(Fillies' Field) Doubleheader  
4 p.m.-Piano Festival (Chapel)  
6 p.m.-ACE Program (Magnolia Room)

### Wednesday, March 31

8 a.m.-Insurance Training  
(Cordell Conf. Room C)  
8 a.m.-Irwin County Tour Group  
(Cordell Conf. Room A)

### Thursday, April 1

8 a.m.-Insurance Training  
(Cordell Conf. Room C)  
11 a.m.-Facilities Bid Conference  
(Cordell Conf. Room A/B)  
11 a.m.-Faculty/Staff Luncheon  
(Magnolia Room)  
2 p.m.-Poetry Reading  
(Ag Sciences 139)  
4 p.m.-Piano Festival (Chapel)

### Friday, April 2

Today-Homecoming Activities  
3 p.m.-Softball: Fillies vs. South Georgia  
(Fillies' Field) Doubleheader  
8 p.m.-Peach State Stampede  
(ABAC Rodeo Arena)

### Saturday, April 3

Today-Homecoming Activities  
2 p.m.-Open Campus Day  
(Cordell Conf. Room)  
8 p.m.-Peach State Stampede  
(ABAC Rodeo Arena)

### Sunday, April 4

Noon-Raley SS Class (Magnolia Room)

### Monday, April 5

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