



FOCUS

John Berry Might Sing at ABAC Student's Wedding

When John Berry performs at the annual Dollars for ABAC Scholars show on May 14, the event will hold special significance for ABAC student Dana Murray.

Murray, a nursing major from Conyers, has been chosen as the regional winner of the "John Berry Will You Marry Me Most Unique Proposal Contest" sponsored by Dixie 106.7 in Douglas. Murray plans to be in attendance at the ABAC Foundation sponsored event in the Donaldson Dining Hall. Only 89 tickets remain for the \$125 per person scholarship fundraiser. Call 386-3265 for tickets.

Murray, whose parents are Scott and Tammie Butler, sent in an essay describing how her fiancé, Brad Collins of Duluth, proposed to her on Nov. 19,

2003. "I was listening to the station on the day it was supposed to be announced, but it never came on. I called the station and talked to the DJ. She told me I won." The winner was announced on March 29.

Murray is now a finalist in this contest. Berry, whose most recent hit is "Will You Marry Me?" will read all the finalist essays and choose the one he likes the best. If she wins, Berry will sing at her wedding. For reaching the next round, Berry sent her a bouquet of flowers as part of her winnings.



Dana Murray

To top that off, Murray, with the help of Berry's publisher and the ABAC Alumni Association, was able to meet Berry at the Rylander Theater in Americus after attending his recent concert.

"I brought a copy of my essay to show him and told him all about how Brad proposed. I hope all that I've done is persuasive, and he'll sing at my wedding."

Murray will be married May 14, 2005, exactly one year after the Dollars for ABAC Scholars in which Berry will perform. The wedding will be held in Milledgeville at the Willis House. The date has special meaning because it is the 25th anniversary of Collins' parents and the 50th anniversary of his grandparents.

McKie to Speak at ABAC Graduation

Joel McKie will be the guest speaker at Abraham Baldwin's spring graduation ceremony on May 11 at 6 p.m. in Gressette Gym.

A native of Abbeville, McKie is the son of Eddie and Kay O. McKie. McKie attended Fitzgerald High School and graduated in 2000. He will be one of the 181 participants participating in the ABAC ceremony, receiving his degree in agri-business.

McKie has been attending the University of Georgia while finishing his degree at ABAC. Formerly an ABAC Ambassador, McKie took a year off due to his election into the National FFA organization as vice-president for the southern region in 2002. He toured the United States and abroad promoting agriculture and the role that FFA plays in the field.



Joel McKie



TCHS Grads Coming to ABAC

Thanks to the ABAC Foundation Scholars program, three of the top five 2004 graduates of Tift County High School are headed to ABAC for the fall term. Mike Chason presented the scholarships to (l-r) Kayla Fitzgerald, fifth honor graduate; Johnna Hicks, fourth honor graduate; and Jacob Richardson, third honor graduate. The scholarships cover all tuition and fees for two semesters.

New Alpha Beta Gamma Members Inducted at ABAC

Thirty-two new members have been inducted into the Sigma Chapter of Alpha Beta Gamma at ABAC for the 2003-2004 academic year.

Alpha Beta Gamma is a national business honor society that was established to recognize and encourage scholarship between junior and community college students majoring in business curricula at accredited two-year schools. Membership into Alpha Beta Gamma is by invitation only. At least 15 hours of college credit and a 3.0 GPA is required.

Terry Normand; Brian Keith Wilson; Muhtarjon Artikovich Kuchkarov; Sandra Alicia Howard; Heather Lynn Thompson; Tarsa Mae Andres; Richard E. Chaney; Luther W. Hampton; Elizabeth Jo Page Shepley; Dana Musslewhite; James Kent; Jananne L. Batten; Claire Slocum Byrnes; Joseph Scott Davis; Amanda Marie Fore; and Lacy P. Kirkland were inductees.

Other new members included Robert Austin New; Jason Carey; Vanessa



New Alpha Beta Gamma members at the induction ceremony in the dining hall

Jolly; Oscar Johnson Powell, III; Amanda Leigh Kersey; Adam Case Williams; Stephanie Elaine Tripp; Peter Shepley; Judy A. Shiflet; Steven Taft; Selena Nicole Todd; Victoria Loni Leach; Dwayne Jomical Peal; Shine F. Rankin, Jr.; Stuart Neal Smith; and Ne-

lida Soto.

Honorary members inducted for the 2003-2004 year were ABAC President Mike Vollmer; Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs Caroline Helms and Business Administration Division Chair Jeff D. Gibbs.



Stallions to Tourney

The Golden Stallions' baseball team of Coach Steve Janousek is will play in the state tournament this weekend in Albany. Tentative first game is Saturday at 7 p.m.

The Stallions will make up rained out games against archrival Middle Georgia at Stallion Field Tuesday at 5 p.m. Come out and support ABAC baseball!

Geographic Information Certificate Offered

Through the HOPE Grant program, Georgia residents who qualify can enroll at no charge for the new Geographic Information Systems Technician Certificate at Abraham Baldwin. Students who enroll in certificate programs are not required to have the B average in high school to receive the HOPE Grant.

The new certificate program will be available when fall classes begin on Aug. 23. The program is not reserved for agriculture majors. "This certificate is general in nature and can be used by people working in a number of different professions," said Dr. Rod Brown, Associate Professor of Forestry at ABAC. The certificate program can also accompany an existing undergraduate degree.

In the first semester of this program, students will take an introductory

course in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Forest Surveying & Mapping, and either Fundamentals of Computer Applications or Microcomputers in Forest Resources. In the spring term, the required classes are Remote Sensing Technology, Geodatabase Management & Spatial Analysis and Advanced GIS Applications.

Upon completion of this program, students will be familiar with land referencing systems, use of Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite receivers for collecting geographic coordinates, and basic operation of a Geographic Information System including database development, database queries, spatial analysis and map production.

For more information, please contact the ABAC Admissions Office at 800-733-3653.

Wright Top Speaker At Speech Showcase

Colby Wright, an agriculture major from Screven, won the 36th annual Lew Akin Speech Showcase at Abraham Baldwin by delivering an informative speech on team roping.

The showcase is named for former ABAC professor Lew Akin and was established in 1969. Akin served as division chairman of Humanities from 1975-1991.

The top speaker from each of the Communications 1000 and 1100 classes at ABAC participated in the competition. Sixteen students competed in the initial rounds of the contest. Before the final round of speeches, there were three preliminary rounds. The top student from each preliminary advanced to the finals. Approximately 200 persons were in attendance for all the sessions in the showcase.

Each contestant delivered a five to ten minute informative or persuasive presentation that was judged on such criteria as content, organization, evidence, and eye contact. Kay Weeks, Associate Professor of Humanities at ABAC, coordinated the showcase. Anthony Hall, a veterinary medicine major from Dalton, was the fall semester winner.



President Mike Vollmer congratulates Howard McCrary, Mike Williams, and Ernest Kelly on winning the High Five drawing for April

Trio Wins High Five Monthly Award Drawing

Howard McCrary, Mike Williams, and Ernest Kelly are this week's High Five Award Winners. The trio also won the drawing for the High Five Monthly Award for the month of April. They serve in PC and network services for the Office of Institutional Technology at ABAC.



A comment from the nomination form: "It may be strange to nominate three people, but all three deserve recognition. In a four-day period, these three worked a total of 75 extra hours—that's beyond the 8 to 5 work-day—in order to complete the network cabling needed before we can imple-

ment our new phone system."

As weekly winners, McCrary, Williams, and Kelly received certificates of appreciation and t-shirts from the ABAC Bookstore. A \$50 gift certificate, which can be used at a number of local merchants, was awarded for the monthly honor.

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.

For questions, call Bertha Daniel in College Services or Jane Thompson in Human Resources.

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.

Correction

Due to an error in information received from the Music Program, the ABAC Music Students Recital was listed for May 4 in last week's FOCUS. The recital actually occurred on April 27.

Vollmer Appointed to Humanities Board

Abraham Baldwin President Mike Vollmer has been named to the Georgia Humanities Council Board of Directors.

Vollmer, who has been ABAC's president since July 1, 2001, is one of nine new board members selected from around the state to serve on the governing board. The initial term is three years, and Vollmer could serve a total of six years, if nominated to serve a second term.

Vollmer has vast experience in administration, educational policy and government. He was the first director of the HOPE scholarship program under the direction of Governor Zell Miller and previous to that, worked for Representative Elliott Levitas in both Atlanta and Washington. Vollmer is currently serving as chair of the Tifton-Tift County Chamber of Commerce.

He has also held many prominent positions, including service as the first executive director of the Office of Educational Accountability and senior vice chancellor for Human and External Resources for the University System of Georgia. He is a former member of the United States Army Reserve.

The Georgia Humanities Council is an independent nonprofit organization that serves the state through its projects and grant programs. Funding for the council is received from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the state of Georgia, foundations, corporations and individuals. The aim of the council is to reach out to individuals and organizations across the state to bring about participation with programs that are essential to the local communities of Georgia.

Nurse Technician Certificate to be Offered in Fall

A new certificate program designed to help alleviate the nursing shortage will be offered at Abraham Baldwin beginning with the fall semester.

"This program was developed in response to area hospitals to help the nursing staff," said Wanda Golden, Chair of the Division of Nursing and Health Services at ABAC. "The program gives basic training above and beyond what a nurse's aide would do."

Students in the program will have classroom, skills lab and training in a healthcare environment through the certificate program. The certification can be used as a stand-alone certifi-

cate or as an advanced placement status for those participants who decide they want to enroll in the nursing program.

The certification training spans two semesters and requires some basic pre-requisites. First, students must be enrolled at ABAC. Second, students have to take the required classes before obtaining their certification. Participants will be able to apply for the HOPE Grant to help with the cost of classes for this program.

For more information on the program, please contact the Nursing Division at 386-3262.

ABAC Public Relations

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



A Slice of Serenity

Two geese provided the only sound at the nature study area at the J.C. Woodroof Farm on a blue sky April afternoon at ABAC last week

Positions Open

Albany State:

- Director of Financial Operations (deadline 5/7)
- Associate VP Fiscal Affairs (deadline 5/7)

Coastal Georgia:

- Director, Institutional Advancement
- Public Services Librarian
- Advancement Coordinator

Call Human Resources for details.

Celebrating Birthdays

May

- 4 Patricia Bennett
- 4 Nancy Brannen
- 5 Kathryn Branch
- 5 Rah Fredell
- 5 Ken Murphy
- 5 Michael R. Williams
- 6 Stephanie Coney
- 7 John Davis
- 7 Kip Smith
- 8 Larry Allen
- 8 Margaret Treadway
- 9 Pathelyn Smith



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Alan Kramer who was named Coach of the Year for Region XVII. His Golden Stallions' tennis team will play in the national tournament May 10-14 in Dallas, Texas.

Notes of Sympathy

The ABAC Family expresses sympathy to Dr. Larry McGruder whose mother, Louvater McGruder, passed away on April 27.

Sympathy is also extended to Dr. Sharry Sackor whose mother, Mable Exekiel, passed away on April 24. Please keep both these families in your thoughts and prayers.

Calendar of Events

Monday, May 3

- Today—Classes end
- 7:30 a.m.-TCHS AP Testing (King 6 & 7)
- 8 a.m.-Barber Nursing Class (Cordell Conf. Room A)
- 9 a.m.-Red Cross Training (Cordell Conf. Room C)
- 9 p.m.-SGA Midnight Breakfast (Dining Hall)

Tuesday, May 4

- Today-Final Exams
- 8 a.m.-Nursing Class Final (Cordell Conf. Room)
- 7 p.m.-Area V FFA Banquet (Dining Hall)

Wednesday, May 5

- Today-Final Exams
- 7:30 a.m.-TCHS AP Testing (King 6 & 7)

Thursday, May 6

- Today-Final Exams
- 7:30 a.m.-TCHS AP Testing (King 6)
- 8 a.m.-ABAC Nursing Review (Cordell Conf. Room A)
- 11 a.m.-Faculty/Staff Luncheon (Dining Hall)
- 4 p.m.-Tucker/Gibbs Wedding Rehearsal (Chapel)

Friday, May 7

- 9-11 a.m.-CAAP Testing (Cordell Conf. Room)
- 11 a.m.-Graduation Rehearsal (Gressette Gym)
- 11:30 a.m.-TCHS AP Testing (King 6)
- 2 p.m.-Nurses Pinning Rehearsal (Howard Auditorium)
- 7 p.m.-Tucker/Gibbs Wedding (Chapel)

Saturday, May 8

- 11:30 a.m.-Lusk Shower (Magnolia Rm)
- 6 p.m.-Nurses Pinning Ceremony (Howard Auditorium)
- 6 p.m.-Wood Party (Magnolia Room)
- 6 p.m.-Joy Temple Banquet (Dining Hall)

Monday, May 10

- 8 a.m.-Ga. Chiefs Assoc. Class (Student Courtroom)
- 6 p.m.-Tifton-Tift Co. Arts Council (Cordell Conf. Room)
- 7 p.m.-Tift Regional Annual Awards Banquet (Dining Hall)

Abbott Reception

A reception honoring Superintendent of Tift County Schools Harold Abbott, Jr. will be held on May 23 from 2-4 p.m. at Annie Belle Clark Primary School. The community is invited to attend. Abbott is retiring from his position at the end of this school year.

ABAC Family

Bruce Applewhite, Robin Poor, and Angie Palmer attended the Georgia State FFA Convention in Athens last week. Poor and Carlos Howard attended the Atlanta Dream Jamboree, and Palmer represented ABAC at the Turner County Career Fair last week.

In other recruiting activity from April 19-30, Howard visited Coffee Co. Perry, Johnson, Northside of Columbus, and Shaw high schools and attended the Savannah Spring PROBE Fair; Applewhite visited Union County, North Gwinnett, Banks County, and Putnam County high schools; and Poor made recruiting stops at Carrollton, Cartersville, and TLC Christian high schools.