

FOCUS

ABAC To Celebrate 100th At Expo

ABAC President David Bridges will be serving up birthday cake to celebrate the college's 100th birthday at the annual Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition at Spence Field near Moultrie this year. Alumni Director Nancy Coleman said a birthday celebration will be held at noon on Wednesday in the ABAC building at the Expo.

"We invite all our alumni and friends to join us as we eat birthday cake and listen to the ABAC Jazz Choir sing," Coleman said. "The Expo is always a great place to connect with our alumni as well as meet with prospective students."

The Expo runs Tuesday through Thursday at the former air base on the outskirts of Moultrie. Gates open at 8:30 a.m. each day. The show closes at 5 p.m. on Oct. Tuesday and Wednesday and 4 p.m. on Thursday. Admission is \$7 per person. Children six and under are admitted free but must be accompanied by an adult.

The ABAC stage is always loaded with top quality student entertainment, and this year is no exception. Several of the top student vocalists at ABAC including Sean Lackey, Meagan Royal, and Taylor Hand will perform on Tuesday, and the Jazz Choir of Dr. Susan Roe

will perform on Wednesday. Don Coates and the ABAC Jazz Band will be featured in shows on Thursday.

The ABAC Ambassadors will emcee all the shows. They will also run an ABAC souvenir stand as well as the Putt For A Buck display.

Members of the Horticulture Club will arrange plants and flowers around the exhibit, and the admissions office will provide plenty of information for the thousands of high school students on the Expo site.

Come on down and join us for some birthday cake!

Cordell Lecture Oct. 30

National Book Award finalist Kent Haruf will be reading from his works at the annual Cordell Lecture on Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium.



He was born in Pueblo, Colo., the son of a Methodist minister. As his family moved from church to church, the plains of northeastern Colorado became the setting for Holt, the fictitious town where most of his work is set.

Haruf studied literature at Nebraska Wesleyan University. For two years he taught English in Turkey as a member of the Peace Corps. He has been a teacher for the better part of 30 years in Wisconsin, Illinois, Colorado and Nebraska.

His most recent novels are *Eventide* and *Plainsong*, winner of the Mountains & Plains Booksellers Award and the Maria Thomas Award in Fiction. *Plainsong* was also a finalist for the National Book Award in 1999, the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize, and *The New Yorker* Book Award.

ABAC Club Sponsors Fishing Rodeo



Dr. Doug Waid, co-advisor for ABAC's Forestry-Wildlife Club, describes skull attributes of several wildlife species at the Second annual Kids and Senior Citizens Fishing Event at Paradise Public Fishing Area on Oct. 4. The event was co-sponsored by the ABAC Forestry & Wildlife Club and the Tifton Police Department.

Georgia Trend Selects Sheppard For Statewide Honor

Todd Sheppard, men's basketball coach at ABAC, has been selected for the prestigious "40 Under 40: The Best and the Brightest" by Georgia Trend magazine in its October issue.

The list highlights many of the "shakers and movers" in the state who are under 40 years old. When the 38-year-old Sheppard was notified of the honor, he thought it was a prank by one of his buddies.

"I never would have thought something like this would have been possible for me," Sheppard, in his fifth year as the coach of the Stallions, said. "I don't think of myself in those terms. I thought it was one of my friends playing a joke on me."

Sheppard joins a very talented group of individuals from throughout the state including Suwannee Mayor Nick Masino, State Property Officer of Georgia Gena Abraham, Greene County School Superintendent Shawn Arevalo McCollough, plastic surgeon Farzad Nahai, and Southwest Georgia United Way President and CEO Dwayne Miles.

Sheppard and the 39 other Georgians selected will be honored at an awards

ceremony at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta on Tuesday.

Selected as Coach of the Year in Region XVII of the National Junior College Athletic Association last year, Sheppard

is coming off one of the greatest years in ABAC basketball history. His team rolled up a school record 27 wins against only five defeats. The Stallions advanced to the Region XVII championship game. At one time, the team was ranked ninth in the nationwide poll.

"Somebody told me once that you should 'grow where you are planted,'" Sheppard said. "God puts you in a place for a reason. ABAC is a great place. Last year was a lot of fun.



"I start every year scared to death that we won't win a game. At the same time, every year I want my team to win the national championship."

Sheppard has compiled a 76-49 record with the Stallions. He and his wife, Rachel, live in Tifton with their two children, Max and Lucy. Prior to coming to ABAC, he was the top assistant for the Valdosta State University men's team. He has spent many long nights on the recruiting trail but still loves to get up every morning and coach basketball.

"I work and prepare out of fear," Sheppard said. "It's the fear that somebody else might be working harder than me. I'm always looking for ways I can be a better coach and a better mentor to my players."

Ironically, Sheppard got into coaching because he had some coaches when he was growing up that were not positive mentors.

"That sounds opposite from what it should be but it's true," Sheppard, a native of Conyers, said. "I enjoy impacting the lives of these young men in a positive way."

Lined Up For The Links



Golfers in the annual ABAC Ag Classic line up their carts for the afternoon session at ABAC's Forest Lakes Golf Club last Monday. The event was sponsored by the ABAC Ag Alumni Council to raise money for student scholarships in the Division of Agriculture and Forest Resources. Equity Foods and Ambling University Group took first place in the morning and afternoon flight.

Travel to Biltmore Estate Dec. 4-5

Spice up your holiday season this year with a Christmas spectacular trip to the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, N.C., on Dec. 4 - 5. The payment deadline is Nov. 1.

This package includes roundtrip motor coach transportation, one night's lodging, ticket for Biltmore Estate entry, and one dinner for \$279 per person. The price is based on double occupancy of the hotel room. A deposit of \$100 will reserve a space.

Travelers will depart on Dec. 4 by deluxe motor coach for a night of shopping in the quaint shops at the Biltmore Village followed by dinner at the Deerpark Inn. The group will then go on a candlelight tour of the beautiful Biltmore Mansion decorated for the season with luminaries, glittering ornaments and special Yuletide musical performances.

On Dec. 5, the candlelight ticket will admit the group back into the Biltmore for more shopping in the stable gift shops and green house. Travelers may also enjoy a leisurely morning around their hotel lobby fireplace.

For more information on this trip, interested persons can contact the ABAC Public Service and Business Outreach Center at (229) 391-5070.

Autumn Voices Fill Donaldson Dining Hall Thursday



The ABAC Jazz Choir and the ABAC Jazz Band delighted a Donaldson Dining Hall lunchtime crowd on Thursday with their fall concert. Both groups will perform this week at the Sunbelt Expo.

Arts Connection Series Opens Nov. 10

Enjoy a treat of world class performances in this year's Art Connection series, Arts Unwrapped.

"We are so excited about this year's line up. The series has great diversity in its performances driven by input gleaned from audience surveys from past events," commented Wayne Jones, Executive Director, ABAC Arts Connection.

Everything's coming up roses as the great American musical Gypsy opens the season on Nov. 10 at the Tift County High School Performing Arts Center.

Local dance students will join the Charleston Ballet Theatre in the holiday classic The Nutcracker on Dec. 2 at the TCHS Performing Arts Center for two shows.

Montana Skies will bring a unique combination of cello, guitar and drums to the stage on Jan. 24 in the Ocilla United Methodist Church.

The series heats up with new Broadway musical Ring of Fire - the music of Johnny Cash on March 9 at the Turner County Civic Center. Featuring over 30 of the Man in Black's signature songs.

The stage at ABAC's Howard Auditorium will host one of the hottest new stars in the classical world, Sashe Cooke on April 8. Cooke's voice has

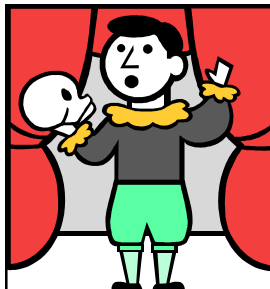
been described as powerful, warm and sensual.

The velvet voice of Kevin Mahogany will conclude the series on April 22 at the John Hunt Auditorium. His voice transports his audiences to a tranquil place washing away the hectic routines of life.

In addition to these six great performances, series subscribers are given free admission to the First Tuesday Concert Series in the ABAC Chapel. Plus, subscribers can also enjoy Stafford Steinway Series on the grand piano in ABAC's Howard Auditorium.

The series is presented by the ABAC Arts Connection and the arts councils in Irwin, Tift and Turner counties through the South Georgia Arts Alliance.

Series subscriptions are \$65 for adults and \$20 for students under the age of 18. ABAC students are admitted free. Tickets can be purchased by calling the ABAC Arts Connection at 229-391-4820.



Free Workshops

Identity Theft Protection

Learn how to protect your identity! Do you know that the fastest growing consumer crime in the country is identity theft? Learn a few simple steps to minimize your risk of becoming a victim. Take action now to protect yourself and your personal information. Taught by the Tifton Sheriff's Department. Tuesday, Oct. 16, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Tift-area Workforce Center (Owens)

Holiday Safety

This holiday season don't let the spirit of giving lull you into giving burglars, muggers, and pickpockets a better chance to do their dirty work. Homes jam-packed with glittering gifts. Stores, malls and downtown streets filled with unsuspecting shoppers. Do your part to make the holidays a safe and happy time for everybody - except criminals. Taught by the Tifton Sheriff's Department.

Thursday, Oct. 18, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Tiftarea Workforce Center (Owens)

**Call PSBO to Register:
391-5070**

**Register On-line at:
www.abac.edu/psbo**

House Calls at ABAC



Director of Housing Bernice Hughes hands Pam Leonard a bag of handouts for the annual House Calls visit last Tuesday. Faculty, staff, administrators, and students knocked on every door at ABAC Place and ABAC Lakeside to visit with on-campus students.

Coleman Wins High Five

Nancy Coleman, Director of Alumni Relations, was nominated by Dr. Eddie Seagle and his nomination follows: "Ms. Nancy Coleman has once again gone that extra mile above and beyond the call of duty. The Centennial Edition of the ABAC Ag Classic Golf Tournament was a huge success on Monday, Oct. 8.



As tournament coordinator, Nancy made sure that all necessary preparations had been completed and that all players would have an opportunity to have fun and support ABAC at the same time. The weather was super, the roster was full, the course was in great shape, and everyone had a fantastic day.

Thank you, Nancy, for all that you do above and beyond to make this tournament a success. We appreciate you! The players, the sponsors, the students, and the faculty and staff share these same thoughts of appreciation."

ABAC FAMILY

Andrea Willis judged the Columbus Cheer Classic at Columbus State University. Over 60 middle and high school team competed.

Dr. William Moore, assistant professor in the Wildlife Technology, gave a presentation entitled "Effects of spring gobbler-only hunting on wild turkey survival" at The Wildlife Society's national conference in Tucson, Ariz. on Sept. 26. Todd Sheppard spoke on ABAC basketball at the weekly Sertoma Club meeting Oct. 11.

Dr. Eddie Seagle and Dr. John Settini talked about the new ABAC four-year degree programs on television on Oct. 10 at WALB in Albany and on Oct. 11 at WSST in Cordele.

Note of Sympathy

The ABAC Family expresses sympathy to the family of Holly Lewis, PT Instructor, HPER, Moultrie. Lewis' grandmother, Evelyn Moseley Cope, passed away last week.

Financial Aid Counselor Sherin Nixon's mother-in-law, Maybelle Nixon, passed away Monday.

Please keep these families in your prayers during this difficult time.

Job Opportunities

- **Police Officer**
\$23,500
- **Library Director**
- **Overnight Desk Clerk**
- **GED Specialist**
- **Instructor/Assistant Professor of Physics**
Salary:Neg. Open Until Filled
- **Enrollment Specialist**
Min. \$24,000 10/24/07

NEXT FOCUS

The next edition of the *FOCUS* will appear on your email on Oct. 22. If you have information for that issue, please email it to Ashley Williamson at awilliamson@abac.edu by noon Oct. 18.

Celebrating Birthdays

October

- 17 Polina Kalinova
- 18 Nancy Barton
- 21 Andrea Willis
- 21 Nancy Anthony
- 21 John Clemens



Soccer Update

The soccer team of Coach Jimmy Ballenger



will take on Andrew in the Fillies' final home game of the season on Wednesday

at 4 p.m. at the ABAC soccer field. The Fillies are now 8-7-1 on the season. They lost to Darton 6-0 on Thursday.

Thank You

I want to thank my "Tift Hall Angels" for coming to my rescue for a second time. I appreciate the kind words and prayers. Your generosity is a blessing. I love you all from the bottom of my heart!! God Bless you all! God Bless America, Fran Kester



Calendar Of Events

Monday, October 15

Today—Fall Break

Tuesday, October 16

Today—Fall Break

Today—Sunbelt Ag Expo (Moultrie)

Wednesday, October 17

Today—Sunbelt Ag Expo (Moultrie)

4 p.m.—Fillies vs. Andrew-Soccer

Thursday, October 18

Today—Sunbelt Ag Expo (Moultrie)

11 a.m.—Faculty/Staff Lunch (Dining Hall)