



# FOCUS

## Cordell Lecture Tickets Available

Tickets are now available for the Tom M. Cordell Distinguished Lecture Series featuring Anthony Grooms. The event will be held on Sept. 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the Cordell Conference Room of the Carlton Center. There is no charge, but due to limited seating you must pick up a free ticket from the Public Relations Office on the second floor of Tift Hall.

Groom's debut novel, *Bombingham*, was selected as a *Washington Post* Notable Book in 2001 and was praised by that publication as "a taut, devastating novel. . . [that marks] the emergence of a brave and promising talent. . . *Bombingham* is a considerable achievement."

The novel chronicles the events of the Civil Rights Movement and the Vietnam War through the eyes of narrator Walter Burke, a young African-American soldier who struggles to find the meaning of his role in both events. As Burke attempts to write a letter to the parents of a fallen

soldier, he is reminded of the violence of the Civil Rights Movement.

The majority of the novel occurs in flashback, focusing on Burke's adolescence in Tittusville, the Birmingham suburb where he lived with his family. The book derives its title from the name African-Americans gave to Birmingham in the 1950s and 1960s in response to the violent bombings in their community.

Grooms earned a B.A. degree in Theatre and Speech from The College of William and Mary and an M.F.A. degree from George Mason University. He is the author of a collection of poems, *Ice Poems*, and a collection of stories, *Trouble No More*. Grooms has twice been awarded the Lillian Smith Prize for Fiction, a national award given by the Southern Regional Council, the venerable civil rights organization. He was a finalist in the 2002 Legacy Award, a national award given by the Hurston-Wright Foundation.



Anthony Grooms

Grooms has also been awarded the Sokolov Scholarship from the Breadloaf Writing Conference.

A professor of creative writing at Kennesaw State University, Grooms teaches a variety of writing and literature courses but specializes in creative writing and American literature. He lives in Atlanta with his wife, Pamela B. Jackson, a federal administrative judge, and their son, Ben.

The series is named in honor of Cordell, who was the director of ABAC's continuing education program for 39 years.

## Pegasus 9/11

### Poetry Reading

*Pegasus* will host a 9/11 Memorial poetry reading on the Pedestrian Mall near the fountain on Thursday from 3-4 p.m. In case of rain, the reading will be in Room 202 of the Baldwin Library.

Everyone is invited to come and read a poem or short prose selection that would be appropriate for the occasion. People may read their own works or writings by their favorite authors.

The readings may concern the 9/11 tragedy or anything that ties in that subject—for example, patriotism, freedom, the sacrifices of our military overseas, etc.



## Career Forum

A business career forum will be held Thursday at 6 p.m. in the Cordell Conference Room. Representatives from various businesses around the area will be on hand to talk with students about their careers. Also, representatives from Macon State College will be here to talk about the information technology degree program available at ABAC from



## Players' Auditions Tonight

The Baldwin Players will hold auditions for the fall semester production of *Genesis and Other Plays* by Don Nigro tonight and Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Conger Hall. Auditions will take place tonight in Conger 319 and

on Tuesday in Conger 317. Auditions are open to ABAC faculty, staff, and students, as well as everyone in the Tiftarea. No previous experience in theatre is necessary. Samples of the script are available on three-hour loan from Director John Galyean.

Anyone who would like to serve on a technical crew should attend one audition to fill out a work preference sheet. The production will be presented Nov. 6-8 at 7:30 p.m. in Conger 319.

For additional info, contact Galyean at 3099.

# ABAC Public Relations

ABAC 30, 2802 Moore Highway  
Tifton, GA 31793-2601

## Ribbon Cut October 14

The grand opening of Phase II of the Pedestrian Mall will be held at 9 a.m. on Oct. 14 at the new fountain in front of the Donaldson Dining Hall. Chancellor Thomas Meredith will be the featured guest.

## New Electronic Format

For the second week in a row, the *FOCUS* is appearing in the new electronic format. Thanks to Public Relations Administrative Assistant Pam Leonard and Dr. Chrystle Ross for much hard work in changing the *FOCUS* from a paper copy to the new format.

## Pirkle New 'Caretaker'

Bam Pirkle has consented to serve as the future caretaker of the Flower and Gift Fund at ABAC, a task Hazel Purvis has handled wonderfully since 1994. Please address any information concerning the ABAC Family, including weddings, funerals, surgeries/hospitalizations, sickness, and births to [bpirkle@abac.edu](mailto:bpirkle@abac.edu) or call her at 7232.

## Last Day for Black

Carolyn Black has taken a new job and left her position in the Procurement Office at ABAC. Her last day was on Friday. We wish her well.

## ABAC Family

**Angie Palmer** and **Mike Chason** accompanied the ABAC Ambassadors on their annual leadership retreat on Sept. 5-7.

**Fran Kinchen** presented a workshop on The Essential Skills of Effective Communication on Aug. 21 at a joint session for Savannah State College and Georgia Southern Staff Retreat as a part of the Fall Workshop.

**Mike Chason** spoke to eight classes at Worth County High School on Sept. 3 concerning ABAC and *The EAGLE in You*.

**Betty Claxton**, Professor Emeritus and retired ABAC faculty member, was the recipient of a proclamation from the Tiftarea Chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP). Claxton has been serving as the auditor of the chapter since 1981. The presentation proclaimed Aug. 26, 2003, as Betty C. Claxton Day and thanked her for her loyal service.



## Enrollment Still Climbing

Registrar Beth Saxon reports a presstime enrollment of 3,228.

## Deadline is Friday

The deadline is Friday for submitting forms to Payroll if you wish to participate in the Faculty/Staff Flower and Gift Fund. The payroll deduction is minimal and can be spread over a three month period. If you need a form, contact Sandra Grimley, Sharon Ellis, or Bam Pirkle.

## La Fiesta Sept. 27

La Fiesta Del Pueblo will be held on Sept. 27 from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. at Fulwood Park. The Fiesta board is in dire need of volunteers. Call Polly Huff at the Arts Connection at 3558 to sign up for one of the many festival jobs.

## Moonlight Mania



Coach Julie Conner and Coach Todd Sheppard have announced Moonlight Mania at ABAC on Sept. 29 at 7 p.m.

This will be your chance to see the annual faculty/staff vs. students basketball game, as well as your first look at the Golden Stallions and Golden Filles for the 2003-2004 year. Mark your calendar. More details to follow.

## Celebrating Birthdays

### September

- 8 Patricia Barber
- 8 Diane Jackson
- 8 Mary Jane Rootes
- 8 Joy Shurley
- 9 Herb Hendrix
- 10 Eddie Seagle
- 12 Susan Armstrong
- 12 Cristella Contreras
- 12 James Daniell
- 13 Erin Campbell
- 13 David King
- 15 Demeatrious Newton



## Calendar of Events

### Monday, September 8

- 7 p.m.-Baldwin Players Auditions (Conger 319)
- 7:30 p.m.-Annual 4-H Awards Banquet (Dining Hall)

### Tuesday, September 9

- 8 a.m.-Speech Class (Cordell Conf. Room C)
- 11:00 a.m.-Student Support Services Workshop (Cordell Conf. Room A)
- 11:30 a.m.-YMCA Board (Magnolia Room)
- 5 p.m.-FYE Workshop (Cordell Conf. Room)
- 6:00 p.m.-ACE Program Dinner (Magnolia Room)
- 7 p.m.-Baldwin Players Auditions (Conger 317)

### Wednesday, September 10

- 11 a.m.-IAC Club Day (The Meadows)
- Noon-Fit for Life (Magnolia Room)
- 3 p.m.-Staff Forum (Cordell Conf. Room A)

### Thursday, September 11

- 11:30 a.m.-Faculty/Staff Luncheon (Magnolia Room)
- 3 p.m.-Pegasus 911 Poetry Reading (Pedestrian Mall Fountain Area)
- 5:30 p.m.-Business Career Fourm (Cordell Conf. Room A/B)

### Friday, September 12

- 6 p.m.-Varnadoe/Davis Wedding Rehearsal (Chapel)

### Saturday, September 13

- 8:30 a.m.-Joy Temple Breakfast (Dining Hall)
- 6 p.m.-Varnadoe/Davis Wedding (Chapel)

### Sunday, September 14

- 2:30 p.m.-Henderson Shower (Magnolia Room)

### Monday, September 15

- 11:45 a.m.-Student Union Show—Flying Cats Circus (Dining Hall)
- 1 p.m.-Garden Clubs of Georgia Conference (Cordell Conf. Room A/B)