



# FOCUS

## Blackmarr to Give Cordell Lecture Thursday at ABAC

Georgia author and essayist Amy Blackmarr will be the featured speaker at the next edition of the Tom M. Cordell Distinguished Lecture Series Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Cordell Conference Room of the Carlton Center on the ABAC campus.

The event is free of charge. Seating will be on a first come, first served basis.

Blackmarr's third and most recent book, *Above the Fall Line: The Trail from White Pine Cabin*, has earned her a place on the 2004 nominee list for Georgia Author of the Year. Complementing this honor is a nomination for the 2004 Phillip D. Reed Memorial Award for Outstanding Writing on the Southern Environment.

According to the publisher, *Above the Fall Line* chronicles Blackmarr's return to her native Georgia as a "refugee," fleeing a bleak Kansas winter, the trauma of graduate school, and a "loss of identity, confidence, boyfriend and best dog and pride." White Pine Cabin—a hut barely big enough to turn around in—becomes the setting



Amy Blackmarr will be featured at the Cordell Lecture on Thursday

for Blackmarr's searing self-examination as she tells the stories that have led her so far inward and works out a trail back toward a happier connection with herself, the land, her God, and the people in her world.

Blackmarr's earlier books include *Going to Ground: Simple Life on a Georgia Pond* and *House of Steps: Finding the Path Home*. Both were republished in new editions in 2003.

"During the lecture, I will discuss all of my books and talk about the genre

of the personal essay and, more particularly, the relationship between the external and internal landscapes and my particular style of nature writing," Blackmarr said. "Our stories give us a cognitive map of the path of our lives—where we've been, where we are, where we might go."

Blackmarr holds a Ph.D. in English from the University of Kansas and M.A. and B.A. degrees in English from Valdosta State University. A South Georgia native, Blackmarr has lived in the Midwest for 20 years. She is best known for her nature

essays, set in the rustic houses in which she has lived. Her essays have been broadcast on *Georgia Gazette*, Georgia Public Radio's weekly features show, as well as *Up to Date*, a weekly news show on Kansas City's NPR affiliate. She lives in the North Georgia mountains.

The series is named in honor of Cordell, who was the director of ABAC's continuing education program for 39 years. He retired in 1979 and passed away in 1991.

## Big Open Campus Day Scheduled for Wednesday

The single largest recruiting day of the year will take place Wednesday when approximately 1,000 visitors are expected to converge on the campus for the Winter Open Campus Day. Registration begins at 10 a.m. in Gressette Gym. The event winds up with the 1 p.m. *Exploring Majors and Careers* time.

Setup for displays will be from 2-5 p.m. Tuesday and from 8-9 a.m.

Wednesday in Gressette Gym. All exhibits should be in place by 9 a.m. Wednesday. If you have questions, contact the Public Relations Office at 386-3264.

A highlight of the day will be tours of the new ABAC Place apartments. Visitors will also be treated to bus and walking tours led by the ABAC Ambassadors, club displays, lunch, and a chance to win a \$500 tuition grant.

## Hazel's Last Day



Hazel Purvis

A reception honoring Hazel Purvis will be held on Friday from 1:30-3 p.m. in the Magnolia Room. Stop by and wish Hazel well on her retirement on her last day at ABAC. She is retiring after 25 years at the college.

## Jackson Staff Award Nominations Are Due March 1

Do you know a special member of the ABAC staff who has made a difference for you? Do they deserve recognition for their efforts? They may be eligible for the annual Roy Jackson Award for Excellence. For more information go to <http://www.abac.edu/fs/StaffForum/RoyJackson/index.htm>

Read the criteria before filling out the nomination form. All nominations should be returned to Phil Hightower by March 1 at 5 p.m.



## Scholarship Deadline March 1

The deadline for submitting applications for scholarships at ABAC is March 1. Students who are interested in scholarships for the 2004-05 academic year should apply by March 1 to the Office of Academic Affairs in Tift Hall.

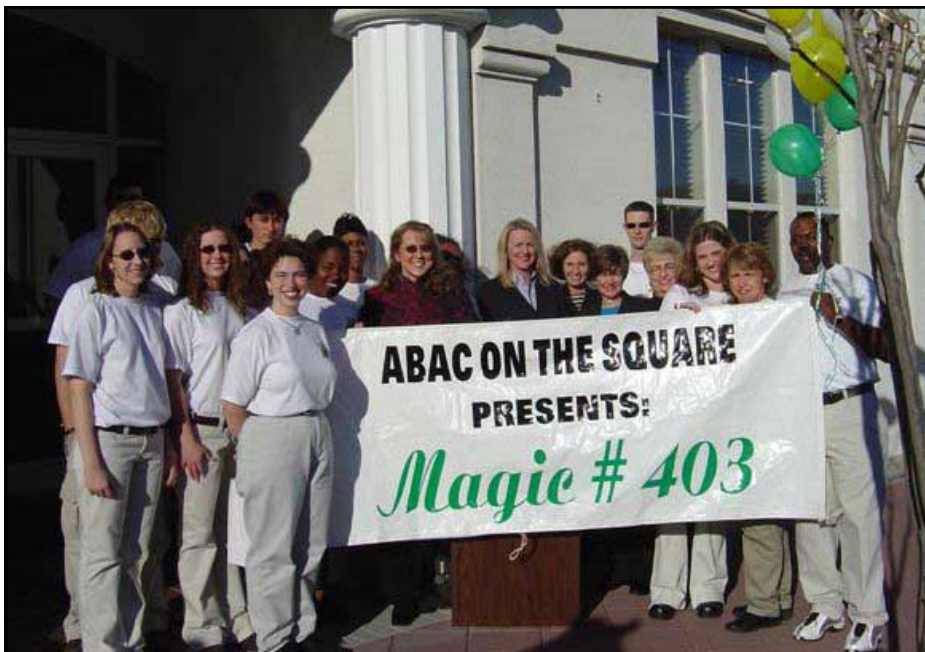
Fifty-seven scholarships totaling \$45,375 were awarded to ABAC students during the annual Honors Day event last April. The awards were funded by the ABAC Foundation.

For more information, contact the Office of Academic Affairs at 386-3238.

## Stafford Series Presents Marlene Bowen Group For the First Tuesday Concert March 2 at ABAC

The Stafford Fine Arts Series will present The Marlene Bowen Group in concert at the next event in the First Tuesday Performance Series on March 2 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 Tuesday of every month in the Chapel of All Faiths on the ABAC campus. The



## A Record for ABAC on the Square!

*ABAC on the Square in Moultrie enrolled a record 403 students for the spring term. Stephanie Withrow was recognized as the 400<sup>th</sup> student at the Magic 400 Celebration last Wednesday. Participants included the new ABAC on the Square Leadership Society, the ABAC Ambassadors, Tom Call, Dr. Gail Dillard, Kay Powell, and Mike Chason.*

## Science Olympiad Scheduled for Saturday

The Division of Science and Mathematics will host the annual Science Olympiad for high school students this Saturday.



## Spring Sports Lineup

The fastpitch Fillies of Coach Donna Campbell will host archrival Middle Georgia for a 3 p.m.

doubleheader at Fillie Field on Friday. The baseball Stallions of Coach Steve Janousek will host Kellogg Community College for a 4 p.m. game at Stallion Field on Saturday and for a 1 p.m. game at Stallion Field on Sunday. Come out and support ABAC spring sports.

## Last Home Game Tonight

The Golden Stallions of Coach Todd Sheppard will entertain Coastal Georgia at 7:30 p.m. tonight in their last home game of the season. Come out to Gressette Gym and enjoy ABAC basketball.



# ABAC #1 in the University System In Graduates

Based on data for all of the two-year colleges in the University System of Georgia, Abraham Baldwin is among the leaders in the percentage of students who graduate with associate degrees.

In terms of associate degree graduation rate, meaning the percentage of full-time students who graduate within three years, ABAC ranks first. ABAC is also first in the number of career associate degrees awarded and second in total degrees and certificates

awarded.

Dr. Caroline Helms, Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs, said these rankings are impressive because ABAC is being compared to several schools with larger enrollments.

"Our graduation rate reflects well on our students and on our faculty and staff," Helms said. "Most of our students are serious about their studies, and the faculty and staff do an excellent job of advising and guiding them through their academic programs."

ABAC's career programs are especially successful and are a popular choice among students. These programs, which are offered in four of ABAC's divisions, including Nursing, Agriculture and Forest Resources, Business, and Social Science, prepare students for immediate entry into the workforce.

Over 3,000 students are currently enrolled at ABAC this spring semester, and almost half of these students are enrolled in career programs.



## Baldwin Players March 4-6

The Baldwin Players will present two comedies on March 4-6 in Room 319 in Conger Hall. Showtime is at 7:30 p.m. each night. General admission is \$5. There is no charge for ABAC faculty, staff, and students. Tickets are available at the door beginning at 7 p.m. Latecomers cannot be seated.

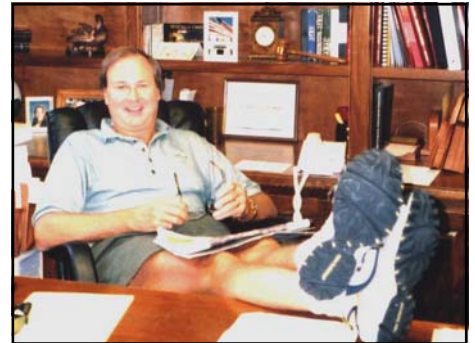
Dr. John Galyean, director of the Baldwin Players, will direct "Reese and Babe," a farce involving a housewife's car accident with a chimpanzee from the circus. Babe, played by Sally Shaddix of Moultrie, thinks she hit a child on a foggy stretch of road, but she really careened into Larry the Wonder Chimp. She had the accident while driving the family's mint condition '65 Mustang. And her husband, Reese, played by Mitch Tillman of Tifton, re-

acts a little too strongly and buries the car in the backyard. When Salty the Clown, played by Melissa Van Houten of Chula, and a police officer, played by A. J. Stovall of Forsyth, appear at the front door, the fun begins.

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 famous 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.

For additional information, contact Galyean at 386-3099.



## President Runs Half Marathon at Tybee

President Mike Vollmer recently completed a half marathon at Tybee Island. He ran the 13.1 mile course in two hours, 22 minutes. He reported no ill effects from the venture. He did find quite a few potholes on the ABAC streets while practicing for the event.

## Winter Open Campus Day Schedule of Events

February 25, 2004

10 a.m.-Noon	Registration, Academic Displays, Club Displays	Gressette Gym
10 a.m.-Noon	Admissions, Housing, Financial Aid	Gressette Gym
10 a.m.-Noon	Campus Tours	Gressette Gym
10, 10:30, 11, 11:30 a.m.	Campus Bus Tours (includes wildlife area and farm)	Gressette Gym
10 & 11 a.m.	General Video & Ag Video	Ag Sciences Building
10, 10:30, 11, 11:30 a.m.	ABAC Place apartment tours	Cordell Conference Room, Carlton Center
10:30 & 11:30 a.m.	Find out more about financial aid	Ag Sciences Building
Noon-1 p.m.	Lunch	Donaldson Dining Hall
12:15-12:45 p.m.	ABAC Jazz Choir & Sabor Latino Dancers live on stage	Donaldson Dining Hall
12:45 p.m.	One \$500 tuition grant to ABAC will be given away (must be present to win)	Donaldson Dining Hall

1 p.m. Exploring Majors and Careers (attend one or more) — Instructors will be available to talk with students in each division

## ABAC Public Relations

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

### VSU Info Session

An information session about the Valdosta State early childhood education program offered at ABAC will be held today at 6 p.m. in Section A of the Cordell Conference Room. Call the ABAC Evening Program Office at 386-7154 for more information.



Was Valentine's Day over before you realized it was here? Forgot to buy a gift for that special someone? Looking for something exciting to do on a Saturday night? Here's a deal for you!

Tickets are now on sale for the annual Arts Connection Spring Affair Arts Auction. This year's theme is "Dress for Your Destination." The evening will feature a fabulous International Buffet with a Polynesian and Island Station, Oriental Chef Station, Mexico Chef Station, Roman Holiday, New York Station, London Chef Station, Paris Cafe Station, German Garden, Australian Yellow Tale Station, Atlanta Station, and a surprise location station.

Patrons are invited to a silent and live auction offering exciting getaway trips,

### Deadline is March 10 For London-Paris Trip

If you want to go to London and Paris with the ABAC Public Service and Business Outreach Center, make your reservations by March 10.

The approximate cost is \$2,538 per person. Trip Director Debra McCrary said the journey is scheduled to take place on June 23 through July 1. The cost covers all your transportation, hotels, a professional tour guide, and two meals per day. Call 386-3267 for more information.

### Spring Affair on Saturday

pieces of art, vintage wine, tennis and bridge lessons, services, and much more.

Come dressed for your favorite destination on Saturday at 7 p.m. to the Henry Tift Myers Airport, Stafford Hangar, and bring your spouse or a friend. A prize will be awarded for the best destination and a photographer will also be on site to take pictures.

A limited number of tickets will be sold at \$10 each for a \$1000 cash raffle. You do not have to be present to win.

Tickets for "Dress for Your Destination" are \$60 each and can be purchased by calling Polly Huff at 386-3558. All funds raised at the event support the Love Affair Fine Arts Festival in May.

### Note of Sympathy

*The ABAC Family expresses sympathy to Hazel Purvis whose son-in-law, Richard Allison, was killed in an automobile accident last week. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers.*

### Congratulations!

Ran Fredell had a baby girl on Feb. 13. The baby weighed eight pounds, two ounces and is doing fine. Congratulations!

### ABAC Family

**Dr. Sue Hammons'** review of "No Turning Back: A History of Feminism and the Future of Women" was published in the February, 2004 issue of *Gender & Society*.

**Mike Chason** spoke to the seniors at Cook High School on Wednesday on "The Eagle in You."

John Crabb, President and CEO of Estate Management Services of Brunswick, conducted an aquatics lab at Lake Baldwin for **Dr. Ed Seagle's** turfgrass pest management students on Feb. 12. He discussed aquatic management programs from North Carolina to Florida.

### Celebrating Birthdays



#### February

23	Julie Conner
24	Richard Reeves
25	Barbara Garrick
27	Joyce Willis



### Open Campus on Wednesday

### Calendar of Events

#### Monday, February 23

- 11 a.m.-Student Support Services Workshop (Cordell Conf. Room A)
- 5:30 p.m.-VSU Early Childhood Ed Program Information Session (Cordell Conf. Room A)
- 6:30 p.m.-Christian Student Fellowship (Chapel)
- 7:30 p.m.-Basketball: Stallions vs. Coastal Ga. (Gressette Gym)

#### Tuesday, February 24

- 2 p.m.-Open Campus Day Setup (Gressette Gym)
- 5 p.m.-Student Union Show—*Imani* (Dining Hall)
- 6 p.m.-ACE Program Dinner (Magnolia Room)
- 6:30 p.m.-Christian Student Fellowship (Chapel)

#### Wednesday, February 25

- 10 a.m.-Open Campus Day Registration in Gressette Gym
- 7:30 p.m.-Black History Month Program: *Common Fabric, Different Threads* (Chapel)

#### Thursday, February 26

- 11 a.m.-Faculty/Staff Luncheon (Magnolia Room)
- 11 a.m.-Blackmarr w/ ABAC Students (Cordell Conf. Room A)
- 7 p.m.-Student Union Show—*Banachek* (Dining Hall)
- 7 p.m.-Cordell Lecture Series—Amy Blackmarr (Cordell Conf. Room)

#### Friday, February 27

- Noon-Region Literary Meet (Cordell Conf. Room A)
- 1:30 p.m.-Purvis Reception (Magnolia Room)
- 3 p.m.-Softball: Fillies vs. Middle Ga. (Fillie Field) *Doubleheader*
- 6 p.m.-Clark/Howard Wedding Rehearsal (Chapel)

#### Saturday, February 28

- 8 a.m.-Regional Science Olympiad
- 4 p.m.-Clark/Howard Wedding (Chapel)
- 7 p.m.-Our Divine Savior Catholic Church 50th Anniversary Dinner (Dining Hall)

#### Sunday, February 29

- 1 p.m.-Baseball: Stallions vs. Kellog (Stallion Field)
  - 1:30 p.m.-Hunter Safety Course (Cordell Conf. Room A)
- #### Monday, March 1
- 6:30 p.m.-Christian Student Fellowship (Chapel)