

FOCUS

Call Selected as ABAC Interim President

Vice President for Student and Enrollment Services Tom Call has been selected as the Interim President at Abraham Baldwin. Call will assume his duties on Wednesday upon the departure of President Mike Vollmer, who is leaving ABAC to become the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education.



Tom Call

"The College has a lot of positive energy flowing right now, and I certainly want to keep that moving forward," Call said. "I have a simple job which is to maintain as much momen-

tum as possible until the new President comes on board."

University System of Georgia Chancellor Thomas Meredith offered Call the position on Friday. He asked him to serve until a new president is appointed. Meredith did not give a timetable but if past presidential searches are any indication, the process could take eight to 10 months.

"We have an outstanding faculty, staff, Foundation and alumni base at this college," Call said. "I'll do everything I can to work side by side with them to keep ABAC moving ahead."

"We all hate to see Mike Vollmer leave because he has accomplished so much in a relatively short period of time. But I think he has put together a great Cabinet that works well together, and I believe we can keep it going."

Call joined the ABAC faculty as an instructor in the Division of Agriculture and Forest Resources in 1981. He was promoted to Assistant Professor in 1985 and became an Associate Professor in 1993. In the summer of 1994, Call served as Acting Chair of the division.

In 1995, Call was selected as Interim Registrar. He became Registrar in 1996. In 2001, Vollmer named Call Interim Vice President for Student and Enrollment Services. In 2003, Vollmer named him to the Vice President's position.

Call said he will return to the Vice-President's position when his interim presidency ends. He said an interim will serve in his position until he returns. That person has yet to be selected.

Vollmer Farewell Party Tuesday

The ABAC Family will have a chance to bid farewell to ABAC's ninth president on Tuesday from 4-6 p.m. in the Donaldson Dining Hall.

President Mike Vollmer and his wife, Lennie, will be the guests of honor at the event, which is sponsored by the ABAC Foundation and the Tifton-Tift County Chamber of Commerce.

Tuesday will be Vollmer's last day at ABAC. On Wednesday, he will begin duties as Commissioner of the Department of Technical and Adult Education. He and Lennie will be moving to Atlanta in coming weeks.

Since he became president on July 1, 2001, Vollmer has made quite an impact on the ABAC campus. During his tenure, ABAC opened the \$1.2 million Environmental Horticulture Building, the \$1 million Red Hill Athletic Center, the \$1.5 million Pedestrian Mall, and

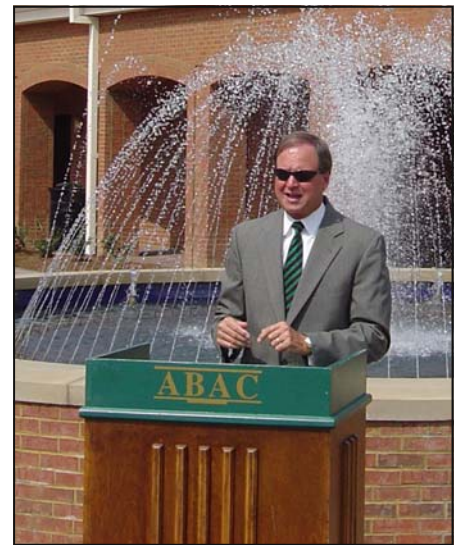
the \$7.1 million Ag Sciences Building.

The ABAC Foundation also received the \$1 million Forest Lakes Golf Club from Dr. Larry Moonman and his wife, Debra, during Vollmer's time here. Vollmer also received approval for \$10 million to renovate Tift, Herring, and Lewis halls and saw completion of a \$1.2 million renovation of Howard Auditorium.

On Sept. 1, ABAC and Tift Regional Medical Center had a "glassbreaking" for the \$6.2 million Health Sciences Building.

Vollmer's legacy will perhaps be the \$32 million ABAC Place apartments. With the ABAC Foundation supporting the project, all 835 private rooms are filled. The official grand opening will be Sept. 23 at 11 a.m.

"Lennie and I will miss Tifton, and we'll certainly miss all the great



Mike Vollmer

friends we made during these past three years," Vollmer said. "ABAC will always hold a special place in our hearts."



New Ambassadors Selected

The 15 new ABAC Ambassadors went on a training retreat with advisor Mike Chason last weekend. The 2004-05 Ambassadors include (kneeling, l-r) Elton Baldy from Norman Park, Kaedy Cawthon from Jackson, Michael Maw from Enigma, Ross Cargle from Tifton, Vakish Amin from Peachtree City, (standing l-r) Anna Daniel from Jackson, Megan Brannen from Statesboro, Melissa Cleary from Tifton, Ellis Washington, III, from Tifton, Brent Brock from Arabi, Rachel Gibbs from Tifton, Mack Branch from Tifton, Ernesto Ortiz from Tifton, Jesse McMillan from Enigma, and Julie Lawhon from Tifton.

Call Pam Leonard in the Public Relations Office at 386-3264 if you need assistance from this group.

Fenn is High Five Winner



The winner of the High Five Award drawing for the week ending Sept. 10 was Vonda Fenn. She is Program Coordinator for the Public Service and Business Outreach Center. She was nominated with Doris Roundtree and Javier Gonzalez for the outstanding camp, "Steps to College." Their nomination said, "Doris, Javier and Vonda went above and beyond the call of duty when they organized and carried out the 'Steps to College' camp this summer. This was one of the most organized and efficiently run camps that I've had the opportunity to work with.They cared about the students and that was very apparent then we attended the programs and the graduation. They carried off an outstanding program that will surely result in future student success and ABAC enrollment."

Fenn received a certificate of appreciation and will be given a T-shirt donated by the ABAC Bookstore.

Submit your nominations for the 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 or from the HR Office.

Memorial Poetry Reading Today



Pegasus, ABAC's magazine of literature and art, will hold a poetry reading in commemoration of the 9/11 tragedy today from 1-2 p.m., on the Meadow between Bowen Hall and the Music Building.

At the event, entitled "9/11 Peace Memorial Poetry Reading," students, faculty, staff, and members of the community are invited to read short poems and prose pieces appropriate to the occasion. Readers may choose selections from their own writings or favorite writings by others. In case of rain, the reading will be in the Chapel of All Faiths.

For more information, contact Dr. Herbert Shippey at hshippey@abac.edu or Dr. Su Senapati at senapati@abac.edu.

Cordell Lecture Scheduled September 28



Cynthia Shearer

Southern author and professor Cynthia Shearer will be the featured speaker at the next edition of the Tom M. Cordell Distinguished Lecture Series on Sept. 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Cordell Conference Room of the Carlton Center on the Abraham Baldwin campus.

Sponsored by the ABAC Foundation, the event is free of charge. Seating will be on a first come, first served basis.

Shearer's earlier works included a variety of published essays and short stories. She has won honors such as the National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship - Fiction for 2000 and the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters

Fiction Prize in 1996.

She published her first novel, *The Wonder Book of the Air*, in 1996. Her new release, *The Celestial Jukebox*, is due out on shelves in 2005.

Shearer holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in English from the University of Mississippi, and a B.A. in English from Valdosta State University, with a secondary school certification in English.

Originally from Massachusetts, Shearer grew up in Alapaha, and then spent a number of years in Oxford, Miss., where she was curator of author William Faulkner's home, Rowan Oak. She now lives in Texas with her husband and daughter as an adjunct instructor at Texas Wesleyan College in Fort Worth.

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.

ABAC Feels the Force of Frances

Florida was not the only state to feel the effects of Hurricane Frances. The ABAC campus felt the power of this natural disaster as well.

While ABAC was serving as a shelter for Florida evacuees, the campus faced some damages of its own. According to Duane Weeks, electrician for the campus, a lot of water damage was sustained that caused power outages across the campus.

Weeks said, "Power was out in various parts of the campus until 10:30 - 11 a.m. Tuesday. There was water damage to various buildings, mainly the ceiling tiles."

Some of the buildings that sustained these damages were the Yow Forestry & Wildlife building and the Donaldson Dining Hall. "The dining hall's refrigeration went out with \$4,000 worth of food in it but we were able to salvage that," Weeks said.

"We also had water come into a high voltage area of the campus and shorted out some places. The parts we need to fix this have run out due to all the Florida residents needing the same part, but it will get done."

Other damages to the campus were minor; fallen limbs and debris typical of any strong storm. Three trees fell at the Development/Alumni House, none on the building itself.



Piano Dedication On September 21

The dedication concert for ABAC's Steinway piano will be held Sept. 21 at 7:30 p.m. in Howard Auditorium. Donated by the Stafford Family, the piano made Howard its home in February.

The concert will feature all types of music from Chopin to Berlin. There is no charge to attend.



Gressette Gym was the primary Red Cross shelter in Tifton during Hurricane Frances. Over 50 persons stayed in the shelter during the weekend.

Frances Refugee Gives Accolades to ABAC

Like most Floridians, Willard Lindsay of Wildwood, Fla., and his family braved Frances' wrath by heading north. But how he arrived in Tifton and at the shelter that Abraham Baldwin College provided was just as unexpected as his evacuation from his home state.

"My transmission went out Friday night while trying to get out of Florida. A paramedic and sheriff tried to help, but couldn't do anything. Then a deputy sheriff stopped by," Lindsay said, admitting he only knows the man's first name. . . Ernest.

"I had been sitting there all night with my wife and son. Then he showed up and got everything done. He was like a bulldog with a bone. He was the one who got me a place at the shelter," said Lindsay.

Lindsay arrived at the shelter and stayed there for three days. "Considering the circumstances, it was fantastic. We didn't have time to worry about our situation because the volunteers were always doing something to keep your mind off of it. The Disaster Relief team and the Red Cross were

awesome. They just jumped in whenever they were needed."

One volunteer member from ABAC's staff was Penny Chesnut, advisor of the Baptist Student Union. "Ms. Penny was amazing. She's the Disaster Relief Queen," said Lindsay. "The ABAC Police Department did a great job of making sure everything ran smoothly."

But what Lindsay was most impressed by was ABAC's student volunteers. "They were amazing; out of the ordinary. Most students are too busy doing their own thing to help out like they did. They are an example of how people should be.

"The students pretty much adopted my son and made sure he fit right in. It was just one big vacation to him. That was the best part for me."

Lindsay has yet to receive word on any damages sustained to his home, but plans to return home within a few days. "All I can say is 'thank you' to everyone who helped me and my family. Everyone we met was fantastic. For being in a strange place, we couldn't have asked for anything better."

ABAC Public Relations

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Audition for Baldwin Players

Tryouts for the Baldwin Players' fall production of "Death of the Hired Man" will be held today and Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Conger 319. Baldwin Players' director John Galyean said no experience is necessary.

The production will be staged Nov. 11-13. All crew and performance positions are open. For more information, contact Galyean at 3099.



FCA Meets Tonight

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes will meet at 6 p.m. today at Gressette Gym. John and Judy McFarland, FCA Huddle Coaches for ABAC, will coordinate the meeting, which will also feature Athletics' Director Alan Kramer and Fillies' Basketball Coach Julie Conner. All ABAC students, faculty, staff, and administrators are welcome.

Note of Sympathy

The ABAC Family expresses sympathy to Lois Moon whose father-in-law, Jack Davey, passed away last week. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers.

CAMP Video Shoot

A videographer will be on the ABAC campus today shooting footage for a new CAMP recruitment video. Faculty with Hispanic/Latino students may be asked to participate in this effort. The CAMP staff appreciates your cooperation.



Celebrating Birthdays

September

- 13 Erin Campbell
- 13 David King
- 15 Demetrius Newton
- 15 Stephanie Taylor
- 20 Susan Roe



Unique Style of Dance Comes to South Georgia

Known for its power and passion, the Koresh Dance Company will be performing Tuesday at the Tift County Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. The exciting and energetic display of dance is the opening event of the South Georgia Arts Alliance's Arts and Entertainment Series. An informal talk about the troupe and the performance will be given at 7 p.m.

"This nationally touring dance troupe combines movements from modern dance with the elegance of traditional ballet and adds the attitude of stomp for an explosive stage event. This display of unique dance is a great way to begin the season. South Georgia is fortunate to have such a quality performance," said Wayne Jones, Director, ABAC Arts Connection.

Tickets can be purchased as part of



The Koresh Dance Company

the season subscription for seven performances for \$50 for adults, \$15 for students under the age of 18 and free for ABAC students. Single event tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students. Call 386-3558 or go to www.southgaarts.com for details.

Staff Forum Wednesday

The fall Staff Forum meeting will be held Wednesday at 3 p.m. in the Cordell Conference Room, Section A. All ABAC staff members are welcome to attend.



College Financing Forum Thursday

Do you know someone planning for college, or do you have students that could use information about money for college? A FREE College Financing and Scholarship Forum will be held on Thursday at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium. Call the Public Service & Business Outreach Center at 3267 for info.

Sasaki Here For Master Plan On Wednesday

Sasaki and Associates from Boston, Mass., will be on campus Wednesday through Friday of this week to conduct interviews for the ABAC Master Plan. Public Relations Administrative Assistant Pam Leonard has set up meetings with various groups on campus. If representatives from your area are not on the schedule but would like to meet with the planners, contact Leonard at 3264.

The purpose of the Master Plan is to give ABAC a road map for the next 10 years. Sasaki will first examine our present situation and then through discussions with faculty, staff, and students, where we want to be in 10 years.

Care & Concern

Todd Sheppard's father is recuperating after undergoing triple by-pass surgery last week. Please remember him in your thoughts and prayers.

Calendar of Events

Monday, September 13

- 1 p.m.-Peace Memorial Poetry Reading (The Meadows)
- 3 p.m.-Camp/HEP Lecture (Cordell Conf. Room B)
- 5 p.m.-Christian Student Fellowship (Chapel)
- 6 p.m.-Tifton-Tift Co. Arts Council (Cordell Conf. Room A)

Tuesday, September 14

- 11 a.m.-Student Support Services Workshop (Cordell Conf. Rm B)
- 4 p.m.-Vollmer Farewell Reception (Dining Hall)
- 6 p.m.-DAR Dinner (Magnolia Room0)

Wednesday, September 15

- 3 p.m.-Staff Forum (Cordell Conf. Rm A)

Thursday, September 16

- 7 p.m.-College Financial & Scholarship Forum (Howard Auditorium)

Friday, September 17

- 3 p.m.-Police Academy Graduation (Cordell Conf. Room)
- 6 p.m.-Battle/Mull Wedding Rehearsal (Chapel)

Saturday, September 18

- 3 p.m.-Battle/Mull Wedding (Chapel)
- 6 p.m.-Walker/Landon Wedding Reception (Dining Hall)
- 6 p.m.-Herrin Party (Pool)

Monday, September 20

- 7:30 p.m.-Tift Co. 4-H Annual Banquet (Dining Hall)