



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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Spring Semester Begins Today at ABAC

Over 3,000 students are expected to be enrolled when the spring semester begins today at ABAC.

Campus events for the spring term include the Winter Stallion Day for prospective students on Feb. 11, the Ms. ABAC competition on Feb. 23, the regional science fair on Feb. 17, 'Evening for ABAC' on March 2, the Celebrate ABAC alumni weekend on March 2-3, the Science Olympiad on March 3, the Mr. ABAC contest on March 29, the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village's celebration of Folk Life on



April 14, Honors Day on April 11, and the Spring Stallion Day on April 14.

There will also be First Tuesday Concerts on Feb. 7, March 6, and April 3. The spring choral concert is April 5, the spring band concert is April 10, and the spring music student recitals are on April 25-26. April 19 has been set aside for a celebration of the arts on George Scott Day.

Athletic events include softball and baseball games, tennis matches, and golf tournaments as five of the six inter-

collegiate sports teams at ABAC swing into action.

Classes will continue through April 27 with final exams set for April 30 - May 3. The spring commencement ceremony will be held at 6 p.m. on May 4. The only time during the term when the entire campus will be closed is on Jan. 16 for the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday. Faculty and students will be away for spring break on March 12-16.

For more information on the spring semester at ABAC, interested persons can visit the web site at www.abac.edu.

'Tea For Three' Exhibit Opens at Georgia Museum of Agriculture Jan. 21

Three exceptional Georgia artists will showcase their works beginning Jan. 21 as part of a new exhibit at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC.

The exhibit will kick off with a reception on Jan. 21 at 5:30 p.m. at the Gallery of the Museum. The "Tea For Three" exhibit

will feature the works of Mary Ann Cox, Dr. Vincent Keese, and Anthony Scheffler.

The exhibit will include Cox's brand-new line of paintings, Keese's paintings of rural scenes, and Scheffler's collection of unique wood and metal teapot sculptures. A tea-themed opening reception sponsored by the Wiregrass Farmers Market will feature high-tea nibbles made by local farmers. Hot and cold teas brewed from herbs and fruit will be prepared and served by exhibit partner Hilton Garden Inn. The GMA's bluegrass band will provide the entertain-

ment for the event.

Cox describes her life over the last 40 years as an artistic journey. Her grandmother steered her on that path when she presented her with a box of pastels so she would stay out of her own box. Cox studied fine arts at Georgia Southern College and Valdosta State

watercolor paint and how to "break" the rules of traditional transparent watercolor painting. She also began to question her reasons for selecting subjects for painting. Her paintings come from personal experiences and memories of special moments from her past.

Keese was born in Virginia and



University but taught special education classes for 16 years before finally teaching art at Irwin County Elementary in Ocilla. Cox received the "Teacher of the Year" award for Irwin County before retiring in 2007.

Currently, Cox works from her art studio in Tifton and teaches art lessons to children and adults. Cox has won numerous art awards in shows across South Georgia and North Florida.

Cox discovered new ways to apply

studied art at Richmond Professional Institute, now Virginia Commonwealth University, where he painted with Maurice Bonds, Milton Hull and others. After graduating, he worked in Atlanta in graphic art and design. While there, he attended evening classes in painting at the High Museum of Art with Joel Reeves.

Keese furthered his education with a graduate degree in fine art from the *(continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1) University of Georgia (UGA) where he studied painting with Lamar Dodd, Howard Thomas and Joseph Swartz. In 1972 he received a Ph. D. in art history from UGA.

Keesee taught art at ABAC until his retirement in 1995. His painting is figurative and usually reflects some aspects of the southern culture and environment. His oil paintings show images of people and rural scenes, their humor and joy as they laugh, cry, and sing in church, or worry around an ailing man's bed. He has also found inspiration in contemporary music and the energy of dance.

Growing up near New Orleans' Magazine Street and French Quarter,

Scheffler was destined for a career as an artist. Largely self-taught, he developed his skills through years of furniture restoration, design, and construction, while maintaining a career in higher education. He enjoys exploring simple forms defined fundamentally by the intersection of straight and curved lines. His style has been described as architectural.

Scheffler works mostly with wood because of its universal appeal and endless variations, but will often incorporate weathered metal, anodized aluminum, and found objects into his pieces as a way of complementing and drawing attention to basic shapes.

His works include open and closed

vessels, teapots, and wall sculptures. Several of Scheffler's teapots have been acquired by the Kamm Teapot Foundation for its permanent collection. He currently lives with his wife and son on a small farm in South Georgia.

The "Tea For Three" exhibit will remain open until March 21. Exhibit hours are 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For a special private tour, a class visit to the Gallery, or a lecture by one of the featured artists, interested persons can contact Polly Huff, Museum Gallery Coordinator from the ABAC Arts Connection, at (229) 391-5222 or phuff@abac.edu.

ABAC will be closed Jan. 16 in observance of the Martin Luther King holiday. Classes and normal business hours will resume on Jan. 17.

The FOCUS is a weekly electronic publication produced by the ABAC Public Relations Office.

Please submit information by **Thursday at noon** to Ashley Mock at amock@abac.edu for inclusion in the next FOCUS.

Thompson Retires From ABAC Today After 10 years

Jane Thompson, personnel assistant in the Office of Human Resources, will retire today with more than 10 years of service to ABAC. Please congratulate Jane as she embarks on a new chapter of her life and stop by to wish her well.

ABAC Birthdays

- 9 Bryan Golden
- 9 Donna Hatcher
- 10 Wayne Jones
- 11 Diane Owens

Save the Date

Celebrate ABAC Weekend March 2&3. For more info visit www.abac.edu/celebrate or call the Alumni Office at 391-4900.



Fourteen Inducted into international Business Honor Society

Fourteen students at ABAC were inducted into the Alpha Beta Gamma business honor society last semester. Alpha Beta Gamma is an international business honor society established to encourage scholarship among two-year college students in business curricula. Students are eligible for membership if they obtain a 3.0 GPA or better and earn 12 credit hours. Inductees included Myesha Bedford, a business administration major from Fitzgerald; Briana Chaney, a business administration major from Tifton; Will Coley, a business administration major from Jesup; John Delva, a business administration major from Tifton; Hanh Dixon, a business administration from Tifton; Elizabeth Gomez, a business administration major from Pearson, Joshua Griffin, an agri-business and agricultural economics major from Madison; Carlos Gutierrez, a business administration major from Tifton; Chelsea Guyer, a business administration major from Pierson, Fla.; Christian Joiner, a business administration major from Tifton; Mallory Moore, a business administration major from Tifton; Elisabeth O'Quinn, a rural studies major from Fitzgerald; Katie Shoffstall, a rural studies major from Tifton; and Ashley Whitehead, a business administration major from Folkston.