Matthew Keen, a rural studies major at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, has received the $3,000 top award for the William Zimmer Prize in Art Criticism. The Nashville native was notified via e-mail that his critique on artist John Kingerlee’s “Recent Works” exhibition won him the honor.

Kingerlee is an Irish artist whose mediums include painting, collages and pottery created in the abstract form. His works are influenced by masters such as Dali, Pollock, and Picasso.

The national contest is named after the late art critic William Zimmer. Zimmer was credited with discovering many of the major artists of the 1980s. The competition was open to graduate, undergraduate, and recently graduated students in 12 cities across the United States.

“I saw Kingerlee’s exhibit at the Albany Museum of Art,” Keen said. “I was encouraged to see the exhibit and enter the contest by Donna Hatcher, associate professor of art at ABAC.”

Keen has taken some art foundation courses through Hatcher in areas including ceramics, drawing, painting, and two-dimensional design.

“He (Keen) is simply brilliant and has the opportunity to choose what he develops,” Hatcher said. “He’s just tops. There is no telling what he will do with his life.”

“Matthew is an excellent student in many ways,” adds Dr. Bobbie Robinson, Dean of the School of Liberal Arts. “He has been a role model to other students in the rural studies program.”

Keen will receive an associate’s degree in art and a bachelor’s degree in rural studies with a focus on art and culture at the commencement ceremony in May. He plans to go to graduate school to pursue advanced courses in art and literature.

“I would like to use my education in noteworthy endeavors through an instructive setting and would eventually plan to develop this information to support more altruistic measures,” said Keen.
Ty Ty Student Benefits from New ABAC Technology

Thanks to some new technology from AT&T, Aja Webb from Ty Ty says she is a much better student at ABAC. The non-traditional student utilized this technology when she took classes in Introduction to Algebra and College Algebra taught by Melanie Partlow, Assistant Professor of Mathematics.

“I was able to go back through the lecture while also going through my notes to see if I missed anything,” said Webb. “It gives students who missed a class or are having trouble the opportunity to see the class again. It also serves as a great tool for test reviews, and I love how every class is archived so I can go back to it whenever I need a refresher.”

Using funds from a $48,297 grant from AT&T in 2009, ABAC uses Hello World technology to video the instructors in specific classes and archive all the lectures at a central site so students can go back and watch them at any time during the semester.

Webb, who is also a mother, sometimes has other priorities that have to come before homework. Because of this, the technology helps her focus on what she may have missed and keeps her on track with her studies. She has seen improvements in her grades and would definitely use this format in her other areas of study.

“A lot of students don’t know that this is available to them or they hear about it at the beginning of the semester but don’t know how to go about using the resources,” said Webb. “They really need to take advantage of this and other resources the college offers.”

Webb hopes that other faculty members will start implementing Hello World for their classes.

“If the faculty as a whole could use Hello World for all of their classes I think both the students and the faculty would benefit from the technology,” said Webb.

Rodney McDonald, ABAC alumnus and 2010 Outstanding Business Leader award recipient, founded the NGO Emergency Response Services for Latin America (ERSLA) in 2008. Based in Nicaragua, ERSLA works to create trained and equipped volunteer emergency and prevention systems in Latin American countries. In addition to training and equipment projects, ERSLA works on community relationship building with the local volunteer firefighters.

McDonald is currently soliciting donations for water filters to be distributed by local volunteer firefighters in rural Nicaragua. The filters are $50 each and last for five years. The filters provide clean drinking water for families that would otherwise not have access to it.

If any of you are interested in supporting McDonald’s project, ERSLA is still gathering tax deductible donations for the 2010 water filter campaign. This is a great opportunity for an ABAC club to get involved in community service internationally.

Should you choose to purchase a filter, you will be sent a photo of the delivered product with your name on it, as well as GPS coordinates of the home to which it was delivered.

Go to www.ersla.org and click the “Donate Now” button to pay through PayPal. For more information contact McDonald via email at rodney.mc@ersla.org.

The ABAC ACTIONS team purchased a water filter that will provide a family with clean water for five years. The project is in connection with ERSLA, founded by ABAC alumnus Rodney McDonald ('84).

ABAC Offers On the Spot Admissions for Students

Mac Leskosky from Stratford Academy in Macon proudly shows off his acceptance certificate. The Enrollment Services Office provides on the spot admission decisions for campus visitors who have submitted all necessary documents needed in order to make an admissions decision.
**Fulbright Scholar Brings Brazil To ABAC**
Dr. Aercio Cunha, a visiting Fulbright Scholar from Brazil, lectured on Brazil to students at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College on Wednesday at ABAC Lakeside. Cunha, who is teaching classes in the School of Business Administration at ABAC this year, talked about the history, culture, customs, food, and music of the country. His wife, Maria, cooked some Brazilian delicacies to add to the event.

**Myers Receives Top Award From VSU Graduate Program**
Janet Myers, ABAC instructor in the School of Nursing and Health Sciences, was the recipient of the Valdosta State University (VSU) College of Nursing, Outstanding Master of Science in Nursing Graduate Student Award for fall 2010. Myers was recognized for her superior academic achievement, professional leadership and strong ethical practice. She was awarded her MSN degree during the VSU Graduate School’s commencement ceremony on Dec. 10, 2010. Please join the School of Nursing and Health Sciences as we congratulate Janet on her accomplishments. Dr. Nancy Redfern Vance (left), Academic Advisor, presents Myers with the award.

**McCrary To Become Bursar At VSU**
Debra McCrary has accepted the Bursar position at Valdosta State University. Her last day at ABAC will be on Jan. 28. She joined the staff here in 2000. She will be greatly missed, and we wish her well.

**ABAC Birthdays**

18 Mary Washington  
20 JoAnn Brannen  
20 Paul Willis  
21 Don Allen

**Cofer To Speak Jan. 24**
Rebecca Cofer will be the next speaker in the Center for Teaching and Learning Colloquium Series from 4-5 p.m. in Carlton 202 on Jan. 24. She will present "10 Must Have Tips for the New (And Not-so-New) Advisor."

The Colloquium Series provides faculty and staff opportunities to share their expertise with others on campus. This is an excellent chance for free professional development. For future dates, please visit: www.abac.edu/ctl/ColloquiumSeries.cfm

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**ABAC Family**
Dr. Shelley Fandel presented her research study on "The Impact of Teacher Training and Professional Development on Novice Teachers’ Beliefs about Parental Involvement" at the Georgia Education Research Association (GERA) Conference in Savannah on Oct. 22-23. Students from Donna Sledge’s CPR and First Aid class presented basic first aid and CPR Techniques to Eighth Street Middle School students on Nov. 3. ESMS students rotated through all stations and learned valuable lifesaving techniques. Students in Gene Fandel’s Public Safety and Government class, as well as students from the physical education classes attended the presentation. President David Bridges and Ashley Williamson spoke at the Ocilla Lions Club Jan. 13. Dr. Tim Marshall and Donna Webb recruited prospective students and networked with supporters at the National Farm Bureau convention in Atlanta Jan. 8-10.