‘Women’s Faces’ Exhibit Opens Thursday at Museum Gallery

Women’s faces portrayed in clay and on canvas are about to take over The Gallery at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC.

Polly Huff, assistant director and curator at the museum, said a 5:30 p.m. reception on Jan. 30 hosted by Tifton’s Twentieth Century Library Club, will open “Women’s Faces,” the 17th exhibit at The Gallery.

“For the ‘Women’s Faces’ exhibit, Danielsville potters Pat Shields and Janice Hall will feature a collection of their face jugs, each one representing a woman,” Huff said. “Each pot is made from native clay processed by a mule-driven mill, wheel thrown, and individually decorated by hand.”

Huff said the exhibit will also feature a unique collection of mixed media canvases and scrapbooks honoring Tift County women from all walks of life. The Tifton Twentieth Century Library Club is participating in “Faces Make Places,” a GFWC Arts Partnership Project in which the club has produced several large photo collages and scrapbooks celebrating women from all social and economic backgrounds and their contributions to the Tifton community.

“Art students from Tift County High School and Eighth Street Middle School will also provide various pieces of art for the project,” Huff said. “The collages will include women from the early 1900s through the present day.”

Shields and Hall are a husband and wife team that began studying southern pottery traditions as an innocent part-time hobby two decades ago. Visits with potters in north Georgia led to apprenticeship opportunities with some well-known traditional potters, and the hobby turned into a full-time business.

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ABAC’s Oldest Alumnus Celebrates 104th Birthday

Mrs. Mamie Ethel Arnold Talley celebrated her 104th birthday at the Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College Alumni Board meeting Friday at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture. Her birthday was Jan. 22. Talley graduated from the South Georgia A&M College in 1928. She also attended the Second District A&M High School, the founding name for ABAC. The very active Talley is the mother of Sue Sirmans, who retired after serving many years in ABAC’s Business Office; and June Branch, who served as the President of the ABAC Alumni Association; and grandmother to Kim Talley, office coordinator in the ABAC Academic Assistance Center.

Update Your Contact Information in ADP

With the potential for winter weather issues, please take a moment to ensure your contact information is accurate in ADP. This will help to ensure that you are notified of any important information in the future on your phone. Also, pay attention to the home page of www.abac.edu for information updates.
“Over the years Pat and Janice have adopted many traditional methods used in the southern cottage pottery industry, while also incorporating modern techniques in their production,” Huff said. “They mix their own glazes from raw ingredients using traditional or original recipes, and they wood-fire each of the pieces in their shop.”

The accumulated experience and creative expression displayed by Shields and Hall is evident in the functional stoneware and decorative folk art wares produced by their shop, Georgia Mudcats Pottery. It has been featured in “Southern Living Magazine,” “Northeast Georgia Living Magazine,” and the book, “From Mud to Jug” by John A. Burrison.

Huff said the family mule named “Blue” walks in circles for about five hours in order to process one mill of clay. Once the clay is tempered, the two potters dig it out of the mill and press 25 pounds at a time through a pug mill to remove any rocks and debris. Each face jug requires about seven pounds of clay, which is weighted and wedged, to remove air pockets.

Shields then turns each jug and allows it to dry. A handle is added, and Hall personalizes each one with special facial features. After drying the jug for a couple of weeks, it is fired in a biaq kiln for about 12 hours at 1800 degrees, cooled for 15 hours, washed, and then wax is applied to the bottom.

“Even then, the jug is not finished,” Huff said “The glazing takes place in between applications of wax, which keeps the different color glazes from bleeding through. The kiln is fired again and stoked for about nine hours, to obtain the desired temperature of 2300 degrees, then slowly cooled for two days before Pat and Janice can take the first peek at their finished creations.”

As an extra added attraction, the two potters will also have on display their personal collections of pottery made by female potters, including pieces created by a blind potter.

The reception for “Women’s Faces” will feature local music and refreshments, as well as gallery talks and tours with Shields, Hall, and Brenda Rose, the lead artist of the “Faces Make Places” project. Many of the featured face jugs will be available for sale, along with smaller items made by the potters especially for the exhibit.

For questions about this exhibit, interested persons can contact Huff at phuff@abac.edu.

‘Rhythm and Blues’ Concert Tuesday in Howard Auditorium at 7 p.m.

Pianist Doug Jurs and guest violinist M. Brent Williams will play a selection of jazz music ranging from classical to contemporary at the "Rhythm and Blues" jazz concert at 7:30 p.m. on Tues. in Howard Auditorium at ABAC.

Open to the public at no charge, the evening begins with the modern composition “Blue Piece for Violin and Piano” by Libby Larsen, followed by Maurice Ravel’s “Violin Sonata in G Major” and George Antheil's “Sonata Major” and George Antheil's “Sonata.

First Prize at the 2004 Lee Biennial Piano Competition and in 2010 was winner of the University of Wisconsin Beethoven Competition. While a graduate student in Cleveland, Jurs served as an Associate Artist with the Cleveland Opera.

Since moving to Georgia, Jurs has enjoyed performing throughout the southeast with colleagues from Atlanta, Macon, Athens, and Valdosta. He continues to serve as Artistic Director of the Blue Horse Music Festival in Woodstock, VT, where he presents and performs alongside leading musicians from New York's classical and new music scenes in the intimate Blue Horse Inn music parlor.

Williams is currently the Concertmaster of the Albany Symphony Orchestra, Assistant Concertmaster of the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, and Principal Second of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra (VSO). He has performed concerts with the VSO, Sinfonia Gulf Coast, the Opera Teatro di Lucca Chamber Orchestra in Lucca, Italy, Albany Symphony Orchestra and Valdosta State University Percussion Ensemble.

Williams received his Ph. D. and MA in music from Florida State University and his bachelor's degree in music from the University of Oklahoma. A dedicated chamber musician, Williams is the first violinist of the enhaké quartet, which won the Grand Prize at the Yellow Springs Chamber Music Competition; won first prize at the Third International Chamber Music Ensemble Competition in Boston, Mass.; and was a finalist at the Osaka International Chamber Music Competition and Festival in Osaka, Japan. Williams has been a lecturer of Violin and World Music at VSU since 2008 where he is the director/founder of VSU’s Pan-American Ensemble. He has also been on the faculties of the Chapel Hill Chamber Music Workshop, Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp and FSU Summer Music Camp. He has done classical recordings for the Naxos, Koch and Emeritus labels as well as non-classical projects for Barsuk, Pias America, Alchemist, Nub and Engine Shed records.

Staff Forum Wed. at 3:30

Staff Forum meets on Wednesday, at 3:30 p.m. in Health Science 237. Vice-Presidents John Clemens, Dr. Niles Reddick, and Paul Willis will present at the meeting and be available for questions and the next Vice- Chair of Staff Forum will be voted on. Contact Dr. Chris Kinsey at ckinsey@abac.edu with questions.
**45th Annual Ms. ABAC**

Reigning Ms. ABAC, Kristen Ray will crown the 45th Ms. ABAC on February 25.

The Ag Business Club welcomes campus clubs, athletic teams and individuals to join in the 2014 Ms. ABAC Pageant. The event will be held Thursday, February 25 at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium.

Sponsor's agreements, entry fees, contestant class schedule, and contestant information must be submitted to Judy Perry in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Ag Science 118, by 4 p.m. on Thursday, February 6. Keep in mind that no late entries will be accepted. Interest parties can call 229.391.4792 for more information.

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**Students Represent ABAC in San Antonio**

Five ABAC students attended the Sports Turf Managers Association 25th Conference & Exhibition in San Antonio, Texas last week. These students were sponsored by the Georgia Sport Turf Association to represent Georgia in the National Collegiate Sports Turf Quiz Bowl. The Sport Turf Managers Association is a professional association for men and women who manage sports fields worldwide. Pictured (left to right): Jacob Finn, Chris Wright, Mark Lewis, Brad Thompson, Zach Bryant, and Jimmy Felton. Each are students in the Turfgrass & Golf Course Management bachelor’s degree.

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**Seed & Plant Swap Sat.**

Area citizens can get a head-start on spring gardening with the Wiregrass Farmers Market’s third annual Seed and Plant Swap on Feb. 1 at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture at ABAC. The event will take place in the Museum Foyer from 9:30 – 11 a.m. There is no admission fee for the swap.

Everyone can bring things to share or come to find a few new things to try in the yard or garden. Homemade cinnamon rolls, coffee, and juice will be available for purchase to support the Market.

For more information, interested persons can contact Bret Wagenhorst at (229) 392.5513 or via email at bwagenhorst@hotmail.com.

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**ABAC Birthdays**

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Feb.
2 Eunkyung You

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**Stallion Day Dates:**

February 15
April 5
More info to come

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The FOCUS is an 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.