Celebrate ABAC Alumni Weekend on March 2-3

From the excitement of bull-riding to a wonderful one-woman theatre production, the annual Celebrate ABAC Alumni Weekend on March 2-3 at ABAC offers events for students and alumni of all ages.

The schedule includes the 2012 Athletics Hall of Fame induction ceremony, the Evening for ABAC Scholarship Dinner, a one-woman play based on author Margaret Mitchell by ABAC alumna Melita Easters, and the always-popular Gee Haw Whoa Back Rodeo.

The celebration begins with the Annual Remembrance Service at 4 p.m. on March 2 in the Chapel of All Faiths. At 6 p.m., the Evening for ABAC Scholarship Dinner will take place in Gressette Gym followed by a 7 p.m. Howard Auditorium performance of “Mrs. John Marsh: The World Knew Her As Margaret Mitchell”, written by ABAC alumna Melita Easters.

Easters’ play tells the story of the reclusive author’s life before and after she became a publishing sensation with her novel, “Gone With The Wind”. The play includes an audio visual component of rarely published photographs and newsreel footage from the movie’s Atlanta premiere.

Advance tickets are available for the performance and dinner for $100 a person or $180 a couple. Reserved tables for eight persons in Gressette Gym are $1,250. Tickets for the performance only are $45 a person or $80 a couple. Proceeds from this event go to support ABAC student scholarships. Reservations can be made by calling the ABAC Office of College Advancement at (229) 391-4895.

Also at 7 p.m. on March 2 will be the preliminary round of the Gee Haw Whoa Back Rodeo at the ABAC Arena. The gates open at 6 p.m. Admission is $10 for ABAC Alumni and general admission, $5 for children 6 – 12 years old and ABAC students with their Gold Card, and free to children under six. The rodeo will also include pony rides, carnival games, food, and more.

On March 3, the college will honor alumni with the ABAC Recognition Program beginning at 11 a.m. at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture on the ABAC campus. This event is $25 per person and must be purchased in advance. The ceremony will feature the Class of 1962 Golden Alumni Induction, the Alumni Awards Recognition, and the President’s Club Induction. Tickets to this event are limited and tickets must be purchased in advance from the ABAC Alumni Office at www.abac.edu/alumni.

On the afternoon of March 3, alumni and students can visit the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village or attend the ABAC Fillies softball alumni game. The Athletics Hall of Fame induction ceremony will take place in the ABAC Lakeside Grand Lobby at 5:30 p.m. Tickets will only be sold in advance and can be purchased from the ABAC Athletics Office by calling Shirley Wilson at (229) 391-4932. The Celebrate ABAC festivities will conclude with the finals of the Gee Haw Whoa Back ABAC Rodeo at 7 p.m. on March 3 at the ABAC Arena.

For more information on Celebrate ABAC, interested persons can contact the ABAC Alumni office at (229) 391-4900 or visit the web site at www.abac.edu/alumni/CelebrateABAC

Serving For Cure Clinic Raises Over $1000 for Local Charities

The ABAC Tennis program hosted Serving for the Cure Saturday at the Red Hill Tennis Center. Middle and high school students received coaching tips from current ABAC tennis players. The teams will donate $600 to the ABAC Relay for Life team and $600 to Tift County Foundation for Educational Excellence.
**Fulbright Scholar Speaking at ABAC Thursday**

Fulbright Scholar Dr. Willibroad Dze-Ngwa will speak at ABAC on Thursday at 1 p.m. at the Health Sciences building, Room 237. This event is free of charge and open to the general public.

Dze-Ngwa is a senior lecturer and researcher in geopolitics, political history and international relations at the University of Yaounde I-Cameroon in Africa. He has also taught at the Higher Teacher Training College in Bambili, the University of Bamenda, the Department of Peace and Development Studies of the Protestant University of Central Africa, and the School of International Training, both in Cameroon.

He is the Founder and Executive Director of African Network against Illiteracy, Conflicts and Human Rights Abuse (ANICHRA). He is the Laureate of the 2008 Educational Research Network for West and Central Africa (ERNWACA) Small Grant Award on Peace and Citizenship Education. In 2010, he received a United States Department Grant and undertook the Study of United States Institutions (SUSI) Program where he researched American Politics and Political Thought at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

In December 2010, upon his return to Cameroon, Dze-Ngwa was appointed to head the pioneer Pan-African Comparative Education Society, Africa For Research In Comparative Education Society (AFRICE) with the mission to implant Comparative Education in African universities and attract Africans and Africanists to belong to AFRICE. In May 2011, thanks to the efforts of Dze-Ngwa, AFRICE was officially admitted as member of the World Councils of Comparative Education Society (WCCES), with headquarters at Wollongong, Australia.

In 2011 Dze-Ngwa received the honor of becoming Fulbright Scholar. This gave him the opportunity to lecture in Global Issues and African Governments and African Politics in the Department of Political Science and Public Affairs at Savannah State University for the 2011/2012 academic year.

**Run for the Nurses**

Join the School of Nursing and Health Sciences on Feb. 25 for a 1 mile fun walk/run, 5K run, and 10K run event to assist in the future education of nurses through scholarships at ABAC. The 5K race will benefit the Lisa Purvis Allison Spirit of Nursing Scholarship Fund. Visit www.abac.edu/nursing or email Rebecca Arnold at ranold@abac.edu for more info.

**Essays in the Sunshine**

Joseph Brown allowed his class a moment in the sun Thursday under a perfectly blue sky day at ABAC. There’s nothing like winter in South Georgia.
Don’t Forget
Stallion Day Feb. 11
For a complete schedule visit www.abac.edu/stalliondays

Close to 150 students have already registered and we anticipate 500 students and guests attending the event.

Don’t forget the deadline to register for a Stallion Marketplace table is Feb. 6, so please encourage your clubs to sign-up today! Contact Brooke Jernigan at bjernigan@abac.edu or 391-5018 for more info.

Set-up for the marketplace will take place in Gressette Gym from 7-9 a.m. Saturday morning.

ABAC Selects Athletics Hall of Fame Inductees for 2012

Former student athletes and coaches at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College will be honored at the fifth annual ABAC Athletics Hall of Fame ceremony on March 3 at 5:30 p.m. in the Grand Lobby of ABAC Lakeside.

Hall of Fame inductees for 2012 include Greg Tanner, coach of the 1995 ABAC national championship softball team; longtime men’s basketball coach Donnie Veal, who led the Stallions to the state championship in 1982; ABAC tennis player Jean Francoise Lagloire, who won two number one singles national championships; William E. Batton, captain of the 1950 men’s basketball team; and the players on the 1996 national championship women’s softball team, coached by Donna Campbell.

Tickets are now available at a cost of $30 per person for the induction dinner on March 3, which is a part of the Celebrate ABAC Alumni Weekend activities. Tickets will only be sold in advance and can be purchased from the ABAC Athletics Office by calling Shirley Wilson at (229) 391-4932.

Tanner said his 1995 team’s experience helped win the state tournament and move on to the national tournament that was hosted in Tifton that year. The Fillies won the national title in an 8th-inning rally that resulted in a 5-4 victory over Meridian Community College. Tanner was named the Region XVII Softball Coach of the Year and National Invitational Women’s Softball Slow Pitch Championship Coach of the Tournament in 1995.

Veal was the men’s basketball coach at ABAC from 1977 until he retired in 2000. The Stallions won the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region XVII title in 1982 before losing to eventual national runner-up Miami-Dade in the first round of the national tournament. Veal also guided the Stallions to the Georgia state title game (NJCAA Region XVII) in 1990 and 2000.

Lagloire left his native country of France to take the NJCAA by storm during 1989 and 1990 when he became the only men’s player in ABAC history to secure back-to-back national championships at the number one singles position in the national tournament. He was a two-time NJCAA All-America selection, won the International Tennis Association Small College Tournament, and played his final two years of eligibility at Mississippi State University.

Batton averaged 24 points per game at ABAC where he was a freshman starter on the state and regional championship team in 1949. The Montezuma native was captain of the 1950 ABAC team and an unanimous all-state selection. ABAC basketball coach Bruce Gressette, one of the initial inductees into the Hall of Fame, said Batton was one of the five best players he ever coached at ABAC.

In her very first year as coach of the women’s softball team at ABAC, Campbell guided the Fillies to the national championship. The team compiled a record of 44-12 and defeated Meridian (Miss.) Community College for the national crown. The title represented the third of three national championships won by the Fillies on the softball field under the leadership of three different coaches, Ellen Vickers in 1991, Tanner in 1995, and Campbell in 1996.

ABAC initiated the Athletics Hall of Fame during the 100th birthday celebration in 2008. This year’s honorees represent the fifth class to be inducted. The first class included Orion Mitchell, Bruce Gressette, Thomas Cheney, Philip Simpson, Norman “Red” Hill, and Mileena Stanoytcheva.

The 2009 class included the 1984 national championship men’s tennis team, Ellen Vickers, Cook Holliday, P.W. Bryan, Jr., Dorsey Brooks, and Newell “Sarge” Dorsey. The 2010 class included the 1991 ABAC national championship women’s softball team, Thomas “Boo” Weekley, Joseph Grist, Harley Klepfer, and Jim Sparks.

**Staff Forum Donates to ABAC Relay For Life Team**
The ABAC Staff Forum Tom Turkey Committee presented a check for $1,141 to ABAC’s Relay For Life team. Relay for Life Team Captain Donna Webb could not be there, so Clayton Riehle stood in for her. The check was presented to Emily LaMontagne, Community Manager with the American Cancer Society.

**Faculty Lunch Thursdays in the Dining hall**
Starting Thursday the President’s Dining Room in the will be open to faculty members for their dining pleasure every Thursday from 11:30 a.m.—2 p.m. Enjoy your fried chicken while commiserating with fellow faculty.

**Fillies Pancake Breakfast Feb. 11 at Applebee’s**
Support the ABAC fillies softball team at their annual Pancake Breakfast at Applebee’s. Contact Donna Campbell or a softball player for tickets. Breakfast consists of pancakes, sausage, and a variety of drinks. The cost is $6.00 per ticket.

**ABAC Birthdays**
5 Randy Carter

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.

**“Tea For Three” Exhibit Open at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village**
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.