Twenty-Eight Compete for Ms. ABAC Title Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Ms. ABAC 2011 will be crowned on Wednesday at the 42nd annual contest at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. The pageant is sponsored by the ABAC Ag Business Club. The pageant begins at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium. Admission is $5. Because of limited seating, advance ticket purchase is advised by calling (229) 391-4807.

Kramer Gets 300th Win

ABAC athletics director and tennis coach Alan Kramer reached a milestone in the coaching profession last week when the ABAC Fillies defeated Coastal Georgia 6-3. With the win, Kramer secured his 300th victory as head coach. Every one of those victories has come at ABAC, where Kramer began his career as the head coach of the Fillies but now coaches both the men’s team and the women’s team.

Kramer was inducted into the National Junior College Athletic Association Women’s Tennis Hall of Fame in 2010. He was also named the 2009-10 Junior and Community Colleges Southeast Region Under Armour Athletic Director of the Year by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics.

Kramer has been named the NJCAA Region XVII Coach of the Year 19 times. He was also named ITA/Wilson National Intercollegiate Women’s Coach of the Year in 1998 and 2007.

The ABAC Fillies have won 17 consecutive Region XVII championships. Under Kramer’s leadership, the Stallions have won eight Region XVII titles. ABAC has finished as the national runner-up three times.

Kramer has coached 51 All-America selections and two national champions at ABAC.

Evening for ABAC March 4

The Mike Snider String Band will perform at this year’s “Evening for ABAC” on March 4 at 7:30 p.m. The cost for the ABAC Foundation sponsored event is $75 per person. Get your tickets by Feb. 24 by calling (229) 391-4900.

Stallion Day For Juniors April 16
Rodeo Returns!
Get out your jeans, cowboy hats, and spurs because a genuine, bona fide “Gee Haw, Whoa Back” rodeo is coming to the ABAC campus on March 4-5 as a part of the Celebrate ABAC Alumni Weekend activities. The gates open at 6 p.m. each night at the ABAC Rodeo Arena with action beginning at 7 p.m. For more information on Celebrate ABAC, interested persons can contact the Office of College Advancement at (229) 391-4900 or visit the web site at http://www.abac.edu/celebrate.

Events Abound For Black History Month at ABAC

Black History Month activities at ABAC wind up this week with events including movies, a fashion show, and a kick-off to the start of Celebrate ABAC.

Tonight the Minority Academic Social Development Association (MASDA) will sponsor Black History Movies on Mondays (M&Ms), featuring “Higher Learning”. A free Multicultural Fashion Show will take place Tuesday in the Donaldson Dining Hall at 6 p.m., followed by a Unity Party at 9 p.m. in the Nickelodeon. Admission to the Unity Party is $2 with ABAC ID.

The celebration of Black History Month will culminate with the beginning of Celebrate ABAC on Feb. 28 with a cook-out at the Rowan Pavilion from 5 – 8 p.m.

This event is sponsored by the Office of Student Life and Housing.

For more information on any of these events, contact Dean of Students Bernice Hughes at bhughes@abac.edu.

Baldwin Players Perform March 3-5 At ABAC

The Baldwin Players will present “An Evening of Storytelling” on March 3-5 at ABAC. Directed by Dr. John Galyean, Associate Professor of Humanities in the School of Liberal Arts, the production will take place in Conger Hall, Room 319 at 7:30 p.m. each night.

Tickets to the production are free to all ABAC students, staff, and faculty and $5 for the community. All tickets can be purchased at the door before the event.

Possible stories include anecdotes, a contemporary horror story, a Native American tale, retellings of “The Giving Tree” by Shel Silverstein; two nonsensical British works, “Jabberwocky” and “Nine Cats”.

For more information, interested persons can contact Galyean at 229-391-4960 or via e-mail at jgalyean@abac.edu.

Tift Hall Gets a Porch

Work continues on the renovation of 103-year-old Tift Hall as workers poured and smoothed the concrete that will be the base of the second floor porch. Sheetrock will begin to go up this week. The projected completion date of the building is June.
Bottles & Brushes Art Class
March 18 at Museum

Bottles and Brushes offers a night of fun and creativity where participants will paint the barn picture to the right. Participants can bring their favorite beverage, while the Gallery at the Museum will provide the paint, canvas and brushes, all adding up to an exciting evening with friends. There is a fee of $25 per person for the class, or $40 for a couple. Participants must register ahead of time either at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture Art Gallery or by contacting Polly Huff at (229) 391-5222 or email phuff@abac.edu.

‘Needles & Pins’ Exhibit Opens March 5

A collection of quilts and rolling pins titled “Needles & Pins” will be the featured exhibit beginning March 5 at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

The exhibit will open at noon on March 5 as a part of the 2011 Celebrate ABAC festivities and will lead up to the American Legacy Quilt Show, “Pieces of Your Life”, which will take place in Tifton on April 8-10.

“I can’t think of a better way to welcome our alumni to campus during Celebrate ABAC and to showcase our new Gallery at the Museum,” Polly Huff, exhibit coordinator from the ABAC Arts Connection, said.

Huff said “Needles & Pins” features an incredible collection of antique and modern-day quilts including works of the Wiregrass Quilters Guild, a large group of artisans from throughout South Georgia. The exhibit will also include several contemporary 3-D quilts, a collection of antique quilts on loan from the Hogan Family in Irwinville, and a special, never before exhibited 9/11 Memorial quilt from Jim Tripp of Rochelle.

Also on display will be six never-before-shown quilts dating back to the 1930s. The quilts are on loan to the Gallery from the private collection of ABAC alumnus and Gallery supporter C. L. Morehead, Jr., from Athens.

The “Needles & Pins” exhibit will be open from March 5 through April 12, Tuesday through Saturday, from 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Classes and group tours are welcome. To arrange a private tour, contact Huff at (229) 386-3849 or phuff@abac.edu.

Along with the quilts, the Gallery at the Museum will exhibit three private collections of antique rolling pins made of glass, marble, various types of wood, chrome, ceramic, and plastic.

“Needles and Pins will take you back hundreds of years through stories of love, marriage, family, patriotism, and fashion,” Huff said. “Quilts stitched by hand a hundred years ago from old feed sacks will be displayed next to ultra-modern creations made of the most luxurious fabrics and using the latest technology. I promise you a stunning experience as you walk through this exhibit.”

Science Olympiad
March 5 at ABAC

The School of Science and Mathematics at ABAC will host the Regional Science Olympiad on March 5. The event will take place from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at various locations on campus, culminating with an awards ceremony in Gressette Gym.

“‘This is a Division C tournament,’” said Lori Pearman, Assistant Professor of Mathematics in the School of Science and Mathematics and Co-Director of the Science Olympiad. “‘This Science Olympiad is for high school students. We have 18 teams competing from the South Georgia area.’

Students will compete in science fields including physics, astronomy, chemistry, biology, and anatomy. They will also take part in device events where students have to create items including a mouse trap vehicle.

For more information on the Science Olympiad, contact Pearman at (229) 391-5118.
Softball Team Steps Up To the Plate at ABAC

Two softball games begin this week’s home games at ABAC. The Fillies will face Georgia Military College on Feb. 22 in a double-header at 3 p.m. at Fillies Field. The Fillies will follow up with another double-header against East Georgia College at 2 p.m. on Feb. 24.

The Fillies tennis team will take the courts to play against Central Alabama Community College on Feb. 25 at 2 p.m. at the Norman “Red” Hill Tennis Complex.

Also slotted to play at home this week is the Stallions baseball team when it squares off in a double-header on Feb. 27 against Southern Union at 1 p.m. at the baseball field.

For more information on upcoming sporting events at ABAC, contact the ABAC athletics’ office at (229) 391-4930.

Business Office Wins Weekly High Five Award

Deidra Jackson, ABAC Controller, nominated the Business Office Staff for the weekly High Five Award.

In her nomination she said, “I would like to nominate the Business Office Staff for the High Five Award. This includes Diane Owens, Patsy Hembree, Donna King, Joy Lott, Brenda Bailey, Ann Olphie, Debbie McComas, Teri Mathis, and Robbie Hawsey. The Business Office has worked extremely hard over the past year to prepare for the FY10 Annual Audit. In early January, the College received good news concerning the outcome of the FY10 Annual Audit. If it wasn’t for the hard work and dedication of each individual, this successful outcome would not have been possible. Thank you for never giving up day in and day out. Thank you for working together as a team. Thank you for all of the extra long hours that have been worked. Thank you for overcoming the obstacles that have been placed in your paths. Thank you!”

As the weekly winners, the business office staff wins a High Five 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.

ABAC Birthdays

21  Ann Olphie
23  Elske McCardell
23  Shabreka Rogers
24  Barbara Hampton
24  Johnny Johnson
26  Hye Min Lee
27  Joyce Willis

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

Ashley Williamson  Mike Chason
Writer and Layout  Writer & Editor

Please submit any information to Ashley Williamson at williamson@abac.edu by Thursday at noon for inclusion in the next FOCUS.

Visit London & Paris With ABAC July 7-14

Travel with ABAC to London and Paris this summer! See Buckingham Palace. Have dinner on the Eiffel Tower. The trip is scheduled for July 7-14. The price of $3,829 includes bus transportation from Tifton, airfare, lodging, 10 meals, and several guided tours. See all the information on the trip at www.collettevacations.com/group-page/index.cfm~ID~425315. Call Diane Kilgore today at 391-5065. Space is limited.

ABAC Faculty and Students Attend Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Event

Dr. Alec Kowalewski, Jimmy Felton, and John Layton accompanied 12 ABAC Turfgrass and Golf Course Management students on an experiential learning trip to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America national vendor fair and trade show in Orlando. The ABAC turfgrass students visited with alumni, networked with green industry professionals, and participated in the Collegiate Turf Bowl competition.