Moultrie Coed Wins Ms. ABAC Title

Like mother, like daughter. Following in the footsteps of her mom, Keaton Griner from Moultrie won the Ms. ABAC title in the 43rd annual event at Howard Auditorium on Thursday night on the campus of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

Griner’s mother, Monika, won the Ms. ABAC title in 1987. “Ms. ABAC was not just something I heard about and wanted to enter,” the sophomore Family and Consumer Science major said. “I knew about this pageant a long time before I ever even came to ABAC. This is a real honor, and I am so proud to represent this college.”

Sponsored by the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity at ABAC, Griner is a Colquitt County High School graduate whose parents, Monika and Keith, were both in the audience for the event.

Other finalists included Randilee Evans, an early childhood education major from Hawkinsville, first runner-up; Kendall Singleton, an animal science major from Thomaston, second runner-up; Kristin Whitman, an English major from Sylvester, third runner-up; and Holly Lovell, a biology major from Sylvester, fourth runner-up.

Griner won the interview portion of the competition, and Alyssa Mills, a biology major from Lilburn, finished first in the essay competition. Mackenzie Sirmans, a Social and Community Affairs major from Douglas, received the Ms. Congeniality award, and Evans was named the People’s Choice award winner.

Active in many aspects of the ABAC campus, Griner serves as vice-president of the ABAC Ambassadors leadership organization, and is a member of the Family and Consumer Sciences club, the Student Government Association, and has been selected as the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity sweetheart. Griner also works as an intern with the Georgia Peanut Commission. After completing her ABAC degree, Griner plans to attend the University of Georgia to study for a degree in dietetics with an emphasis on nutrition and food safety.

The pageant was sponsored by the ABAC Ag Business Club, which donated $500 from the proceeds to the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.

Gee Haw, Whoa Back Rodeo Friday and Saturday at ABAC

The rodeo will hold two sanctioned rounds of competition with the preliminary round on Friday and the finals on March 3. Both rounds start at 7 p.m. in the ABAC Rodeo Arena. Gates open at 6 p.m. Admission is $10 for general admission, $5 for children 6 – 12 years old and ABAC students with their Gold Card, and free to children under six.
**Science Olympiad at ABAC March 3**

The School of Science and Mathematics at ABAC will host the Regional Science Olympiad for high school students on March 3. The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at various locations on campus, culminating with an awards ceremony in Gressette Gym at 3 p.m.

“We have 17 teams from surrounding counties who will compete in this event,” said Lori Pearman, Assistant Professor of Mathematics in the School of Science and Mathematics and Co-Director of the Science Olympiad. “The ASSETS Scholars at ABAC will assist the students competing.”

Students will compete in various fields including physics, forestry, chemistry, biology, and music. They will also take part in device events where students have to create items including a gravity vehicle, helicopter vehicle, and a robot arm.

For more information on the Science Olympiad, interested persons can contact Pearman at lpearman@abac.edu.

**Wiregrass Market Progressive Dinner March 9 at Georgia Museum of Agriculture**

Get a taste of spring, at a local food dinner on March 9 at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village. A benefit for the new Wiregrass Farmers Market will feature foods grown locally and prepared by area chefs and cooks. The Wine Loft will also provide dinner guests with a sampling of Georgia wines.

After sampling locally-produced goods and meeting some of the local artisans spotlighted in the Country Store’s new “Georgia Room,” diners will ride the steam train to the Village and enjoy a lamp-lit stroll to three historic sites to sample food and wine offerings. The meal ends with dessert and coffee under the pole barn, where diners can meet the market’s farmers and artisans and tour the new market site.

Tickets are $20 per person and are available at the Country Store and must be purchased in advance (cash or checks accepted) for a specific departure time. No tickets will be sold at the door. Dining groups will begin departing for the Village at 5:20 p.m. and continue through 7:40 p.m. in 20 minute intervals.

“Everything will be made from scratch and as locally grown as possible.”

The menu will be Southern with a gourmet flair featuring roasted herbed goat, seafood gumbo, citrus greens, fresh salads, homemade breads, and wide variety of appetizers and desserts to sample.

“We will have limited seating and there will be no sales at the door, so we encourage everyone to get their tickets as soon as possible,” said Polly Huff, the Museum’s liaison for the new market.

Proceeds will support the new market, which opens April 14 from 9 a.m. until noon, and will continue every Saturday through October at the same hours. For more information, or if you are interested in becoming a market vendor, contact Huff at (229) 391-5222 or phuff@abac.edu.

**ABAC Represented at Georgia Collegiate Honors Council**

Two freshman Honors Program students, Thomas Brumblow and Hudman Evans, recently represented ABAC at the 2012 Georgia Collegiate Honors Council conference at North Georgia College & State University in Dahlonega.

Brumblow, an agriculture transfer major from Coolidge, presented his paper titled “Math and Imagination: A Mentoring Game.” In it he discussed the merits of creating a mentoring program for middle school students to be created and administered by Honors Program students.

The program consists of creating a role-playing game to teach math skills and to foster imagination in young students in an effort to increase their math skills prior to entering college. He read his paper in a traditional conference format in front of honors students and faculty members from various colleges and universities from around Georgia.

Evans, a forest resources major from Atlanta, presented a poster session he created titled “Alternative Fuels: A Solution to Our Future Needs.” In the session he explored the advantages of several types of alternative fuel sources as options to gasoline. A poster presentation is a static display, but it is augmented by person-to-person level discussion between interested viewers and the presenter. Evans had the opportunity to talk to several honors students and faculty members from across the state as well.

Both of these projects were selected from among 20 proposals. Honors students submitted proposals for conference presentations as part of a class project. This is the second year in a row that ABAC Honors Program students have presented at the conference.
The First Tuesday Concert at ABAC on March 6 will feature “A Night of Classical Guitar” with the Old Toad Guitar Duo comprised of Dr. Matthew Cochran and Dr. Steve Mattingly. The concert will be held at 7 p.m. in the Chapel of All Faiths. There is no cost to attend this event.


Cochran is a singer, guitarist, and composer. His solo recitals feature his unique ability to combine his lyric tenor voice with intricate guitar accompaniments while his solo guitar recording, “Shenandoah”, explores the influence of dance and song in the music of Beaser, Arnold, Rodrigo, and others. A dedicated teacher, Cochran is currently a faculty member at Darton College and Albany State University. From 2006-2007, Cochran directed an award-winning pre-college program at Palmer Trinity School in Miami, Fla. He has held teaching positions at Bainbridge College and Finger Lakes Community College.

Mattingly has been warmly received by audiences throughout North America and Europe as a soloist and with the Tantalus Quartet. During the 2009-10 concert season, Mattingly performed at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in a Gala Concert with the Grawemeyer Players of the University of Louisville.

In addition to his performing career, Mattingly directs classical guitar studies at the University of Louisville and Bellarmine University in Louisville, Ky. Previous appointments include Florida State University, where he completed a Doctorate in Music. Since 2007, Mattingly has played a role with the Guitar Foundation of America, currently serving as Convention Manager.

The ABAC First Tuesday Concert Series takes place on five selected first Tuesdays during the year. Dr. Susan Roe, associate professor of voice at ABAC, directs the series. All First Tuesday concerts are presented to the community as a gift from the college through the School of Liberal Arts and the Georgia Council for the Arts. Roe said that persons who want to support the First Tuesday concerts can make contributions to the ABAC Foundation and designate them for the First Tuesday Concert Series.

The last First Tuesday performance of the academic year will be held on April 3 with “A Night of Broadway Music” featuring ABAC faculty, students, and voice majors.

For more information, interested persons can contact Roe at sroe@abac.edu.