Martin Selected for Director of Advancement/Development Officer

Dr. Deidre Mercer Martin has been selected for the position of Director of Advancement/Development Officer at ABAC.

“As we are cultivating our Development function here in the Office of College Advancement, it is serendipitous that we have been able to find a person of Deidre Martin's vast experience and education who is willing to help us grow our fund-raising efforts,” ABAC Vice President of External Affairs and Advancement Paul Williams said. “We are eager to see what she can do with our annual fund and major gift programs, and the assistance she can give in other areas of development outside of her specific assignment. We are all excited to have her join the team.”

Martin was most recently the Vice Chancellor for University Advancement at the University of South Carolina Aiken. While there, she also worked as an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Communications. Martin was the Associate Chancellor for External Affairs and Special Projects at the University of South Carolina Aiken until 2004. She has also been a Marketing Director for “The Computer Institute” in Atlanta and the Public Relations Specialist for Education Extension at Georgia Tech.

“I am thrilled to be joining the ABAC Family and look forward to getting to know the faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of the college in the coming months,” Martin said. “Since I grew up in Colquitt County, it is really special to come back ‘home’ for the next chapter in my life. It is a dream come true to now have the opportunity to share the story of ABAC’s rich history and exciting future as we encourage our alumni and friends to share their support.”

ABAC’s Kappa Sigma Fraternity Awarded for Community Service

The brothers of the Rho-Rho Chapter of Kappa Sigma at ABAC were recently honored at the Tift County Quality Steer and Heifer sale as the “Supporter of the Year”. The selection committee that chose Kappa Sigma was comprised of parents and advisors of 4-H and FFA who have worked with the students this past year. The committee honored the members with a custom belt buckle to express their appreciation.

Tift County 4-H Agent Ashley Davis said “Hosting multiple livestock shows annually can be tough work when you are struggling to find volunteers for every job from cleaning and setting up the ring to lining up exhibitors. The members of Kappa Sigma are some of the most respectful, hard-working college students I have met. I can always count on them to help with whatever the task is. They’ve never told me no or been late for any task asked of them and they aren’t...continued on page 2
Submit Recommendations for Student Tutors

Tutors in the Academic Achievement Center (AAC) love their job. Faculty and staff can recommend students that would be great tutors. The AAC is hiring tutors in all subjects for the fall semester. Students who apply must be enrolled in at least 6 hours, have an overall grade point average of a 3.0 or higher and have 2 professor references (can be sent after application is submitted). Contact Rebecca Cofer at rcofer@abac.edu for an application or with any questions.

Nominations for Homecoming King and Queen

Nominations for Phi Theta Kappa’s second annual Homecoming King and Queen are due March 23. Nominations are open to athletic teams, Greeks and campus clubs and organization. For application fee and requirements contact Kim Talley at ktalley@abac.edu

Please submit information by Thursday at noon to Lindsey Roberts at lroberts@abac.edu for inclusion in the next edition of the FOCUS.

Honors Students Represent ABAC

Members of the ABAC Honors Program attended the Georgia Collegiate Honors Conference at Georgia Southwestern State University February 27 and 28. Pictured (L-R) Clara-Grace Coker, Caitlin Cato, Alex Holman, Meagan Thomason, and Sarah Rooks.

Students Pen SGA Constitution

Representatives from each school and Dr. Alison Mann, Assistant Professor of history and political science, worked together to rewrite the Constitution for ABAC’s Student Government Association (SGA). This updated Constitution was signed on Friday afternoon. The application for eligible students is available on the ABAC homepage and must be submitted by Friday. To read the new Constitution, visit the Student Government Web page.

Fraternity continued from page 1

afraid of hard work. That says a lot about their character."

The brothers of Kappa Sigma at ABAC have been active volunteers with the Tift County Extension office since 2010 and have been present at every show hosted in the Tift County Livestock facility since 2010. To date, they have collectively logged over 15,000 service hours since their foundation as a fraternity in 2011.

The fraternity provides outreach in numerous community service events such as blood drives, breast cancer events, and Relay for Life. They have also taken a very active role in “Carry the Load”, a program that provides an interactive way for Americans to remember, honor and celebrate Memorial Day in dedication to those who sacrifice for us daily.
Dr. Melody Ng will perform a piano concert featuring the music of Beethoven, Liszt, and works by Chinese composers Thursday at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium at ABAC. Dr. Doug Jurs, ABAC Assistant Professor of Piano and Music Theory, said the performance is a part of the Virtuoso Chamber Music Series which is designed to promote an appreciation for the tremendous expressive capacity of fine piano and piano chamber music. Jurs coordinates the series which features skilled performers drawn from outstanding regional and national professional artists. The event is open to the public at no charge.

Ng, a native of Hong Kong, received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree and Master’s degree in piano performance and pedagogy from the University of Wisconsin. Her doctoral minor studies were in business. She received her double-degree in piano performance and economics from Lawrence University. Her teachers included Jessica Johnson, Anthony Padilla, Christopher Taylor, and Jacqueline Lam-Tung. A first place finisher in numerous competitions including the Beethoven Piano Competition, Ng also won first place in the Irving Shain Woodwind and Piano Duo Competition, the Neale-Silva Young Artists' Competition, Badger Collegiate Competition, and the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) State and Regional Young Artist Competitions. She has had broadcast performances on Wisconsin Public Radio and at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. Ng has also performed with the Concord Chamber Orchestra, the Lawrence Symphony Orchestra, and in both the 9th and 10th Annual World Piano Pedagogy Conferences.

In addition to her performance career, Ng maintains a full teaching schedule. She currently serves as the Assistant Professor of Music and Artist-Teacher of Piano at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. At the University of Wisconsin, she taught various programs including group class piano in the Keyboard Department, adult piano studies at the Division of Continuing Studies, and in the Piano Pedagogy Lab and Piano Pioneers Outreach Program. Very active in the community, Ng was selected as one of the award recipients for the 2014 University of Alabama Huntsville New Faculty Research Program. She plans to use the $10,000 award to create a 10-week music series at local hospitals. At the University of Wisconsin, she served as the President of the MTNA Collegiate Chapter and oversaw the Sound Health Community Program.
The campus of ABAC and a number of other Georgia campuses were recognized on February 18 for their commitment to caring for and managing their trees. ABAC was honored during the 2015 State Arbor Day celebration at Wesleyan College for being one of Georgia’s “Tree Campus USA” communities. The campus also received this recognition in 2014.

ABAC replaced 19 trees as part of the newly implemented tree removal request form, resulting in the planting of 37 new trees, which helped them meet the standards necessary to be a Tree Campus USA member for the 2014 year. A new 27+ acre Arboretum is currently being mapped out and developed as well.

The Tree Campus USA program, administered by the Arbor Day Foundation in Lincoln, Neb., provides the framework for community forestry management for college campuses across America that meet certain requirements. Those requirements include the establishment of a tree board, a campus tree care plan, specific spending levels for urban forestry, service learning and planned Arbor Day celebrations. There are 14 tree campuses in Georgia. Nationwide, more than 220 Tree Campus USA communities serve as home to millions of students.

Arbor Day Foundation President Dan Lambe traveled to Georgia for the event, which also recognized Tree City USA towns and cities and Tree Line USA utilities. Due to Georgia’s ideal winter tree planting season, the third Friday in February is designated annually as Arbor Day in Georgia. Governor Nathan Deal signed a proclamation naming February 20 as Arbor Day in Georgia for 2015.

“Trees clean our air, filter our water, and keep us healthy by providing shade, along with countless opportunities to enjoy recreation and natural beauty,” said Robert Farris, Director of the Georgia Forestry Commission. “The students and faculty of ABAC can take pride in their campus leaders’ commitment to trees and forested land - on Arbor Day and every other day of the year.”

For more information about Georgia’s trees and services of the Georgia Forestry Commission, visit GaTrees.org. For information about becoming a Tree Campus USA and the Arbor Day Foundation, visit www.arborday.org.

Join the Center for Teaching and Learning on Tuesday at 12:15 p.m. in the President’s Dining Room for a presentation by Dr. Tom Grant. For more information, contact Dr. Hans Schmeisser at hschmeisser@abac.edu.

Join the Alumni Association for Lunch
Members of the Student Alumni Council recently gave cupcakes to the faculty and staff around campus in appreciation for all they do. Because of the generosity of the ABAC Foundation, the faculty and staff are invited to the Homecoming Alumni Cookout on Saturday, April 11, at 11:30 a.m. which follows the Stallion Marketplace. Registration is required through this link: https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/c4TrLfueF28e2kf

ABAC BIRTHDAYS
9 Lynne Hoatson  9 Russell Pryor  10 Monty Spinks
11 Bonnie Asselin  11 Richard Spancake
11 Charla Terrell  14 Lori Pearman