Luster Wins Mr. ABAC Title

Zebb Luster (third from right), a senior Diversified Agriculture major from Ft. Myers Florida, won the Mr. ABAC competition Thursday night at ABAC. The competition was so close there was a Top 6, instead of the usual Top 5. The Top 6 included (pictured left to right): Randall Ellis, Ronnie Few, Kevin Vantrees, Luster, Chandler Bartley, and Clemente Oriciaga. Bartley won the interview portion of the competition and Few received the top essay score. Douglas Burnette won the Contestant’s Award. The Family and Consumer Sciences Club (FACS) sponsored and produced the event. FACS raised $560 at the event and donated it to the Wounded Warrior Project benefiting wounded service men and women. Austin Dunn received the People's Choice Award for the most contributions and David Cox received the People’s Choice for most creative and original design of the collection box.

Stallion Day
April 14 at ABAC

ABAC will open campus to high school students and their families beginning at 8 a.m. in the Donaldson Dining Hall on April 14.

“Whether students are getting a head start in their search for the perfect college or finalizing their college choice, visiting the campus is an important step in either process” said Brooke Jernigan, ABAC admissions counselor.

Visitors can take tours guided by the ABAC Ambassadors before perusing the exhibits at the Stallion Marketplace located in Gressette Gym from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. The Stallion Marketplace offers students a look at over 50 programs of study.

Families of juniors and seniors will then attend information sessions presented by the faculty, staff, and ABAC students in Howard Auditorium and Bowen Hall. During that time, seniors will also participate in informational sessions and panel discussions.

A free lunch for the visiting students in the Donaldson Dining Hall will be provided from noon – 1 p.m. Meals are available for parents at a cost of $6 per person. During the noon hour, high school seniors will have a chance to win waivers for housing, a one-semester meal plan worth over $1,000 and a $500 tuition grant.

Prospective students should sign up ahead of time for the Stallion Day event at www.abac.edu/stalliondays or call 391-5004. Prospective students can also contact admissions via e-mail at abacinfo@abac.edu.

Back To Your Future On April 12

The last “Back To Your Future” event of the semester will be held on April 2 from 6-8 p.m. at ABAC on the Square in Moultrie. Aimed at adult learners who have been out of the classroom for awhile, the event offers information on admissions, financial aid, and a chat with a current non-traditional student, according to Enrollment Counselor Kaitlin Stannard.

Sign up today by contacting Dr. Gail Dillard at 229-891-7235 or dillard@abac.edu; Kaitlin Stannard at 229-391-5017 or kstannard@abac.edu; or just email abacinfo@abac.edu.
Sheep Shearing, Turpentine Still Highlight Folklife Festival April 14

Sheep will be sheared, and the turpentine still will be fired up at the Georgia Folklife Festival on April 14 at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

The annual celebration of arts and culture runs from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. with events designed for kids and adults. The turpentine still is fired up only once a year and will be a featured attraction during this event. Other activities include soap-making, demonstrations by a genuine blacksmith, live traditional music, and children’s activities.

The festival coincides with the opening of the Wiregrass Farmers Market near the Country Store at the main entrance of the Museum. Local growers and producers will offer fresh picked produce as well as hand-made goods for sale under the pole barn behind the Peanut Museum.

Plein aire artists will work outdoors during the day to create paintings on site. Vendors and artists will be on hand to sell original works and traditional fare. Visitors can also have lunch with selections ranging from homemade vegetable beef soup, cornbread, barbecue and teacakes, along with a variety of culinary offerings from several local vendors.

In conjunction with the Festival, there will be a Quilt Show featuring live quilting demonstrations. The Gallery will premier the Diminutive Dwellings exhibit, a showcase of antique dolls, doll houses, doll beds, and carriages featuring Tiftonite Dottie Bassett’s wide collection and doll bed quilts made by the Wiregrass Quilting Guild. The Tifton Garden Club will also hold a Flower Show in the Museum Atrium. Admission is $8 for seniors, $10 for adults, $5 for children 5 – 16 years of age, and free for children under five.

For more information on the Georgia Folklife Festival, interested persons can contact Garrett Boone at the Museum at (229) 391-5204 or email him at gboone@abac.edu. Vendors interested in participating in this event can contact Polly Huff, GMA Art Gallery Coordinator, at (229) 391-5222 or via e-mail at phuff@abac.edu.

ABAC Honors Day
April 11 at 11 a.m. in Gressette Gym
Classes will be dismissed at 10:30 a.m. and resume at 2 p.m.

Travel The World with ABAC
Make your plans now to join your ABAC friends on some great trips in 2012. Check out www.abac.edu/travel for complete information on the following offerings:

- April 26-May 2 Exploring Panama (Panama Canal)
- April 21-22 Montgomery Theatre of Alabama (Callaway Gardens, King Memorial Church, 2 plays)
- May 5-12 Tulip Time Festival (Nashville, Chicago, Holland, & Amish country)
- May 21-29 Beijing City Stay
- June 9 Jersey Boys at the Fox (Atlanta)
- June 7-16 Hawaiian Adventure (fly between islands)
- July 3-19 Canadian Rockies & Glacier National Park (includes tickets to Calgary Stampede)
- July 12-22 Hawaiian Island Cruise
- Sept 3-14 Maritime Provinces & Nova Scotia
- Sept 6-16 Discover the French Riviera (includes 3 nights in Paris)
- Oct 1-13 Grand Canyon & Albuquerque Balloon Festival
- Oct. 18-30 Spain’s Costa Del Sol & the Portuguese Riviera
- Nov 2-4 Riverboats, Trains & Civil War History (Chattanooga, 2 nights on Delta Queen, train ride through Hiwassee River Gorge)
- Nov. 26-Dec 1 Christmastime in Branson
- Nov. 26-30 New York City Holiday
- Nov. 29-Dec 7 Christmas on the Danube

Contact Diane Kilgore at dkilgore@abac.edu or 391-5070 for additional information.

Faculty/Staff Basketball Game
Come out and support the faculty, staff and students during the annual Faculty/Staff vs. Student basketball game at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday Night. Doors open at 7 p.m.
ABAC at Marion County Forestry Field Day

Twenty-four representatives from ABAC including faculty, staff, administration, alumni and current students volunteered at the Marion County Forestry Field Day March 22 sponsored by the Pine Mountain Soil and Water Conservation District.

Experience ABAC in Perry

ABAC took the college experience on the road to the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry. Faculty, staff, administration, and current students traveled to the event to share all that ABAC has to offer with prospective students, parents and alumni. Molly Hatchcock from Perry won a $300 tuition grant. She plans to attend ABAC in the fall.

Pre-K Day at ABAC

Over 250 Pre-K students from Tifton visited ABAC last week. ABAC students were able to apply lessons taught in the classroom to lead the activities for the excited youths that visited campus. The visitors got a tour of Britt Hall, played activities in the meadows, and got a class picture with Thunder. Amy Warren and the School of Human Sciences coordinated the event.
A unique display of antique dolls, doll houses, doll beds, and carriages will be a part of the “Diminutive Dwellings” exhibit opening April 14 at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

Polly Huff, the Museum Gallery Curator from the ABAC Arts Connection, said the exhibit will open in the Gallery as a part of the annual Folklife Festival, which runs all day on April 14. A showcase of doll bed quilts, handmade for the occasion by the Wiregrass Quilting Guild, will be a highlight of the exhibit. Artist Dottie Bassett, owner of the doll house collection, will also teach an art class at the Gallery.

“Every doll in her collection has a story behind it, and with every story, Dottie’s love of art, dolls, and history is evident,” Huff said. “We are fortunate to be able to work with Dottie to showcase her stunning collection and share her talent with the community and our visitors.”

Bassett has collected dolls, carriages, doll houses, and accessories since she was six years old. A faded black and white family Christmas card, framed and hanging on one of the Bassetts’ walls, depicts a toddler clutching her most treasured doll house when it was decommissioned by the Greensboro library. It is a miniature reproduction of a doll shop and features replicas of original toys, complete with tiny pin cushions, and a penny candy jar placed on the checkout counter.

The doll shop also features a mini-doll house inside a larger doll house. The details are beautiful and include many pieces special to Bassett such as a playful set of coffee mugs engraved with the names of family members, each mug smaller than the tip of an eraser on a pencil.

A doll house depicting the Northern side of the Civil War, complete with a mailbox overflowing with letters, and a flagpole in the front yard, will also be displayed. Bassett says she was unable to purchase the Southern side. The owner refused to sell it to her.

Another fascinating section of the exhibit will feature royal bride dolls dressed in their wedding gowns including Princess Diana, Sarah Ferguson, Queen Alexandra, and Kate Middleton. Along with the royal brides, Bassett’s collection of celebrity dolls will be on display featuring Vanna White, Marilyn Monroe, Jackie Kennedy, Barbara Bush, Lucy and Ethel, Judy Garland as Dorothy, and many others.

Exhibit hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday. “Diminutive Dwellings” will remain on display through July 7. For more information or to schedule a private tour or group visit, interested persons can contact Huff at (229) 391-5222 or via e-mail at phuff@abac.edu.

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.

ABAC Birthdays

2 Ruth Jackson
3 Melvin Merrill
3 Niles Reddick
3 Joey Johnson
6 Wanda Golden

Upcoming Campus Events

1st Tuesday Concert April 3 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel
Choral Concert April 5 at 7 p.m. in Howard
Band Concert April 10 at 7 p.m. in Howard
Honors Day April 11 at 11 a.m. in Gressette Gym
Stallion Day April 14 at 9 a.m. in Donaldson
Folk Life April 14 at The Museum
George Scott Day April 19 in the Meadows

‘Diminutive Dwellings’ Exhibit Opens at Museum April 14

First beloved doll. Since then, she has collected thousands of dolls of all kinds from every corner of the world and made with her own hands more dolls than she can remember.

The Tifton native began exploring her natural talents and interests in painting and making dolls and doll houses when she lived in New Orleans. Her collection grew quickly, and after the death of her first husband, Bassett moved back to Tifton to follow her creative pursuits. She has studied painting in Europe and across the United States.

Huff said the extensive collection has never before been publicly displayed. It consists of numerous large dollhouses with several levels and floors, filled with intricately detailed miniature furniture and heirlooms from various eras of history. The houses are furnished elaborately with dishes, silverware, plumbing fixtures, rugs, and furniture for every occasion.

The exhibit will include many “store front” houses, including a department store doll house, filled with hundreds of detailed pieces. Bassett purchased her first beloved doll when it was decommissioned by the Greensboro library. It is a miniature reproduction of a doll shop and features replicas of original toys, complete with tiny pin cushions, and a penny candy jar placed on the checkout counter.

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