



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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Partlow Honored with Regents' Teaching Excellence Award

Melanie Partlow, assistant professor of mathematics and Quality Enhancement Plan Director at ABAC, received the 2011 Regents' Teaching Excellence award at the seventh annual Regents' Awards for Excellence in Education Celebration in Atlanta.

"While it is true that I strive to help each and every student achieve their goals, it never occurred to me that I might be recognized at the state level," Partlow said. "It is a humbling experience to be in a room with so many educators and supporters of education who are doing so much to make the world a better place for us all."

The awards program from the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia recognizes and rewards outstanding teaching by individual faculty members and outstanding teaching in a single academic program or department. The Teaching Excellence award

honors exemplary teaching that significantly improves student success.

Partlow has been a member of the ABAC faculty since 1998. She received her bachelor's degree in mathematics from Radford University and her master's degree in mathematics from the University of West Florida. She was selected as the recipient of the W. Bruce and Rosalyn Ray Donaldson Award for Teaching Excellence at ABAC in 2010.



ABAC faculty member Melanie Partlow receives the Regents' Teaching Excellence Award from Donald M. Leebern, III, president of Georgia Crown Distributing Company.

sent ABAC in this manner," Partlow said.

"The college has so many great teachers that I am sure we will have more winners in the future."

Partlow is also the ABAC Quality Enhancement Plan Coordinator, where she is in charge of "Hello World", a project that allows the college to videotape classes and archive them for students to view on their own time. The technology for this program was provided for the

college through a \$48,297 grant from AT&T in 2009.

"I was proud and honored to repre-

Oriental Rug Exhibit Begins Thursday at Museum

The Gallery at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village operated by ABAC will host a new exhibit titled "One Thousand And One Nights: The Oriental Rug Collection of C.L. Morehead, Jr." beginning Thursday.

Gallery Coordinator Polly Huff from the ABAC Arts Connection said the new exhibit will showcase a selection of oriental silk, gold, silver, and cashmere rugs that are part of the never-before displayed rug collection of Morehead, an ABAC alumnus who lives in Athens.

The exhibit will be open to the public at the Museum Gallery from April 28 - July 28 from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. on a Tuesday through Saturday basis. The ABAC Jazz Choir will perform at 12:30 p.m. on April 28 as part of the exhibit opening. Light refreshments will be provided at the event courtesy of the Tifton-Tift County Arts Council and the Hilton Garden Inn.

Morehead graduated from ABAC in 1948 and moved to Athens to study horticulture at the University of Georgia. In 1959, the Irwinville native opened a retail florist shop, later adding a whole-

sale florist operation. His friendship with Georgia artist Lamar Dodd developed Morehead's passion for collecting art.

Huff said the Morehead home is a stunning showcase of sculptures, oriental rugs, carvings, china, pre-Columbian art, and paintings, including the largest known collection of Dodd's work in the world, over 800 oil paintings and watercolors.

The rug collection on display at the Gallery will spotlight some very rare and exquisite rugs carefully acquired by Morehead over the last several decades. On display will be a sampling of the entire Morehead rug collection, which includes approximately 100 items.



The sampling features several camel hair carpets, wool rugs, Tabriz and Isfahan rugs, and several silk Hereke rugs. Each rug in the exhibit is an example of the finest mastery of hand-knotted carpet-making.

Also on display will be an oil rendition of the Hagia Sophia Mosque in Istanbul, a painting by Dodd. The painting is a special preview of an upcoming Gallery exhibit featuring the Morehead collection of Dodd works.

This exhibit is hosted in partnership with the Tifton-Tift County Arts Council and is a featured event of the Love Affair Fine Arts Festival. The Love Affair will kick off activities on April 29 in downtown Tifton, and entertain patrons with a great selection of visual and performing arts on April 30 - May 1 at Fulwood Park.

Private tours, classes, and group visits to the Oriental rug collection at the Gallery are available by contacting Huff at (229) 391-5222 or phuff@abac.edu.

Fillies, Stallions Win Championships

Behind the play of Most Valuable Player Chanel Cunningham, the ABAC Fillies won their 18th consecutive state tennis championship with a 9-0 victory over Gordon on Friday at the Red Hill Athletic Center. The ABAC Stallions squeaked out a 5-4 win to take the men's title as well. Coach Alan Kramer was named Coach of the Year for both men's and women's tennis in Georgia.

The eighth-rated Fillies will advance to the national tournament in Tucson, Ariz., on May 8-13, and the sixth-rated Stallions will travel to Plano, Texas on May 15-20 for the national tournament.

Coach Donna Campbell's ABAC soft-



The Fillies pose with their state championship trophy after beating Gordon 9-0.

ball team has won three of its last four games to advance to the state tournament this Friday as the sixth seed. The 21-25 Fillies will play Middle Georgia at 3 p.m. in Locust Grove in the double elimination state tournament, hosted by Gordon.

The golf team of Coach Herb Hendrix finished second in the state tournament behind Coastal Georgia. Terry English from ABAC was the medalist for the tournament and will advance to the national tournament. The baseball team of Coach Steve Janousek winds up its regular season this week, hoping to make the state tournament.



Bridges Updates Chamber on ABAC

President David Bridges spoke to Chamber of Commerce members during their April meeting on the ABAC campus. The group enjoyed fried chicken and all the fixings along with some great music from George Scott Day.



McGruder Retires After Teaching 27 Years at ABAC

Dr. Larry McGruder (left) reminisced with students and co-workers during his retirement reception Wednesday. Daniel Shippey (right), one of his former history students, dropped in to say good-bye.

ABAC Pool Will Open May 2

The ABAC pool will open on May 2 for students and faculty to enjoy during the spring and summer months. The pool hours are Monday – Thursday from 3 – 7 p.m. and Friday – Sunday from 1 – 6 p.m.

The ABAC pool is free for students with ID. ABAC employees and retirees can get free ABAC pool membership passes, and guest passes are \$4 in the Student Enrollment office. Parties can be booked only after pool is closed for regular hours. There is a requirement of one lifeguard for every 15 party members. ABAC lifeguards will be used.

Pool parties must be coordinated through Bobbie Baldree in the ABAC Information Center at 391-5001.



Parking Fines Must Be Paid By This Friday

Students must pay all parking fines on or before Friday at 9 a.m. Students who fail to pay fines by the deadline will not be able to graduate, receive grades, receive transcripts, or secure schedules for future semesters.



Love Affair Begins Friday Afternoon

The ABAC Arts Connection is one of the partners for the 31st annual Tifton Love Affair, which begins Friday with the annual children's non-motorized street parade on Love Avenue.

Other Friday events include an art exhibit at the Tifton Museum of Arts and Heritage, a dance extravaganza in the First Community Bank parking lot, and poetry readings and jazz music at Three Graces at Lankford Manor.

On Saturday and Sunday, the festival moves to Fulwood Park where all events are free of charge. Entertainment, art exhibits, food and much more will be on the Love Affair menu. Highlights include Matsuriza Taiko performing traditional Japanese drumming, the Gizmo Guys demonstrating rapid fire juggling, and the Umdabu Dance Company exhibiting traditional Zulu dances.

For more information, interested persons can call Wayne Jones at the ABAC Arts Connection at 391-4820.



Cultura Latina Named Club of the Year

Advisor Gabby Ramirez (left) and Club President Omar Zapote (center) accepted the Club of the Year award from SGA President Jazmin Thomas at the recent student leadership banquet at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. Each club on campus submits scrapbooks and other documentation for the chance to win the award.

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 awilliamson@abac.edu by **Thursday at noon** for inclusion in the next FOCUS.

SGA's Pancake Breakfast On Monday

Yes, it is that time of the year again! If you would like to participate please email Bernice Hughes at

bhughes@abac.edu and let her know what shift you want

to work. Cooking shift is from 7:30 until 8:45 p.m. or the serving shift will be from

8:45 until 10:25.

Remember no sandals or flip flops!



Cruise the Danube River with ABAC December 1-9

The Office of External Affairs at ABAC will offer a fantastic trip to Europe on Dec. 1-9, including a six-night cruise on the Danube River. Travelers who book the trip by May 1 can save \$400 per couple.

Travelers will depart from Atlanta on an overnight flight and land in Vienna, Austria to board the cruise ship. A tour of Austria's capital city of Vienna will include Hofburg Palace, the Vienna Opera House, St. Stephens Cathedral, and the city's most famous Christmas Market. An optional trip to Schoenbrunn Palace, the summer retreat of the Habsburg dynasty, will also be offered.

Tourists will also cruise through the Wachau Valley and dock at Emmersdorf to travel the town or take an optional excursion to see the 900-year old Benedictine Melk Abbey in Durnstein. The group will then take in Passau, a 2000-year old city rich in its ornate baroque architecture, before returning to the ship to enjoy on-board entertainment and dinner.

Travelers will later experience Regensburg with its preserved medieval cities and colorful Christmas Markets. In the evening, the passengers will feast at the Captain's Gala Dinner aboard the ship while departing for Nuremburg.

Once passengers cross the continental divide in Roth, the ship will dock in Nuremburg for a tour to see the Imperial Castle and the Justice Palace, where the War Crimes Tribunal sat in 1946. Passengers will then leave the cruise ship to spend a day in Rothenburg and take a tour of Wurzburg.

The package price for this trip is \$2,979 per person (double occupancy). The trip includes 19 meals, round trip airfare, and hotel transfers. For more information on this or any other offered through the Office of External Affairs, interested persons can contact Diane Kilgore by e-mail at dkilgore@abac.edu or call (229) 391-5070.



New SGA Leadership Team At ABAC

Students at ABAC have selected their new Student Government Association leadership for the 2011-12 year. The leadership team includes (l-r): Cody Morris from Ashburn, junior class president; Melea Baldwin from Hartwell, sophomore class vice president; Kevin Vantrees from Douglasville, SGA President; Pete Dola from Williston, Fla., sophomore class president; and Ashley Morris from Newnan, SGA Vice President.



'Brother To Brother' New Name For SAAB

Members of the Student African American Brotherhood (SAAB) recently changed their chapter's name to "Brother to Brother." Reginald Jackson is president of the group which meets every Thursday at 4 p.m. in the John Hunt Town Center. All students, faculty, and staff are welcome to attend any meeting. The primary mission is to motivate, inspire, and compel all members to successfully complete their education. Members include (top row, l-r) Rondarian Lunsford, Andrew Williams, Reginald Jackson; (second row, l-r) Jimmy Slacks, Tony Tomlinson, Leo Williams, Travis Robinson; (third row, l-r) Robert Beauford, Alfonso Roberson, Jamhson Boliva, Vincent Thomas II (bottom row, l-r) Terence Turner (advisor), Enorris Hadley, Caleb Jordan, Jeffrey Stinson, Ronnie Allen, and Kim Ascani.



A Goodbye Hug

Amanda Urquhart (left) gives SGA President Jazmin Thomas a hug as she leaves her role as SGA Co-Advisor. Chris Kinsey will take on primary advising responsibilities for the SGA next year with co-advisor Kris Liebegott. Urquhart has been one of the advisors for the SGA the past two years.

ABAC Birthdays

27 Nancy McGee

28 Leah Sutton

May

1 Ashley Bateman