Independence Day Celebration Tuesday

The Museum will host an Independence Day Celebration Tuesday night. Gates will open at 6 p.m. and culminate with a spectacular fireworks show over Agrirama Lake.

The day will kick off with numerous activities from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Historic Village. The Village will be decorated in red, white and blue and patriotic music will serenade guests as they tour the grounds. Visitors can enjoy free, ice-cold watermelon slices and costumed docents will lead children in traditional games enjoyed during the late 19th Century. Misting stations will be on hand offering a refreshing respite from the July heat.

The train will be running throughout the day and children can get their faces painted as part of the events in The Village.

Gates will open for fireworks and evening activities at 6 p.m. Guests can bring their blankets and chairs to the Opry Shelter Lawn to hear live music from the fabulous Vann Band. Tasty concessions, including barbeque, hamburgers, hotdogs, fries and shaved ice will be available for visitors to enjoy. Children can also participate in traditional games led by Museum staff and have their faces painted.

The Independence Day celebration is $5 per car and free with military ID. Participants are encouraged to bring blankets and chairs. Alcohol and pets are not permitted.

ABAC Closed July 4

ABAC will be closed July 4 in observance of Independence Day. The College will reopen July 5 at 8 a.m.

The Gallery at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture & Historic Village @ ABAC cordially invites you to celebrate the opening of our newest exhibit Painted Ponies, Painted Dreams. Meet the artist & enjoy a special performance by country music star John Berry.

July 13 at 6 p.m.

Locally grown nibbles served by the Wiregrass Farmers Market & beverages by the Hilton Garden Inn.
Three ABAC Athletes Honored By NJCAA for Academic Excellence

Three intercollegiate athletes at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College have been selected for 2011-12 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Academic Student-Athlete Awards.

Athletics Director Alan Kramer commended the students for maintaining an impressive academic standing while being involved in their athletic careers at ABAC.

“it’s the effort that these students put forth in the classroom and in their given sport that makes these awards so special,” Kramer said. “it really is inspiring to see these students balance academics and athletics so successfully. They exemplify the attitude all student athletes should strive to attain.”

ABAC students honored included Jacob Tompkins, Kelby Barber, and Aleisha Edenfield. The NJCAA honors athletes with a 4.0 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale with the Pinnacle Award for Academic Excellence. A Superior Academic Achievement Award goes to those students who compile a 3.80 to 3.99 GPA, and the Exemplary Academic Achievement Award goes to those students who compile a 3.60 to 3.79 GPA.

Tompkins is a Rural Studies major from Moultrie who was a member of the Stallions’ tennis team. He compiled a perfect 4.0 GPA to earn the Pinnacle Award.

Barber is an Animal Science major from Bronson, Fla., who played baseball for the Stallions. He had a 3.84 GPA to earn the Superior Academic Achievement award.

Edenfield is an English major from Sneads, Fla., who compiled a 3.67 GPA while playing softball for the Fillies. She earned the Exemplary Academic Achievement award.

Over 1,680 NJCAA student-athletes from across America met the requirements for the academic honors. Nearly 60,000 athletes on over 3,500 teams in 28 different sports competed in the NJCAA during the 2011-12 academic year.

Space Available for Two July Camps at Museum

Space is still available for two children’s camps in July at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC.

The Nature’s Artists camp will be held from July 9-13, and the Native American Explorers camp will take place from July 16-20. Nature’s Artists will be geared to 10-12 year old campers who will explore a variety of different mediums including photography, clay sculptures, and painting to create nature-inspired works of art. The week concludes with a Camper’s Artwork Showcase in the Museum Gallery.

Beginning on July 16, Native American Explorers six to nine years of age will study primitive hunting skills, discover the importance of games to keep tribal peace, and experience various life skills such as rope making.

Registration is still open for Nature’s Artists and Native American Explorers. Each week-long camp session offers age appropriate activities and themes. Snacks, t-shirt, and all supplies are provided. Campers provide their own sack lunches. Due to a generous donation from the Friends of the Museum, the camps are offered at a reduced rate for all campers. The cost is $110 per camper for each week.

To register for Camp Wiregrass, interested persons can e-mail Kelly Scott at museumcamp@abac.edu. Space is limited for each camp.

Summer Museum Hours to Beat the Heat

Summer hours of operation begin July 1 at the Museum. The new hours are 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday. Conference facilities will remain available throughout the summer. The Country Store will continue to operate on its normal schedule of Monday – Saturday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

In August, the Museum, Gallery, and Tift House will be open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., and the Historic Village will be closed for the entire month.

Admission for the Museum Tuesday – Friday, July 1-28, is $7 for adults, $6 for senior adults (age 55 and up), $4 for children (5-16 years old), and free to children four years of age and under. Saturday admission is $10 for adults, $8 for senior adults, $5 for children and free for children four years of age and under.
ABAC Birthdays

4 Josh Rutland  
5 Wendy Harrison  
7 Barry Miburo  
8 Andrew Wright  
9 Garrett Boone  
9 Caren Gladin  
9 Lisa Lishman  
11 Robin Crumley  
12 Jeff Kilgore  
12 Elizabeth Stone  
12 Mary Willis  
14 Keith Perry  

Forest Lakes Golf Course Hours
Get outside and enjoy the beautiful weather with a relaxing game of golf. The nine-hole golf course at Forest Lakes Golf Club is open from 8 a.m.–8 p.m. seven days a week. The price for ABAC students, faculty, staff, and senior citizens Monday–Friday for nine holes is $11 and $17 for 18 holes. The weekend pricing is $13 for nine holes and $19 for 18 holes. For more information call 382-7626.

Chason Receives Emeritus Status at ABAC
Longtime Public Relations Director Mike Chason has been selected for emeritus status at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, according to an announcement by ABAC President David Bridges.

“Emeritus status is an honor bestowed upon an individual who has made significant positive contributions over time to an educational institution,” Bridges said. “Mike’s 32 years of dedicated, honorable and distinguished service to Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and to the University System of Georgia certainly justify granting this title.”

Bridges said Chason will be granted the title of Director of Public Relations Emeritus. He headed the public relations office at the college from 1979 until his retirement in 2011. He now works on a part-time basis in the public relations area with Ashley Mock, who was named Director of Public Relations on Feb. 1.

Barber Says Farewell to ABAC
Keith Barber (right), former Vice President for External Affairs and Advancement and Chief Development Officer for ABAC, was recognized for his contributions to the College at a luncheon last week hosted by ABAC President Bridges (left) and first lady Kim Bridges (second from left). Barber is leaving the College to assume a position at the University of Tennessee. Stephanie (second from right), Barber's wife, was also honored at the lunch.

ABAC Tennis Camp Wrapped Up Thursday
Kasey Griffin and JT Crosby were given the Fillie and Stallion Awards at the ABAC tennis camp that wrapped up Thursday. The award is voted on by the seven camp coaches and given to the hardest working male and female player during the week long camp. (Left) Griffin, left, and Crosby, right, are pictured with ABAC Athletic Director and tennis coach Alan Kramer. (Below) Over 40 future tennis stars battled the heat this week to improve their skills at the tennis camp led by ABAC Athletic Director and tennis coach Alan Kramer and Moultrie Coaches Grant Hammack and Holly Lewis, a former ABAC fillie tennis player.

The FOCUS is an 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.