



# FOCUS

## ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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### House Calls Tuesday Night at 5:30 p.m.

The eighth annual House Calls will take place on Tuesday in the Grand Lobby of ABAC Lakeside apartments beginning at 5:30 p.m. at ABAC.

ABAC Place /Lakeside residents will get the opportunity to meet the ABAC staff and faculty and talk with them on a one-on-one basis.

House Calls will start with a dinner at 5:30 p.m. for all staff, faculty, and students participating in the ABAC Place/Lakeside visits. House Calls will take place from 5:30 – 8 p.m.

House Calls are a developmental approach that engages the ABAC Place /Lakeside communities with ABAC administration, faculty, and staff members for the purpose of bridging the gap between the students and college employees. It is also a chance for students to share their concerns, compliments, and complaints with the staff and faculty in regard to ABAC Place/Lakeside and the campus.

This event is sponsored by the Office of Student Affairs. Those interested in participating must contact Dean of Students Bernice Hughes at 229-391-5130 or via e-mail at bhughes@abac.edu.



### Happy 98th Birthday From ABAC!

Mary Threatte from Lakeland received a nice surprise on her 98th birthday recently when Mike Chason, former public relations director at ABAC and a Lakeland native, presented her with a framed copy of three pen and ink drawings of historic spots on the ABAC campus. Ms. Threatte and her late husband, Jim, were members of the Class of '32 at ABAC when it was called the Georgia State College For Men. Chason was a student in the Lanier County School System when Ms. Threatte was a fifth grade teacher, and Mr. Threatte was the County School Superintendent.

### Bridges to Take Position in Dahlonega

Amanda Bridges, Chief Accounting Officer in the Office of College Advancement and Chief Financial Officer of the ABAC Foundation will leave ABAC on Wednesday. Bridges has accepted a position at North Georgia College and State University as Director of Foundation Accounting.

"I am certainly going to miss ABAC and the people I have worked with," Bridges said. "But I am excited about the opportunity ahead."

Please join the Office of College Advancement Tuesday from 3:00-4:30 p.m. in the Office of College Advancement Conference Room to wish Bridges well.

### McGriff Retires from ABAC Wednesday After 26 Years

Van McGriff, Administrative Associate in the Office of Student Affairs, will retire on Wednesday after 26 years at ABAC.

McGriff began her career at ABAC as the Senior Secretary in the Division of Humanities in 1985. After 21 years as a division secretary, she was selected for her current position.

McGriff said she has no definite plans for retirement. She and husband, Dale, love the beach and hope to spend more time there. She is looking forward to spending more time with her grandchildren, Cam and Gabbi.

"I'll miss ABAC – it's been an important part of my life for the past 26 years," said McGriff. "What I will miss most are the friends I have made and

the interactions with everyone."

A retirement reception in her honor will be held on Wednesday from 4-5 p.m. on the second floor of the J. Lamar Branch Student Center. It is open to all those who want to wish her well in her retirement years.

### College Colors Day Friday

Join college campuses across the country by wearing green and gold Friday. Join us for a quick picture at 9:50 a.m. in the Meadows to capture the event!





## Presidential Plaza Gets An Update

Bricks are being added to the area around the Presidential Plaza to give the Donaldson Dining Hall entrance a fresh, new look. Every ABAC president has a brick inside the Plaza with his name and the dates of his presidency. The Plaza opened on Feb. 20, 2008 during the 100th birthday celebration.

## Auditions for 'Rabbit Hole' September 12-13 at ABAC

Auditions for the Baldwin Players' production of "Rabbit Hole" will be held at ABAC on Sept. 12-13 at 7 p.m. each night in Conger Hall, Room 319. The play will run from Nov. 10-12.

Written by David Lindsay-Abaire, "Rabbit Hole" focuses on the various ways family members deal with loss, grief, and healing. "Rabbit Hole" was the recipient of the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. It received its first full production in New York in 2006, and it has also been produced by regional theatres in cities such as Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

Dr. John Galyean, Director of the Baldwin Players, said ABAC students as well as members of the community are welcome to audition for roles in the production.

The cast of characters includes **Becca**, a responsible and sensible woman who makes harsh decisions out of grief; **Howie**, a very caring man who has a hard time dealing with his son's death; **Izzy**, Becca's irresponsible but well-meaning sister who is pregnant; **Nat**, Becca and Izzy's mother and the voice of reason for her daughters; and **Jason Willette**, the 17-year-old boy who accidentally hits Becca and Howie's son, leading to the boy's death.

Other supporting characters include **Rick and Debbie**, friends of Becca and Howie with a daughter the same age as their son; **Reema**, Izzy's friend; **Auggie**, Izzy's boyfriend and father of her child; and **Taz**, the dog that Danny followed into the street.

For more information or to pick up a script excerpt, interested persons can contact Galyean at (229) 391-4960 or at [igalyean@abac.edu](mailto:igalyean@abac.edu).

## Bottle and Brushes September 9 at Museum

The Bottles and Brushes art class will take place at 6 p.m. on Sept. 9 at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village, now operated by ABAC. This month's event is in collaboration with the Wiregrass Quilters' Guild. Participants will recreate Jane Rodgers' challenge quilt featuring an old farmhouse.

"Jane Rodgers is one of the most creative quilters we have showcased at the Museum and to get to recreate one of her designs is a rare treat," Polly Huff, Museum Gallery Coordinator from the ABAC Arts Connection, said. "I know Brenda Rose is very excited to collaborate with Rodgers on this class and bring her award-winning quilt to life on canvas."

Rose will guide participants through each step of recreating the featured picture, while a piece of art materializes before their eyes.

Participants can bring their favorite beverage while enjoying an evening of creativity and fun. The Gallery at the Museum will provide the paint, canvas



and brushes, all adding up to an exciting evening with friends.

There is a fee of \$25 per person for the class or \$40 for a couple. Participants must register ahead of time by contacting Huff at (229) 391-5222 or by emailing her at

[phuff@abac.edu](mailto:phuff@abac.edu).

Space is limited.

"This is our eighth Bottles and Brushes class, and each month they have

filled up quickly," said Huff.

Companies who are looking for a unique team-building experience or looking to reward exceptional employees can participate in the corporate edition of Bottles and Brushes. The corporate Bottles and Brushes painting will be custom-tailored to fit each company's mascot, theme, or idea.

Huff said the Bottles and Brushes series will offer a class at least once a month. Gift certificates are available for future classes.

## Strings & Things Open Through Oct. 1

Exhibit hours for the month of September will coincide with the Museum's hours which are Tuesday—Saturday from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. For more information visit [www.abac.edu/museum](http://www.abac.edu/museum)



## London Trip Brings Literature Course To Life For ABAC Faculty Member

Students in Dr. Brian Ray's British Literature I class at ABAC this semester are in for a real treat. Ray spent the summer in London immersing himself in everything British in his role as a co-site director for the University System of Georgia (USG) European Council for its England Summer Study Abroad Program.

Besides his duties as liaison between the program participants and local situations as a point of contact, Ray, an associate professor of English at ABAC, also taught a British Literature II course that was spent both in the classroom and touring some of London's most historic landmarks.

"A lot of the reading in the class one week focused on poetry during World War I," Ray said. "As part of the class we visited the Imperial War Museum exhibit and seeing all of those artifacts and the history up-close revitalized me personally and made what I was teaching come alive. The experience forced me to get out of my comfort zone of what I normally teach back at home."

Ray was a part of the England Summer Study Abroad program as a faculty member in 2008. Based on his experience with the program, he was asked to serve as a co-site director by the USG European Council.

"I dealt with logistics, manned the office, answered any questions our students might have, and handled any dis-



Dr. Brian Ray in Hampton Court during his study abroad trip to London this summer.

ciplinary or medical issues," Ray said. "I was the go-to person for anything that came up with our student travelers."

Eighty-five students participated in the program and for many of them this trip was the first time they had been on a plane, overseas, or even away from Georgia. Ray found this kind of wide-eyed wonder quite inspiring.

"I took my students to Westminster Abbey as part of the British Literature class," Ray said. "I turned around after purchasing tickets to see that the students were dumbfounded by the beauty and history of the Abbey. It's that first look of utter amazement on the students' faces that was the most memorable experience for me."

Ray is an enthusiastic advocate for the USG's European Council and its study abroad opportunities. He believes that faculty and students alike come home with a new perspective.

"This program is important for students because it creates an awareness of the world," Ray said. "Students realize it's not just about their little corner of the Earth. Things that happen here can affect things in London, and vice-versa."

For faculty, the impact of experiencing another country has a different importance to the world view.

"As faculty and people, it is important that we get out of our academic limits," Ray said. "We need to see how what we teach fits into the world of the living, not just how it pertains to our academic area of expertise."

ABAC has several study abroad opportunities available for its students. Interested persons can contact Study Abroad Coordinator Rebecca Cofer at [rcofer@abac.edu](mailto:rcofer@abac.edu) or on the web site at [www.abac.edu/studyabroad](http://www.abac.edu/studyabroad).

### ABAC Pool Hours

The ABAC pool is open for students and faculty to enjoy.

Mon. – Thurs. from 3 – 7 p.m. and Fri. – Sun. from 1 – 6 p.m. Pool parties must be coordinated through Bobbie Baldree in the ABAC Information Center at 391-5001.

The FOCUS is a weekly electronic publication produced by the ABAC Public Relations Office.

Please submit any information by **Thursday at noon** to Ashley Williamson at [awilliamson@abac.edu](mailto:awilliamson@abac.edu) for inclusion in the next FOCUS.

### ABAC Birthdays

29 Emily Cheek  
31 Cecil Morton

#### September

2 Mo Hassouna  
2 Joe Njoroge



**Fillies Play First Home Game Tuesday at 5 p.m.**  
Come out and support the ABAC women's soccer team as they play their home opener against Gordon at 5 p.m. at Fillie Field.