ABAC Performing Arts Series Kicks Off Fourth Season

Opera, jazz, and dramatic performances based on works from Shakespeare and Mozart are all included in this year's “ABAC Presents! Performing Arts Series”

Wayne Jones said the 2015-16 series kicks off with the Albany Symphony Orchestra on Sept. 27 at 3 p.m. at the Tift County High School (TCHS) Performing Arts Center. The symphony will feature conductor Claire Fox Hillard and violinist Tom Fain. The performance will showcase John Corigliano's “Red Violin” suite and Edward Elgar's “Enigma” variations.

The Olney Theatre Center’s National Players will stage William Shakespeare's “Julius Caesar” as part of the company's 67th national tour at 7 p.m. on Oct. 15 in Howard Auditorium at ABAC. The Olney Theatre Center, located in Montgomery County, Md., offers a diverse array of year-round professional productions that enrich, nurture and challenge a broad range of artists, audiences and students.

The United States Army Field Band and Soldiers’ Chorus will perform a free concert on Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. in the TCHS Performing Arts Center. Although the concert is free, a ticket is required to attend the performance. From Boston to Baghdad, The United States Army Field Band and Soldiers’ Chorus has been thrilling audiences for more than 60 years. As the premier touring musical representative for the United States Army, the internationally-acclaimed organization travels thousands of miles each year presenting a variety of music to eager audiences throughout the nation and abroad.

“Don Giovanni,” an operatic masterpiece by world renowned composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, will be staged by the Peach State Opera Company on Feb. 11, 2016 in Howard Auditorium. One of the greatest comic operas of all time, the opera's comedic element is driven by Giovanni's dastardly plots and hijinks. But both Lorenzo da Ponte's libretto and Mozart's matchless music ensure that the grim costs of those schemes are as obvious as their humor.

The Dallas Brass will perform at the TCHS Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. on March 8, 2016. Since its founding in 1983 by Michael Levine, the group has become one of America's foremost musical ensembles. With a unique blend of traditional brass instruments and a full complement of drums

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Fillies Play Soccer Here Tuesday

Coach Jimmy Ballenger’s ABAC soccer team will host Georgia Military College at 5 p.m. on Tuesday at the ABAC soccer field. The Fillies opened their regular season on Sunday with a 4-1 win over Gordon. ABAC will also be at home at 5 p.m. on Sept. 8 against Andrew and at 5 p.m. on Sept. 14 against Darton.

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Alumni Host Scholarship Milk and Cookies Day

Over $500,000 in scholarships have been awarded from the ABAC Foundation to students for this academic year. These students have been invited to the Alumni House to write a note of thanks to their donors and enjoy some freshly baked cookies too. Alumni will be on hand to assist with this important task. Please encourage those students who have received a scholarship to please come by the Alumni House on Tuesday, anytime between 12 – 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday.
and percussion, Dallas Brass creates a performing entity of extraordinary range and musical challenges.

The program for the evening is a musical travelogue through American history from the time of George Washington to the present day. The performance will feature not only the Dallas Brass, but also the ABAC Concert Band and the Tift County High School Band in a thrilling finale to a spectacular evening.

Saxophonist Greg Tardy will be the guest performer for the annual ABAC Jazz Festival at Howard Auditorium at 7 p.m. on April 21, 2016. Tardy discovered jazz during his college years and, he has recorded 12 CDs since 1992. Tardy has played with jazz greats including Wynton and Ellis Marsalis. He most recently has brought his clarinet out of retirement to play on recordings by Tom Harrell, Chris Potter, Andrew Hill and others.

Backed by ABAC's Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Thomas Heflin, Tardy's performance is sure to be a sell-out. The ABAC Jazz Ensemble's award-winning performances have taken the group to some of the world's greatest stages, including the Montreaux Jazz Festival in Switzerland and the North Sea Jazz Festival in Amsterdam.

While available tickets will be sold at the door for each show, Jones encourages advance purchase of tickets to ensure seating for patrons. Tickets for the entire series are $50 for adults and $20 for students under 18 years of age. Tickets can be purchased online at www.purplepass.com/abac or by phone at (229) 391-4895. Individual tickets for each event are $15 each for adults and $10 each for students under 18 years of age. A ticket is still required for the free performance of The United States Army Field Band and Soldiers' Chorus.

The "ABAC Presents! Performing Arts Series" is supported in part by the Georgia Council for the Arts through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. The Georgia Council for the Arts also receives support from its partner agency - the National Endowment for the Arts.

For more information, contact Vonda Fenn at 229.391.5067 or vfenn@abac.edu or visit the School of Ag & Natural Resources outreach page at:
http://www.abac.edu/academics/schools/ag-natural-resources/outreach/ag-classic
Incredibly fast bullet trains and the stunning visage of Mount Fuji stir thoughts of Japan with just about everyone who has visited the island nation. Dr. Vanessa Lane, assistant professor of wildlife ecology and management at ABAC, recorded those impressions in her mind but she knows Japan is so much more.

“What most people don’t realize is that Japan is teeming with wildlife and wildlands,” Lane, just home from a trip to Sapporo, Japan for the International Wildlife Management Congress, said. “To the adventurous, Japan’s wild countryside offers haunting serenades of Japanese robins, tiny skittering of lizard feet on dry leaves, and the hissing of volcanic steam vents.”

Lane and colleagues from the University of Georgia, University of Illinois, Texas A&M University, University of Montana, Mississippi State University, Weyerhaeuser Company, and the U.S. Geological Survey attended the Congress to share information on the management of animals such as elk and white-tailed deer with wildlife managers in Japan.

“Other topics covered at the conference were diets of Japanese giant salamanders, effects of the Fukushima radiation on insects and birds, and somewhat surprisingly, how Japan can effectively manage an exploding population of sika deer,” Lane said.

“I discussed the possible consequences of emerging hunting technologies on the fair chase of game animals, and how high fencing wildlife, specifically for hunting white-tailed deer, privatizes what is actually a public resource in North America,” Lane said. “I also talked about how current no-kill movements in the United States are reflecting observed changes in public demographics and perceptions of hunting.”

Lane said most Japanese citizens do not own firearms, and the sika deer are managed in key areas through cooperative volunteer hunts between forest managers/owners and hunters. These hunts help to reduce deer populations in small areas to allow for tree regeneration. In North America hunters typically must pay for hunting rights to private lands.

In Japan, landowners must pay hunters to hunt overabundant deer on their property. “Sika deer are eating the Japanese forests to death,” Lane said. “We have a similar situation in the U.S. with white-tailed deer in Pennsylvania and Minnesota. We suggested to the Japanese that they adopt the model of several European countries where hunters can sell the meat of the animals they shoot.

“If the Japanese adopt this model, forest owners may be able to reduce the costs of hiring hunters to reduce the deer herds because the hunters will be making money on the deer they harvest. While this doesn’t address the cultural stigma of gun ownership or the safety concerns about hunters on their land, this will at least provide financial incentive to hunters to reduce deer populations without placing that financial burden on landowners.”

Deer hunting season is just over the horizon in Georgia. Lane said the deer population in the state is on the rise in some urban and suburban areas because of reduced hunting. Deer survival and reproductive rates in other areas of the state are lower due to traditional hunting and coyotes.

“Last year we saw a reduction in doe days on some public lands, giving the deer population a chance to remain stable or increase in those areas,” Lane said. “Urban deer are a growing problem worldwide, and we discussed that as an issue in parts of Japan. Careful and ongoing monitoring of deer populations, coupled with flexible hunting regulations, will allow us to maintain deer populations in Georgia at a biologically healthy size.”

Lane is beginning her second year as a faculty member in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources at ABAC. She has taught or co-taught classes in nongame wildlife management, forest measurements and mapping, wildlife ecology and management, herbaceous plant communities, advanced forest ecology, ornithology, and forest recreation and tourism.

Wildlife Professor Brings Home New Appreciation for Japan

Lane plays the shamisen, a three-stringed Japanese guitar, at the Kabukiza Theater Museum in Tokyo. A pirate-themed ferry on Lake Ashi in Japan with the peak of Mount Fuji visible in the distance through the clouds.

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

Various departments on the ABAC campus participated in a drive to raise money, water and Gatorade for the Tifton and Tift County firefighters. More than 800 bottles of water and Gatorade were collected. Allen Saylor delivered the water and Gatorade to the local fire department. ABAC has participated in this event for the past four years.

Cast Announced for ‘The Skin of Our Teeth’

**Cast Member:**
- Cody Durden (Business & Economic Development)
- Kaylee Stokes (Rural Studies-Writing & Comm)
- Ezzard Stewart (History)
- Alena Norton (Community member)
- Caroline Kirkland (Biology)
- Ryan Norton (Community member)
- Nick Shepard (Undeclared)
- Chris Spradley (Biology)
- Jason Brown (Rural Studies-Writing & Comm)
- Noel Valdez (Rural Studies-Writing & Comm)
- Sonja Heard (Community member)
- Sarah Beth Rakestraw (Rural Studies-Writing & Comm)
- Bonnie Young (Community member)
- Amber Dillard (Pre-Nursing)
- Cheyenne Miller (Pre-Nursing)

**Role:**
- Mr. Antrobus
- Mrs. Antrobus
- Henry
- Gladys
- Sabina
- Fitzpatrick
- Dinosaur/Bingo Caller/Bailey
- Mammoth/Broadcaster/Tremayne
- Homer/Conventioneer
- Doctor/Conventioneer
- Moses/Conventioneer/Hester
- Muse/Conventioneer/Ivy
- Refugee/Fortune Teller
- Telegraph Person/Conventioneer
- Refugee/Conventioneer

2015-2016 ABAC Ambassadors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Major/Department</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CiCi Arriaga</td>
<td>Senior Writing and Communication major from Macon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taylor Cowart</td>
<td>Sophomore Animal Science major from Tallahassee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaylee Ewing</td>
<td>Sophomore Accounting major from Monroe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ben Hancock</td>
<td>Freshman Ag Economics major from Ocilla</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kerstin Hilley</td>
<td>Freshman Education major from Covington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Johnson</td>
<td>Sophomore Business major from Richmond Hill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Page Johnson</td>
<td>Sophomore Biology major from Conyers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shannon Kehoe</td>
<td>Sophomore Ag Education major from Myakka City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madison Lynn</td>
<td>Sophomore Diversified Agriculture major from Vidalia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hannah Rucker</td>
<td>Freshman Writing and Communications major from Tifton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madison Thornhill</td>
<td>Freshman Writing and Communications major from Tifton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Richter</td>
<td>Sophomore Animal Science major from Snellville</td>
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ABAC Birthdays

1 Joseph Njoroge
2 Joseph Njoroge
3 Cindy Dubravcic
6 Corey Langston
5 Amanda Dow
6 Debbie Pyles