**BBQ Festival Friday/Saturday at Museum**

The second annual Memphis Barbecue Network’s Rhythm and Ribs Barbecue Festival will be Sept. 17-18 at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC.

Designed as a fun destination for the entire family, the two-day event will feature a BBQ Contest, concert, 5K race and one-mile fun run/walk, train rides, kids’ activities, food and local entertainment.

Doors will open at 5 p.m. on Sept. 17 and at 9 a.m. on Sept. 18. Admission to the site and the concert on Sept. 17 is only $5. Admission to the event on Sept. 18 is $10 for adults, $5 for students with a valid student ID and free for children 10 and under. Food and drink vendors will be on site for all the activities. Local entertainment will be on stage at the Museum’s Opry shelter from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Sept. 18. The Museum train will also be running on that date.

The Memphis BBQ Network sanctions the BBQ competition, which features ribs, shoulder and whole pig categories. A People’s Choice competition will take place Sept. 18 to allow those who attend a chance to taste and judge the cooks’ masterpieces.

Museum staff members will barbecue a hog the “old-fashioned” way by cooking the meat all night long in a pit dug in the ground. Festival attendees will be able to taste test the result.

A concert by the Brandi Thornton Band will kick off the event on Sept. 17 at 8 p.m. Thornton, just off her first European tour, grew up beneath the watchful eye and sheltering pines of small town America in Folkston, Ga. Festival organizer Angela Moore said concert goers should mix Janis Joplin’s “want to” with Aretha Franklin’s “have to,” add the soulful yearning of Martina McBride’s “need to,” and might get real close to Brandi Thornton’s sound of “got to.”

“When Brandi Thornton gets going, she’s just ‘got to’ entertain,” Moore said.

Local artist Derrick Dove will open for the band with an acoustic set starting at 7 p.m.

The ABAC Health and Fitness Club is sponsoring the Hog Jog 5K race and one-mile fun run/walk Sept. 18 at 9 a.m. Registration the day of the race begins at 7:45 a.m. The run will wind throughout the picturesque grounds of the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village.

Race registration is $15 until Sept. 10 and $20 after that. Students receive a $3 discount on the registration fee, and family registration is $45 for up to four family members. All participants will get an event t-shirt and free admittance to the BBQ Festival. To register for this event, contact Jimmy Ballenger at (229) 391-4939.

Sponsors for the event include: Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, the Agrirama Foundation, Tifton-Tift County Tourism Association, Tift Area Hospitality Association, the Tifton Gazette, Hilton Garden Inn, Georgia Power, and the Spearman Agency.

Georgia’s Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village opened as the Agrirama on July 4, 1976. The grounds consist of five areas: a traditional farm community of the 1870s, an 1890s progressive farmstead, an industrial sites complex, rural town, national peanut complex, and the Museum of Agriculture Center. Over 35 structures have been relocated to the 95-acre site and faithfully restored or preserved. Costumed interpreters explain and demonstrate the life-style and activities of this time in Georgia’s history.

For more information on any of the event’s activities, contact Moore at (229) 386-0216.

**Constitution Day On Thursday at ABAC**

Constitution Day will be observed at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College on Sept. 16 with events throughout the day. Highlights of the day will include a public reading and distribution of the Constitution and Declaration of Independence, guest speakers, and a flag retirement ceremony.

ABAC’s namesake is Abraham Baldwin, a Georgia signer of the Constitution who was also the first president of the University of Georgia. The college assumed its current name in 1933.

A public reading and distribution of the Constitution and Declaration of Independence will take place at 12:30 p.m. at the ABAC Meadows. Dr. John Galyean, Associate Professor of Humanities at ABAC, will read aloud the Declaration of Independence at that time.

At 7 p.m. in the Driggers Lecture Hall, Rusty Simpson and John Tibbetts will talk about what it means to hold public office and serve the Constitution. Simpson is the Eighth District Republican Party Chair, and Tibbetts is a Democrat who is running for the Georgia House of Representatives. Boy Scout Troop 321 of Tifton and the local Veterans of Foreign Wars post will conduct a flag retirement ceremony after Simpson and Tibbetts speak.

For more information on Constitution Day, contact Hans Schmeisser, Instructor of Political Science and History, at (229) 391-5077.

**Mark your Calendars**

The annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration will take place at ABAC on Sept. 23 from 12:30-2:30 p.m. at the ABAC Meadows.
The ABAC soccer team will play at home three times this week. Come out and see the Fillies play on Tuesday at 4 p.m. against Middle Georgia, on Thursday at 4 p.m. against South Georgia, and on Saturday at 3 p.m. against Judson.

**Baldwin Players Auditions Start Today**

The Baldwin Players at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College will hold auditions for the play “No Exit” by Jean-Paul Sartre today and Tuesday at 7 p.m. each night in Room 319 of Conger Hall on the ABAC campus.

A classic of existential drama, the play involves three people ushered into a room in hell to spend eternity together. Although each expects to be met with torture devices and fire and brimstone, they each find that their respective hellish afterlives involve much worse punishments.

Dr. John Galyean, director of the Baldwin Players, said there are parts for two men and two women. Auditions are open to all, and no experience is necessary. Information sheets will be available a week before auditions.

Those persons interested in acting, assistant directing, or working on a crew are asked to come early to either or both nights of auditions. Candidates for crew work as well as potential actors will be asked to fill out an information sheet indicating personal schedule and contact numbers. Only prospective actors will be asked to stay for the duration of auditions.

Galyean said rehearsals usually last about two hours and a half, about four times a week. Production dates are Nov. 11 - 13.

For more information, contact Galyean at (229) 391-4960.

**ABAC Birthdays**

18 Dale White

**ABAC Family**

Mike Chason was the emcee at the Literacy Volunteers of America Carnival of Knowledge fundraiser on Sept. 9

**Mark Your Calendar for Stallion Days**

November 13
February 12
April 16

40 Years With ABAC!

ABAC Vice President for Fiscal Affairs John Clemens (left) and Physical Plant Director Andy Bihl from Sodexo congratulate Charles Turner on 40 years of service to Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. Turner began his ABAC career in the Donaldson Dining Hall on Oct. 1, 1970. He retired on Friday.