



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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Alumni Award Nominations Due December 1

Nominations are now being accepted for awards to be presented by the ABAC Alumni Association at the Celebrate ABAC alumni weekend on March 3, 2012 at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. Nominations are due by Dec. 1, 2011.

Awards are based on professional achievement, community service, and service to the college. Anyone who has attended ABAC for one full year and has 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours of credit is eligible for nomination.

Nomination forms may be obtained by logging onto www.abac.edu/alumni



and clicking on the "Alumni Awards" link. Completed nominations may be mailed to the ABAC Alumni Office, ABAC 13, 2802 Moore Highway, Tifton, GA 31793-2601, or returned as an e-mail attachment to the Alumni Association at alumni@abac.edu no later than Dec. 1.

Nominations should provide specific details about the person being nominated. Nominations may be made by alumni, friends, family members, or ABAC faculty and staff.

For more information about the nomination process, contact the Alumni Office at (229) 391-4900 or via e-mail at alumni@abac.edu.

ABAC Admissions Night Tuesday at 5 p.m.

The Office of Admissions at ABAC will host an Admissions Information Night on Tuesday from 5 – 8 p.m. in Room 132 of the Agricultural Sciences building on the ABAC campus.

For more information, interested persons can contact Jernigan at (229) 391-5018. Applications are now being accepted by ABAC for spring term classes which begin on Jan. 9, 2012 and for the 2012 fall semester.

Morning Spots Available for Ag Classic Oct. 3

The 11th Annual Ag Classic Golf Tournament at ABAC will be held on Oct. 3 at ABAC's Forest Lakes Golf Club. There are still spots available for the 8 a.m. morning flight. A complimentary lunch served at noon.

For more information, interested persons can contact tournament coordinator Vonda Fenn at (229) 391-5067, via e-mail at vfenn@abac.edu or by visiting the website at www.abac.edu/alumni/agclassic.

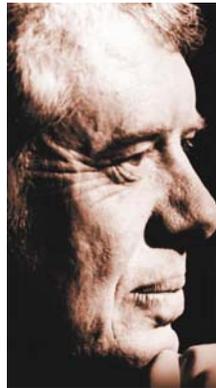
Exhibit Opening October 8 at the Museum

A brand new exhibit opening on Oct. 8 will shine the spotlight on the life of President Jimmy Carter at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village, operated by ABAC.

"Jimmy Carter: Georgia's Native Son" will open at 10:30 a.m. on Oct. 8 along with another rare exhibit, "Mules & Presidents: The Folk Pottery of Huey and Anne Wheeler". Both exhibits will run simultaneously at the museum.

The pottery exhibit will remain open until Jan. 7, 2012, and the Jimmy Carter exhibit will be at the Museum until April, 2012. Exhibit hours are from 9-4:30 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday.

"Jimmy Carter: Georgia's Native Son" chronicles President Carter's remarkable life, from his roots in Plains to his White House years and humanitarian career through The Carter Center. The display is packed with rare photos and artifacts, giving viewers a snapshot of President Carter's life as a peanut farmer, politician, president, humanitarian, and Nobel Peace Prize winner. It



was assembled last year and displayed at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport until September, 2011.

"Working with The Carter Center to bring this special exhibit to the Museum has been one of the highlights of the summer for us," said Paul Willis, GMA Director. "We are honored to have been chosen as a host site and look forward to sharing it with the community and our visitors."

The exhibit gives a rare inside look at the efforts of the not-for-profit Carter Center to advance human rights and alleviate suffering in developing nations. The Center was founded by President Carter and former First Lady Rosalynn Carter after they left the White House and is the base from which they have led missions to advance peace and health worldwide for nearly 30 years.

ABAC President David Bridges said Carter was instrumental in the creation of the Agrirama when he was the governor of Georgia.

"It is fitting that a display honoring America's former President be displayed at Georgia's Museum of Agricul-

FACULTY COLLOQUIUM SERIES The Learning Experiences Provided by the Beef Unit

Presented by:
Dr. Mary Ellen Hicks
Today from 4-5 p.m.
Carlton 202



ture," said Bridges. "We are excited to work with the Carter Center to bring this display to south Georgia."

This event is sponsored by The Peanut Institute Foundation, a non-profit organization that supports nutrition research and develops educational programs to encourage healthful lifestyles; and by Frank and Janet McGill. Frank McGill is an ABAC alumnus (Class of '49) who was the first recipient of the

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Creek Indian Encampment at Museum of Agriculture on Saturday

A Creek Indian Encampment on Saturday will highlight the opening of a dazzling Saturday lineup of October activities at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village, operated by ABAC.

Each Saturday in October features special Fall Frolics events at the Museum, and Oct. 1 will showcase a "Walk Through History".

Fall Frolics is a month-long series of events each Saturday focusing on arts and culture in the 19th century.

The "Walk Through History" event will showcase demonstrations in spinning, weaving, and preserving. Arrowheads will be on display in the lobby of the Museum, and a quilting demonstration will take place in the atrium. Visitors can watch wool being dyed on the Gibbs' House porch, and children can participate in Indian face painting.



Also scheduled will be two exhibitions. The first will feature a Creek Indian Encampment, and the second will be a 19th Century Military Encampment. A

variety of food will be on sale, including the traditional fare of boiled peanuts, chicken salad sandwiches, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, barbecue chicken sandwiches, and pimento cheese sandwiches.

Upcoming events in the Fall Frolics line-up include Forges and Fiddles on Oct. 8, the Harvest Celebration on Oct. 15, Critter Saturday on Oct. 22, and Trick or Treat in the Village on Oct. 29. The village becomes haunted on Oct. 28

-29 with spooky tours, haunted train rides, costume contests, and broom-making. Each Saturday during Fall Frolics will feature a Family Farm Ball Activity.

The pumpkin patch and corn maze will be open to the general public every Saturday beginning Saturday from 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. For \$5, children and adults can pick their own pumpkins, navigate their way through the Georgia-shaped corn maze, explore the fall playscape and ride the steam train. To tour the village, regular admission is required.

During the week, field trips will be available through the Museum to the pumpkin patch and corn maze. Interested persons can contact Tonia Carpenter to schedule a class visit at (229) 391-5205 or at tcarpenter@abac.edu.

For more information on these and other upcoming events, interested persons can contact the Museum at (229) 391-5200 or visit the Museum's website at www.abac.edu/museum.

ABAC Family Weekend October 7-8
Visit the family weekend website at
www.abac.edu/familyweekend for a complete schedule of
events. Make sure to sign-up by **Thursday!**



Continued from page 1

Georgia Peanut Commission Hall of Fame Award.

The Tifton Farmers' Market is partnering with the Museum to host a peanut-themed reception for the exhibit opening, featuring samples of various treats prepared by local cooks with locally grown peanuts. Chef Kas Asbury of The Hilton Garden Inn is creating a special beverage for the occasion.

The second exhibit features a husband and wife team of first generation artisans, Huey and Anne Wheeler. The Wheelers have an old connection to the Carter family since Huey's father helped Jimmy Carter start his peanut business.

The "Mules & Presidents" exhibit will feature a sample of the Wheelers' work on loan from collectors from across the country and several never before displayed pieces, including a life-size face jug of President Jimmy Carter bearing his signature, documented to be the only piece of pottery in existence bear-

ing the signature of a President of the United States.

GMA Gallery Curator Polly Huff from the ABAC Arts Connection said Bridges grew up with the Wheelers in Dawson, and he has been instrumental in getting the Wheeler display to the Museum.

"I have known Huey and Anne Wheeler all of my life," said Bridges. "It is wonderful to have them share their lifetime devotion to and love for pottery with visitors to the Museum."

Another special piece on display will be a large, one-of-a-kind mule jug created by the Wheelers to replicate the Georgia Museum of Agriculture's own white mule, Cotton. The "Cotton" jug will be available for sealed bids during the exhibit, and the proceeds of the sale of the piece will be donated to the Museum by the Wheelers.

The Wheelers were unexpectedly inspired by pottery years ago when Huey watched a potter working on a piece. After studying potters for 18 months, he centered his first piece on

the wheel.

As their hobby took off, the Wheelers began experimenting with their own glaze. It took seven years to perfect the recipe, but the two came up with what is now known as "Tobacco Spit", their signature glaze featuring ash on the list of ingredients. Many potters tend to keep their glaze recipes a closely guarded secret.

The Wheelers work out of two shops which house three large kilns. Everything they make is already sold, and each piece is custom-made. Their creations reside in 48 states and several foreign countries. "Edgar Reeves", a high-end design shop in Atlanta, is an exclusive carrier of the Wheelers' lamps.

For more information on the Carter and Wheeler exhibits or to schedule a private tour, class visit, or a special event inside the Gallery, interested persons can contact Huff at (229) 391-5222 or phuff@abac.edu.

Agriculture and Education A Legacy for the Groffs

For David and Susan Groff, agriculture and education have always been staples in their lives. David, a retired plant breeder, and his wife, Susan, a retired educator, decided to put their expertise to work by volunteering at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village, operated by Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.



ing and the pumpkin patch. I've been in agriculture all my life so it was natural for me." "I followed suit," Susan said. "I had done volunteer work through schools previously. Speaking has always been a

Susan worked in education for 31 years, including a stint at ABAC as tutoring coordinator for Student Support Services. She has been volunteering as a tour guide for the Tift House at the museum for over two years and plays a vital role each holiday season with the museum's Polar Express. David has volunteered for over seven years working in the grist mill, pumpkin patch, and as a train conductor.

"I first started volunteering at the museum through friends," David said. "They got me interested in cane grind-

passion of mine so serving as a tour guide is perfect. We both like to stay active."

What the Groffs love the most about volunteering at the museum is all the different kinds of people they get to meet.

"I enjoy the tourists and the Tiftonites that come to the museum," Susan said. "I learn just as much from them as they do from me, whether I am talking to an adult or a child."

Through their years of service to the museum, the Groffs have had some

wonderful experiences.

"Since I work in the Tift House, I have gotten the opportunity to meet some of the great-grandchildren of H.H. Tift," Susan said. "They came to see the house and recognized it from the photo they had. Dr. John Fair, who wrote the genealogy of the Tift family, also came by to see the house."

"The pumpkin patch last year was a real bash," David added. "We sold over 1,000 pumpkins. And I work with a great group of guys that grind cane. Since ABAC has taken over, the staff is great, and they're a joy to work with."

The Groffs have lived in Tifton for 23 years, transplanted from Pennsylvania. They have three children – Denise, Michael, and Donna. They are also the proud grandparents of five grandchildren.

For those interested in volunteering with the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village, please call (229) 391-5223 or visit the museum's web site at www.abac.edu/museum for more information. The museum is open from 9 a.m. – 4:40 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday.



Students Display Flags At Hispanic Heritage Festival

Students of the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) display flags of the ten Hispanic countries celebrating their independence during Hispanic Heritage Month. The month-long celebration began on Sept. 15, the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico declared its independence on Sept. 16 and Chile on Sept. 18. The national celebration ends on Oct. 12 with the observation of the date that Christopher Columbus discovered America.

ABAC Stallion Day

Mark your calendar :
November 12
February 11
April 14

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 for inclusion in the next FOCUS.

ABAC Birthdays

- 27 Jane Thompson
- 28 Mike Williams
- 29 Tracy Dyal
- 29 Steven Janousek
- 29 Alex Kowalewski
- 29 Woody Leonard
- 30 Tonia Carpenter

October

- 1 Nicholas Hardin