Thirty contestants will compete in the 47th annual Ms. ABAC contest on Oct. 8 at ABAC. Sponsored by the Ag Business Club, the theme of this year’s pageant is “New Chapters . . . Old Traditions.”

The event begins at 7 p.m. in ABAC’s Howard Auditorium. Admission is $10. Because of limited seating, advance ticket purchase is advised. Tickets can be purchased from any Ag Business Club member or by calling Audrey Luke-Morgan at (229) 391-4807.

Contestants will compete in casual and evening wear. They will also be judged on a written essay and an interview with the judges.

Students competing in this year’s pageant include Skyler Anderson, an agricultural education major from Warner Robins; Anna Ballinger, a family and consumer sciences major from Silver Creek, sponsored by the Rural Studies Club; Courtney Barber, a business major from Hinesville, sponsored by the ABAC Baseball Team; Katie Barlow, an agricultural education major from Eastman, sponsored by the ABAC Cattleman’s Association; Naomi Chance, a biology major from Cumming, sponsored by the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Affiliates; Kaylee Ewing, an accounting major from Dacula, sponsored by the ABAC College Republicans; Deidra Green, a rural studies-social and community development major from Sylvester, sponsored by the Family and Consumer Sciences Club; Savannah Hartley, a political science major from Glenwood, sponsored by the Residents Life and Housing Club; Kerstin Hilley, an early childhood education major from Oxford, sponsored by the ABAC Ambassadors; Dalanie Israel, a diversified agriculture major from Smithville, sponsored by ABAC’s

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Pumpkin Patch Opens October 3 at the Museum

Visitors can pick out the perfect pumpkin or travel through the train-shaped corn maze beginning Sat. when the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC opens its annual pumpkin patch and corn maze locations.

Museum Director Garrett Boone said the corn maze is included in the Museum and Historic Village’s admission price. Admission is not required to visit the pumpkin patch.

Located at the Country Store near the entrance to the Museum, the pumpkin patch will be open Mon. - Sat. from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Prices for pumpkins start at $5.

While adults pick out the perfect pumpkin for a jack-o-lantern, children can choose their own pumpkin or play on the tire swings, seesaws, the ever popular corn box, and the brand new swing set. The pumpkin patch also has a number of photo spots to create the perfect fall family pictures.

The corn maze will be open to visitors from Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. throughout the month of October. In recognition of the Museum’s 1917 Vulcan steam locomotive, the maze is cut into the shape of a train.

Admission to the Museum on Tues.-Friday is $7 for adults, $6 for seniors (age 55 and over), $4 for children 5-16 years of age, and free for children four and under. Sat. admission is $10 for adults, $8 for seniors (age 55 and over), $5 for children 5-16 years of age, and free for children four and under. Saturday visitors can take a ride on train cars pulled by the 1917 steam locomotive. Train rides are included in the price of admission. For more information on the pumpkin patch or corn maze, interested persons can contact the Museum at (229) 391-5205.
Spearman Speaks to Small Business Management Class
Entrepreneur Tyron Spearman spoke to the Stafford School of Business, Small Business Management class about the dynamics of starting and managing a small business. Spearman encouraged students who desire to start a business to think about what the industry needs then fill that gap. Spearman is a former Director of Public Relations at ABAC as well as a marketing professional who runs The Spearman Agency, National Peanut Buying Points Association, and Tifton-Tift County Tourism Association. The Small Business Management class is led by instructor Franzelle Pertilla.

Harvest Celebration at the Museum of Agriculture October 10
From hay rides to corn shucking, the Harvest Celebration on Oct. 10 promises to be a fun-filled fall day at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at Building on the theme of “Discovering Our Agricultural History.” the entire site will be open from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Museum Director Garrett Boone said activities will include arts and crafts, agricultural games and activities, wagon rides, and corn shucking contests. Hay rides and the Museum’s 1917 Vulcan steam engine will take guests around the Village throughout the day. Demonstrations in soap-making, basket weaving, and other traditional arts and crafts will also be available to visitors of the Museum during the Harvest Celebration.

Kids young and old will have a blast navigating through the train-shaped corn maze before sampling some of the festival’s fall treats. They can also pick out a pumpkin to take home from the pumpkin patch near the Country Store. Families should bring their cameras because fall photo spots abound in the pumpkin patch, corn maze, and throughout the Historic Village.

Lunch will be available for purchase in the Historic Village Drug Store and under the Opry Shelter. Local food vendors will also be on hand, selling a variety of delicious fall fare.

No trip to the Museum would be complete without a stop at the Country Store, a unique one-stop-shop that offers true South Georgia items, locally-grown preserves, peanuts, pecans, American-made toys, and locally-crafted merchandise. Gift baskets can also be created upon request.

The Wiregrass Farmers Market adjacent to the Country Store will be open from 9 a.m.–noon during the Harvest Celebration. Stock up on local produce, nut oils and flour, grass-fed beef, pork, lamb, and goat as well as baked goods, eggs, goat cheese, and more. No admission fee is required to visit the Market.

Admission to the Museum, Gallery, and Historic Village is $10 for adults, $8 for seniors, and $5 for children. Children four years old and younger are admitted free of charge.

For information about the Harvest Festival, interested persons can call (229) 391-5205 or visit www.abac.edu/museum/events.
Heflin Plays Jazz at ABAC First Tuesday Concert October 6

With Dr. Thomas Heflin leading the way on the trumpet, the sweet sound of jazz tunes will serenade the audience at 7 p.m. on Oct. 6 at the opening night for the First Tuesday Concert Series at ABAC.

Heflin, assistant professor of jazz in the School of Liberal Arts, will be on stage in the Chapel of All Faiths as the popular series kicks off the 2015-16 season with “A Night of Jazz Music.” This concert is open to the public at no charge.

The First Tuesday series, now in its 15th year, features regional professional artists on the first Tuesdays of five months during the year. Dr. Susan Roe, Director of Music for the School of Liberal Arts, is the First Tuesday Program Director.

Heflin’s jazz quartet includes Evan Powell on the piano and two of ABAC’s new music adjunct faculty members, Brandon Robertson on bass and Miles Bozeman on drums. The performance will also showcase the talents of two ABAC music students, Kreshon McDowell on the trombone and vocalist Terrence Gibson. Saxophonist Harry King will also be a part of the show.

Heflin placed second in the Carmine Caruso International Jazz Trumpet Solo Competition in Seattle. He has released three albums as a leader on Blue Canoe Records, the last of which was a collaborative CD with Ron Westray, former leader trombonist with Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra.

Heflin is a former member of the Knoxvile Jazz Orchestra and has performed in festivals such as the Montreux Jazz Festival, the Ezzcaray Jazz Festival, and Jazz a Vienne. He served as the Central Greenough Artist-in-Residence in Western Australia as well as an artist-in-residence with the Always on Stage Festival in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada.

In 2009, Heflin received his doctorate in Music Performance with a jazz emphasis from the University of Texas. Shortly after, he moved to NewYorkCity and served for five years as Program Manager and on the jazz faculty at the Manhattan School of Music Precollege Division.

For more information on the First Tuesday Concert Series, interested persons can contact Roe at sroe@abac.edu.

Reminders From the ABAC Health Center

Don’t want to pack on the winter pounds? The Tiftarea YMCA offers ABAC Employee Discounts! For more information, call the Health Center at 229.391.5030 or Human Resources at 229.391.4890. Also, the Flu Vaccine is still available at the ABAC Health Center for students, faculty, staff and Sodexo employees.

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Baptist Collegiate Ministries; Bayleah Jackson, a diversified agriculture major from North, S.C., sponsored by ABAC’s Collegiate FFA; and Shannon Kehoe, an agricultural education major from Myakka City, Fla., sponsored by ABAC’s Collegiate FFA.

Other contestants are Ashton Lovett, an agriculture communications major from Adel, sponsored by the Young Farmers Club; Katherine Lynch, a diversified agriculture major from Guyton, sponsored by Lynch Lawn Maintenance; Madison Lynn, a diversified agriculture major from Lyons, sponsored by the ABAC Agronomy Club; and Taylor Martin, a diversified agriculture major from Wrightsville, sponsored by the ABAC Agri-Life Council.

Other contestants include Ginger Orton, an agriculture communications major from Buena Vista, sponsored by ABAC’s Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow; Marisa Palmer, an agricultural education major from Watkinsville; Amy Perry, a diversified agriculture major from Moore Haven, Fla., sponsored by the Sigma Alpha sorority; Hillary Reeves, a rural studies-agriculture communications major from Rebecca, sponsored by the Rural Studies Club; Jennifer Richter, an animal science major from Snellville, sponsored by the ABAC Forestry Club; Myesha Robinson, a nursing major from Hinesville, sponsored by the ABAC Women’s Soccer Team; and Samantha Rowland, a nursing major from Cochran.

Also competing will be Brittany Sherrod, an agricultural business and animal science major from Swainsboro, sponsored by the ABAC Agronomy Club; Destinee Story, a wildlife and natural resources major from McDonough, sponsored by the ABAC Wildlife Society; Amanda Thomas, a rural studies-writing and communication major from Douglas, sponsored by Still Images Photography; Madison Thornhill, a rural studies-writing and communication major from Tifton, sponsored by the ABAC Ambassadors; Ashton Trouten, an animal science major from Cartersville, sponsored by the ABAC Circle K Club; Evelyn White, a family and consumer sciences major from Albany, sponsored by the Family and Consumer Sciences Club; and Malerie Whitehurst, a diversified agriculture major from Williston, Fla., sponsored by the ABAC Horseman’s Association.

Mike Chason, Director of Public Relations Emeritus, will serve as master of ceremonies. All proceeds from the Ms. ABAC pageant will benefit ABAC Scholarships, the American Cancer Society Relay for Life, and ABAC’s 2016 National Agri-Marketing Association Team.
GIVE BACK TO ABAC is in full swing! We ask that you consider making a contribution to this important effort with your fellow faculty and staff. Giving is easy with options like Payroll Deduction and there are several ways to allocate your gift:

- Designate your gift to a specific scholarship or area on campus – Go to www.abac.edu/giveback for a pdf listing of scholarships and funds. If you have specific questions about how to designate your contribution, you may contact Gloria Sulkowski at 229.391.4897.
- Contribute to Staff Forum or the Faculty Enrichment Fund (professional development, conference presentations, awards)
- Join the Alumni Association as an Annual or Lifetime Member
- Give to “An Evening for ABAC” or “ABAC Presents!”
- Give to the area of greatest need with an unrestricted gift

Mark your calendar for the Give Back to ABAC Ice Cream Social on Thursday, October 8. This event will be held at the Alumni House from 2 - 4 p.m. and is open to all faculty, staff, and retirees regardless of donor status.

A special thank you to GIVE BACK TO ABAC’s faculty and staff volunteers.

**Academic Areas**
- Agriculture and Natural Resources (Renata Elad)
- Human Sciences (Donna Campbell)
- Liberal Arts (Dr. Bonnie Asselin)
- Nursing (Deborah Drummonds)
- Science and Mathematics (Beth Thornton)
- Stafford School of Business (Abul Sheikh)

**Administrative Areas**
- President’s Office and Public Relations (Lindsey Roberts)
- College Advancement (Sue Mastrario)
- Academic Affairs (Nancy Anthony)
- Business and Finance (Deidra Jackson)
- Information Technology (Clayton Riehle)

"Why do I give to ABAC? There is a simple answer. I want to see ABAC grow and continue to be the place students come HOME to. Yes, it is a great destination, but most importantly, it is the FIRST step to a brighter future. I give because our students’ futures should be the brightest stars on the horizon for all of us!” — Nancy Anthony, Multicultural Education

"I give to ABAC because I believe in the quality of our programs. My colleagues and I care about our students individually. I am dedicated to ensuring they are prepared to be the leaders of tomorrow. Most importantly I give because the students come with so much potential that begs to be nurtured and molded into greatness.” — Dr. Renata Elad, School of Agriculture and Natural Resources

"I give back to ABAC because I take pride in working for an institution that gives me the opportunity to change lives every day. I derive a great deal of satisfaction in building relationships with the students and their families. The faculty and staff have become my ABAC family and the experiences they have given to me are priceless.” — Donna Webb, Enrollment Management

"Every time I go to the hospital as a patient, family member or visitor, I run into former nursing students who are now my professional colleagues. Seeing their big smiles and hearing their stories of success is very gratifying. I am amazed as I watch them work and see their capabilities and skills. I know ABAC has made a difference in their lives, and I know that my donation supports the important work of improving the health of the people of South Georgia.” — Troy Spicer, School of Nursing
Georgia Brass Quintet Begins ABAC Virtuoso Series Tuesday

The Georgia Brass Quintet will be featured in the first performance of the Virtuoso Chamber Music Series on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium at ABAC. The performance is free of charge and open to the community.

The Georgia Brass Quintet is comprised of Philip Smith, Dr. Brandon Craswell, Dr. Jean Martin-Williams, Dr. Joshua L. Bynum and David Zerkel, who are all brass faculty from the University of Georgia (UGA) Hugh Hodgson School of Music. The quintet champions a broad array of repertoire from Renaissance to contemporary music, as well as arrangements of familiar jazz and pop tunes.

For more information on the Virtuoso Chamber Music Series, interested persons can contact Jones at wjones@abac.edu.

Students Volunteer at Fulwood Garden Center

Members of several organizations at ABAC including the Circle K Club, Sigma Alpha Sorority and FFA spent the morning of September 26, 2015 working to beautify the grounds of the Fulwood Garden Center with members of the Camellia Garden Club. The Fulwood Garden Center was home to Mr. and Mrs. P.D. Fulwood and is now home to The Council of Garden Clubs of Tifton. The home and grounds are a popular Tifton tourist attraction with the grounds available to the public to enjoy and the historic home available for public functions.

Successful Hispanic Heritage Day

Music filled the air in the Meadows on Thursday during Hispanic Heritage Day. Attendees saw traditional dance and ate delicious foods. The events throughout the day focused on technology and the future of healthcare. Experts on this subject from around the world educated attendees on Telehealth, informatics and transcultural competency and how those things are improving rural Latino healthcare.

There’s Still Time to Participate in the Ag Classic Ball Drop

Individuals can purchase numbered golf balls for a small fee for a chance to win. Participants can purchase one golf ball for $5, three golf balls for $10, or seven golf balls for $20.

All the balls sold with unique individual numbers will be placed in the bucket of a front end loader and dropped onto the putting green at Forest Lakes Golf Course on October 5 during the Ag Classic Golf Tournament. The ball that rolls closest to/or drops into a pre-selected designated hole on the putting green will be declared the winner. The number on each ball will be associated with an individual that purchased a chance(s) to win. The grand prize is a Visa gift card with a designated value equal to 50 per cent (nearest $10) of the numbered golf balls sold.

To participate in the Ag Classic tournament or the ball drop event, interested persons can contact tournament coordinator Vonda Fenn at (229) 391.5067, at vfenn@abac.edu, or by going online at www.abac.edu/academics/schools/ag-natural-resources/outreach/ag-classic. The opportunity to participate in the ball drop event is open until the event takes place at 12:45 p.m. on Oct. 5.

ABAC Birthdays

28 Michael Williams  29 Steven Janousek
1 Nicholas Hardin  29 Tracy Dyal  30 Tonia Carpenter
4 Deidre Martin  4 Mary Ellen Hicks