



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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Roe, Jones in Faculty Recital September 10 at ABAC

The School of Liberal Arts at ABAC will present a joint faculty recital at 7 p.m. on Sept. 10 in Howard Auditorium. The event is open to the community at no charge. The performance features Dr. Susan Roe, Director of Music at ABAC, and Wayne P. Jones, Director of the ABAC Arts Connection. They will be accompanied by music instructor Gina Lawhon.

Vocal selections will include "Quando m'en vo" from *La Boheme* by Giacomo Puccini, George Gershwin's "Summertime" and "Bess, You Is My Woman" from *Porgy and Bess*, Franz Schubert's "Grechen am Spinnrade"; and "Heimliche Aufforderung" and "Morgen" from *Vier Lieder, Opus 27* by Richard Georg Strauss.

Other pieces will include Franz Liszt's "Oh! Quand je dors, S. 282"; "Chere Nuit" by Alfred Bachelet; Ned Rorem's "Early in the Morning"; selections from Ralph Vaughn Williams' *Songs of Travel*; "It Is Well With My Soul" by Phillip Bliss and arranged by Faye Burgess; "Deep River" arranged by Moses Hogan; and "Not Like This" by Jeremy Lubbock.

Roe, a soprano, earned the Bachelor of Music degree from Converse College, the Master of Church Music in vocal pedagogy from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and the Doctor-

ate of Musical Arts in vocal performance from the University of South Carolina.

Roe served on the faculty of Francis Marion University for 10 years as a tenured Assistant Professor of Music before moving to Tifton in 1996. She taught at Valdosta State University before joining the ABAC faculty in a full time position in 2002.

Besides her duties as music program director, Roe is a Professor of Voice at ABAC, Director of the First Tuesday Performance Series, and Director of Choral Music. She has recently been selected to serve a two-year term as the Chair of the Repertoire and Standards Committee for two-year music programs and two-year colleges for the American Choral Directors Association of Georgia.

Jones, a bass-baritone, received his Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance from Shorter College and a M.M. degree in vocal performance from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. He has also done doctoral studies at the University of Georgia in voice performance with a choral music cognate.

A member of the ABAC faculty since 1989, Jones is a frequent performer throughout the region as both a conductor and soloist. Jones has served as

chair of the College Division of the Georgia Music Educators Association and as a member of the Georgia Council of the Arts Community Arts Programs Advisory Panel and its Music Advisory Panel. He has also served as a member of the Fox Theater Institute steering committee to form a statewide consortium, Georgia Presenters. Jones is also the immediate past president of the Georgia Arts Network.

Lawhon is a local piano/organ instructor and teaches applied organ lessons for ABAC's music program. She attended Oklahoma Baptist University and graduated with a Music Education degree from North Texas State University. She has accompanied and played for a wide variety of musical events both local and statewide including a concert with the Brandenburg String Quartet and several recitals at Valdosta State University. She has also performed with the Albany Symphony Orchestra.

Lawhon has two recordings, "Praise His Greatness," a sacred collection, and "Christmas Favorites," a Christmas collection. She teaches general music with the Tift County Public School System and is also employed as the worship and choral accompanist for First Baptist Church and its Chancel choir.



ABAC Students Say Thanks

Karen Loreda from Alma pens a letter of thanks to her scholarship donor on Tuesday during the first ever Scholarship Milk and Cookies (MAC) Day at the Alumni House at ABAC. Over 100 students attending ABAC on scholarships gathered to write personal letters of appreciation to individuals and companies who provided the scholarship funding. The ABAC Alumni Association sponsored the event, and ABAC alumni baked homemade cookies for the occasion. Assistant Director of Advancement Lynda Fisher said the afternoon proved to be a lot of fun for both students and alumni.



Register for Sept. 20 Bottles and Brushes Today

A Bottles and Brushes art class will be held on Sept. 20 from 6-8 p.m. at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC. Participants will paint "Beach" by local artist and Bottles and Brushes instructor Brenda Rose. Participants can bring their favorite beverage while enjoying an evening of creativity and fun. \$25 per person for the class or \$40 for a couple. Participants must register ahead of time by contacting Polly Huff at 391-5222 or by e-mailing her at phuff@abac.edu.

2013-2014 ABAC Ambassadors

Ethan Amason
Sophomore Communications major from Milledgeville

Cici Arriaga
Junior Journalism & Mass Media major from Macon

Brandi Babbitt
Sophomore English major from Centerville

Demarcus Bateman
Sophomore Business Administration major from Ashburn

Kira Carreira
Freshman Biology major from Kingsland

Slayten Carter
Freshman Political Science major from Willacoochee

Raylee Clack
Freshman Biology major from Leesburg

Jordan Dewitt
Sophomore Family and Consumer Sciences major from Waycross

Sarah Morris
Freshman Nursing major from Hull

Matthew Pace
Sophomore Ag Economics major from Lyerly

Samuel Peraza
Freshman Communications major from Loganville

Hillery Reeves
Sophomore Agriculture Education major from Rebecca

Kelly Ryan
Freshman Criminal Justice major from Kennesaw

Britt Smallwood
Freshman Agriculture Education major from Lincolnton

Lisa Stephens
Sophomore Undeclared major from Turin

Ja'Quez West
Sophomore Animal Science major from Irwinton

Squirrel Rifle Finds Its Way to Georgia Museum of Agriculture

When the United Parcel Service delivery person handed her the long box, Polly Huff couldn't wait to open it. The curator of the Georgia Museum of Agriculture at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College admitted that with a thousand chances, she would never have guessed the contents.



When Huff unwrapped the paper around the object, she found a very rare artifact, an 1898 Winchester squirrel rifle in mint condition.

"The rifle was quite a surprise," Huff said. "And the story that went along with the rifle was really heartwarming."

A letter enclosed with the rifle identified the owner as Roy Dean Wehunt, a farm boy born in 1925 in Cherokee County. Tucked inside the letter was a faded photograph of Wehunt and a poem he wrote in 1943.

"The picture was of Private First Class Roy Dean Wehunt in his uniform," Huff said. "The poem was very touching

because it described the change taking place in his life from that of a simple Georgia farm boy to a soldier." Wehunt served under General George Patton in the Third Army Division, 15th Infantry Regiment, Company A, during World War II. Wehunt served his country all over Europe through the end of the war. By May of 1945, the

15th Regiment had 16 recipients of the Medal of Honor including Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier in U.S. Army history.

A member of the so-called "Greatest Generation," Wehunt survived the war, returned to Georgia, and married Helen Ruth Adams of Fannin County who made her home in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains.

The story soon took a sad turn because Wehunt was killed in an automo-

bile accident in 1947 while delivering newspapers for The Atlanta Journal.

Wehunt's son, Stephen, eventually inherited the beloved rifle. Stephen Wehunt married Laveta Margaret Waters, who graduated from ABAC in 1969. They now live in Fayetteville and decided to donate the rifle, the photo, and the poem to the Georgia Museum of Agriculture.

"My dad was a simple farm boy, and he loved farming," Stephen wrote in the letter which accompanied the rifle.

"I am sure if he had gone to college, he would have chosen ABAC."

Huff said that thanks to a generous donation from the Wehunt family, the Museum will be able to display the rifle along with a plaque which will include Roy Wehunt's photo, his poem, and the story of his life. The display will open in early

September.

For more information about the exhibit, interested persons can contact Huff at phuff@abac.edu.



ABAC Graduates Well Versed in Communication Skills

In today's fast-paced information world of Twitter and Facebook, college graduates must be well versed in communication skills whether they're using computers, cell phones, or tablets. And perhaps most importantly, they must be masters of the spoken word in conversations with customers.

If you're telling that to Dr. Bobbie Robinson, you're preaching to the choir.

"What we know is that liberal arts graduates can think critically, write well, and communicate

well," Robinson, the Dean of the School of Liberal Arts at ABAC, said. "What we're hearing from industry is to send us people with these types of skills. We can teach them the technology of their particular job.

"Employers are looking for these skills. They want personnel who can form that communication bridge between the public and their company."

Robinson said she talked with more students this summer who declared for a liberal arts major than at any other time in recent history. She said the students picked majors ranging from English to music, including the fields of history, art, communication, and political science.

Students are gravitating toward the ABAC Rural Studies' bachelor's degree majors in Writing and Communication and Politics and Modern Cultures.

"Students in these majors graduate with practicum experience, a developed portfolio of projects they have worked on, and an internship in the area they want to pursue," Robinson said. "The best thing is they are getting jobs.

"When someone gets a job, they have to write e-mails. They may have to



The ABAC Concert Band is one of the many extracurricular activities offered through the School of Liberal Arts at ABAC. Members of the band major in many different fields of study at the college.

solve a problem with a customer who comes in upset. Employees must be able to communicate a direct message and communicate it well. These are the skills that we teach."

Like all the deans on campus, Robinson spends time each semester just listening to students and hearing about their goals in life. A unique partnership developed from one of those discussions.

"Some students come to ABAC to begin a course of study in agriculture because they have been in a setting of that nature all their lives," Robinson said. "They have grown up in a rural setting. But then they decide they don't want a specific job in production agriculture.

"This is where we come in. They get a strong foundation of agriculture classes with a heavy dose of liberal arts classes. They graduate with a bachelor's degree in writing and communication which turns out to really be an agriculture communications degree."

Robinson said student internships in liberal arts are "the most exciting thing I have worked with in my career.

"We are on the leading edge of schools adding internships to their programs which result in a baccalaureate degree. Depending on the size of the internship, these students have been in a job setting at least 160 hours. Several of them have had job offers from the internship or at least they have added a bullet on a resume." Robinson never ceases to be amazed at the wide range of extracurricular activities available to students at ABAC, particularly those with a liberal arts connection.

"Students don't have to be majoring in these areas to participate," Robinson said. "You can sing in the choir and major in biology. You can write for the paper and major in agriculture.

"We have art shows, an open microphone night at Rockin' Joe's coffee house, and the Baldwin Players are doing Shakespeare this fall. In the spring, they're doing an open air production at the Museum of Agriculture."

Robinson said that ABAC has an internationally known jazz band which has toured Europe on three occasions, a concert band, a concert choir, a jazz choir, a literary magazine, and even a radio station where students can host their own talk show.

Students interested in politics can get involved in the College Republicans or the Young Democrats. They can also run for office in the Student Government Association.

"To go into the liberal arts area, students bring a talent," Robinson said. "Maybe it's a talent for the written word, or art or music. At ABAC, we have lots of opportunities to develop those talents during the time they are here."



Ag Classic Golf Tournament October 7

The 13th Annual Ag Classic Golf Tournament at ABAC will be held on Oct. 7 at ABAC's Forest Lakes Golf Club. There will be an 8 a.m. flight and a 1 p.m. For more information, interested persons can contact tournament coordinator Vonda Fenn at (229) 391-5067 or e-mail her at vfenn@abac.edu

ABAC Students, faculty and staff wore green and gold on Friday to support National School Colors Day.



Save these Dates for Stallion Day
Nov. 9 Feb. 15 April 5



Blood Drive Today at Soccer Field from 2-6 p.m.

The blood drive will take place on this afternoon between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. in conjunction with the first home soccer game. The mobile unit will be parked near the soccer field. Donate today and save three lives!

The FOCUS is an electronic publication produced by the ABAC Public Relations Office. Please submit information by **Thursday at noon** to Ashley Mock at amock@abac.edu for inclusion in the next FOCUS.

ABAC Birthdays

- 5 Amanda Dow
- 6 Debbie Pyles
- 8 Diane Jackson
- 8 Shawn Cox

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

at the
GEORGIA MUSEUM OF AGRICULTURE &
HISTORIC VILLAGE

SEPTEMBER 7TH, 2013
9AM - 4:30PM

FREE...

ADMISSION FOR CHILDREN

(WITH PURCHASE OF AN ADULT ADMISSION)

ONE SCOOP OF ICE CREAM FOR CHILDREN

TRAIN RIDES

SPELLING BEE COMPETITION &
ORGANIZED CHILDREN GAMES

FREEZE TAG

LONDON BRIDGE

CORN HOLE

KEEP AWAY

CHECKERS

3-LEGGED RACE

AND MANY MORE!

FACE PAINTING

MARBLES



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