



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

VOLUME L

ISSUE 13

OCTOBER 10, 2011

Former President Carter Cut Ribbon at Exhibit Opening Saturday



Former President and Mrs. Carter assisted in the ribbon cutting for the brand new exhibit opening on Saturday at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village. Pictured left to right for the ribbon cutting Gregg Grimsley, manufacturing manager at Birdsong Peanut and representing the Peanut Institute; Frank McGill, exhibit sponsor; Former President Jimmy Carter; ABAC President David Bridges; and Mrs. Carter. ABAC Ambassadors Jake Williams and Keaton Griner held the ribbon. "Jimmy Carter: Georgia's Native Son" will run through April 2012 and "Mules & Presidents: The Folk Pottery of Huey and Anne Wheeler" also opened Saturday and will run until January 7, 2012. Exhibit hours are from 9-4:30 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday.

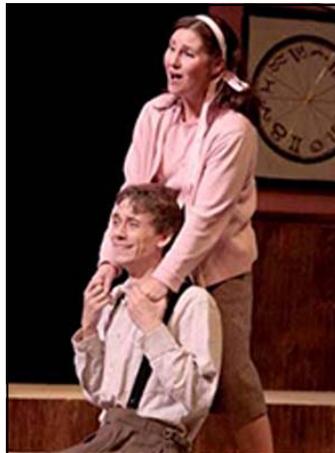
ABAC Performing Arts Series Kicks Off Thursday

Four performers from the Capitol City Opera Company will kick off a new performing arts series with an evening of operatic favorites on Thursday at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium at ABAC. Selections for this concert have been designed to please everyone from the operatic novice to the enthusiast.

ABAC Arts Connection Director Wayne Jones said other featured performers in the series, titled "ABAC Presents!", are the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra and guests as well as jazz trombone player Harry Watters with the ABAC Jazz Band. Tickets for the entire series can be purchased online at

www.artsconnection.ticketleap.com or by phone at (229) 391.4895.

The series continues on Feb. 19 with the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra. The concert will feature celebrated guest conductor Maestro Edward Cumming conducting masterworks by Debussy and Berlioz. It will also feature harpist



Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton in the Gliere Harp Concerto. This concert will be held at the Tift County High School Performing Arts Center. The final performance of the series will feature world-class jazz trombonist Harry Watters and the ABAC Jazz Band at Howard Auditorium on April 19 at 7 p.m.

All proceeds from this performance will benefit the Eugene Wyles Music Scholarship.

These programs are supported in part by the Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA) through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. GCA also receives support from its partner agency, the National Endowment for the Arts.

Jones said available seats will be sold 15 minutes before each show, but purchasing tickets in advance is encouraged.

Apply to ABAC/Financial Aid Night Tuesday at 5 p.m.

The Admissions Office at ABAC will host an Apply to ABAC/ Financial Aid night on Tuesday from 5 – 8 p.m. at the Agricultural Sciences building on the ABAC campus. Enrollment Management Counselor Brooke Jernigan said all prospective students are welcome to attend, no matter where they are in the admissions and financial aid process.

"We will be there answering questions and helping every prospective student on an individual basis," Jernigan said. "It's a drop-in event with no set program. We just want to help these students get ready for the spring semester at ABAC."

For more information, interested persons can contact Jernigan at (229) 391-5018. She said information will also be available for prospective students who are planning to enroll for fall 2012. Classes for the spring semester at ABAC begin Jan. 9, 2012.



Harvest Celebration at Museum of Agriculture on Saturday

Visitors young and old are in for a treat when the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village hosts a Harvest Celebration on Oct. 15 as part of the month-long Fall Frolics festivities.

Now operated by Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, the Museum sponsors Fall Frolics every Saturday in October. The events focus on arts and culture in the 19th century.

The Harvest Celebration will offer children's carnival games at several locations on the historic site, corn shelling at the farm, a cupcake walk at the Gazebo, rides on the mule drawn wagon and mule plowing demonstrations.

A variety of food will be for sale, including the traditional fare of boiled peanuts, chicken salad sandwiches, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, barbeque chicken sandwiches, and pimento cheese sandwiches. The Coun-



try Store will also be offering free samples from Lauri Jo's product line. From 7-9 p.m. on Oct. 15, the Museum will show a "Movie under the Harvest Moon!" Families are encouraged to bring a picnic

supper for the "Family Pig-Nic" on the Opry Shelter Lawn as they watch "Nanny McPhee Returns" on a 27-foot screen under the stars. Admission to the movie and "Family Pig-Nic" is free but donations will be accepted at the gate.

Other events in the Fall Frolics lineup include Critter Saturday on Oct. 22, and Trick or Treat in the Village on Oct. 29. The Village becomes haunted from 7-10 p.m. on Oct. 28-29 with spooky tours and haunted train rides. Each Fall Frolics Saturday will feature a Family Farm Ball Activity.

The pumpkin patch and corn maze will also be open to the general public every Saturday in October from 9 a.m. –

4:30 p.m. For \$5, children and adults may visit the Pumpkin Patch, navigate their way through the Georgia-shaped Corn Maze, explore the fall play-scape and ride the steam train. Pumpkins are available at various prices. 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.

Admission to the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village on Tuesday-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. Saturday 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. During the month of October, regular admission includes the Pumpkin Patch and Corn Maze.

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 Soccer Star Named National Player of the Week

The reigning record holder for goals scored in a season at ABAC has been named the National Junior College Athletic Association Player of the Week. Melissa Johnson scored four goals on Tuesday to lead the Fillies of Coach Jimmy Ballenger to a 6-1 victory over arch rival Middle Georgia. With 29 goals on the year, she holds the ABAC all time record and leads the nation in goals and points. For her extraordinary efforts, the 5-foot-10 forward from the United Kingdom was named the National Player of the Week for games Sept. 26 through Oct. 2. During that time period, she scored three goals each in ABAC victories over Middle Georgia and Andrew as well as recording two goals and two assists in a win over Georgia Military.

The Fillies host Darton on Wednesday at 5 p.m. at the ABAC soccer field.



ABAC Students Athletes Get Involved in the Community

The Fillies and Stallions Tennis teams volunteered Saturday morning to work TRMC's Stepping Out For A Cure 5k, 1 Mile Run and Heart Walk.



Music & Museum To Highlight ABAC Expo Exhibit

From the soulful sounds of a mandolin to the terrific taste of teacakes, ABAC will showcase all aspects of its 516-acre campus at the Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition at Spence Field near Moultrie on Oct. 18-20.

"We always look forward to the Expo because we get to see a lot of prospective students as well as alumni," Interim Director of Public Relations Ashley Williamson said. "For the second year in a row, we will be sharing information about the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village on the ABAC stage as well as hearing from our student performers."

Williamson said student performing groups will be spotlighted each day at the ABAC exhibit including Amanda Lynn and the Sand Mountain Boys bluegrass band on Oct. 18, the ABAC Jazz Choir on Oct. 19, and the Thundering Herd Pep Band on Oct. 20.

ABAC took over the operation of the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village in Tifton on July 1, 2010, and now the Museum provides educational opportunities as a part of the ABAC campus.

"Museum personnel will be a part of the ABAC exhibit at the Expo every day," Williamson said. "We sold out of teacakes last year, so we're making up extra batches this year. We will also have Museum interpreters talking about everything from sheep-shearing to syrup-making."

The ABAC Ambassadors will emcee the daily shows on the ABAC stage and

will also sell ABAC souvenir t-shirts, sweat shirts, caps and other merchandise. They will also spend each day recruiting future ABAC students from the thousands of high schoolers who visit the Expo.

"No one sells ABAC like our very own students," Williamson said. "The Ambassadors are excited about this opportunity to share their experiences with ABAC students of the future."

Admissions representatives and faculty members will also be on hand each day to answer questions about the new bachelor's degree programs at the college.

ABAC will also host the Expo Scavenger Hunt for middle school and high school students. The students follow clues to find answers to questions posted on the Expo web site at

www.sunbeltexpo.com/resources.html#scavenger Prizes will be awarded after the Expo.

The Expo began as a series of small farm equipment shows on the ABAC campus in the 1960s. It moved to Spence Field in 1978. The college has exhibited at the show every year near the main entrance.

The Expo is open 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Oct. 18-19 and 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Oct. 20. The agricultural-based trade show features 1,200 exhibitors showcasing the latest in farming technology. Admission is \$10 per person per day. Children 12-and-under are admitted free with their parents.

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 Stallion Day November 12

Welcome Szekes As New General Manager of Sodexo

Attila Szekes is the new General Manager of Sodexo and Plant Operations at ABAC. Originally from Hungary, Szekes fled to the United States during the Hungarian refugee crisis of 1956 as a child.

He has over 20 years of experience in the field, including 18 years in the defense industry, serving as Director of Facilities for North Carolina's Wesleyan College, Facilities Manager for Wachovia in South Carolina, and as National Manager of Facilities for Siemens Corporation.

Szekes received his education from Georgia Southern earning a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering and his Master's in technology management from Southern Polytechnic Institute.

He is an avid motorcycle enthusiast and enjoys reading and writing his own poetry.

Please give Attila a warm ABAC welcome as you see him around campus.



ABAC Birthdays

10 Philip Hightower
10 Shirley Wilson
12 John Layton
14 Gail Dillard

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.

Pink Yogurt Lid Collection

Yoplait tops its yogurt containers with pink lids in support of Breast Cancer Research. Used Yoplait lids are collected and turned in for donations to the Susan G. Komen Foundation for Breast Cancer Research. A Pink Lid collection box for Yoplait pink lids has been placed on the shelf across from the ABAC Mail Center window. Please rinse your lids before putting them in the box. You may also send lids in campus mail to Bam Pirkle.