



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

VOLUME L

ISSUE 15

OCTOBER 24, 2011

Writers' Harvest Thursday Features Novelist, Poet

A nominee for Georgia Author of the Year and Pushcart Prize-nominated poet will be featured at the annual Writers' Harvest on Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village, operated by ABAC.

The price of admission is one nonperishable food item or canned good. All donations go to support Brother Charlie's Rescue Mission. This event is sponsored by ABAC's literary magazine, "Pegasus".

Dr. Jeff Newberry, the "Pegasus" advisor, said this year's featured readers are novelist Morris Smith and poet Andy Frazee.

Smith, who lives in Valdosta, studied at Valdosta State University and Tulane University and has worked as a teacher and social worker. In 1998 she was nominated as Georgia Author of the Year for a short story sequence, "Spencer Road". In 2005 another story collection, "Zambian Text", was published by Mercer University Press.

Frazee is author of "The Body, the Rooms" (2011) and "That the World Should Never Again be Destroyed by Flood" (2010). His Pushcart Prize-

nominated poetry has appeared in a variety of journals. He is also known for his criticisms and reviews in publications including "Verse" and "The Quarterly Conversation". The son, grandson and great-grandson of farmers, Frazee grew up in rural Central Illinois. A graduate of the University of Illinois and the University of Georgia, he currently holds a Marion L. Brittain Postdoctoral Fellowship at Georgia Tech.

"Pegasus" staff members will collect canned goods and non-perishable items through the date of the Writer's Harvest. Donations can also be dropped off at the School of Liberal Arts office in King Hall, Newberry's office in Conger 309, or at the "Pegasus" office at the Branch Student Center, Room 313. Those who cannot make it over to one of these drop locations can call Newberry's office at 391-4972 and someone will come to the location.

For more information on the Writers' Harvest, interested persons can contact Newberry via e-mail at jnewber-ry@abac.edu.

ABAC Fall Carnival at Museum Thursday

A Fall Carnival will take place on Thursday at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village, operated by ABAC beginning at 6 p.m. This event is open to the public and all are welcome to attend.

The carnival will feature a multitude of events including a haunted train ride and house, football toss, pumpkin golf, and a corn maze that will be kid-friendly until 8 p.m. After 8 p.m., the maze will take on an eerie appearance as it becomes haunted. Each event has a small fee to take part. All the activities will be sponsored by ABAC clubs and organizations.

The carnival will be located at the Welcome Center and Country Store at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at 1392 Whiddon Mill Road. Tickets for the activities can be purchased the night of the event.

For more information about the Fall Carnival, contact Kris Liebegott at (229) 391-5152 or via e-mail at kliebegott@abac.edu.

Phi Theta Kappa will host its annual Trick or Treat for Kids on Thursday from 4 – 5:30 p.m. Kids will be escorted around the ABAC campus to "Trick or Treat". Bring big buckets or bags; there will be LOTS of candy! Let them wear their costumes! Participating children should meet in the Student Center.

Museum Fall Frolics Culminate With Halloween Events on Friday and Saturday

Halloween spirits will be in the air at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village on Friday and Saturday during the final weekend of the Fall Frolics events. Now operated by ABAC, the Museum will feature activities ranging from trick-or-treat candies for the youngsters to Bloody Brian at the Blacksmith Shoppe for older visitors.

On Oct. 28-29 from 7 -10 p.m., participants can take a ride on the haunted train, tour the haunted village and its four haunted houses, visit Bloody Brian and the Blacksmith Shoppe, hear scary



stories and sample some Witches Brew at the Country Store.

The Village will open its doors at 9 a.m. on Oct. 29 to all the trick-or-treaters to give out candy and host costume contests for kids and adults at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. Participants can also make their own broom, hear ghost stories, and visit the corn maze and pumpkin patch.

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

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.

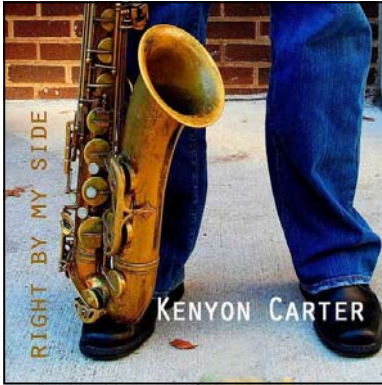
For more information on these and other upcoming events, interested persons can contact Museum personnel at (229) 391-5200 or visit the Museum's website at www.abac.edu/museum.

First Tuesday Concert on November 1 at ABAC

The First Tuesday Concert at ABAC on Nov. 1 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel of All Faiths on the ABAC campus will feature "A Night of Jazz".

Saxophonist Kenyon Carter and his group, The Kenyon Carter Connection, including Chris Blackwell, guitar; Coleman Woodsen II, keyboard; Billy Thornton, electric bass; and John David, drums; will be the featured performers.

The ABAC First Tuesday Concert Series takes place on five selected first Tuesdays during the year. Dr. Susan Roe, associate professor of voice at ABAC, directs the series. All First Tuesday concerts are presented to the community as a gift from the college



through the School of Liberal Arts and the Georgia Council for the Arts. Roe said that persons who want to support the First Tuesday concerts can make contributions to the ABAC Foundation and designate them for the First Tuesday Concert Series. Carter is an Atlanta-

based jazz saxophonist and international recording artist recognized for his melodic compositions and engaging live performances. He is an ABAC alumnus who also holds bachelor's degrees in both performance and music education from Valdosta State University as well as a master's degree

from Georgia State University in jazz saxophone performance. While studying at VSU he was named "outstanding soloist" at the Elmhurst Jazz Festival.

Carter has recently released his debut album "Right By My Side", a 12-track CD, to rave reviews. CDs will be available for sale after the performance. Interested persons can visit www.kenyoncarter.com for more information.

Other First Tuesday events will be held on Feb. 7 featuring "A Night of Chamber Music" with the Azalea String Quartet; March 6 with "A Night of Classical Guitar", featuring Matt Cochran; and April 3 with "A Night of Broadway Music" featuring ABAC faculty, students, and voice majors.

For more information, Roe can be reached at sroe@abac.edu.

Museum Worker Celebrates 95th Birthday By Living History All Over Again

When Ferol Cospers talks about the agricultural history of South Georgia to visitors at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village, she knows of what she speaks. That's because she turned 95 years old on Friday. She's a walking, talking treasure trove of memories.

"I understand what the Agrirama is all about because I experienced it all growing up," said Cospers. "The Museum is really important to me and to agriculture."

Now operated by ABAC, the Museum opened as the Georgia Agrirama on July 1, 1976. Cospers saw an ad in the newspaper in 1976, filled out an application for employment, and was hired. She's still working today.

Cospers enjoys sharing her memories with those who come to the Museum, especially those who aren't from the South.

"Northerners haven't seen a lot of these things, like what cotton really looks like or a buggy," said Cospers. "It teaches us about just how far we have come from the buggy to the airplane. It is amazing to me."

Born in the nearby Excelsior Community, Cospers remembers plowing fields with her father as a little girl because all her brothers were out of the house.

"There was no one else to help," said Cospers. "I would go behind my father on a mule and plant the crops."

She lived with her brother in Plant City, Fla., for a year and attended school there before returning home. A few years later, Cospers's prowess at picking cotton snagged her a marriage proposal.

"My husband, Glen, saw me working in the cotton fields and said that I was the type of girl he wanted to marry because I could make him money," said Cospers.

In 1929, she left her senior year of high school to get married and raise a family. She admits that as a newlywed she didn't know how to cook, and she had to draw any water they needed from a well. She and her husband were married 51 years.

Agriculture served as their primary source of income as sharecroppers when the couple began their lives together.

"For sharecropping we made \$12.50 a year, with another \$12.50 going to our landlord," said Cospers. "We had cotton, peanuts, tobacco, and vegetable crops. I taught piano lessons to help supplement our income."

In 1935, when the Rural Electrification Administration was established, electricity finally came to the rural parts of Georgia. The family didn't have the funds readily available for the service so Cospers turned to what she knew - agriculture.

"When the Rural Electric Administration first offered electricity to my area we wanted the service but didn't have the money, so I sold eggs to pay for the \$1 monthly charge," said Cospers.

After years of sharecropping and piano lessons, the Cospers opened their own general store in 1954. They sold items including fabrics, sugar, flour,



and other dry goods. The income from the store provided them with the money needed for their next big purchase - a new home.

In the early 60s, the Cospers began building a house on land that they owned.

"We paid a company to build the house,"

said Cospers. "It cost us \$50 a month for additions to the house, and \$2,500 for the framing and roofing. The house was guaranteed to last 10 years. I still live in the same house today."

Cospers has had the benefit of experiencing everything from riding in a Model T car to seeing the first streamliner train that she described as 'a flash of lightning', the invention of the television, and most recently the Internet.

Although she never graduated from high school, Cospers is the consummate learner, much like her father who she described as a "self-educator".

"He would read anything he could get his hands on," said Cospers. "I would rather read, too. I'm not much of a television watcher."

When not reading, she enjoys playing the piano at Salem Baptist Church and spending time with her family, including her seven grandchildren.

Visitors to the Museum are always amazed at the stories Cospers shares with them. But to her, there's nothing surprising about it at all. After all, she lived it.

CTL Presentation Today at 4 p.m.

Join the Center for Teaching and Learning for a panel discussion titled: "Free and Cheap Technology for the Classroom," provided by Kathy Moreno & colleagues this afternoon at 4 p.m. in Carlton 202.

Epperly Joins ABAC Staff

Cynthia Epperly joined the ABAC staff as the new administrative assistant in the School of Human Sciences on Oct. 19, replacing Vicki Wilson, who now serves as the administrative assistant for the Office of Student Affairs.



Epperly received her associate degree in business administration in 1987 and obtained her bachelor's degree in management and marketing from Valdosta State University. She has over 15 years of experience as an administrative assistant, primarily working for a large pharmaceutical company in Atlanta.

Pirkle To Retire Friday After 21 Years at ABAC

Bam Pirkle, Administrative Assistant in the Office of Human Resources, will retire Friday after 21 years of service at ABAC. Pirkle began her career at ABAC as the senior secretary in the Financial Aid Office in 1990.

After four years, she was selected as senior secretary for the Office of Continuing Education, and in 1997 she became the administrative secretary for College Services and Institutional Research. In 2003, she became the administrative secretary for College Services and Human Resources before landing her current position as administrative associate in the Office of Human Resources.

A retirement reception in her honor will be held on Wednesday from 2-4 p.m. on the second floor of the J. Lamar Branch Student Center.

Open Enrollment Now Through Nov. 17

ABAC Human Resources encourages you to attend one of the eight Employee Benefit Communication meetings that will be offered this week in the Student Center Courtroom on the third floor of the Branch Student Center. Please go to the following link to register for the session that best fits your schedule www.abac.edu/hr/openenrollment. Open Enrollment will run through Nov. 17.

ABAC Family

Amy Warren and Mike Chason served as two of the judges for the Tift County High School Governor's Honors Program selection committee on Oct. 10.

ABAC Fillies Host First Round Soccer Playoffs

For the second year in a row ABAC will host the first round of the women's soccer playoffs Tuesday at 4 p.m. at Fillie Field. ABAC, number 4 seed, will play Middle Georgia, number 5 seed.

If ABAC advances with the win over Middle Georgia on Tuesday, the fillies will play Darton on Friday at Noon hosted by Georgia Perimeter College in Dunwoody.

Come out and support the ABAC women's soccer team Tuesday at 4 p.m.!

Anderson Working in ABAC Bookstore

Gwen Anderson joins the staff of the ABAC Bookstore as the new accounting clerk. Anderson began working at the bookstore in September.



Anderson graduated from Tift County High School and worked for South Georgia Banking

Company as an assistant head teller for 14 years. She began attending ABAC in 2009, majoring in business administration. She plans to graduate in the fall of 2012.

"I love working at ABAC," said Anderson. "It has such a warm and friendly atmosphere. It is a very comfortable and welcoming place with a friendly staff."

When not working or studying, she enjoys drag racing and is a huge NASCAR fan.

She is married to Toney, a diesel mechanic at Shiver Diesel. She has one son and two stepchildren.

ABAC Stallion Day November 12

Visit the stallion day website at www.abac.edu/stalliondays for a draft schedule of the event.

Seminar on Interviewing Wednesday at ABAC

The Student Development Center at ABAC will host a workshop on interviewing strategies and techniques on Wednesday at 4 p.m. in Bowen Hall, Room 100. Free food and door prizes are also included in this event.

This workshop is to inform students about the interview process and prepare them to make the best impression in an interview. Visiting professionals will conduct mock interviews with real-time feedback and discussion.

For more information on this workshop, contact the Student Development Center at (229) 391-5135.

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 24 Esthela Lopez

Pink Yogurt Lid Collection

Yoplait tops its yogurt containers with pink lids in support of Breast Cancer Research and donates proceeds for each lid collected. A collection box for Yoplait lids has been placed on the shelf across from the ABAC Mail Center window.

Energy Directory Speaking to ASSETS Scholars Wednesday

Alan C. Shedd, professional engineer and certified energy manager, will be the ASSETS guest speaker Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the Nursing building, Room 237. Shedd is the director of residential and commercial energy programs for Touchstone Energy.

He holds a degree in engineering science and mechanics with an energy engineering certificate from the Georgia Institute of Technology. He is a registered professional mechanical engineer and certified energy manager.

Shedd's professional experience includes commercial and institutional energy management, energy analysis, and HVAC system design in the U.S. and Europe. His experiences includes air, water, and geothermal heat pumps, unitary and central chiller systems, and waste heat recovery. He also conducts professional education programs and evaluations of energy utilization, HVAC, service water heating, and environmental technology issues.