Swords Receives Top Award from University System

Jessica Swords, Director of Student Accounts and Veterans Certifying Official at ABAC, received one of the highest honors bestowed by the University System of Georgia on Wednesday when she was named the Gold Level recipient of the Chancellor’s Service Excellence Award for an Outstanding Individual.

“I was stunned,” Swords said after the ceremony when she received the award from University System Chancellor Hank Huckaby. “I was just doing my job.”

ABAC Comptroller Deidra Jackson described Swords as “one in a million.” In her nomination letter for Swords, Jackson extolled the virtues of an employee always willing to go the extra mile.

“Higher education needs more employees like Jessica Swords,” Jackson said. “Jessica is always willing to take care of any task presented to her. I can always depend on Jessica, who never ceases to amaze me at how she goes above and beyond to make sure that any task she is given is completed successfully.”

Swords has been especially attentive to the needs of the 87 veterans who are students on the ABAC campus. She was instrumental in the establishment of the Veteran Success Center which opened in Branch Hall on Aug. 21.

“My grandfather is a veteran,” Swords said. “I try to make sure we take care of all their campus needs. As civilians, we should show our respect to the veterans. It’s the least we can do. I think of the veterans on the ABAC campus as my students.”

Swords serves as the advisor to a new organization on campus devoted to the veterans among the student body.

“We have veterans coming to the Veteran Success Center every day,” Swords said. “Since we opened the Center, we have had more students on campus identify themselves as veterans. They need to have someone they can trust.”

Jackson said Swords worked extra hours to make certain the opening of the Veteran Success Center went off without a hitch.

“She worked many late nights and weekends to ensure that all arrangements were made in a timely manner so the Center had all the resources needed for veterans and those currently in service,” Jackson said.

Swords is a 2008 ABAC graduate with an associate degree in business. She received her bachelor’s degree in business from Georgia Southwestern in 2010 and will complete her MBA from Southwestern in May, 2016.

Carson Cuts Ribbon at ABAC Expo Exhibit

Lanier Carson prepares to cut the ribbon for the opening of the renovated ABAC building at the 2015 Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition last Tuesday. Carson contributed the funds for the construction of the ABAC building at the Expo site in 1999. Also participating in the ceremony were (l-r) ABAC Ambassador Ben Hancock, Director of Marketing and Communications Lindsey Roberts, Director of Public Relations Emeritus Mike Chason, ABAC President David Bridges, Carson, Expo Director Chip Blalock, and ABAC Ambassador Jennifer Richter.

Save the Date for Stallion Day November 14

The November Stallion Day is one of ABAC’s major recruiting events for the fall. If you are an advisor for one of the many ABAC clubs/organizations, please encourage your students to participate. Contact Brooke Jernigan at bjernigan@abac.edu for the club registration form.
Baldwin Players Present ‘The Skin of Our Teeth’ This Week

On Halloween weekend the Baldwin Players at ABAC will present their fall production of “The Skin of Our Teeth” by Thornton Wilder. The performances will take place Oct. 29-31 at 7 p.m. each night in Howard Auditorium on the ABAC campus.

Admission is free to all ABAC faculty, staff and students. The ticket cost is $7 per person for the general public. Tickets can be acquired at the door or at www.purplepass.com/abac.

Wilder, an American playwright and novelist, won three Pulitzer Prizes during his career. The first was in 1928 for the novel “The Bridge of San Luis Rey.” Ten years later he was awarded a second Pulitzer for his dramatic play, “Our Town.” In 1942 he garnered a third Pulitzer for “The Skin of Our Teeth.”

“The Skin of Our Teeth” is a comedy that takes a good look at just what it means to be a human being. Mankind has spent all of history surviving climate change, natural disasters, and wars. In this epic romp about the Antrobus family that spans all of human history from the Ice Age to the not-so-distant future, Wilder gets audiences to laugh at humanity’s strengths and weaknesses as a species. The play takes place in a theatrical setting, where mankind faces the end of the world three times and still goes on by the “skin of our teeth.”

Cast members include Cody Durden as Mr. Antrobus, Kaylee Stokes as Mrs. Antrobus, Ezzard Stewart as Henry, Caroline Kirkland as Sabina, Jason Brown as Homer/Conventioneer/Bailey, Noel Valdez as a Conventioneer/Dinosaur, Sonja Heard as Moses/Conventioneer/Hester, Sarah Beth Rakestraw as a Muse/Drum Major/Ivy, Bonnie Young as a Refugee/Fortune Teller/Tremayne, and Amber Dillard as a Telegraph Person/Conventioneer.

Durden is a business and economic development major from Adel; Stokes is a rural studies – writing and communications major from Tifton; Stewart is a history major from Fitzgerald; Kirkland is a biology major from Tifton; Brown is a rural studies –writing and communications major from Ashburn; Valdez is a rural studies – writing and communications major from Sparks; Heard is a member of the community; Rakestraw is a rural studies –writing and communications major from Tifton; Young is a member of the community; and Dillard is a pre-nursing major from Fitzgerald.

For more information about the play, interested persons can contact Dr. Brian Ray, Director of the Baldwin Players, at bray@abac.edu.

Fillies Soccer Begins Playoffs at Home on Tuesday

The ABAC soccer team will host Georgia Military College at 3 p.m. on Tuesday in the first round of the Georgia Collegiate Athletic Association playoffs. The two teams played twice during the regular season. Coach Jimmy Ballenger’s Fillies won the first match 4-2 and then recorded another win in the second contest when GMC forfeited its 4-0 victory because of an ineligible player. ABAC takes an overall record of 4-6-1 into the game. GMC is 5-9 on the year. If the Fillies win, they will travel to Darton State for the second round.

Wiregrass Market Dinner Set for November 5

Local flavor will be on display during the second annual Harvest to Table seated dinner hosted by the Wiregrass Farmers Market on Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. at the Peach Barn. The Market is open from 9 a.m.-noon on Saturdays from April through November at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC.

Tickets for the 2015 Harvest to Table dinner can be purchased from Polly Huff, Museum Market liaison, via e-mail at phuff@abac.edu. Each ticket is $55 and includes the meal and beverages. Entertainment for the dinner will be provided by local musician Adam Smith. A silent auction offering locally grown and made products will also be a part of the evening’s activities.

Market supporters will gather at the Peach Barn to dine on a meal full of local flavor. Local chef Morgan Lowrance will create several courses featuring locally grown and harvested meats, produce, and artisanal breads. Market board members and local farmers work together to source the dinner.

Each Market farmer will be growing special ingredients for this unique meal in the coming days. Some of the delicious ingredients included in the dishes are locally harvested venison and quail, free-range eggs, locally grown vegetables, artisanal goat cheeses, and breads. The night will end with a dessert featuring local fruits.

Throughout the dinner, guests will have an opportunity to find out more about the Market’s farmers and their products while sitting at a table hosted by one of the Market’s board members.

All of the proceeds from this special meal will be used to continue the great services provided by the Wiregrass Farmers Market to the community including the Market itself, weekly children’s activities, educational classes, and skills demonstrations.
More than 300 People Walked to End Alzheimer’s on Oct. 17

ABAC’s School of Human Sciences, and students, faculty, staff, and administrators hosted more than 300 people during the Alzheimer’s Association Walk to End Alzheimer’s. The Walk was a Huge success with the School of Human Science raising over $2,500. Pictured above (l-r): Donna Campbell’s Wellness and Human Experience Class that were very instrumental in the logistics of the walk and the ABAC Fillies Softball team with Representative, Penny Houston who spoke during the opening of the Walk. Thank you to everyone that participated and helped to make this event such a success.

School of Nursing and Health Sciences Sell Cookbook

The faculty, staff, students and alumni of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences has published a cookbook. Retired faculty member Patricia Barber, a very good cook, has shared several of her “secret” recipes for the book. The price for the cookbook is $15. Proceeds benefit the Lisa Purvis Allison Scholarship Endowment. To purchase your copy of this cookbook, contact Reba Selph at rselph@abac.edu or 229.391.5020.

Mark Your Calendar for Open Enrollment Meetings and Vendor Fair

Open Enrollment just around the corner. This year, you can enroll in your 2016 benefits between Monday, November 2, and Friday, November 13.

The University System of Georgia (USG) continues to provide you and your family with great benefit choices. Take a fresh look at your options to empower yourself to make smart choices for 2016!

ABAC’s kick off day will be Monday, November 2. Events will be held in J. Lamar Branch Hall. A Vendor Fair will be held in the Nickelodeon that day from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Additionally, communication meetings will be held that day in the court room on the third floor at the following times: 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m., and 4 p.m. If you attend the Vendor Fair and a meeting on November 2 you will be eligible for vendor prize drawings.

The rest of the communication meetings will be on the following days and times in the Herring Hall 1st Floor Conference Room:

- **November 4**: 10 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m.
- **November 6**: 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
- **November 10**: 8:30 a.m., 12 p.m., and 5 p.m.
- **November 12**: 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

There will also be a communication meeting for retirees on November 3 at 9 a.m. at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture. Breakfast will be provided. Contact Kaycee Jones at kjones@abac.edu for more information.

Learn more by visiting the USG benefits website at http://www.usg.edu/hr/benefits/oe
Pitches in Stilettos at ABAC First Tuesday Concert November 3

Pitches in Stilettos will highlight “A Night of Woodwinds” at the First Tuesday Concert Series at 7 p.m. on November 3 in the Chapel of All Faiths at ABAC. This concert is open to the public at no charge.

The First Tuesday series, now in its 14th 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.

Sara Eastwood and Dr. Anastasia Christofakis make up the Pitches in Stilettos clarinet duo, which is based in Tallahassee, Fla. The twosome formed the clarinet ensemble at Florida State University. They have devoted their time to promoting awareness of women in the field of music by performing pieces solely from female composers.

Through their performances, Eastwood and Christofakis hope to encourage and inspire women in all art forms to step out and showcase their extraordinary talents. Pitches in Stilettos celebrates the music of the 21st century by actively promoting and commissioning the works of living composers to broaden the canon of repertoire for this type of small ensemble.

Since 2013 Pitches in Stilettos has consistently introduced virtuosic clarinet duo repertoire to audiences across the country through captivating performances.

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

PHI THETA KAPPA’S TRICK OR TREAT FOR KIDS

PTK will host “Trick or Treat for Kids” Wednesday from 4-5:30 p.m. If your office would like to give out candy to the kids, contact Kim Talley at ktalley@abac.edu to be added to the route. Immediately following at 6 p.m. the Inter-Club Council & Residence Hall Association will host their Annual Trunk or Treat by the Lakeside Pavillion.

Trick-or-Treat in the Village at Georgia Museum of Agriculture

Trick-or-treating and two costume contests will highlight the events on Sat. at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC.

Trick-or-Treat in the Village will be held from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Museum employees invite children to don their favorite costume and participate in costume contests at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on the porch of the Historic Village Drug Store. Employees at buildings in the Village will have candy for the children as they trick-or-treat their way around the site.

Activities include face painting, apple bobbing, hay and train rides, creepy crawlies from Chehaw Wild Animal Park, and food vendors. Visitors can also purchase pumpkins at the Museum’s pumpkin patch, wander through the train-shaped corn maze, and see pumpkins flying high in the air during the day from the Museum’s very own “Pumpkin Chunker.” Pumpkins will be launched from a modern day trebuchet into Agrirama Lake.

The pumpkin patch will be open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m.–5 p.m. The pumpkin patch is located at the Country Store near the entrance to the Museum. Admission is not required to visit the pumpkin patch. The corn maze is included in the Museum and Historic Village’s admission price. Train rides featuring the Vulcan steam train are also available every Saturday.

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 Trick-or-Treat in the Village and other upcoming events, interested persons can contact the Museum at (229) 391-5205 or visit the Museum’s website at www.abac.edu/museum.