President Jimmy Carter to Speak at ABAC on Tuesday

President Jimmy Carter will address the students of ABAC on Tuesday at 11 a.m. in Howard Auditorium. Carter accepted the invitation from the ABAC College Democrats to appear on the campus.

ABAC President David Bridges said the college has a long relationship with the former president.

“President Carter actually attended peanut short courses sponsored by ABAC long before he became involved in politics,” Bridges said. “He was a peanut farmer from Plains who wanted the latest and most up to date information.”

Carter last visited the ABAC campus on Oct. 8, 2011 when he opened an exhibit at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village titled “Jimmy Carter: Georgia’s Native Son.” The exhibit chronicled Carter’s life from his roots in Plains to the White House years to his humanitarian efforts through the Carter Center.

“ABAC is honored to have President Carter return to our campus,” Bridges said. “He has been a good friend for many years, and I think his topic is very timely.”

Carter will speak on “The History of Voting in Georgia” with special emphasis on the upcoming election on Nov. 4. The community is invited to attend although seating will be limited due to the fact that many ABAC students will be in attendance.

“This visit by President Carter represents another opportunity for our students to take part in a living history exercise,” Bridges said.

Marlee Mathis Crowned Ms. ABAC 2015

Marlee Mathis, a nursing major from Nashville, was crowned Ms. ABAC 2015 on Thursday night before a standing room only crowd at Howard Auditorium.

Sponsored by the ABAC School of Nursing, Mathis also won the interview portion of the competition. Mathis, who is the daughter of Greg and Tammy Mathis, graduated from Cook High School in 2012. She will receive a $500 ABAC scholarship for winning the title.

“This means the world to me,” Mathis said moments after being crowned by Ms. ABAC 2014, Kristen Card. “I am looking forward to being a great representative for ABAC.”

Mathis is a member of the Georgia Association of Nursing Students at ABAC and the Baptist Collegiate Ministries. She would like to eventually specialize as an Orthopedic Nurse Practitioner.

Other finalists in the event were first runner-up Madison Lynn, a diversified agriculture major from Vidalia; second runner-up Brittany Sherrod, an agricultural business/animal science major from Swainsboro; third runner-up Sarah O’Neal, a writing and communications major from Tifton; and fourth runner-up Kaylee Ewing, a marketing major from Monroe.

Megan Wehmeier, a music education major from Douglas, was selected for the Ms. Congeniality award. Mary Kathryn Henderson, a biology major from Waycross, received the Essay award, and Victoria Powell, a nursing major from Statesboro, won the People’s Choice award.

The event was sponsored by the ABAC Ag Business Club. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.
Open Enrollment Information Sessions Begin Today

All sessions will be held on the first floor of Herring Hall in the conference room.

- Monday, Oct. 27: 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Oct. 29: 10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, Nov. 4: 8:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 6: 10:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m.
- Friday, Nov. 7: 9:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m.

Open enrollment for 2015 begins today and concludes on Nov. 16. For more information, contact Richard Spancake at rspancake@abac.edu

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Purchase Tickets for Wiregrass Market Dinner November 14

Local flavor will highlight a Harvest to Table seated dinner on Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. at the Spring Hill Country Club hosted by the Wiregrass Farmers Market at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC.

GMA Curator and Wiregrass Farmers Market Liaison Polly Huff said this is the first event of its kind after two successful years of a local favorite, the Wiregrass Farmers Market Progressive Dinner.

Tickets for the Harvest to Table dinner can be purchased from Huff by emailing phuff@abac.edu. Each ticket is $50. Musical entertainment will be provided by the ABAC Jazz Quartet led by Thomas Heflin.

Market supporters will gather at the Spring Hill Country Club to dine on a meal full of local flavor. Spring Hill’s chef, Market board members, and local farmers are working together to source and prepare the dinner. Each Market farmer will be growing special ingredients for this unique meal in the coming days. Some of the delicious ingredients the chef will spin into fantastic dishes are kale, pecans, honey, local cheeses, handmade breads, and infused oils.

Huff said the group is also working on sourcing some locally raised meat, polenta, and a variety of vegetables. 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. A cash bar will be open for business during the evening.

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.

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Larry Montgomery stopped by the Alumni House last week for a tour of campus and to take scholarship recipients out to dinner. Pictured (l-r) are Kaylee Ewing, Montgomery Presidential Scholar; Anna Marie Pugh, Montgomery Ag & Natural Resources Presidential Scholar; Larry Montgomery; and Silent Penn, Montgomery Annual Scholarship recipi-
The annual Writers’ Harvest sponsored by “Pegasus,” ABAC’s literary magazine, will take place on Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Peanut Museum at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village.

The featured reader for the Writers’ Harvest is children’s author Peter Huggins. He was born in Oxford, Miss., and grew up in New Orleans, La. He won a literature fellowship in poetry from the Alabama State Council on the Arts in 2006.

Huggins’ picture book, “Trosclair and the Alligator,” was selected for the PBS show, “Between the Lions,” and was chosen as one of the best children’s books of the year in 2007 by the Cooperative Children’s Book Center and the Bank Street College of Education.

The price of admission to the Writers’ Harvest is one nonperishable food item or canned good. All donations go to support Brother Charlie’s Rescue Mission. Staff members of “Pegasus” will collect canned goods and non-perishable items through the date of the Writers’ Harvest.

Donations can also be dropped off at the offices of “Pegasus” co-advisors, Dr. Jeff Newberry (King Hall, Room 2C) and Dr. Sandra Giles (King Hall, Room 2E).

Donations can also be dropped off at the “Pegasus” office located on the third floor of the J. Lamar Branch Student Center or at the Liberal Arts office in King Hall.

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

Save the Date
Commencement
December 11
10:00 a.m.
Meet the ABAC Ambassadors for the 2014-15 Academic Year

Eleven students at ABAC have been selected to participate in one of the most prestigious organizations on campus, the ABAC Ambassadors.

Students serving as Ambassadors include CiCi Arriaga, a senior rural studies – writing and communications major from Macon; Slayten Carter, a sophomore political science major from Willacoochee; Raylee Clack, a sophomore biology major from Leesburg; Kaylee Ewing, a freshman accounting major from Dacula; Guy Hancock, a freshman agricultural business major from Ocilla; and Emily Johnson, a freshman business major from Richmond Hill.

Other Ambassadors include Page Johnson, a freshman biology major from Conyers; Madison Lynn, a freshman diversified agriculture major from Vidalia; Samuel Peraza, a sophomore communications major from Loganville; and Jennifer Richter, a senior rural studies – writing and communications major from Snellville.

Carter serves as president; Clack is vice-president; Arriaga is secretary; and Ewing serves as treasurer of the Ambassadors. Johnson is the parliamentarian, and Price is the historian.

Through a process involving application, letters of recommendation, and interviews, college administrators choose students whom they believe to be motivated and who show leadership potential to serve as Ambassadors.

The Ambassadors assist the offices of the president, public relations and admissions, representing and promoting the college at a variety of community and college events. They work to maintain positive relationships between students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the community.

TRMC Foundation Donates Defibrillator

The Tift Regional Medical Center (TRMC) Foundation, which is the non-profit arm of TRMC, recently donated a defibrillator with carrying case, worth $2,500, to the School of Nursing and Health Sciences. Deborah Drummonds, who teaches various CPR classes at ABAC and throughout the community, recognized the need for a defibrillator in the Dining Hall and contacted Mandy Brooks. We currently have 14 AED’s on the campus. Pictured (l-r) Troy Spicer, Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences; Brooks, Executive Director for the TMRC Foundation; and Drummonds, School of Nursing and Health Sciences Instructor.

Museum and Jazz Choir Celebrate Cosper’s 98th Birthday

The ABAC Jazz Choir (left) serenaded Mrs. Ferol Cosper on her 98th birthday last week at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture. She has been employed for 38 years as an interpreter at the Museum since the doors first opened at the Agrirama on July 1, 1976. Museum Director Garrett Boone said, “Mrs. Cosper is a beloved member of the GMA family. She is always there to greet you as you enter the Museum Main Hall with a smiling face and wonderful stories.”

ABAC Birthdays

29 Erin Campbell 31 Gay Ann Hodge
Nov. 1 Cyndy Hall 1 William Moore
2 Jodie Snow 2 Gina Wilson

Please submit information by Thursday at noon to Lindsey Roberts at lroberts@abac.edu for inclusion in the next edition of the FOCUS.