ABAC Concert Band Presents Fall Concert Tuesday at 7 p.m.

From an up tempo opener to a traditional John Philip Sousa march, the concert band at ABAC will present a wide range of music at its annual fall concert on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium.

Directed by Woody Leonard, the 85-member group performed to standing room only crowds during its two concerts last year. The event is open to the public at no charge. Thomas County Central High School band director Michial Mayhall will serve as the guest conductor for one number during the evening.

The program will begin with the “Star Spangled Banner”, adapted by Henry Fillmore for band in 1934. Immediately following is “Ignition”, a blindingly fast concert opener written earlier this year by Todd Salter. It will be followed by a performance of Eric Whitacre’s “Lux Aurumque”, a lush composition dedicated to the 2005 Texas Symphonic All State Band.

“Espana Cani”, a famous instrumental pasodoble originally written in 1925 by noted Spanish composer Pascual Marquina, will be followed by Sousa’s “Jack Tar March”, a number which will be directed by Mayhall.


The concert will close with a traditional band selection, “Fall River Overture”, written by Robert Sheldon in 1981.

Fourth Annual Chili Cook-Off Takes Place Tonight

The Forestry-Wildlife Club and the Cattlemen’s Club will host the Fourth Annual Chili Cook-Off at ABAC tonight at 6 p.m. in the foyer of the Ag Sciences building.

Those who would like to enter the competition will need to pay a $2 fee per entry. All recipes must be beef or wildlife-based and a minimum two-gallon pot of chili is required for judging.

For those who would like to sample the all-you-can eat chili, tickets can be purchased in advance for $5 or for $7 at the door.

For more information on the cook-off or to get an entry form, contact Dr. Mary Ellen Hicks at 391-4802.

Career Connections for ABAC Students Tuesday

A variety of businesses will participate in the third annual Career Connections on Tuesday for students in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources at ABAC. The event will run from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Ag Sciences building.

The Career Connections job fair will feature a forum for employers to recruit future interns and employees and to communicate industry issues and opportunities to ABAC students. Employers will also have the chance to give feedback to faculty and students about human resource needs and promote agribusiness and green business practices to ABAC students.

“Career Connections is not just for those graduating seniors at ABAC,” said Dr. Tim Marshall, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources. “It will also serve as a place for students to network with employers and for employers to evaluate our students for possible job opportunities down the line. Internship opportunities will also be available for younger students within the school.”

Organizations and companies participating in the event will include Alliance Dairies, Cal-Maine Foods, Inc., Georgia Forestry Commission, Keystone Foods, Landmark Landscapes, Lane Southern Orchards, Murphy-Brown LLC, Sanderson Farms, Syngenta, and the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension.

For more information on the Career Connections event, interested persons can contact Marshall at 391-4790.
Salute Veterans Wednesday at Noon in The Meadows

Please take a moment to thank those who are currently serving in the military or those who have served, as well as the families of service members.

Here is a list of veterans at ABAC as well as family members. http://www.abac.edu/wplh/abac_veterans.htm

Wednesday there will be a small Veterans Day ceremony in the Meadows at noon. We hope to see you there.

ABAC Breaks American Record for Hide-And-Seek

Students at ABAC broke the American record for the largest game of hide-and-seek ever on Wednesday night when 419 students raced through the darkness of the campus to claim the title.

Kris Liebegott, Director of Student Activities, said ABAC probably held the world record for a short while but he was informed Thursday morning that a school in the United Kingdom had played a game with 508 students participating.

“Our goal was to break the record of 245 which was in the Guinness Book of World Records,” Liebegott said. “We broke that easily but then this morning I found out that the record had changed since Wednesday. So we are the American champions and maybe one day soon, we’ll go for the official world record again.”

Liebegott said the college followed the official guidelines to the letter and was preparing the official entry, which usually takes four to six weeks to certify by the Guinness Book of World Records. Ironically, the certification for the UK school came on the same night ABAC was cracking the old record.

“Our students had a lot of fun anyway,” Liebegott said. “I think it’s one of the best events we have had at ABAC.”

ABAC Director of Student Activities Kris Liebegott announces the rules of the hide-and-seek game while the first “It”, Timmy Ackerman from Canton, waits to be blindfolded before he attempts to tag out his classmates.

Timmy Ackerman from Canton was selected in a random drawing to be the first “It” for the game. He managed to tag 12 of his classmates before they made it back to “home base.” Ackerman was blindfolded for five minutes while the other 418 students went and hid in spots in a specified area in the center of campus. Students were not allowed to climb on buildings or trees.

The Campus Activities Board coordinated the event.

Sodexo Promotes Two Staff Members at ABAC

Joe Merritt, Sr., and Wanda Scully of Sodexo received recent promotions, according to Director of Facilities, Attila Szekes.

Merritt, previously a HVAC mechanic, was promoted to facilities supervisor and will manage the maintenance staff members. He has served the campus of ABAC since 2005.

Scully, a former custodian, was promoted to floor care technician and will maintain all the floors on the campus of the college. She joined the Sodexo team at ABAC in 2006.

Campout for the Homeless On Friday Night at ABAC

A Campout for the Homeless will take place on the lawn of ABAC Lakeside beginning at 4 p.m. on Friday and continuing until 10 a.m. on Saturday. All ABAC students, faculty, and staff are eligible to participate. Participants will camp out on the lawn in cardboard boxes to bring attention to the plight of homeless people nationwide.

Participants can buy one box for $5 and all additional boxes for $1. Proceeds from the purchase of the supplies will benefit Ruth’s Cottage. The Baptist Collegiate Ministries will provide a soup dinner during the evening, and breakfast will be provided by the Student Government Association.

For more information on the campout, interested persons can contact Jazmin Thomas at jthoma24@abac.stallion.edu.

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No FOCUS Next Week

There will be no FOCUS on November 21 because of the short week.
The next FOCUS will be sent out on November 28.
Holidays Ahead

ABAC will be open on November 23 although no classes will be in session. Classes will resume on November 28. The college will close for the Thanksgiving holidays on November 24-25.

Reddick Honored by Valdosta State University

Dr. Niles Reddick, Vice President for Academic Affairs, was one of 11 alumni honored by the Valdosta State University College of Arts and Sciences during its recent Outstanding Alumni Dinner. Honorees ranged from the Class of 1961 to the Class of 2002.

Reddick was honored in the area of Philosophy. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from VSU before earning a Ph.D. in Humanities with an emphasis in literature and psychology.

Reddick has written and published a collection of short stories, “Road Kill Art and Other Oddities”, as well as a novel, “Lead Me Home.” Both are available in the ABAC bookstore.

ABAC Financial Aid and Admissions Information Night Tuesday

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.

Enrollment Management Counselor Brooke Jernigan said all prospective students are welcome to attend, no matter where they are in the admissions and financial aid processes.

“Applying early is a huge advantage in the college admissions process,” Jernigan said. “Financial aid, early registration, scholarships, and housing are dependent on the admissions application. It’s not too late for spring or too early for fall of next year. Join us so that we can help you with admissions and financial aid.”

Traci Bryan from the financial aid area at ABAC said that students who need assistance with financial aid must have their Personal Identification Number (PIN) from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) web site and a copy of their 2010 tax returns for parents and students, if applicable, to receive assistance with the financial aid process.

“Students who wish to receive financial aid at ABAC during the 2012 spring semester should complete their financial aid applications as soon as possible,” Bryan said.

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

DONALDSON AWARD NOMINATIONS DUE NOVEMBER 23

Nominations are now being accepted for this fall’s George P. Donaldson Award to be presented by the ABAC Alumni Association during commencement on Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. in Gressette Gym. Nominations are due at noon on Nov. 23.

Nomination packets, including the student’s Statement of Activities and three to five letters of reference from ABAC faculty and/or staff, must be submitted to the ABAC Office of Alumni Affairs.

For more information about the nomination process, visit the web site at http://www.abac.edu/alumni/DonaldsonAward/ or contact the Alumni Office at (229) 391-4900.
Business Office Forum Classes
November 14 and 15
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ABAC Accounting 101, Budget Training, and Transfer Form Discussion 9 a.m. Nursing Bldg Rm 249
Direct Voucher and Petty Cash 10 a.m. Nursing Bldg Rm 249
Workshop for P Card and Purchasing 10:45 a.m. Nursing Bldg Rm 249
Enterprise and Ready Set Go 1 p.m. Nursing Bldg Rm 249
Joint Staffing Procedure Training 2 p.m. Nursing Bldg Rm 249
Hiring and Employee Support 2:45 p.m. Nursing Bldg Rm 249
ADP Class for Employees (Monday Only) 3:45 p.m. Nursing Bldg Rm 257
ADP Class for Managers (Tuesday Only) 3:45 p.m. Nursing Bldg Rm 257

Please go to the following link to register for classes:
www.abac.edu/training/schedule/
Contact Deidra Jackson at 391-4921 if there are any questions concerning these classes.

Bottles and Brushes Art Class Saturday at Museum of Agriculture

The next installment of the Bottles and Brushes art class will take place from 6-9 p.m. on Nov. 19 at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village, now a part of the campus of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. Participants will recreate “Cotton Sunset” by Brenda Rose.

Rose will guide participants through the process of recreating the original picture, while a piece of art materializes before their eyes.

Participants can bring their favorite beverage and sample a variety of local cheeses while enjoying an evening of creativity and fun. The Gallery at the Museum will provide the paint, canvas and brushes, all adding up to an exciting evening with friends.

“We have been excited to bring the monthly Bottles and Brushes Series to the Tifton community over the last 11 months and look forward to seeing our returning students and many new faces each time.” Polly Huff, Museum Gallery Coordinator from the ABAC Arts Connection, said. There is a fee of $25 per person for the class or $40 for a couple. Participants must register ahead of time by contacting Huff at (229) 391-5222 or by emailing her at phuff@abac.edu. Space is limited.

Companies who are looking for a unique team-building experience or looking to reward exceptional employees can participate in the corporate edition of Bottles and Brushes. The corporate Bottles and Brushes painting will be custom-tailored to fit each company’s mascot, theme, or idea.

Huff said the Bottles and Brushes series will offer a class at least once a month. Gift certificates are available for future classes.
Cane Grinding & Syrup Cooking at Museum of Agriculture This Saturday

The sweet smell of sugar cane juice cooking will be in the air at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village on Saturday at the annual cane grinding and syrup cooking parties.

For many Southerners, cane grinding and syrup cooking are family traditions that have continued through many generations. Now a part of the campus of ABAC, the Georgia Museum of Agriculture’s Historic Village is one of the few places left where visitors can go back in time to see sugar cane grinding with a mule leading the way. The resulting juice from grinding the cane is poured into a cast iron kettle where it’s cooked down into syrup.

Luther and fiddle-maker Mike Vandevelde will perform on the Gibbs House porch as wool washing and spinning demonstrations take place in the yard. Plein Aire artists will also be featured throughout the Historic Village. Both events will have concessions including chili and cornbread, hot dogs or peanut butter and jelly 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 the Museum staff at (229) 391-5200 or visit the Museum’s website at www.abac.edu/museum.

Other events on the horizon at the Museum include the Victorian Christmas celebration on Dec. 10 and the North Pole Express on Dec. 16-17.

Four-Year College Fair: ABAC ASSETS scholars Hudman Evans, a biology major from Atlanta, and Keira Hall, a biology major from Powder Springs, talk with Dr. Kingsley Dunkley, assistant professor of biology, and Dr. John Farrar, associate professor of chemistry at the recent Four-Year Fair.

ABAC Birthdays
16 Ashley Williamson Mock
18 Jules Haywood, Jr.
19 Lonnie Gibson
19 James Lewis
24 Gwynda Shields
25 Brenda Graham
26 Keith Barber
26 Jose Olalde
27 Doug Hicks

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.