Companies Look for Future Employees at ABAC Tuesday

Over 40 companies looking for interns and employees will be a part of the seventh annual Career Connections event from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Tuesday in the Agricultural Sciences building at ABAC.

The focus will be on the fields of agriculture, horticulture, forestry, and wildlife. Company representatives will meet with students interested in both internship and job opportunities.

Those scheduled to participate include AgCareers.com, AgSouth Farm Credit, Archer Daniels Midland, Bayer Crop Science, Baytree Landscape Contractors, Chatham Landscape Services, Inc., Georgia Department of Agriculture, Helena Chemical Company, IMCS Group, Kentucky Equine Management Internship, Osmose Utilities Services Inc., the Peace Corps, PILGRIMS, Reynolds Plantation, Smithfield Hog Production Division, The Greenery, Inc., TriEst Ag Group, Westway Feed Products LLC, Walther Farms, Zoetis Animal Health, and many more.

Employers who wish to participate can register via the website at www.abac.edu/academics/schools/ag-natural-resources/outreach/careers-connection. There is a fee of $35 for businesses to participate.

For more information, interested persons can contact Vonda Fenn, program coordinator for the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, at vfenn@abac.edu.

Manna Drop

The Stafford School of Business at ABAC will host its annual Manna Drop at Charles Spencer Elementary School in Tifton on Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The Manna Drop is an annual Thanksgiving event by the Stafford School of Business to feed impoverished families in the Tifton community. The Manna Drop began as an outreach to allow the Stafford School of Business and local businesses the opportunity to give back and show support to families in need within the community. Anyone interested in making a donation to the Manna Drop can make checks out to the ABAC Foundation and include Fall Manna Drop 2015 in the memo section. Contact Kristoff Cohran at 229.391.4832 or kcohran@abac.edu for more information.

The ABAC campus will be closed Thursday, Nov. 26 for the Thanksgiving Holiday and reopen Monday, Nov. 30 for normal business hours.

Merry Christmas from ABAC

President and Mrs. David Bridges cordially invite you to a Holiday Open House

Tuesday, December 1
6:30-8:30 p.m. • Tift Hall

*Valet parking available on ABAC Circle and shuttles will run from parking lot behind the Health Sciences Building. All tips will be go to the Suitcases for Kids project at The Patticake House.

*Pictured: President David Bridges and his wife, Kim, with the ABAC Ambassadors at the new Laboratory Sciences Building construction site.
Native American Experience and Cane Grinding Saturday

Visitors can enjoy Native American dancing, mule-powered cane grinding and an old-fashioned syrup cooking during the Native American Experience and Cane Grinding event at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC on Saturday from 4-9 p.m.

The Native American experience will feature GoNativeNow, a Native American owned and operated educational group. GoNativeNow travels the United States conducting reenactments, providing demonstrations, hosting campouts, and offering performances by The Iron Horse Singers and Dancers. GoNativeNow is led by Little Big Mountain, a fourth generation dancer, singer and educator on Native American culture. His father, Iron Horse Big Mountain, was Comanche from Anadarko, Okla., and his mother, Wildflower Big Mountain, is Mohawk from Kahnawake, Canada. Little Big Mountain’s reservation is the Kahnawake Mohawk Territory in Canada.

Little Big Mountain has been performing since he was a child. He has been competing on the PowWow Trail and educating others on Native American culture all over the United States for over 40 years. Beginning with Little Big Mountain’s great grandfather, the Big Mountain family performances started back in the mid-1800s and continue today.

For many Southerners, cane grinding is a family tradition that has been passed down through many generations. The Museum’s Historic Village is one of the few places left where visitors can take a step back in time to see sugar cane grinding with a mule leading the way.

Homemade biscuits with hot cane syrup can be sampled at the Gibbs House. Cane syrup will also be available for sale. Concessions at the Historic Village Drug Store will include homemade soup and cornbread, barbeque sandwiches, ice cream, and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Food vendors will also be on hand providing hamburgers, hotdogs, funnel cakes and candy slushies.

Guests can also take a ride on the steam train pulled by the 1917 Vulcan locomotive. Costumed interpreters will be visiting with Museum guests and explaining the cane grinding process and the intricacies of producing a bottle of cane syrup.

Admission to the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village on Saturdays 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. Tuesday-Friday admission 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. The Museum is closed on Sundays and Mondays.

For more information on these and other upcoming events, interested persons can contact the Museum staff at (229) 391-5205 or visit the Museum’s website at www.abac.edu/museum.

Students Assist With Family Fun and Wellness Fair Saturday

Students enrolled in both the Community Psychology and Research Methods courses at ABAC are assisting in planning a Family Fun Wellness Fair at the Tifton YMCA. The event will be held on Saturday from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. on the new YMCA track free of charge. Several raffles and giveaways will take place at the event along with fitness demonstrations, healthy recipes, kids activities, and much more. For more information, call the YMCA at 229.391.7980.

ABAC Presents Evening of Jazz on Thursday

The Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Choir at ABAC will present an evening of jazz music on Thurs. at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium.

Sponsored by the ABAC Music Program in the School of Liberal Arts, this concert is open to the public at no charge. Dr. Thomas Heflin, Assistant Professor of Jazz, serves as director of the Jazz Ensemble.

The Jazz Ensemble’s performance will feature jazz standards “April in Paris” by the Count Basie Orchestra, Mongo Santamaria’s “Afro-Blue,” Duke Ellington’s “Rockin’ in Rhythm,” “Lament” by trombonist J.J. Johnson, Horace Silver’s “Song For My Father,” and a New Orleans-style traditional song called “Lil’ Liza Jane.” Terrence Gibson, a music-voice major from Baxley, will perform “Alright, Okay, You Win,” a bluesy number originally made famous by Cordele native Joe Williams of the Count Basie Orchestra.

The ABAC Jazz Choir under the direction of Dr. Susan Roe will perform with the Jazz Ensemble on “Moon River” composed by Henry Mancini and written by Johnny Mercer, as well as the classic jazz ballad “Moonglow” composed by Will Hudson and Irving Mills with lyrics by Eddie DeLange. The choir and band will also combine for a Brazilian Bossa Nova “No More Blues” by Antonio Carlos Jobim.

For more information on this concert, interested persons can contact Heflin at (229) 391-5253.
Shop for the Drop - Tuesday in Lewis Hall

The Stafford School of Business Event Club will host a marketplace in the Student Lounge of Lewis Hall on Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Students who have their own businesses and create their own products/services have agreed to showcase their items. Each person will share the profits earned that day towards the Manna Drop on Saturday.

ABAC Choral Program Hosted Choral Day Thursday

Choral students from area high schools took lessons from experienced practitioners and then joined their voices in song last Thursday at the ninth annual Choral Day at ABAC. High schools that participated in this year’s event included Cook County High School, Colquitt County High School, Crisp County High School, Fitzgerald County High School, Lee County High School, Thomas County Central High School, Tift County High School - Northeast Campus, Tift County High School, Ware County High School, and Worth County High School.

The students practiced with members of the ABAC Jazz Choir, the Chamber Singers, and the college’s new group made up of ABAC voice majors, “Canticum Novum,” for a concert that was held on the ABAC campus.

ABAC Choral Program Director Susan Roe said this year’s guest clinician was composer Dr. Rosephanye Dunn Powell. Powell has been hailed as one of America’s premier female composers of choral music. Her compositions include both sacred and secular pieces for mixed chorus, men’s chorus, women’s chorus, and children’s voices.

Presently Powell serves as Professor of Voice at Auburn University. She has her Masters in music from Westminster Choir College and her bachelor’s in music education from Alabama State University. She also earned her doctorate of music in vocal performance from Florida State University, where she was also a University Fellow.

 Former President Visits ABAC

Former ABAC President Harold Loyd and his wife, Clydene, visited the campus on Nov. 9. Loyd was president of ABAC from 1989-2000. He also served as a faculty member, director of the evening program, and chair of the business division. The Loyds live in Brookfield, Mo.

Tuesday Fall Band Concert Features Music from ‘Star Wars’

Diving headfirst into all the buzz about the new “Star Wars” movie, the Concert Band at ABAC will utilize the historic Tift Theatre in downtown Tifton for an “out of this world” program titled “In Flight” at 7 p.m. on Tuesday. The free concert features music from “Star Wars” with live digital projection. The public is invited to attend this special event at no charge.

The concert begins with Richard Saucedo’s dramatic opener titled “Fanfare for the Third Planet.” The ABAC Band will then perform “Mars,” the first movement from Gustov Holst’s monumental work “The Planets.”

The program continues with Mark Camphouse’s “Air Mobility Command March,” written for the U.S. Air Force Band of Mid-America. The ABAC Band will then perform “In Perfect Silence, I Often Gaze at the New Stars,” a musical tribute to those who lost their lives and to those heroes who gave everything they could to help others on a Sunday afternoon in May, 2011, when tornadoes devastated the city of Joplin, Mo.

The main event of the evening will feature a medley of music from the “Star Wars” films titled “Star Wars: The Marches.” Digital imagery synchronized with the band’s performance will be projected onto the theatre screen. Closing out the fall concert will be a salute to the American space program as the ABAC Band performs “God Bless the U.S.A.”

There will be a “Star Wars” costume contest, and prizes will be awarded. Concert attendees should come dressed as their favorite “Star Wars” character. Seating is limited; so early arrival to the program is encouraged. For more information, interested persons can contact ABAC Concert Band Director Johnny Folsom at (229) 391-4944.
Glenn Simmions will take visitors on a journey covering three-dimensional broken glass images as well as wood, vinyl, metal, and canvas in his one-man art exhibit beginning Saturday at the Gallery of the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC.

“Days Gone By: The Folk Art of Glenn Simmions” will open with a reception, gallery tour, and a brief gallery talk by the artist at 2 p.m. on Saturday. The reception will be hosted by ABAC’s Student Diversity Alliance which has partnered with the Gallery and the ABAC Campus Activities Board to bring this exhibit to the public.

The opening reception and gallery talk with the artist are free and open to the public. Following the opening, exhibit hours will be 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. The exhibit will remain on display until Feb. 6, with a closing event featuring a talk by Simmions on the ABAC campus as a part of ABAC’s kick-off event for Diversity Month in February, 2016.

A native of Barney, Simmions spent the last 40 years of his life on a journey of universal enlightenment and self-discovery as he worked to document the Southern African-American way of life. He repurposes materials and uses bright colors and folk art techniques to convey his narrative. Simmions calls himself a “visionary memory artist,” one who paints, or creates, from visions stored in his memory.

Simmions has been called “genius” by many, citing his use of broken pieces of glass to create stunning three-dimensional images. Additionally he uses wood, vinyl, metal, and canvas-often broken and recycled, and covered in the vibrant colors of his memories of rural life. His style flows easily from sculpture to painting as he depicts musicians, people in landscapes at work, children at play, syrup making, and tobacco fields.

Museum Curator Polly Huff said Simmions’ work has appeared in local and national publications and competitions. His works are presently part of the collection of the Museum of African History and Artifacts at the Lowndes County Historical Society and at the Brooks County Public Library. He is a published author, having written and illustrated a children’s book, “My Father’s Work,” in 2008. He was also selected to participate in the Kennedy Center’s affiliated Very Special Arts Program.

ABAC Rural Studies student Crystal York from Pavo will be assisting in the design and installation of this new exhibit. She is currently working with Huff to complete her fall practicum.

Wiregrass Holiday Market at Museum of Agriculture on Saturday

Just in time for the holiday season, the Wiregrass Farmers Market will host a Holiday Market on Saturday from 3-7 p.m. at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC.

The Wiregrass Holiday Market will take place in the Peanut Museum and under the Pole Barn. Admission to the Holiday Market is free of charge. Vendors interested in participating in the Holiday Market can go to www.wiregrassmarket.org to submit an application.

Shoppers can get a jump start on that Christmas list or get last-minute stocking stuffers from local vendors selling a variety of home-grown and homemade gifts. Items available for sale at the Wiregrass Holiday Market will include handcrafted soaps, scrubs, and bath soaks, handcrafted cards, jewelry, aprons, woodcrafts, herbal remedies, potted plants, and more.

Visitors to the Market can also purchase a variety of food items that include artisanal baked goods, locally grown and made jams and jellies, fresh-roasted coffee, locally produced honey, pecans, pies, cakes, cold pressed unrefined locally-made oils and nut flours, and fiber goods.

The Museum, Historic Village, and Gallery will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holidays from Nov. 25-27. The Country Store and all administrative offices will close at noon on Nov. 25. The Museum, Historic Village, Gallery, and Country Store will reopen on Nov. 28.

For information on the Wiregrass Holiday Market, interested persons can contact Polly Huff, assistant director and curator at the Museum, at phuff@abac.edu.