ABAC Student Andy Paul Elected National FFA President

Andy Paul (left) of Lexington, Georgia, a sophomore agricultural education major at ABAC, was elected president of the 2014-15 National FFA Officer Team.

Each year at the National FFA Convention & Expo, six students are elected by delegates to represent the organization as National FFA officers. Delegates elect a president, secretary and vice presidents representing the central, southern, eastern and western regions of the country.

National officers commit to a year of service to the National FFA Organization. Each travels more than 100,000 national and international miles to interact with business and industry leaders, thousands of FFA members and teachers, corporate sponsors, government and education officials, state FFA leaders, the general public and more. The team will lead personal growth and leadership training conferences for FFA members throughout the country and help set policies that will guide the future of FFA and promote agricultural literacy.

Neil Simon’s female version of “The Odd Couple” will be live on stage from the Baldwin Players at ABAC Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium. Tickets are $7 for the general public and are available at www.purplepass.com/abac or by calling (229) 391-4895. The tickets are available at no charge to ABAC students, faculty, and staff.

Dr. Brian Ray, director for the theatre troupe, said this hilarious classic comedy celebrates the friendship and inevitable conflicts between two opposite personalities thrust into being mismatched roommates by circumstances. Simon’s original story of two men, Oscar Madison and Felix Unger, was adapted by Simon himself into a story of two women, Olive Madison and Florence Unger. On the ABAC stage, Florence Unger will be played by Slayten Carter, a political science major from Willacoochee, and the role of Olive Madison will be played by Collette Whittemore, a biology major from Cumming.

Additional cast members include Jason Brown, an English major from Ashburn, as Manolo Costazuela; Caitlin Cato, a biology major from Bainbridge, as Sylvie; Jillian Grim, a rural studies-writing and communication major from Meigs, as Renee; Holly Huggins, a music major from Fitzgerald, as Vera; Tre’mon Mills, a speech communications major from Blakely, as Jesus Costazuela; and Kaylee Stokes, an English major from Tifton, as Mickey. RavenHughley, a biology major from Dalton, will serve as assistant director for the production.

For more information on the Baldwin Players’ version of “The Odd Couple,” interested persons can contact Ray at (229) 391-4969 or via e-mail at bray@abac.edu.

First Tuesday Concert Features ‘A Night of Strings’

The First Tuesday Concert Series will feature “A Night of Strings” on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Chapel of All Faiths at ABAC. This concert is open to the public at no charge.

“A Night of Strings” spotlights Dr. Douglas Jurs, ABAC assistant professor of piano and music theory, and Dr. Lauren Burns Hodges, a violist who is a member of the Valdosta State University (VSU) music faculty. Selections will include Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s E-flat major piano quartet. Cellist Steven Taylor and violinist Kristen Pfeifer Yu, other members of the VSU music faculty, will join Jurs and Hodges for this piece. Jurs and Hodges will also perform Ernest Bloch’s “Suite for Viola and Piano.”

For more information on the First Tuesday Concert Series, interested persons can contact Roe at sroe@abac.edu.
ABAC Baseball, Softball and Kappa Sigma Fraternity Raise 715 Cans for Food Drive
ABAC Stallions baseball team decked out in costume for a scrimmage last week. There was everything from Tarzan, to prisoners, to a cowboy. The team collected 464 cans of food to be donated to Ameris Bank for the Stand Up for Hunger project. Kappa Sigma fraternity and the ABAC Fillies softball team also participated, bringing the total number of cans collected to 715. Great job guys!

Stafford Hall to Host 2nd Annual Manna Drop
The Stafford School of Business at ABAC and Stafford School Hall will host the 2nd annual Manna Drop on Nov. 22 at Charles Spencer Elementary School. The event will begin at 10 a.m. and continue until all food is given out.

Stafford Hall is ABAC’s first residential community. It is a hall compromised of 77 ABAC students, including business students and athletes, as well as others.

Sue Mastrario, Business Coordinator for the Stafford School of Business said, “A Manna Drop is a free food distribution to help feed our neighbors in need. It is a time for our students to give back to the community.”

The first Manna Drop held in November of last year as a community outreach program for Stafford Hall fed more than 400 families. Carlton Brooks, chairman of this year’s Manna Drop committee said, “We hope to feed 1,000 families this November.”

The goal for the Manna Drop is to feed as many families that we can with the dual purpose to not only address the issue of hunger, but to also appreciate the value of community service.

The Manna Drop committee is trying to collect money solely by donations and fundraising. They are still in need of donations to reach their goal and any-one who would like to donate may do so at any time.

Families will be notified of the food distribution by flyers sent with students at Charles Spencer Elementary School as well as word of mouth. Families will be asked to fill out a short application the day of the giveaway, certifying that they meet the income limits for their household size.

The food is purchased from Second Harvest Food Bank to be given away. Second Harvest will determine how much of each commodity is to be given per family. Members of the community are welcome to volunteer during the event that day.

If you would like more information on the Manna Drop, please contact Mastrario at 229-391-4832 or email at smastrario@abac.edu.

Turf Students Attend McGladrey Classic
From October 20-26, ten ABAC Turfgrass and Golf Course Management students volunteered at the 2014 McGladrey Classic at Sea Island Golf Club. During the tournament, the students gained valuable PGA experience and also networked with many green industry leaders.

60 Retirees Return for Open Enrollment
60 ABAC retirees attended a session last week about open enrollment. Make sure to be proactive like them and attend an open enrollment session on the first floor or Herring Hall

⇒ 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.
President Carter Speaks to Packed House at ABAC

When the 39th President of the United States spoke to a standing room only crowd of students at ABAC last Tuesday, Jimmy Carter was quick to praise ABAC and how the institution had helped him.

“Georgia is a great state, and ABAC is one of my favorite educational institutions in all the world,” Carter said. “ABAC has been a blessing to me and my family.”

Carter, a long time peanut farmer from Plains, explained that he had learned a great deal about the laying out of terraces and planting peanuts from the short courses which ABAC offered. He said he even brought other farmers down from his family farms. One of those farms was established in 1833 and the other in 1904.

“As soon as the Indians left Georgia, that’s when my family began farming,” Carter said. “I also appreciate Dr. Doug Waid and his ABAC students education,” Carter said of his 1962 campaign.

Carter later was elected Governor of Georgia in 1970 and President of the U.S. in 1976. He now devotes much of his time to humanitarian efforts through the Carter Center. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002.

“Politics has changed dramatically since I ran for President,” Carter said. “When I ran against Gerald Ford, I had to raise zero dollars. When I ran against Governor (Ronald) Reagan, I had to raise zero dollars. Now you couldn’t even be considered as a candidate unless you raised at least $250 million.

“We wouldn’t have thought of running a negative commercial. That has changed. Now they use negative commercials. I believe our country has been polarized.”

Carter referenced the upcoming election by encouraging the students to vote.

“In the United States, citizens can decide the future of their city, their county and their nation by voting,” Carter said. “Every citizen in America has the basic right to vote. Things are changed by democracy.”

Through the Carter Center, Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, have visited 105 countries. He said they plan to visit Nepal next year.

“A lot of times when I am visiting a country like some of the places we have visited in Africa, I think of ABAC and all the things I learned about agriculture here,” Carter said.

Carter’s visit was sponsored by the ABAC College Democrats. He was introduced by Dr. Joseph Brown, Associate Professor of English at ABAC.

Faculty and staff wishing to attend Commencement on December 11 can pick up a ticket from the ABAC Bookstore.

Cane Grinding, Syrup Making at Museum Begins Saturday

From the mule-powered sugar cane mill to the smell of syrup cooking, visitors will become immersed in the days of old in South Georgia on Saturday and Nov. 15 at the annual cane grinding and syrup making parties at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC.

For many Southerners, cane grinding and syrup cooking are family traditions that have been passed down through many generations. The Museum’s Historic Village is one of the few places left where visitors step back in time to see sugar cane grinding with a mule leading the way. The sweet juice pouring from the cane mill will then be transferred to the syrup shed where it will be cooked down in a cast iron kettle to make delicious cane syrup.

Cornmeal pancakes 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 soup and corn bread, hotdogs, ice cream, and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

A new exhibit, “Irene Dodd: Euroscapes,” will also be available to visitors at the Museum Gallery. Dodd’s exhibit features paintings from her travels over a three-year period to destinations including England, Ireland, Greece, and Italy.

Guests can also take a ride on the steam train pulled by the 1917 Vulcan locomotive. Costumed interpreters will be visiting with Museum visitors 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 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. 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.
If your club has not requested a place for Stallion Day, please let Brooke Jernigan know no later than November 12 they plan to participate. Requests can be emailed to bjernigan@abac.edu.

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<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 - 9:00</td>
<td>Check-in &amp; Tours</td>
<td>Donaldson Dining Hall</td>
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<td>9:00 - 9:20</td>
<td>Welcome &amp; Overview of the Day</td>
<td>Donaldson Dining Hall</td>
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<td>9:30 - 10:40</td>
<td>Student Conversation Corner</td>
<td>Health Sciences Building:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pick 2 sessions to attend</td>
<td>Join the experts and have your questions answered on these areas from faculty, staff, and students.</td>
<td>4 YR: Agriculture &amp; Natural Resources, Room 237</td>
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<td>+ 9:30-10:00</td>
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<td>4 YR: Biology, Room 114</td>
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<tr>
<td>+ 10:10-10:40</td>
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<td>4 YR: Business &amp; Econ. Development, Room 108</td>
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<td>4 YR: Rural Studies</td>
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<td>— Community &amp; Social Development, Room 240</td>
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<td>— Politics &amp; Modern Cultures, Room 242</td>
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<td>— Writing &amp; Communications, Room 242</td>
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<td>Nursing, Room 156</td>
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<td>Student Life, Rooms 254 OR 249</td>
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<td>9:30 - 10:40</td>
<td>Parent Conversation Corner</td>
<td>Howard Auditorium</td>
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<td>10:45 - 11:30</td>
<td>Stallion Marketplace &amp; Tours</td>
<td>Gressette Gymnasium</td>
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<td>12:00 - 1:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Donaldson Dining Hall</td>
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<td>1:15</td>
<td>Financial Aid Sessions</td>
<td>Ag Sciences Building:</td>
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<td>1:15, 1:45, or 2:15</td>
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<td>1:30, 2:00, or 2:30</td>
<td>Room 137</td>
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<td>VA &amp; SFS Information Session</td>
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<td>Music Information Session</td>
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<td>Admissions &amp; Scholarship Q&amp;A</td>
<td>Room 143</td>
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<td>Housing Q &amp; A/Lakeside Tours</td>
<td>Lakeside Multipurpose Room</td>
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THE BOOKSTORE WILL BE OPEN THIS AFTERNOON!
1ST FLOOR, J. LAMAR BRANCH
1:00-2:30 PM
Irene Dodd Donates Father’s Painting to School of Nursing

Irene Dodd, whose new one-woman exhibit will open Friday at the GMA Gallery, donated this rare print from her father Lamar Dodd’s breathtaking “Heart Series” to be displayed in the School of Nursing and Health Sciences at ABAC.

Lamar Dodd created his “Heart Series”, a most intimate look inside the operating room as a result of his wife’s open heart surgery in 1977. During Mary Dodd’s recovery, one of her surgeons recognized the art historical figures predating Dodd who had blended art and medicine, and he urged Dodd to participate more directly by creating some art to recount his experience.

With a sketch pad in hand, Dodd found himself witness to hours of surgery. Following observation, research, medical text readings and discussions with doctors, Dodd recounted on his canvass what he called “the moment of death and rebirth.” Doctors later praised Dodd for his interpretation, which was rich in golds, palladium, and silver leaf. For Dodd, the Heart Series allowed him to immerse himself in a more deep and personal level of painting, born of his dramatic experiences with his wife’s surgery, and enriched by his observations and studies.

Troy Spicer, Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences, accepted the painting, which will hang in the Nursing Building. His familiarity with Lamar Dodd’s work stems from a similar print that hung in a conference room at Kennesaw State University, where he taught prior to joining the faculty at ABAC.

“My office was down the hall from the conference room. I loved that image and spent a great deal of time admiring it.” Spicer later investigated the origins of the series and was intrigued by the idea that the artist devoted several years of his life on the series which sought to interpret his family’s experiences with serious illness and the health care providers who became such an important part of their lives.

Spicer will honor Irene Dodd Friday at the opening reception for her “Euroscapes” exhibit, taking place at 6 p.m at the GMA.

Target Invests in Museum Gallery

Stacy Lippa, General Manager of the Target Distribution Center in Tifton, along with Community Grants Specialist and Human Resources Manager Mike Russo and a contingent of their Target colleagues, recently invested $3,000 in the GMA Gallery at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village. The investment will be used for various programming to take place over the next 12 months. Target has been a supporter of the GMA Gallery since 2011, making possible the Bottles & Brushes Program and assisting with various other events and exhibits. Polly Huff, assistant director and curator at the Museum, accepted the investment.

Kindergarten Day at ABAC Nov. 14

Friday, November 14, SPAGE club members and the School of Human Sciences will be hosting approximately 130 kindergarteners plus many of their parents and teachers for Kindergarten Day at ABAC. The kindergarteners from Len Lastinger Primary School will arrive around 9:30 a.m. to Gressette Gym to meet their ABAC student guides. Many different ABAC groups will be assisting with activities such as exercise in the Meadows, reading in the Chapel, a visit to the Clinic, art, science labs and a hay ride through the ABAC Farm. The group will be on campus until about 2 p.m. that day. Take a minute to walk across campus and see all that is taking place. Over 80 ABAC students will be participating and helping out at some point throughout the day. It takes the whole team to make the day a success.

Contact Amy Warren at awarren@abac.edu if you have any questions or would like more information about the Event.

ABAC Birthdays

7 Deborah Drummonds
8 Tim Marshall
7 Kathy Moreno

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