



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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DECEMBER 2, 2013

ABAC Celebrates Season with Holiday Concert Tuesday

The music program at ABAC will usher in the holiday season with a concert on Tues. at 4 p.m. in the Chapel of All Faiths as part of the First Tuesday Concert Series. The holiday concert has been held annually at ABAC for 12 years. This event is open to the public at no charge. Refreshments will be served in the lobby of the adjacent music building when the concert ends.

The concert will feature the ABAC Jazz Choir, directed by Dr. Susan Roe, who heads up the ABAC music program. The accompanist will be Dr. Douglas Jurs, assistant professor of piano and music theory at ABAC.

Other performers will include Wes Trull, a sophomore classical guitar music major from Fitzgerald, and Ashley Connelly, a sophomore clarinet music major from Thomasville. They will perform traditional Christmas Carols that Connelly has arranged.

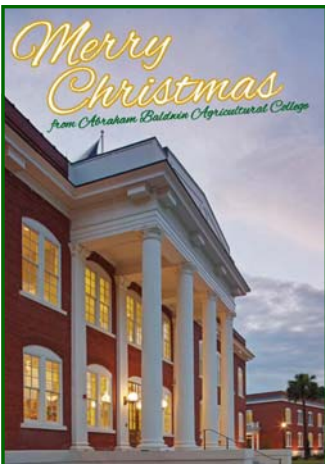
Arts Connection Director Wayne Jones will sing "Sweet Little Jesus Boy," and Roe will perform "O Holy Night." Erica Fitzgerald, a music major from



Thomasville, will sing "Cool Yule" with the ABAC Jazz Choir. The Jazz Choir will also perform "There Is Faint Music" before concluding the concert with "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas".

The entire community is invited to join ABAC faculty, staff, and students

for an afternoon of holiday cheer. For more information, interested persons can contact Roe at (229) 391-4943.



Holiday Open House

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

Tuesday • 6:30- 8:30 p.m. • Tift Hall

*Valet parking available on ABAC Circle and shuttles from parking lot behind Health Sciences Building.

Wiregrass Farmers Market Friday Beginning at 5 p.m.

The Second Annual Wiregrass Holiday Market and Country Store Open House, will be starting at 5 p.m. at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village on Friday. Come shop the best selection of thoughtfully grown local produce, fresh-made baked goods, artisan breads, food gifts, and handcrafted items such as soaps, fiber art, jewelry, and holiday decorations-all for the most special folks on your list. Over twenty vendors will be located outside under the Market barn and inside in the Peanut Museum. Live music by local artist Joy Johnson will lift your spirits. "Redneck Santa" and his furry farm friends will be available for pictures, and warm soup and cornbread will be offered for sale so you can make an evening out of your shopping trip. Free giftwrapping, food samples, and special discounts will be available inside the Country Store where you can find American-made toys, Georgia-grown salsas, dips, jams and jellies, books by local authors, and other gifts.

Wiregrass
Farmers Market

Invites You to Attend

Holiday Market

Local Produce, Crafts, & Goods

SANTA CLAUS
8 farm friends available for photos!

DECEMBER 6, 2013
GA. Museum of Agriculture/1392 Whiddon Mill Rd

5:00-8:00 PM || Admission \$2 || Supper Available for Purchase
<http://wiregrassfarmersmarket.weebly.com/> 850.508.6188

Marshall to Speak at ABAC Commencement December 13

Dr. Tim Marshall, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, will be the featured speaker at the Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College fall commencement ceremony on Dec. 13 at 6 p.m. in Gressette Gym.

ABAC Vice President for Academic Affairs Niles Reddick said Marshall has led the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources through a period of tremendous growth, with enrollment increasing from 550 to over 1,000 students.

"Under his leadership, the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources has gained recognition and respect for ABAC graduates in the agriculture and natural resource industries," Reddick said. "Through his industry knowledge and the fact that he is an ABAC alumnus, he has been instrumental in reconnecting with individuals who employ our graduates and support the College."

Marshall is always mindful of the needs of employers of ABAC graduates.

"As much emphasis as we put on subject matter skill sets, I can tell you that the very first things that employers ask about are character traits like honesty, dependability, and work ethic," Marshall said. "They expect our graduates to understand the industry. That's part of their college education."

"What they want from us are quality people with a good work ethic. They

just want to hire someone who is a good person."

Marshall has decided to step down as Dean on June 30, 2014 but will continue to work with ABAC on assignments that will continue to grow the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the entire college.

"Dr. Marshall has been a tremendous asset to the College and certainly to the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources," Reddick said. "He led the implementation of the bachelor's degree programs in Diversified Agriculture, Turfgrass and Golf Course Management, and Natural Resources Management. I have certainly enjoyed working with him and look forward to our continued working relationship in a different capacity."

Marshall received his associate's degree in agriculture from ABAC in 1977 and his bachelor's degree in agriculture (animal science) from the University of Georgia in 1979. He earned a master's degree in Beef Cattle Management in 1981 and a doctorate degree in



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Beef Cattle Breeding and Management in 1986, both from the University of Florida.

Before coming to ABAC, Marshall served as Professor of Animal Sciences at the University of Florida for 20 years. He had three years of service as an Extension Agent in Florida and was highly involved in agricultural youth programs, especially in the field of livestock production.

Marshall returned to the ABAC as a professor and the chairman for the Division of Agriculture in 2006. When ABAC reorganized from seven divisions to six schools of study in 2009, Marshall was selected as the Dean of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

"It's a dream come true for me," Marshall said. "It's perfect. If I had written a novel, I couldn't have written a better final chapter to my working career. My job is simple. Get the road blocks out of the way so that the students, faculty, and staff in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources can do what they are capable of doing."

ABAC Accepting Athletics Hall of Fame Nominations Until Jan. 15

Nominations are now being accepted for the Athletics Hall of Fame at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. The deadline for nominations is Jan. 15, 2014.

Any individual, living or deceased, may be considered for induction into the ABAC Athletics Hall of Fame. Individuals are nominated in one of three categories: Athlete, Coach, or Contributor.

The induction ceremony for the 2014 class is scheduled for April 4 as a part of the ABAC Homecoming weekend.

The inaugural Hall of Fame class in 2008 included Thomas Cheney, Bruce V. Gressette, Norman "Red" Hill, Orion Mitchell, Philip Simpson, and Milena Stanoytcheva.

The Hall of Fame class of 2009 honored the 1984 national championship

men's tennis team, Ellen Vickers, Dorsey Brooks, Cook Holliday, P.W. Bryan, Jr., and Newell "Sarge" Dorsey.

The 2010 Hall of Fame class included the 1991 national championship women's softball team, Harley Klepfer, Jim Sparks, Joseph Grist, and Thomas "Boo" Weekley.

The 2011 Hall of Fame class included the 1995 ABAC national championship women's softball team; Kyle Farnsworth, Benny Dees, Harley Stewart, and A. B. Malloy.

The 2012 Hall of Fame class included Greg Tanner, Donnie Veal, Jean Françoise Lagloire, William E. Batton, and the 1996 national championship women's softball team.

The 2013 Hall of Fame class included the 1999 national championship men's tennis team, Henry Will Jones, Julie Conner, Z.B. Hamilton, and Derrick Racine.

Kramer said athletic achievement as well as integrity, sportsmanship, and character will be considered. He said the college is also looking for individuals who may have been good athletes while at ABAC, but who went on to coach high school or college teams to state or national titles.

Alumni as well as the general public are encouraged to nominate individuals for this honor. Hall of Fame criteria and a nomination form can be found at www.abac.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/ABAC-Nomination-Form-2014.

For more information on the 2014 Athletics Hall of Fame, interested persons can contact Shirley Wilson in the athletics' office at (229) 391-4930.



Victorian Village by Candlelight at Museum Sunday

Experience holiday life in the 1880s with Victorian Village by Candlelight from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Sunday at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture at ABAC. Tickets for this event are \$15 per person and are now on sale at the Country Store. Tickets must be purchased in advance and will not be sold on the day of the event.



luxury, humble gifts were made by hand, and Christmas Eve was spent cook-

the porch of the Tift House singing traditional 19th century carols for visitors. At the Knight Cabin, guests can see what a typical Christmas was like for a share-cropper family.

A stop at the Drug Store will follow, where Farmhouse Beef Stew and cornbread will be available for visitors before heading to the bonfire where they will enjoy some hot apple cider. The train will then depart to take visitors back to the Country Store. All visitors will receive a keepsake ornament hand-forged by the village blacksmith and a guidebook to remember the evening.

For ticket information on this event, interested persons can contact the Country Store at (229) 391-5205.

The Museum will offer more holiday events with Wiregrass Christmas on Dec. 14 from 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and the North Pole Express on Dec. 19-20 from 5-8 p.m.

The Museum will be closed from Dec. 22, 2013 – Jan. 1, 2014 for the holidays. The Country Store will be open for holiday shoppers through Dec. 21 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The evening is limited to 125 visitors with 25 people in each of five groups for the Victorian Village tours. Groups will meet at the Country Store to leave on the Museum train every 30 minutes beginning at 5:30 p.m., with the last group leaving the train station at 7:30 p.m.

During this lamp-lit event, guests will learn about two of the Victorian traditions that have become a part of the legend of Santa Claus. Visitors will get a taste of the community's celebratory spirit as they stop in for a Christmas Eve visit in a Victorian-era village in South Georgia back when electricity was a

ing delicious treats on the open hearth of the fireplace.

Guests will ride on train cars pulled by the 1917 Vulcan steam engine into the glowing Historic Village lit with lanterns and kerosene lamps. The first stop on the hour-long village tour will be the Clyatt Cabin, where Father Christmas and Old Befana will greet guests with a folktale.

Guests will then journey down a lamp-lit path to get a glimpse of how two Wiregrass Georgia families welcome the season. The Tift House will depict the Christmas of an affluent family. The Tifton Choral Society will be on

Help Needed for Pancake Breakfast Dec. 9 in Donaldson Dining Hall

The SGA Pancake Breakfast will be held Dec. 9 in the Donaldson Dining Hall. **Cooks and servers are needed!**

Any faculty or staff members who would like to cook can volunteer their time from 7:30 – 8:45 p.m. Those who would like to be servers can volunteer from 8:45 – 10:25 p.m. Please do not wear flip flops, sandals, or open-toed shoes.



For more information, contact Bernice Hughes at (229) 391-5140.

Graduation Tickets Now Available in ABAC Bookstore

Due to growing numbers of graduates and guests, we have out grown Gressette Gymnasium and thus the ability to meet and remain compliant with the fire code. In order to accommodate these growing numbers, students participating in graduation will be eligible for up to eight tickets for guest admission to the commencement ceremony. Graduates participating in the commencement ceremony can pick-up tickets in the ABAC Bookstore until Dec.12. Faculty participating in the ceremony do not need tickets. **Staff will need a tickets to attend the ceremony.** Staff wishing to attend should contact Public Relations at (229) 391-5055.



Tuesday
12/3/13
11 am-2 pm

Dog Daze OF EXAMS

Come out - relax & de-stress from exams with Bella & friends in The Meadows

Bella & Friends are certified therapy dogs with Therapy Dogs, Inc.

The FOCUS is an electronic publication produced by the ABAC Public Relations Office. Please submit information by **Thursday at noon** to Ashley Mock at amock@abac.edu for inclusion in the next FOCUS.

ABAC Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 2 Lynda Fisher | 2 Ryan Myers |
| 3 Brenda Doss | 4 Kay Powell |
| 5 Mickie Thompkins | 5 Amanda Jones |
| 7 Jordan Cofer | 7 Nancy Kinsley |