



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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Tifton Residents Receive Top Awards from Georgia Association for Museums

Polly Huff and Keith Rucker, both from Tifton, captured two of the top statewide awards for the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC during the recent annual meeting of the Georgia Association for Museums and Galleries (GAMG) in Albany.

Huff, the curator and assistant director of the Museum, received the Best Museum Special Project award for the Backroads of Georgia Photo and Literary Competition and Exhibit, and Rucker was selected as the Museum Volunteer of the Year in the state for his tireless efforts in multiple Museum tasks including service as the engineer for the 1917 steam locomotive.

Backroads of Georgia, a recurring event created by Huff and Dr. Sandra Giles, ABAC Professor of English, is a partnership between the Museum,



Awards Chair David Moore, GAMG President Catherine Lewis, Keith Rucker, Polly Huff and Lynn McDonald from the Georgia Museum of Agriculture, and incoming GAMG President Carissa DiCindio.

the ABAC School of Liberal Arts, the Wiregrass Farmers Market, and Georgia BackRoads Magazine. In 2014, the first competition attracted over 200 photographs and approximately 100 essays, which were juried and displayed as a part of the three-month long exhibit. The top seven winners of both areas of the competition received

cash awards and publication consideration by Georgia BackRoads Magazine. A 2017 edition of the Backroads of Georgia competition will begin accepting entries this summer.

During the conference, which included 120 museum professionals from across the state, Huff was elected to a two-year term on the GAMG Board of Directors and was also appointed to serve as a part of a special group of statewide museum professionals who hope to instigate legislation regarding museums which operate under the umbrella of colleges and universities. Huff's work in the museum field earned a nomination for Top Museum Professional, Top Gallery Institution, and Top Museum Exhibit

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Don't Forget to Register For Stallion Day Marketplace

Stallion Day is right around the corner. Be sure to register your club or organization for a table in the Stallion Marketplace on Saturday, February 13. Please note that set-up will NOT occur until Saturday Morning!! There will be many students on campus Friday for the Science Fair, so the gym will not be ready for Marketplace participants until Saturday beginning at 7:30 a.m. The families here for Stallion Day shouldn't arrive until around 10:40 a.m., but Enrollment Management asks that you are in place by 10:30 a.m. If you have any questions, contact Brooke Jernigan at bjernigan@abac.edu or 229.391.5016.



Smith Retires After 38 Years of Service to ABAC

A celebration was held to honor System Administrator Pathelyn Smith. On June 15, 1977, after just graduating with her Computer Science Technology degree from ABAC, Smith began her career in the present-day Enterprise Data Services Department. She has worked in that department for 38 years and 7 months. She started out completing programming, then system support and now system administrator. Smith has two sons Jarron and Kelcy and one granddaughter Chelcy. Pictured (l-r): Robert Gerhart, Smith and Allen Saylor.

ABAC Performance Series Presents 'Don Giovanni' Feb. 11

The Peach State Opera Company will perform Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Don Giovanni" at 7 p.m. on Feb. 11 in Howard Auditorium on the campus of ABAC. The opera is a part of the 2015-2016 ABAC Presents! Performing Arts Series.

ABAC Arts Connection Director Wayne Jones said that "Don Giovanni" is one of the greatest comic operas of all time. An unscrupulous and single-minded ladies' man, the notorious Don is compelled by dastardly schemes and shenanigans. But both Lorenzo de Ponte's libretto and Mozart's music guarantee that the grave results of those schemes are as obvious as their humor.

The Peach State Opera Company (PSO) is an Atlanta-based touring company that enriches the cultural life of small communities in Georgia. PSO nurtures the careers of emerging professional opera singers by casting them in important roles beside established colleagues. The company performs musically and

dramatically compelling classic operas in family-friendly, condensed English-language versions.

PSO resides at the Clarkston campus of Georgia State University as an "Artist Affiliate" organization. The company began as the brainchild of Founding Artistic Director Evelyn Hughes. As a collegiate vocal music professor and opera director, Hughes recognized two perennial needs for the operatic art form--that audiences outside of major urban areas needed access to engaging live performances and that emerging operatic professionals needed opportunities to perform new roles.

Other performances remaining in the ABAC series include the Dallas Brass on March 8 at 7 p.m. at the Tift County High School Performing Arts Center and saxophonist Greg



Tardy with the ABAC Jazz Ensemble on April 21 at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium.

While available tickets will be sold at the door for each show, Jones encourages advance purchase of tickets to ensure seating for patrons. Individual tickets for each event are \$15 for adults and \$10 each for students under 18 years of age. Tickets can be purchased online at www.purplepass.com/abac or by phone at (229) 391-4895.

The title sponsor for the ABAC performing arts series is Bell Plantation. ABAC Presents! is supported in part by Georgia Council for the Arts through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. Georgia Council for the Arts also receives support from its partner agency - the National Endowment for the Arts.

ABAC Wildlife Society Holds Fourth Annual 'Beast Feast' February 27

The ABAC Wildlife Society will hold its fourth annual Beast Feast on Feb. 27 at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC. Doors will open at 6 p.m. with dinner beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$13 at the door.

The wildlife supper will allow patrons to sample a variety of dishes prepared from venison, wild hog, alligator, bobcat, various fish species, and more. A number of raffles will also be held during the event for items including a shotgun, a chartered fishing trip for four in Florida, artwork from wildlife artist and former Atlanta Falcon Jose Portilla, limited edition framed prints, and more. All attendees will also be eligible to win a wide variety of free door prizes during the evening.

Interested persons can contact Dr. William Moore, Associate Professor and Department Head of Forest Resources, at (229) 391-4805 or Dr. Jason Scott, Assistant Professor of Forest Resources, at (229) 391-4806 for more information or to purchase tickets.



ABAC Literary Magazine Accepting Submissions

The ABAC literary magazine, Pegasus, is now accepting submissions for the 43rd edition. The award-winning publication features art, photography, fiction, creative nonfiction, and hybrid forms.

Submissions are open to all members of the ABAC community. For the first time in the publication's history, the magazine will also open its doors to undergraduate and high school writers from ABAC's "Neighbor Waiver" states.

Works accepted to Pegasus may appear in the 2016 print issue or the fall 2016 online issue. To submit to Pegasus, interested persons can visit the online submission portal at <https://pegasus.submittable.com/submit>.

For questions regarding submissions, contact Pegasus co-advisors Dr. Jeff Newberry at (229) 391-4972 or Brandi Arrington at (229) 391-4966.

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for the permanent installation of Dr. Coy Poitevint's Veterinary Infirmary. The Museum earned six overall awards nominations.

Rucker, a 1991 ABAC alumnus, and Museum Volunteer Coordinator Lynn McDonald accepted the Museum Volunteer of the Year award. McDonald's work with the volunteer program earned a nomination for Best Student Project for her highly successful Youth Apprentice program.

"Keith has had an unparalleled commitment to the Museum since his first contact 25 years ago when he was an ABAC student," McDonald said. "Since his professional career brought him back to Tifton in 1995, he has been a wonderful volunteer. He has kept many things running on site such as the boilers of the cotton gin, steam train, and sawmill.

"Keith's knowledge gained from working as a machinist has been invaluable to the museum. He has made many parts that cannot be purchased in today's world for the museum's century-old machinery. He is often driving the Vulcan steam locomotive and is also a lead volunteer with the museum's newly refurbished sawmill."

Rucker hosted a 10-man workshop in 2015 for an antique tools group which began refurbishing the A. J. Vance Planer/Matcher. He has also assisted in bringing the museum's marketing into the digital world with his YouTube Channel, Vintage Machinery. Many of the 180 videos feature his work at the Museum. With 40,911 subscribers, the channel has planted the seed for some visits to the Museum, both from national and international guests.

"Keith was also very involved in the Save Our Steam train (SOS) fundraising event, the North Pole

Express," McDonald said. "He served on the planning committee, located giveaways, enlisted volunteers, and drove the train. He also spearheaded renovations of the train including getting the boiler sanded and repainted and checked for safety."

Rucker served on the Agrirama Foundation Board from 2005-2009 and was president from 2007-2009. He worked with the transition of the board structure when the Museum

began operating under ABAC in 2010. He then served on new board, the Friends of the Georgia Museum, where he was very involved with the research of the redesign of the sawmill boiler.

For more information about the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village, interested persons can visit www.abac.edu/museum or call (229) 391-5205.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



Have you had the opportunity to work with an advisor who goes above and beyond to assist you? Is he accessible? Knowledgeable? Do you feel that she helps you not only to select classes, but also assists you with major & career questions?

Nominations are now being accepted for the **W. Bruce and Rosalyn Ray Donaldson Excellence in Advising Award.**

The Donaldson Advising Award recognizes advisors who have an effective, positive influence on the educational experience of ABAC students. This award will be presented during the Honors Day ceremony in April.

Nominations can be submitted by email to:

bdoss@abac.edu

Submit your nomination by **3:00 PM February 5.**



*Late nominations will **not** be accepted!*

ABAC
Birthdays

1 Kelly Scott 2 Eun-Kyung You
7 Ernest Kelly 7 Rebecca Cofer