



FOCUS

ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

VOLUME LII

ISSUE 25

February 13, 2017

ABAC SESAF Quizbowl Team Takes First Place for Second Year

The ABAC Quizbowl Team received first place for the second year in a row at the Southeastern Section, Society of American Foresters on Jan. 29-31 in Miramar Beach, Fla. Coached by Assistant Professor of Forest Resources Dr. Renaldo Arroyo, the ABAC team beat out competitors Alabama A and M, Auburn University, the University of Florida, and the University of Georgia. The team included (l-r) Harrison Booker of Varnell, Joey Garrett of Box Springs, Jarvis Ballard of Lenox, and Ben Rampy of Fayetteville. All of the students are natural resource management majors. This is the fifth year that ABAC has competed in the quizbowl competition.



Move On When Ready Student to Attend Harvard University

Robby Espano, a full-time Move On When Ready student at ABAC, has been accepted to and will be attending the Harvard University summer program for high school students. Espano will live in the dorms in Cambridge, MA for seven weeks and will be taking an Economics class and a Psychology class. He is 17 years old and a junior at Irwin County High School. After graduating from high school and earning his associate of science degree from ABAC at the same time in the Spring of 2018 he hopes to attend Harvard University as a Science major.

ABAC Grounds Crew Stretches Imagination in Turf Drawings

Painting a James Bond likeness on the lawn didn't exactly fit the job description of a grounds manager when Brad Barbee joined the Sodexo staff at ABAC on July 14, 2008. Nothing like taking advantage of talents wherever they may be hidden.

"We were asked if we could paint a logo on the baseball field four years ago," Barbee said. "I told them I had a little bit of an art background so we bought a stencil. The students fell in love with it, so we started building our own

stencils. We don't mind doing it occasionally. It makes the students happy."

Barbee and his team have painted everything from the Golden Stallion mascot to hearts for Valentine's Day and pumpkins for Halloween and Thanksgiving. The Welcome Week logo at John Hunt Town Center attracted the most likes on the grounds crew's Facebook page. Yes, they have a Facebook page, and it gets a lot of attention.

"The James Bond one was

for Jimmy Felton when he retired," Barbee said. "He is a big James Bond fan, and it was fun to do. We did a Jimmy Felton 007."

Since Barbee started working at ABAC on his birthday nearly nine years ago, he said he has enjoyed every minute of it.

"It's the only job I have ever had that I love to come to work," Barbee said. "Sometimes I have to make myself leave. I have a very dedicated hard-working group of men who work with me. It's the best group I have ever had. That means the world to

ABAC Performance Series Presents Pianist Read Gainsford Feb. 23

Acclaimed pianist Read Gainsford will perform at 7 p.m. on Feb. 23 in Howard Auditorium on the campus of ABAC as part of the ABAC Presents! Performing Arts Series.

Dubbed the “Pianist of the People,” Gainsford’s international career has led him to travel the major theatres and concert halls of the United States, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa as a solo recitalist, concerto soloist, and chamber musician. He is committed to reaching audiences in ways beyond the traditional.

Gainsford has collaborated with noted oceanographers in “Voice of the Whale” by George Crumb, consulted with art historians and living artists to create a series of images to accompany performances of Messiaen’s “Vingt regards sur

l’Enfant-Jésus,” took part in the historical reenactment of the famous piano duel between Franz Liszt and Sigismond Thalberg of 1837, and played Stravinsky’s “Rite of Spring” for a live performance by a noted dance troupe.



Born in New Zealand, Gainsford studied at the University of Auckland before moving to London to work at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He relocated to the United States to earn a doctorate

from Indiana University.

Gainsford recently made his fourth trip to Carnegie Hall performing as a soloist. He also played the venerable concert hall in 2009 as a founding member of the chamber group, Trio Solis. The group’s debut

recording, “Diamonds in a Haystack,” was selected as a Critic’s Choice in American Record Guide.

Other performances remaining in the ABAC performing arts series include the Albany Symphony Orchestra at 3 p.m. on March 26 at the Tift County High School Performing Arts Center and trumpeter Terell Stafford on April 20 at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium.

Individual tickets for each event are \$20 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.

Gainsford’s performance is supported in part by the Stafford Fine Arts Endowment and Hilton Garden Inn Tifton. 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.

Save the Date and Register Now - Run for the Nurses

The School of Nursing and Health Sciences will host the 6th Annual Run for the Nurses on April 8, 2017. Proceeds from the race go towards nursing scholarships at ABAC. Go to www.abac.edu/nursing and click Run for the Nurses for more info. You can either send in your registration form or visit www.active.com to register online. Contact Becky Arnold at rarnold@abac.edu for more information.



Celebrate ABAC’s 109th Birthday by Giving

It’s time to celebrate! February 20 marks the 109th birthday of ABAC. As part of this celebration, the ABAC Foundation asks that you give back to the institution. The bright future of ABAC will only continue to grow with your gift; no matter the size of the gift. For this giving effort, participation is what matters -- so be part of the celebration by giving back to ABAC. To give to ABAC online, visit the ABAC homepage. For offline giving, make checks payable to the ABAC Foundation. For more information, contact Haley Hudson at 229.391.5234.

Chamber of Commerce Names Blackmarr to Wall of Fame

Syd Blackmarr was named to the Tifton-Tift County Chamber of Commerce Wall of Fame on Feb. 2 at the Chamber's 2017 Annual Meeting and Banquet at the UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center. Blackmarr, the founder of the Arts Experiment Station in 1976 at ABAC, was a leading force in creating the Love Affair Fine Arts Festival, among many other initiatives, and continues to be involved in the local arts scene today. She retired from ABAC in 1999.

Update From the Center for Teaching and Learning at ABAC



CENTER FOR
TEACHING AND
LEARNING

Upcoming Events Hosted by the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL)

- Monday - Keith Perry will host an interactive session on 'Using Zotero' in Carlton 222. Zotero is a citation management software that can be useful for both faculty and students.
- The CTL Book Club will meet on February 17 at 2 p.m. and February 22 at 4 p.m. to discuss *The Slow Professor*.

Notes from CTL

- The CTL Book Club will meet on Friday at 2 p.m. and February 22 at 4 p.m. to discuss *The Slow Professor*.

For more information or questions about CTL Spring events, contact ctl@abac.edu

ABAC to Host Student Conference on First Amendment

Freedom of speech, press, religion, and assembly will be the focus of a weekend conference for ABAC students, faculty, and staff planned for March 24-25, according to Dean of the School of Liberal Art, Dr. Bobbie Robinson.

Visiting scholars from Emory University, the University of Georgia, and Georgia State University will join members of ABAC's Rural Studies faculty on campus to guide students through a deep exploration of the philosophical, political, and legal principles that underlie those rights enumerated in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

"It's incredibly timely," Dr. Jay Baldwin, who chairs the faculty committee planning the conference, said.

"From Muslim bans to gay wedding cakes, from flag-waving to flag-burning, trigger warnings, hate speech, protests and the de-platforming of speakers, safe

spaces, fake news, speech codes, and America's first Twitter president, all these concern questions regarding speech, religion, press, and association. The relevance of the First Amendment to our contemporary moment has never been more acute," Baldwin said.

The event is being planned in partnership among ABAC's Rural Studies program and the Institute for Humane Studies located at George Mason University, and is made possible through a grant funded by the John Templeton Foundation.

The day-and-a-half long conference will kick off on March 24 with a screening of the documentary film, "Can We Take a Joke?," followed by an extended question and answer session with visiting faculty.

Friday evening will continue with a public lecture by Dr. Andrew "A.J." Cohen, Associate Professor of Philosophy at

Georgia State University. Cohen will be discussing the central ideas presented in his most recent book titled, "Toleration." The lecture is open to the public.

Other sessions are planned throughout the day on March 25.

Emory University's Dr. Michael J. Perry, Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law, and author of twelve books and eighty articles covering law and religion will conduct a session on religious freedom and the constitution.

Dr. William E. Lee of the University of Georgia, Grady School of Journalism, and co-author of the popular textbook, "The Law of Public Communication," will address freedom of speech and press.

The conference is free to attend but students will be asked to pre-register online at theihs.org.

For more information, contact Professor Baldwin at jbaldwin@abac.edu or 229-391-4975.

Baldwin Players Perform One Act Plays at ABAC This Weekend

Two one-act plays with humorous elements will be spotlighted on Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. on the stage in the Chapel of All Faiths at ABAC.

Baldwin Players' Director Brian Ray said this is the first year of offering student-focused one-act plays to supplement the ABAC theatre program and the Baldwin Players' regular season of full length productions.

Admission is \$5 per person for the general public to help establish an ABAC theatre program scholarship. The performances

are free to all ABAC students, faculty and staff.

The first play, "American Coffee" by Victor Bumbalo, is a dark comedy that focuses on a husband and wife arguing over their morning coffee about what they can do to keep from being embarrassed socially by their son and his boyfriend, who are coming home for the wedding of their daughter.

"How To Kill a Mockingbird"

An Evening of One Acts



by Bradley Walton is the second play, and it revolves around a group of students working on a project about Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird," though none of them have ever read the literary masterpiece,

let alone own a copy of the book. As they struggle to complete the project, the students end up coming up with a conspiracy theory about the feathered creatures that pose a threat to us all.



Musical Event to Raise Money for Storm Victims

The Office of Residence Life and Housing and Brother to Brother will host One Sound, One Community, a music raffle on Thursday. The event will be held on the Lakeside Lawn from 6 - 7:30 p.m. and will raise money for the families in south Georgia affected by storms. Artists will perform a range of music during the event. The event is free to attend. Donations are welcome and raffle tickets for a three month subscription to Apple Music can be purchased for one dollar each. One Sound, One Community will partner with The Bridge Church of Nashville to raise money to help make sure families are getting what they need. For more information, contact Trent Hester at thester@abac.edu

Grounds continued from Page 1

me."

Active far beyond his duties of keeping up the grounds on 245 developed ABAC acres, Barbee was recently elected president of the Georgia branch of the Professional Grounds Managers Society. He is a Certified Grounds Manager through the organization.

"ABAC is my alma mater," Barbee, who received his associate degree from ABAC in 2000 and his bachelor's degree in 2015, said. "I want to make sure it is the best it can possibly be for today's students and students of the future."

The grounds crew consists of 11 fulltime employees and three

ABAC students who are part time employees. Two of those students are majoring in the bachelor's degree in environmental horticulture, thus gaining on the job training.

"My job is to lead, guide, and motivate," Barbee said. "Our goal is to exceed expectations. We don't believe in failure. Do it well or not at all. In fact, that's what we're going to have painted on our shop wall, 'be the labor great or small, do it well or not at all.'"

Barbee and his men maintain the beautifully groomed fields for ABAC baseball, softball, and soccer. They also take care of the grounds at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village



at ABAC and the ABAC on the Square location in Moultrie.

"This is the best job in the world," Barbee said. "There's nowhere like ABAC."