Arriaga, Vagott Receive Top Awards at ABAC Commencement

Xiomara “CiCi” Arriaga of Macon and Jacob Vagott from Centerville were selected for the top awards presented by the ABAC Alumni Association during the spring commencement ceremony at ABAC on May 5.

Arriaga, a rural studies—writing and communication major, was named the winner of the ABAC Alumni Association Award for the top bachelor’s degree graduate participating in the ceremony, and Vagott, an engineering major, received the George P. Donaldson Award for the top associate degree graduate participating in the ceremony.

Arriaga has been a fixture on the campus with her involvement in the ABAC Ambassadors, where she held roles as both vice president and secretary. She has volunteered her time with a number of events at ABAC including Stallion Day, Trunk-or-Treat, the Sunbelt Agricultural Expo, and Dr. Seuss’ National Reading Week. She was also a staff writer for ABAC’s student newspaper, “The Stallion.”

Active in a number of campus clubs, Arriaga participated in the Rural Studies Club, Circle K, and Cultural Latina Club, where she held the office of secretary in 2011-2012 and president in 2012-2013. She was also part of the Stafford Hall residency within the Stafford School of Business from 2013-2016. With a grade point average of 3.50 on a 4.0 scale, she became a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society in 2016.

Arriaga said ABAC has "provided me with the knowledge and experience that I need for the real world. In this institution learning happens in and out of the classroom. ABAC has equipped me both academically and professionally. I believe my being here has shaped me to be an overall better person who will forever be grateful for the opportunities provided by ABAC.”

Continued on Page 3

Celebrating 50 Years of ABAC Nursing

The School of Nursing and Health Sciences celebrated 50 Years of Nursing Excellence at ABAC on May 4. Many graduates of the program as well as retired faculty and staff attended a dinner at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture to celebrate. Pictured here are the three of the five graduates from the inaugural nursing class (l-r) Georgia Simmons, Thresia Williams, and Suzette Alexander with Troy Spicer, Dean of the School Nursing and Health Sciences. Alexander also spoke at the Spring Commencement Ceremony on May 5.
Dr. Jordan Cofer wants the entire community to know about a fabulous collection of children’s literature at the Baldwin Library at ABAC.

“The Dorothy King and Betty King Carr Children’s Classic Collection at the Baldwin Library was created to provide an award-winning collection of children’s literature to ABAC students pursuing a degree in education as well as the larger ABAC community,” said Cofer, assistant vice president of academic affairs, learning resources. “The collection was created through the generosity of the King and Carr families.”

Dr. George H. King served as the second president of ABAC from 1934-47 and his wife, Dorothy, had a great love for the value of children’s literature.

In addition to being a resource for ABAC students, Cofer invites the children of ABAC faculty and staff to take advantage of this wonderful collection.

“The collection serves as an excellent resource, not only for our students, but for the entire campus community,” Cofer said. “Thanks to a generous gift from the King family, we are able to keep the collection updated with all the current Newberry and Caldecott award winners. At a time when so many libraries are moving to all-electronic material, this amazing resource is one of the most popular collections in the Baldwin Library.”

The collection is also a great asset to the students in ABAC’s education program.

“The Newberry and Caldecott Award winning books in this collection are and will increasingly become valuable assets for students studying education at ABAC,” said Dr. Marcus Johnson, assistant professor and interim coordinator for the Education Department in the School of Human Sciences at ABAC. “In addition to affording access to and familiarity with critically acclaimed contemporary children’s literature, the collection serves as a tangible, material resource for students who are beginning to consider how to structure and enact experiences that will develop the literacy skills of their future students.”

Students in Johnson’s classes affirmed the importance of the collection.

“Having access right here on campus is always handy,” Morgan Turner said. “It is very important and I use it a lot.”

“I value the access to have important children’s literature since early education is my major,” Kendra Collins said. “The value of children’s literature will give us an example of what students like.”

“TI think it is important because it gives people going into elementary education an opportunity to see popular and award-winning books that are appropriate for the age level they want to teach,” Hannah Wilkins said.

For more information on accessing the collection, contact Cofer at (229) 391-4971.

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**Upcoming Orientation Dates**

May 27, June 3, July 8, July 15, July 22, July 29, August 5

Be on the look out for more information!

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**ABAC Summer Classes Begin May 31 in Tifton, Moultrie**

Students who want to get a head start on the fall semester can enroll in summer term classes at the ABAC main campus in Tifton or at the Moultrie location at ABAC on the Square. Summer term classes begin May 31.

The main campus will offer over 70 classes during the summer in the areas of mathematics, literature, history, agriculture, science, nursing, and physical education. ABAC on the Square will offer classes in literature and mathematics over the course of the summer. Students can also take advantage of a variety of online courses offered by the College.

Regular summer classes do not meet on Fridays.

Transient students are welcome to enroll at ABAC during the summer term. They can simply complete the ABAC application online and submit it with the $20 application fee along with the transient permission and immunization forms.

Students interested in financial aid as a transient student should contact the financial aid office at their home institution. The deadline for tuition and fees for all students enrolling for the summer term is May 24 at 4:30 p.m.

Students who are graduating from high school this month can also take classes over the summer. That includes those students who will be attending ABAC and those who may be attending another college or university in the fall.

The ABAC Office of Admissions can be reached by e-mail at abacinfo@abac.edu or through the website at www.abac.edu/admissions. For information about classes at ABAC on the Square, call (229) 891-7235.

Awards from Page 1

As a dual-enrolled student in both high school and college, Vagott received his college degree before getting his Northside High School diploma in Warner Robins later this month. He was living on the ABAC campus at 16 years old but quickly adapted to college life.

“My experience at ABAC has been a unique one,” Vagott said. “When I got accepted to ABAC, I had to convince my family that it was best for me to go ahead and go to college, even though I would be the only dual-enrolled student living on campus. Getting accepted into the Honors Program helped tremendously in convincing my family.”

In his two years at ABAC, Vagott has made sure to get the full college experience. Outside of the classroom, he has been a member of the Honors Program, was named Senator for the School of Science and Mathematics for the Student Government Association, and was a member of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Club.

Vagott also held offices in ABAC campus organizations including service as Vice President of Scholarship for the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, 2015 treasurer and 2016 president of the Residence Hall Association, bowling team captain with the intramural program, and co-head of the Board of Directors for the Inter-Club Council.

Academically, Vagott is an Honors Program graduate who made the Dean’s List three times. He was named a Distinguished Honor Student for the 2015-2016 year and a Superior Honor Student in 2014-2015. He graduated with a GPA of 3.80. Vagott plans to continue his education with the goal of earning a Ph.D. in chemical and biomolecular engineering.

A total of 289 graduates received their diplomas in the Gressette Gymnasium ceremony. Guest speaker Suzette Cofer Alexander was a member of the first graduating class of nurses from ABAC in 1966. Her address culminated a year-long celebration of 50 years of nursing at ABAC.

Summer term classes begin at ABAC on May 31, and fall semester classes begin Aug. 10.

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Georgia Museum of Agriculture Offers Summer Camps For Kids

Children from four to 11 years old can explore southern Georgia’s rich history through hands-on activities, games, and crafts this summer through Camp Wiregrass at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC.

Camp Director Kelly Scott said that Camp Wiregrass provides a fun, interactive and educational environment in a unique setting.

To register for any session of Camp Wiregrass, e-mail Scott at museumcamp@abac.edu or register online at www.abac.edu/museum/kids-camp.

Discounts are available for siblings, ABAC employees, and Friends of the Museum.

The summer kicks off with Munchkin camp for 4-5 year-olds on May 31-June 3 from 8:30 a.m.-noon with “Down on the Farm.” Campers will meet the local animal residents, go on wagon rides, and explore the garden. The cost for this camp is $60 and includes snack, t-shirt, and all supplies. Campers will be going home before lunch.

Two different weeklong sessions are available for the Explorer Campers, children ages 6-8 years old. They can attend either or both “Wilderness 101” and “Step Back in Time.” The cost of each camp is $110 and includes snack, t-shirt, supplies, and afternoon water games. Campers must bring a sack lunch.

“Wilderness 101” on June 13-17 will focus on exploring the surrounding forest while learning various outdoor survival skills. Campers will build shelters, visit the Langdale Nature Center’s resident animals, and learn basic orienteering skills.

Explorers will discover Georgia’s history from the early Native American to the late 19th century with “Step Back in Time” on June 27-July 1.

Trekkers, ages 9-11 years old, can take part in the “Good Ole Days” camp from June 20-24 at the Museum. Campers will experience mid-1800s southern Georgia culture through interactive activities such as wool processing, wagon rides, cane pole fishing, and traditional games. The cost for this session is $110 per camper and campers must bring a sack lunch. This cost includes snack, t-shirt, supplies, and afternoon water games.

Female campers from 8-12 years old can also enjoy the “Victorian Adventures” camp from June 6-10. Campers will explore high society and working class as they learn how to host tea time, play games, cook a traditional 1800s meal, and embroider. The week will end with the girls hosting an afternoon tea for their special invited guest. Girls will need a clean, white shirt. The cost for this camp is $110 per camper and campers must bring a sack lunch. This cost includes snack, t-shirt, supplies, and afternoon water games.

For more information, contact Scott at (229) 391-5221, via e-mail at museumcamp@abac.edu, or visit the website www.abac.edu/museum/kids-camp.

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ABAC Birthdays

11 Kitty Davis 13 Jenna Willis 13 Joseph Weatherford
15 Jennifer Martinez 17 Betty McCorvey 18 Jeannie Paulk