Huge drops of sweat began collecting on his face before he even started talking. But Troy Spicer didn’t mind. His audience of 200 local farmers, crew leaders, and migrant workers were sweating right along with him in an outdoor packing shed on a recent steamy afternoon in Enigma.

“It was hot but that’s South Georgia in the summer time,” Spicer, Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences at ABAC, said. “We delivered some important information, and we made some good contacts.”

ABAC Health Center Coordinator Carmen Counts and High School Equivalency Program Associate Director Olga Contreras Martinez accompanied Spicer on the visit to deliver six 20-minute mini-lectures on farm worker health.

Ricardo Camara, Consul-General of Mexico in Atlanta, expressed his thanks. “The training you provided on such relevant topics as basic first aid, heat stroke, treatment of wounds, and preventive health care was of the utmost importance to improve the conditions of Mexican and Latin-American farm workers in South Georgia,” Camara said in a personal letter to Spicer.

New opportunities for ABAC nursing students have developed because of ABAC’s participation in the event.

“We made contacts in the Departments of Labor and Education,” said Spicer. “As a result, we are going to be able to pair RN to BSN Completion Program students with state and federal officials to observe and participate in health inspections and education projects.

“The result will be a BSN graduate who has firsthand experience with the living, working and health conditions of workers in agriculture. This exposure will be relevant when these nurses return to their hospital and clinic jobs and will ultimately improve their practice.”

ABAC added a new bachelor’s degree in nursing to its curriculum this summer. Spicer said students are already enrolled in the program as well as in the very popular associate nursing degree program which ABAC instituted 50 years ago.

**Independence Day Celebration July 1 at Museum of Agriculture**

A spectacular fireworks display, ice cold slices of watermelon, and music from singer and songwriter Kevin Mac will highlight the annual Independence Day Celebration on July 1 at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture (GMA) and Historic Village at ABAC.

Gates will open for fireworks and evening activities at 6:30 p.m. Guests are encouraged to bring blankets and chairs to set up on the Opry Shelter Lawn to hear live music from Mac beginning at 7:30 p.m., followed by a veterans’ salute and the fireworks show. Admission to the concert and fireworks will be $10 per passenger car seating up to eight people and $20 for larger vehicles. This event is presented by ABAC and the GMA.

Mac loves to surprise audiences with his own take on classic rock, hip hop, and country, coining the term "Southern Swag" to describe his unique brand of music. He has worked with superstar entertainers ranging from Britney Spears, Beyonce, and Missy Elliott to Leann Rimes, Diamond Rio, and Kenny Chesney.

The GMA’s youth apprentices and volunteers will offer plenty of children’s activities during the evening. Children will also enjoy Jumpin’ J’s Inflatable Justice League obstacle course and an 18-foot inflatable slide. Food will be available for purchase, including ice-cold watermelon, or visitors can bring their own snacks.

In preparation for the evening’s festivities, the Museum, Gallery and Historic Village will be closed during its normal operating hours of 10 a.m.–3 p.m. on July 1. The Country Store will be open from 9 a.m.–5 p.m. on that day.

Veterans and current members of the United States armed forces will be admitted at no charge with the presentation of valid military service ID. Coolers, alcoholic beverages, and pets are not permitted.

The GMA will be closed on July 4 in observance of the national holiday. For more information, guests can contact the GMA Country Store at (229) 391-5205.
Jessica Wade literally marches to the beat of her own drum. As the first female drummer in the history of the much acclaimed ABAC jazz band, the biology major from Douglas gives all the credit to her family for her musical talents.

“It is an honorable thing to pick up a talent from a family member, especially from your parents,” said Wade. “My dad gave me advice and understood me as his child for the talent that was placed in my heart. And to do so in worship for God makes it even better.”

In Wade’s senior year at Coffee High School, drumming her way through college became a real possibility when the Coffee jazz band attended the 2014 ABAC Jazz Festival. She established a personal goal to play drums for ABAC's Jazz Ensemble, not realizing she was making ABAC musical history.

Wade credits her success to her family, teachers, and both her church and music families. She gives special thanks to ABAC’s music faculty including Dr. Thomas Heflin, director of ABAC’s Jazz Ensemble, for his knowledge and guidance which has helped her grow as a musician and drummer as well as retired instructor Don Coates for developing her potential.

“When I came to ABAC I was no expert in the area of jazz music, and

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ABAC Takes Turner Field on August 20 - Register Now

Join the ABAC Alumni Association on August 20 for one of the final Atlanta Braves games ever to be played at Turner Field! The ABAC Chamber Singers will begin the game by singing the National Anthem. Enjoy some baseball with alumni and friends from all over the southeast as well as a post-game concert by Grammy-nominated artist Tori Kelly, best known for her smash radio hit “Hollow.” The tickets are along the first base line in Sections 405 and 407. Tickets can be picked up at ABAC’s Alumni House or mailed directly to you. Visit www.abac.edu/travel for registration information and more details.

Prices/Packages:
1. $70 for Ticket and Charter Bus - includes ticket, a seat on a charter bus to and from the game, parking, tip, and snacks. The bus will depart from ABAC at 2 p.m. and return after 1 a.m.
2. $20 for Tickets Only - Those traveling independently will be provided with parking information and seating guidelines.
3. $20 Donation to Sponsor a Chamber Singer’s travel expenses

Home Place Series Begins July 2 at Museum of Agriculture

Fitzgerald artist and educator David Malcolm sharpened his painting skills at the easel of a legend, much acclaimed Georgia art master Lamar Dodd. Now Malcolm will showcase his own style in a unique 52-piece landscape series in a brand new exhibit at the Gallery of the Georgia Museum of Agriculture (GMA) and Historic Village at ABAC.

Malcolm’s exhibit, “Home Place Series,” will be on display at the Gallery of the GMA from July 2 to Sept. 13. Exhibit hours coincide with the GMA’s operating hours throughout the summer months. Admission to the exhibit is included in daily GMA admission and is free with a valid GMA season pass.

“When planning his unique 52-part landscape series, there were several objectives David Malcolm hoped to achieve,” Polly Huff, curator and assistant director at the GMA, said. “One objective was to document a specific period of South Georgia history, depicting an abandoned farm and the rural landscape of that particular time including the portrayal of many native birds.

“Another objective was to paint the same rural scene during different seasons of the year from spring through winter and during different times of the day from dawn to night with the landscapes also being transformed by a variety of atmospheric conditions.”

The various pictorial elements of the paintings are typical objects remaining from the period. In addition, a companion book titled “Home Place,” featuring the 52 landscapes, will be on display and available for purchase during the exhibit.

Now retired, Malcolm worked as Dodd’s graduate assistant while completing his studies in art education, following the completion of his graphic design degree at the University of Georgia. In 1962, Malcolm established the art education program at Fitzgerald High School where he taught.

Malcolm later became the art education consultant in six counties for the Northeast Georgia Shared Services Project. During the summer of 1969, he served on the art staff of the Governor’s Honors Program.

Beginning in 1970, Malcolm served on the administrative staff of Ben Hill-Irwin Tech where he designed many award winning exhibits promoting the school. One first place award was presented by Georgia Governor Jimmy Carter.

Involved in the arts in South Georgia for many years including a stint as President of the Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Arts Council, Malcolm has designed props for many stage productions at the Grand Theatre in Fitzgerald.

Malcolm was honored in 2015 with the Lifetime Achievement Award given by the Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Chamber of Commerce for his service and contribution to the arts in the area.

For more information about the upcoming exhibit, interested persons can contact Huff at (229) 391-5222 or email her at phuff@abac.edu.
my drumming proved that,” said Wade. “Dr. Heflin pushed me to keep going. He would take out an hour just about every day to help me get where I needed to be musically and after my first year, I had progressed so much as a drummer, particularly a jazz drummer.

“And Mr. Coates always made me feel like I was doing a great job. Coming from him that meant a lot. If it were not for him I don’t know if I would have been given the opportunity to play for ABAC’s Jazz Ensemble today.”

Wade fell in love with the courses and professors in the bachelor’s degree in biology program at ABAC. Dr. Johnny Evans, Dean of the School of Science and Mathematics, sold her on the program.

“My favorite thing about ABAC as a whole is that there is such a personal connection with the professors and students,” said Wade. “That’s a plus in my book because it shows just how genuine this college is, and it’s what I enjoy most about the science department.”

Wade recently decided to take a plunge into deeper water with extra music classes at ABAC.

“I decided to go for my associate’s degree in music,” Wade said. “Music truly brings people together, and ABAC’s music program is family to me. That is why I have decided to pursue my associate’s degree in music as well as my biology degree.”

Drums continued from page 2

2016 Fall Conference / New Academic Year Events

- New Faculty Orientation............... Wednesday, August 3
- Fall Conference............................ Thursday, August 4
- New Student Orientation............... Friday, August 5
- Teaching and Learning Workshops...... Monday, August 8
- School and Department Meetings....... Monday, August 8
- Freshman Convocation................... Tuesday, August 9
- First Day of Classes..................... Wednesday, August 10

A detailed schedule of events for the New Faculty Orientation, Faculty and Staff Fall Conference, and Teaching and Learning Workshops will be published shortly.

Make the Hour Count - Take Advantage of Food Discounts

Enjoy Happy Hour in the Pizza Hut/Subconnection area, Monday through Friday from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Happy hour deals include $1.00 off any pizza with two or more toppings, a $4.00 SubConnection foot long subs for ham, turkey, meatball or bacon, lettuce and tomato and $1.00 of any grande or venti frappuccino or any grande or venti espresso drinks in Starbucks.