State Art Collection at Museum of Agriculture Beginning September 13

A full slate of exciting events on Sept. 13 will herald the opening of the Georgia State Art Collection, "Inspired Georgia", at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC.

Polly Huff, assistant director and curator at the Museum, said the Museum Gallery will be the home for the prestigious exhibit through Oct. 25. The Museum is one of only nine Georgia organizations granted a stop on the statewide tour and the only stop in the Southwest part of the state.

"The last time the collection toured the state was over 30 years ago, so the GMA is planning to celebrate the opening of this rare exhibit with several community events on Sept. 13," Huff said. "The exhibit includes 28 pieces of vibrant work created by Georgia artists from the 1970s to the 1990s, combined with various visual aids."

Huff said the Georgia Council for the Arts in partnership with the Georgia Tourism Division and the Georgia Humanities Council announced in 2013 that a curated exhibit of selected pieces from Georgia’s State Art Collection would be made available to selected Georgia communities. A competitive application process ensued, and the chosen communities were announced at the Governor’s Tourism Conference a year ago. Huff and Museum Facilities Coordinator Elaine Auger wrote the grant and traveled to Stone Mountain to accept the honor of hosting the exhibit from Georgia Governor Nathan Deal and his wife, Sandra.

"The exhibit highlights the styles, media, and techniques in the overall Collection, as well as work from some of Georgia’s iconic artists," Huff said.

The Gallery exhibit coincides with GMA Founders Day from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and the Museum’s Community Appreciation Day. Sponsored by the GMA, the Georgia Council for the Arts, and the Wiregrass Farmers Market, activities will include a Printmaking and Ink Painting workshop featuring Athens artist Jackie Slayton Methe from 1-3.

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Geared to families with children 6-14 years of age, this workshop is free of charge but registration is required. Spots in the children's workshop can be reserved via e-mail at phuff@abac.edu. This workshop is presented by the Georgia Museum of Art and the Turner Family Foundation.

Dr. William Eland, Director of the Georgia Museum of Art and folk art expert, will give a presentation to open the exhibit at 5 p.m. on Sept. 13. His gallery chat, a local foods reception hosted by the Wiregrass Farmers Market, a performance by a local musician, and Gallery tours will be available at no charge to the community.

Admission to the "Inspired Georgia" exhibit following opening night will be included in the general admission of the GMA and free with a GMA season pass. Local clubs and art classes are welcome to schedule a tour and an interactive activity while the exhibit is on display. The Museum's operating hours are 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

For more information on the Georgia State Art Collection exhibit, interested persons can contact Huff at phuff@abac.edu or Auger at eauger@abac.edu.

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The cast for the Baldwin Players' fall production, Neil Simon’s “The Odd Couple” (female version) has been named.

This hilarious classic comedy celebrates the friendship and inevitable conflicts between two opposite personalities thrust into being mismatched roommates by circumstance. This is Simon’s original story of two men, Oscar and Felix, adapted by Simon himself into a story of two women, Olive and Florence.

The performance dates are Nov. 6, 7, & 8 in Howard Auditorium at 7 p.m. Tickets cost $7 for the public and are free to ABAC students, staff, and faculty. Tickets are required and can be purchased at www.purplepass.com/abac or by calling 229.391.4895.

Please congratulate the following cast (in order of appearance):

Sylvie – Caitlin Cato
Mickey – Kaylee Stokes
Renee – Jillian Grim
Vera – Holly Huggins
Olive Madison – Collette Whittemore

Florence Unger – Slayten Carter
Manolo Costazuela – Jason Brown
Jesus Costazuela – Tre’mon Mills
Assistant Director/Stage Manager – Raven Hughey

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The first Staff Forum meeting of the semester will take place Wednesday at 3 p.m. in Health Science Room 237. Dean of Students, Bernice Hughes will be the guest speaker and will provide share information about Family Weekend. Contact Dr. Chris Kinsey for more information.

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The Scholarship Milk and Cookies Day was a great success. Students wrote 213 thank you notes to donors for their scholarships. Nearly twice as many students visited the Alumni House to write notes over last year. Thanks to all of you who encouraged, reminded, and “told” your students to participate in the event. Also, thank you to the Alumni that baked cookies and offered advice to the students.
Stafford School of Business Speaker Series Began Last Week

Stafford School of Business kicked off its guest speaker series with professionals from the Tifton community last week in Franzelle Pertilla’s Small Business Management classes. Students gained real world insights about organizing and funding a business from Mike Davis (left), President, First Community Bank of Tifton and Carla Dodson, Owner, Firehouse Subs. For more information about the events and those speakers to come, visit abac.edu/academics/schools/stafford-school-of-business

Fillies Soccer Players Speak About Kindness

Fillies Soccer players visited Tiftarea to speak in Ms. Flick’s second grade class last week. During their visit they spoke to students about kindness, which is the character trait of the month. All three ladies did a great job and represented ABAC very well.

Search Underway for ABAC Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

A committee was charged Thursday to conduct the search for ABAC’s first Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. The name change of the position, previously held by Dr. Niles Reddick, reflects the common name for this role among baccalaureate degree institutions. This change is another indicator of progress at ABAC. Reporting directly to the President, the Provost and VP for Academic Affairs is the ranking academic administrator at the College and is directly responsible for the College’s academic programs, corps of instruction, accreditation, compliance and student affairs. This position is among the most important at the College. The search, which begins immediately, is expected to take several months. Questions? Contact Dr. Sandra Giles, committee chair.

Safe Zone Training Sessions Begin Thursday

The Academic Support Center and the Student Development Center will host Safe Zone training. The training sessions will be held in the Lewis Hall Conference Room on the second floor on Thursday from 3-5 p.m. and Sept. 12 from 1-3:30 p.m. Please be aware that in order to earn the Safe Zone sticker and certificate, attendees must be present for the entire session. Both faculty and staff are welcome to the training, but each session will be limited to 10 individuals so as to allow for discussion and activities. The spots are filled on a first come first serve basis. For more information on Safe Zone, visit www.swic.edu/safezone/

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 Mo Hassouna
2 Joseph Njoroge
2 Teri Mathis
5 Amanda Dow
6 Corey Langston
6 Debbie Pyles