FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

‘Rhythm and Blues’ Concert January 28 at ABAC

TIFTON - Pianist Doug Jurs and guest violinist M. Brent Williams will play a selection of jazz music ranging from classical to contemporary at the "Rhythm and Blues" jazz concert at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 28 in Howard Auditorium at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

Open to the public at no charge, the evening begins with the modern composition “Blue Piece for Violin and Piano” by Libby Larsen, followed by Maurice Ravel’s “Violin Sonata in G Major” and George Antheil’s “Sonata No. 2 for Violin and Piano.” The concert will conclude with a medley from the award-winning musical “Porgy and Bess” including "Summertime/A Woman is a Sometime Thing," "My Man’s Gone Now," "It Ain’t Necessarily So," and "Tempo di Blues" by George Gershwin.

Jurs, a native of Chicago, was appointed Assistant Professor of Piano and Music Theory at ABAC in 2012. He previously served on the faculties of the University of Wisconsin – Madison and Edgewood College. He received his D.M.A. in piano performance from the University of Wisconsin, his M.M. in piano performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music,
and received bachelor’s degrees in both piano performance and English literature from the University of Indiana – Bloomington.

Jurs has performed solo and collaborative recitals throughout the United States and Europe. He won First Prize at the 2004 Lee Biennial Piano Competition and in 2010 was winner of the University of Wisconsin Beethoven Competition. While a graduate student in Cleveland, Jurs served as an Associate Artist with the Cleveland Opera.

Since moving to Georgia, Jurs has enjoyed performing throughout the southeast with colleagues from Atlanta, Macon, Athens, and Valdosta. He continues to serve as Artistic Director of the Blue Horse Music Festival in Woodstock, VT, where he presents and performs alongside leading musicians from New York’s classical and new music scenes in the intimate Blue Horse Inn music parlor.

Williams is currently the Concertmaster of the Albany Symphony Orchestra, Assistant Concertmaster of the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, and Principal Second of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra (VSO). He has performed concerts with the VSO, Sinfonia Gulf Coast, the Opera Teatro di Lucca Chamber Orchestra in Lucca, Italy, Albany Symphony Orchestra and Valdosta State University Percussion Ensemble.

Williams received his Ph. D. and MA in music from Florida State University and his bachelor’s degree in music from the University of Oklahoma. A dedicated chamber musician, Williams is the first violinist of the enhaké quartet, which won the Grand Prize at the Yellow Springs Chamber Music Competition; won first prize at the Third International Chamber Music Ensemble Competition in Boston, Mass.; and was a finalist at the Osaka International Chamber Music Competition and Festival in Osaka, Japan.
Williams has been a lecturer of Violin and World Music at VSU since 2008 where he is the director/founder of VSU’s Pan-American Ensemble. He has also been on the faculties of the Chapel Hill Chamber Music Workshop, Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp and FSU Summer Music Camp. He has done classical recordings for the Naxos, Koch and Emeritus labels as well as non-classical projects for Barsuk, Pias America, Alchemist, Nub and Engine Shed records.

###