ABAC Adds Theatre Classes to Associate of Arts Degree

TIFTON – Students at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College can put into practice William Shakespeare’s words that “all the world’s a stage” during the upcoming fall semester when ABAC begins offering theatre courses in the Area F options for the Associate of Arts degree.

Dr. Brian Ray, professor of English and director of the Baldwin Players, said the courses will include basic theatre knowledge areas and should provide students with a solid foundation.

“Theatre students in a bachelor’s degree program usually focus on one of three areas: acting/directing, technical theatre, or playwriting/dramaturgy,” Ray, interim department head for fine arts and communication, said. “ABAC’s courses don’t focus on any of these three areas specifically. Instead, they provide a solid basis that any theatre artist would need to advance in any one of these areas of focus.”

ABAC will offer four classes, each one available in a different semester so that students can complete all four classes in two years. The classes include fundamentals of acting, stagecraft, voice and diction, and script analysis.

Ray said the acting fundamentals class will give students an understanding of the
techniques an actor uses to develop the tools of an actor, the body and voice, to be able to bring a character to life on the stage.

In stagecraft, students will experience all the behind-the-scenes work that goes into a show by learning about prop creation, set building, make up and costumes, lighting, and sound. Voice and diction will teach students how to use their voices in a clear way to develop and project a character. In script analysis, students will discover how to find clues to understand the meaning of a play as well as uncovering ways to interpret the play, setting, and its characters.

For more information on these new courses, interested persons can contact Ray by e-mail at bray@abac.edu. Fall semester classes begin at ABAC on Aug. 12.

###