

ABAC Payment Plan offers financial relief

TIFTON—As stories of rising college costs nationally and frustrating delays in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) process continue to concern prospective students and their families, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College is touting a program to provide financial relief.

The ABAC Payment Plan allows students to defer a portion of the payment for a semester or their account balances, whichever is less, until up to 60 days after the semester begins. Jessica Miller, ABAC's Bursar, said the plan has proven popular with students and hopes more people take advantage of it.

"The cost of attending ABAC offers exceptional value for a high-quality education," she said. "This doesn't happen by chance. Our focus is always on the students, exploring ways to support them and their families. As an ABAC alumna, I know first-hand the outstanding college experience ABAC delivers, and we aim to make it accessible to as many students as possible."

A student's deferrable balance is calculated after all actual and expected financial aid is applied to the student's account. At least half of the deferred balance is due before classes begin and the remaining amount is due approximately 60 days into the

term. The timing is compressed during the Summer semester due to the shortened nature of the term. Miller added that freshmen planning to enroll this fall can enroll in an estimated payment plan, allowing them to extend their payments before they are officially registered.

ABAC is the only state college in Georgia to offer an exclusive institutionally managed tuition payment plan. Students can choose from a variety of plans, each with different variables depending on enrollment date, percentage of down payment, number of payments, etc.

"This is one of the many reasons that ABAC is so often recognized for being a great value while offering a fantastic education," said ABAC President Tracy Brundage. "Our tuition is among the lowest in the state, we award over \$1.1 million in scholarships annually, and 59 percent of our graduates leave ABAC with no college debt. It's an exciting time to be at ABAC and our payment plan is another way to assist our students and their families."

For more information on the ABAC Payment Plan, visit www.abac.edu/affordability.

Graduating LCHS Senior's Art Shown in Scott's Regional 2024 Congressional Art Show

By Carol A. Gasser Moore

LANIER COUNTY, Georgia – Graduating LCHS (Lanier County High School) Senior Jon Moore had a painting featured in the 2024 Congressional Art Competition Show on Sunday, May 5th. This year the 2024 Congressional Art Show was held in Tifton's Syd Blackmarr Art Center. Moore was the only LCHS art student to enter his art in the show, which featured artwork from 37 regional high school art students.

Moore's artwork was titled "Jack Black King of Kids" and featured a portrait of the actor. Moore admitted to being a BIG fan of Black's acting and entertainment work which includes music. This is not the first state or national art competition for which Moore has created and entered. Jon Moore won the Best Overall Design in the 2021 Georgia Day Statewide Student Art Contest, an annual contest by the Georgia Historical Society.

The 8"x10 canvas with acrylic painting portrays actor Jack Black, the illusionist, facing forward. Simple yet complex in line, shape and form, his face tracks the

onlooker suggesting he's very much in control, sensing, vibrant yet subtle, ready to surprise and delight; yet there's a kind of negative space Ying/Yang balance overall. His gaze is directed towards the observer and invites challenge and wonder. The transparent color is flexibly layered and textured bringing out the depth of Black's personality even down to his understated black and blue clothing. The artist's style entertains the viewer with Black's complexities.

It was about a month ago, U.S. Representative Austin Scott had announced that his office is taking submissions for the 2024 Congressional Art Competition. All high school students (9-12th grade) who resided in or attended school in the Eighth (8th) Congressional District were encouraged to participate.

While Moore's artwork was included in Sunday's art show, his was not the winning entry. Person's traveling to Washington D.C. over the next year may view that entry in the United States Capitol for a year alongside

artwork from every congressional district across the country.

In order to have their work considered for the art show, they had to submit artwork had to original in concept, design, and execution, no larger than 26" x 26" x 4" and could be in the form of paintings (oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.), drawings (pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal, ink, markers), collage (must be two dimensional), prints (lithographs, silkscreen, block prints), mixed media, computer-generated art, or photography.

This year, all the entries from across the 8th Congressional District were displayed at the Syd Blackmarr Art Center in Tifton, for the exhibit and Sunday's awards ceremony.

The Congressional Art Contest is an annual event. For more information or questions, please contact Charles White in the Tifton District Office at 229-376-8061 or email charles.white@mail.house.gov.

Is a public official working for the citizens when...?

- official doesn't update government's website and keep current
- official commonly uses derogatory 'pet' names for anyone who does not hold identical views or anyone perceived as questioning or challenging
- official limits information available on a government's website
- official offers solution which isn't a full solution, just to appear 'helpful'
- official tells staff to ignore Open Records requests instead of responding to them, hoping that the person will not pursue the request
- official doesn't look for ways to be transparent, particularly with online information, limiting citizens right to know
- official calls citizen by name and labels a liar during public meeting?
- official tells citizens to take care of matters themselves, instead of enforcing ordinances?
- official creates community budget and minimizes board/council or citizens their right to know in advance and give input?
- official changes meetings to accommodate employee creating attendance problems for board/council and citizens.
- official constructs narrative for citizen by saying official held public meetings about which board/council never were informed.
- official pits people against each other to make one feel right and the other one wrong.
- official controls all the decision-making about everything including the responsibilities of a board/council.
- official claims truth is what's being said at the moment, instead of information in accordance with fact or reality
- official tells citizens to follow the law, but privately doesn't do it him/herself.