Niki Knox, Senior Community Economic Development Consultant for Georgia Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs), will be the speaker at the fall commencement ceremony at ABAC on Friday at 6 p.m. in Gressette Gym.

A 2000 ABAC graduate, Knox is responsible for providing economic development assistance to communities across Georgia on behalf of the 42 EMCs that are members of Georgia EMC. She joined the Community and Economic Development group in March of 2008, serving as the regional contact for economic and community development activities in 59 north Georgia counties.

Knox began her professional career with the cities of Douglas and Valdosta as the Main Street Director. She then served as the Department of Community Affairs Office of Downtown Development Regional Representative for regions one, two, and four. She is currently a member of the Georgia Academy for Economic Development Curriculum Committee, Community Developers Forum, the Georgia Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives and the Georgia Economic Development Association (GEDA).

In addition, she is a member of the ABAC Alumni Association Board and Foundation Board. Knox is also past president of the Georgia Downtown Association, as well as Chairperson of the Non-Traditional Economic Development SIG of the GEDA, Vice-President of Membership for the Southwestern Association of Facilitators and a Georgia Department of Transportation TE Panel Review Committee Member.

After completing her ABAC degree in business, Knox received her bachelor’s degree in business administration with an emphasis in marketing from Georgia Southwestern State University. Currently, she is working toward a master’s degree in organizational development and leadership at Saint Joseph’s University.

Knox is an alumnus of the New Century Leaders Program (Coffee County), Leadership Lowndes, and Leadership Georgia Class of 2010. She lives in Peachtree City.

A total of 163 graduates are expected to participate in the ceremony.
Bookstore Open House Thursday
The ABAC Bookstore will hold its 6th annual Holiday Open House on Thursday from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Refreshments will be provided and shoppers will receive a 25% discount on all gifts and clothing. For more information, contact bookstore manager Tracy Dyal at 391-4825 or tdyal@abac.edu.

Help Needed for Pancake Breakfast Tonight
The SGA Pancake Breakfast will be held tonight in the Donaldson Dining Hall. Cooks and servers are needed! Any faculty or staff members who would like to cook can volunteer their time from 7:30 – 8:45 p.m. Those who would like to be servers can volunteer from 8:45 – 10:25 p.m. Please do not wear flip flops, sandals, or open-toed shoes.
For more information, contact Bernice Hughes immediately at 391-5140.

Wiregrass Christmas at Museum Saturday
The Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC will kick off the holiday season with the Wiregrass Christmas event from 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on Saturday. Tickets for the Wiregrass Christmas are $10 for adults, $5 for seniors, and $5 for children. Children four years of age and under are admitted free of charge.
The Wiregrass Christmas celebration will feature Victorian dessert samples by the Wiregrass Farmers Market, Christmas carols, the reading of Christmas stories, folk singers performing bluegrass and traditional Christmas music, a Cloggers Jamboree from 10 a.m. – noon, crocheting demonstrations in the Gibbs House, and cane grinding. Other activities include biscuit-making and baking demonstrations, handmade candle dipping, and candy-pulling. The Country Store will also be offering samples of pound cake, tea cake, and apple cider.
The Museum will offer more holiday events with the North Pole Express on Dec. 14-15 from 5-8 p.m. and a Victorian Village by Candlelight on Dec. 16 from 5:30-8 p.m. Tickets for each event must be purchased in advance at the Country Store.
The Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village will be closed from Dec. 17 – Jan. 2, 2013, and the Country Store will be closed Dec. 22 – Jan. 2, 2013. The Country Store will be open for holiday shoppers through Dec. 21 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Hours of operation in January are 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday for the Historic Village, Museum, and Gallery. During the week admission is reduced to $4 for those five years of age and older and free to children four and under. Saturday is free for children four and under, $10 for adults, and $8 for seniors.
For more information, interested persons can contact the Museum at (229) 391-5205 or visit the web site at www.abac.edu/museum.

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year!
The Jazz Choir and Chamber Singers at ABAC ushered in the holiday season last Tuesday with songs of Christmas cheer in the Chapel of All Faiths. A packed house audience of students, faculty, staff, administrators, and area residents enjoyed the 11th annual event, which was initiated by Dr. Susan Roe and Wayne Jones.

ABAC Holiday Employee Luncheon December 13 at Noon
All employees including faculty, staff, and Sodexo support personnel are cordially invited to the third annual ABAC Christmas and Holiday employee luncheon to be held at Noon on Dec. 13, in the Lakeside Lobby.
Each employee is asked to bring their favorite covered dish for this festive event. ABAC will be providing all the meats for the occasion. To RSVP visit www.abac.edu/staffforum/luncheon/ Please sign up no later that December 10.

The final grade entry deadline for this semester is Noon on Friday!
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
3 Brenda Doss
4 Kay Powell
5 Mickie Tompkins
5 Martha Thomas
5 Holly Lawrence
6 Amanda Jones
7 Nancy Kinsley
7 Jordan Cofer
8 Nicole Cox
9 James McCrimmon

“Brackish” Release
Dr. Jeff Newberry celebrated the release of his first book, “Brackish”, with a reading and reception last week. If you’re interested in purchasing a copy, contact Dr. Newberry at jnewberry@abac.edu