The ABAC Honors Program has more than doubled since last year. The program currently has 50 members, thanks to new approaches from ABAC faculty and staff.

ABAC Honors Program Soars to New Heights

TIFTON—Research shows that new is one of the most persuasive words in the English language. When it comes to the Honors Program at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, new is an adjective that has been a key factor in 50 new students joining the program this year, up from 23 in 2012.
Dr. Cyndy Hall, a faculty member in the School of Liberal Arts and the director of the program, said new approaches are paying off with a higher level of student interest this year.

“Last year ABAC held its first ever Scholar’s Evening where current honors students met with prospective high school seniors, and I met with seniors in various communities around the state at our Evenings With ABAC” Hall said. “The Enrollment Services office also initiated targeted recruiting efforts for the program.”

Hall said there is also a new Honors Hall in the ABAC Lakeside housing facility where honors program students can live and learn together to make up a true learning community.

“Many larger universities have Honors Houses, so we are meeting the need of providing a separate space for honors students to live and study together,” Hall said. “The Lakeside Honors Hall is flourishing and nearly filled.”

Conger Hall also features an Honors Lounge, which opened on the third floor of the building last year. It offers honors program students a place to relax during the day as well as a space to host film colloquia and socials. Commuter students are very fond of this space.

Three new honors courses, Biology 1107H, Biology 1108H, and History 2111H, have been added to the menu of courses for the honors program, bringing the total number of honors classes to eight.

“The honors program not only offers challenging courses and a communal atmosphere that prepares students for future scholastic and professional endeavors, but it also distinguishes these students as they move beyond ABAC to their advanced degrees,” Hall said. “The program enhances and undergirds the student’s major, providing an extra level of academic and social unity.”
Hall said the goal of the program is to bring the “best and brightest” students to the ABAC campus. The program is a supportive structure for the various schools and degree programs. Students in the program are from a variety of majors with the School of Science and Mathematics leading the way. Many of those students are enrolled in the new ABAC bachelor’s degree in biology.

For more information about the honors program, interested students can contact Hall at chall@abac.edu.

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