Laura Daniel Major (center), a LaGrange resident who earned two bachelor’s degrees in diversified agriculture and rural studies, received the prestigious George P. Donaldson award at the fall commencement ceremony on Friday at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. ABAC President David Bridges (left) and Alumni President Keith Rucker (right) presented her with the award.

LaGrange Student Wins Top Award at ABAC Commencement

TIFTON –Laura Daniel Major, a LaGrange resident who earned two bachelor’s degrees in diversified agriculture and rural studies, received the prestigious George P. Donaldson award at the fall commencement ceremony on Friday at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.
Dr. Tim Marshall, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, was the featured speaker at the event.

“Change is your teacher, not your enemy,” Marshall said to the graduates. “Nothing lasts forever without change.”

Marshall, a member of the ABAC Class of 1976, is in for some changes himself since he is stepping down from his position on June 30, 2014 to move to Virginia.


ABAC President David Bridges said Major was the first graduate in the history of the college to be awarded two bachelor’s degrees from ABAC at the same commencement ceremony. The wife of Glen Major of LaGrange, Major was named to the prestigious President’s List with a perfect 4.0 grade point average three times during her career at ABAC. She was also named to the Dean’s List five times and achieved the Magna Cum Laude graduation honor designation.

Major was the recipient of the Georgia Cattlemen’s Association Foundation Scholarship, the Wax Company Scholarship, and the Georgia Junior Cattlemen’s Association Beef Industry Challenge Scholarship.

The daughter of Larry (ABAC Class of ‘78) and Ann Daniel, Major was an active member of the ABAC Cattlemen’s Association. She served as secretary from 2010-2011, vice president from 2011-2013, was a member of the ABAC Beef team from 2009-2013, co-chaired the ABAC Steer and Heifer Show in 2011, and completed the Masters of Beef Advocacy Program.
Major has also been an avid member of the Rural Studies Club at ABAC since 2010. She attended a number of conferences for the club including the Celebrating Rural Georgia Conference in Tifton; the Okra to Opera Conference in Spartanburg, S.C.; and the Auburn-Montgomery Liberal Arts Conference in Montgomery, Ala. She also assisted in the Chick-fil-A Spirit Nights to help raise money for the club. Major also participated in Baptist Collegiate Ministries from 2009-11.

Outside of ABAC, Major is a member of the Red Angus Association of America and the Georgia Cattlemen’s Association, where she has written articles for publications including the American Red Angus Association Magazine, the Junior Red Angus Association Newsletter, the Georgia Cattlemen’s Magazine, and the Georgia Junior Cattlemen’s Newsletter.

As a member of the National Junior Red Angus Association, Major was selected as Member of the Year in 2012, served as the National President from 2011-2012, and was the National Fundraising Director from 2010-2011.


###