For IMMEDIATE Release

Arlington Resident to Receive ABAC Award April 4

TIFTON—James Hall from Arlington, Va., will receive the 2014 J. Lamar Branch Award on April 4 at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College during the annual ABAC Alumni Association awards ceremony.

Advance tickets for the 6 p.m. dinner and awards ceremony in Gressette Gym are $30 each. No tickets will be available on the day of the event. The ceremony recognizes ABAC alumni who impacted the college and their communities in significant ways.

For more information or to purchase tickets, interested persons can call the College Advancement office at (229) 391-4895 or visit the web site at www.abac.edu/alumni.

The J. Lamar Branch Award was established as the Outstanding Agricultural Leader Award in 1987 to recognize alumni who have distinguished themselves in the various non-farming areas of agriculture, including education, extension, research and business. In 1989 the Alumni Board of Directors voted to name this award in memory of J. Lamar Branch, an alumnus who was himself an outstanding agricultural leader in the area of agricultural education. It is based on professional achievement, community service and support of ABAC.
Hall received his associate degree in wildlife management from ABAC in 1983. He furthered his education at Brenau College, receiving his bachelor’s degree in business administration and conservation law enforcement. He also received additional training through the federal law enforcement training center in 1991 and wildlife firefighting training in Harris Neck from 1987-2007.

Hall serves as the Chief of Law Enforcement with the National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) System through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Arlington, Va. Previously, he spent some time managing the 1.92 million-acre Kenai National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, the most complex refuge within the entire system. He also helped to establish the 10,473-acre Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge in Mississippi, considered to be a critical wetland, black bear habitat, and home to the National Champion Baldcypress, the largest tree species east of the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Hall participated in the 2010 ABAC Career Connections event, sponsored by the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources. His wife, Elaine, is also an ABAC alumnus who attended the college from 1981-83.

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