Fitzgerald Students Get Head Start on ABAC Career

TIFTON—Sixteen seniors at Fitzgerald High School are getting a head start on their college careers without ever leaving the comfort of their classrooms. And 11 of the 16 plan to be students at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College this fall.

Dr. Gail Dillard heads up the ABAC Accel program which involves high school students taking college classes while they are still in high school. ABAC professors actually travel to Fitzgerald to teach the classes.

“It’s a great program for both the students and for ABAC,” Dillard said. “These are some of the top academic students at Fitzgerald High School, and I think the ones who are choosing ABAC will be in the running for ABAC scholarships.”

Dr. Wendy Harrison, a faculty member from the School of Liberal Arts at ABAC, has taught many of the English 1101 and English 1102 classes in Fitzgerald.

“I love teaching those students,” Harrison said. “I started teaching a class there four years ago, and it has turned out to be an awesome experience for me.”

Harrison said she visits the school twice per week, teaching the class from 8:45 until 10 a.m. on those days.
“I was delighted to see that so many of them will be full time students at ABAC this fall,” Harrison said. “I think these classes make for a wonderful transition to full time college classes.”

Dillard said ABAC offers two classes in Fitzgerald during the fall term and two different classes during the spring semester. Besides the English classes, ABAC has offered College Algebra, Sociology, and United States History.

In addition to Fitzgerald, ABAC reaches over 160 other students through Accel classes at Colquitt County High School, Tiftarea Academy, Baconton Community Charter School, and the ABAC campus in Tifton.

Applications are now being accepted for the fall semester at ABAC which begins on Aug. 13. For more information on the Accel program, interested persons can contact Dillard at (229) 891-7235 or at gdillard@abac.edu.