For IMMEDIATE Release

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Tenure Approved For Five ABAC Faculty Members

TIFTON – Five members of the faculty at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College have been approved for tenure, effective Aug. 1, 2014, according to Dr. Gail Dillard, ABAC Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Those receiving tenure include Dr. Bonnie Asselin, Dr. Jordan Cofer, Todd Hicks, Dr. Hans Schmeisser, and Dr. Ray Smith.

Asselin received her M.A. in English from the University of Massachusetts and her Ph.D. in English from Northeastern University. She became a part of the School of Liberal Arts faculty in 2009.

Cofer earned his B.A. in English from Southwest Baptist University; his M.A. in English from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; and his Ph.D. in English from Texas Tech University. He has been a faculty member at ABAC in the School of Liberal Arts since 2009. He currently serves as the Director of the Writing Center and is the English Department representative for the faculty senate and co-chair of the Literature Committee. Most recently, he has become the head of the Literature and Language Department in the School of Liberal Arts.

Hicks is an assistant professor of agricultural engineering in the School of Agriculture
and Natural Resources. He received his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering Technology from Southern Polytechnic State University and his M.S. in Ag Leadership from the University of Georgia. He has been a member of the ABAC faculty since 2010.

**Schmeisser** began his teaching career at ABAC as an instructor of political science in 2009. He was named an assistant professor of political science at ABAC in the School of Liberal Arts in 2012. He earned his B.A. in Political Science from Mercer University, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Florida.

**Smith** is the Department Head in Agriculture and Associate Professor of Crop Science in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources. He earned his B.S. in Agronomy from Pennsylvania State University and both his M.S. and Ph.D. in Agronomy from the University of Georgia. He has been a part of the ABAC faculty since 2011.

Tenure may be granted to a faculty member who has served at least five years as an assistant professor and has shown the potential for making significant contributions to the college and in the professor's field.