For IMMEDIATE Release

Ocilla Resident to Receive ABAC Award April 10

TIFTON—State Senator Tyler Harper from Ocilla will receive the 2015 Outstanding Young Alumnus Award on April 10 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.

Tickets can be purchased from the ABAC College Advancement Office at (229) 391-4895. For more information on the 2015 Homecoming Week, interested persons can visit the web site at www.abac.edu/homecoming.

The Outstanding Young Alumnus Award recognizes young alumni, 35 and younger, who have distinguished themselves through professional achievement, community service and service to the college. The Outstanding Young Alumnus Award was initiated in 1981 by a group of former publications editors and staffers in honor of Helen Strickland.
A 2004 Irwin County High School graduate, Harper received his associate degree in agriculture from ABAC in 2006 before completing his bachelor’s degree in agricultural engineering at the University of Georgia (UGA). In 2007, Harper was named a Congressional Agricultural Fellow. With this appointment, he worked in the office of U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss in Washington, D.C.

Harper serves the Seventh District in the Georgia State Senate. In the Senate, he is Vice Chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee and serves as Secretary of the Senate Public Safety Committee. He is also a member of the Senate Natural Resources and Environmental and Retirement Committees.

The owner and operator of Tyler Harper Farms in Ocilla, Harper is also involved in several business ventures including serving as vice president of Force3 USA, Inc., a modular building dealer; president of Fortis, USA, Inc., a private security and training company; and secretary of Harper Family Holdings, LLC, a company that sells and leases apartments and rental property.

Harper will serve as president of the Georgia Young Farmers in the 2015-16 year. Other professional memberships include the National Federation of Independent Business, the Georgia Agribusiness Council, Georgia Farm Bureau, Georgia Cattleman’s Association, and the National Fraternal Order of Police.

A former president of the Ocilla Rotary Club, Harper has served as a member of the Irwin County Booster Club, the Ocilla-Irwin Chamber of Commerce, and the Douglas-Coffee Chamber of Commerce. He also spends time with the local FFA Chapter as a volunteer judge for Georgia FFA events and with the Okefenokee Swamp Park OSPrey Society.
A 2013 graduate of Leadership Georgia, Harper received an Honorary Chapter FFA degree from Irwin County Middle School and the 2013 Defender of Liberty Award from the American Conservatives Union. He is also a 2013 graduate of the Georgia Legislative Leadership Institute, and a 2014 graduate of the Georgia Academy for Economic Development.

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