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Student Government Association officers recently elected at ABAC include (l-r) Vice President Andrew Belk, Senator Courtney Barber, President Taylor Martin, Senator Jacob Vagott, Senator Demariquez Springs, and Senator Brittney Gunter. Not pictured is Senator Laquisia Warren.

Martin Elected SGA President at ABAC

TIFTON – Taylor Martin, a biology major from Hephzibah, has been elected as the 2015-16 Student Government Association (SGA) President at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.
Other new SGA officers include Vice President Andrew Belk, a music major from Douglas, and newly-appointed SGA Senators Brittney Gunter, a diversified agriculture major from Murrayville; Courtney Barber, a business and economic development major from Hinesville; Demariquez Springs, a music major from Waycross; Laquisa Warren, a nursing major from Macon; and Jacob Vagott, an engineering major from Centerville.

During her high school career, Martin held numerous leadership positions in FFA, 4-H, and Student Government. She has also been active as a member of several organizations at ABAC.

“I wanted to run for the position of SGA President because I want to see a positive change in an already wonderful school,” Martin said. “I have only been here a year, but I have noticed so much potential, both in and out of the classroom, that I hope to bring out and broaden. I have always been passionate about this school, so I knew that my passion would fuel the desire for my presidency.”

Martin was bitten by the political bug earlier this semester during a visit to the State Capitol with the ABAC Collegiate Young Farmers program. While there she discussed current issues with members of the State Senate, Commissioner of Agriculture Gary Black, and several lobbyists.

As the newly-elected president, Martin has some big plans for ABAC students.

“I would like to see better communication between faculty and students, such as possibly including faculty emails when registering online for classes,” Martin said. “Some other items include a frequent clean-up at Lake Baldwin and possibly some renovations to our track.”
Of all of the goals she hopes to see come to fruition, stronger relationships between faculty and students is her most important one. She believes communication and developing good relationships are integral.

Martin says that it is essential to be engaged in campus life outside of the four walls of a classroom and would like to see more faculty members become involved in campus organizations. She would also like to focus on teacher appreciation because it is another aspect of building relationships between students and faculty.

Martin does not plan to be a one-woman show. She is adamant about just how vital her vice president and senators are to her accomplishments as SGA President.

“The vice president and senators are absolutely crucial to my presidency,” Martin said. “They are the backbone to this entire establishment, and they make my job much easier. The senators will be responsible for connecting with students enrolled in their particular school and finding out what can be done to better that individual sector.

“The Vice President will work with me in planning and carrying out events and meetings. We are all a team, and we all play significant roles in this organization. Each and every person has unique qualities that set them apart to make this team successful.”

The new SGA President hopes her legacy is one of unity.

“I want to influence others to get out of their comfort zones, try something new, get involved, and build relationships with people who may not even be in their particular school of study,” Martin said. “I want to see an open-mindedness and a strong desire to make a difference.”

Summer term classes begin at ABAC on June 1. Fall semester classes begin Aug. 12.