ABAC Alumni Association Board Member Gloria Beard shared some tips for success at the annual Freshman Convocation on Tuesday.
ABAC Alumnus Maps Road to Success at Convocation

TIFTON—Over 1,350 first time students at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College listened attentively in the bleachers at Gressette Gym on Tuesday morning when ABAC alumnus Gloria Beard (Class of ’87) outlined a pathway to success in college at the annual Freshman Convocation.

“This is a very special place,” Beard, a longtime math instructor at Tift County High School, said. “I would not trade my years at ABAC for any other place. It was an amazing experience that prepared me for life.”

Beard told the freshmen to “enter every class with a positive attitude. Don’t surround yourself with negative people. Be organized. Label and date your notes. Don’t procrastinate. Learn how to study, and study every day.”

Beard said the students will learn very quickly that credit card bills must be paid.

“Just paying the minimum every month will not cut it,” Beard said. “You will have that bill for a very long time.”

A member of the board of directors of the ABAC Alumni Association, Beard also encouraged the students to go to class, read the course syllabus, and get involved in campus activities.

“I’m not saying to join every club on campus,” Beard said. “That’s too much. Don’t be afraid to meet new people. Volunteer and take advantage of internships in areas you are interested in. If you’re choosing a major just for the paycheck, you are going down the wrong path. Follow your heart and know your calling. Choose a career where you love what you do.”
ABAC President David Bridges opened the annual convocation by challenging the students to meet in the same place four years from now to receive their diplomas at commencement.

“Our expectation for you is graduation,” Bridges said. “You have the opportunity to succeed or fail. There are some lessons to be learned from both. Now it’s time for you to take personal responsibility for your life.”

Convocation capped the annual Welcome Week at ABAC where the new students engaged in a variety of activities including a scavenger hunt, an outdoor movie, pool time, a cardboard boat race across Lake Baldwin, and a hypnotist in Howard Auditorium.

ABAC fall semester classes begin Wednesday.

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