For IMMEDIATE Release

Ashburn Resident Will Receive J. Lamar Branch Award at ABAC

TFTON—Donald Gilman from Ashburn will receive the 2016 J. Lamar Branch Award for Outstanding Leadership in Agriculture on April 1 at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College during the annual ABAC Alumni Association awards ceremony. The ceremony will recognize ABAC alumni who have impacted the college and their communities in significant ways.

Tickets for the 6 p.m. dinner and awards ceremony in Gressette Gym are $30 each. The deadline to purchase tickets is March 21. There will be no tickets sold at the event. Tickets can be purchased from the ABAC College Advancement Office at (229) 391-4895. For more information on the 2016 Homecoming Week, interested persons can visit the web site at www.abac.edu/homecoming.

The J. Lamar Branch Award for Outstanding Leadership in Agriculture is presented by the ABAC Alumni Association in recognition of alumni who have distinguished themselves through community service, professional achievement, and service to the College. This award is based on leadership in a non-farming field of agriculture including, but not limited to the following: extension, education, research, forestry, wildlife, horticulture, turf management,
veterinary medicine, equipment, sales and marketing. The award was first presented in 1987 and named in memory of the late J. Lamar Branch, a dedicated alumnus and agricultural leader.

Gilman is an agricultural educator at Lee County High School. He attended ABAC from 1979-1981, majoring in business administration, before receiving his bachelor’s degree in business from Georgia Southwestern State University, his teacher certification from Fort Valley State University, his master’s degree in agricultural leadership from the University of Georgia and both his specialist in education–agriscience education degree and his Ph.D. in philosophy from Auburn University.

A former sales representative for R.J. Reynolds Tobacco and then Stewart Candy Company, Gilman began his career in education as an agricultural educator with Worth County Middle School in 2003. He was the Georgia Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association Teacher of the Year in 2008.

An avid recruiter for the college, Gilman has guided a number of students to ABAC. He and his wife, Kim, a 1992 graduate of ABAC’s nursing program, have a daughter, Heather Gilman Fletcher. She was a political science major who was crowned Miss ABAC 2006 and is now the events coordinator and marketing assistant for the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC.

###