ABAC Agronomy Club members and advisors gathered to congratulate three members of the club after they passed the Crop Advisor Certification exam. Those pictured include (l-r): Trey Davis, Dr. Justin Ng, Zachary Deas, Taylor Newsome, David Daughtry, and Dr. Ray Smith.
TIFTON—Three students at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College recently took a giant step forward in their careers in agriculture by passing the Certified Crop Advisor certification examination.

Zachary Deas from Jennings, Fla., Taylor Newsome from Moultrie, and David Daughtry from Harlem completed The Certified Crop Advisor program of the American Society of Agronomy. All three students are majoring in the Diversified Agriculture bachelor’s degree program at ABAC.

Dr. Ray Smith, an ABAC associate professor who is Head of the Department of Agriculture, said the three students strengthened their resumes considerably by passing the 250-question examination.

“The certification testifies to the students’ agronomic and pest management knowledge,” Smith said. “Many companies in the crop production side of agriculture encourage and/or require their employees to obtain Certified Crop Advisor status.

“We felt it would benefit our students if they could pass the tests prior to entering the job market. Although the exams are only a part of the certification process, they represent the biggest hurdle for most individuals.”

According to the Certified Crop Advisor website, the certification was established in 1992 to provide a benchmark for practicing agronomy professionals in the United States and Canada. Farmers and employers prefer to work with Certified Crop Advisors because they have demonstrated they have the commitment, education, expertise, and experience to make a difference.
“Employers have told us that a prospective employee who is already a Certified Crop Advisor would have a definite advantage over non-certified applicants,” Smith said. “The students also have to have job experience before they can become fully certified.”

Smith advises the ABAC Agronomy Club along with Dr. Justin Ng and Trey Davis. Deas, Newsome, and Daughtry are all members of the organization, which promotes the certification as one of its focal points.

The three ABAC students join more than 13,000 professionals in the largest, most recognized agriculturally-oriented certification program in North America. The program’s professional standards are widely respected by industry, academia, and government.

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