For IMMEDIATE Release

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Dr. Gene Theodori talks to students and faculty during the 2016 ABAC Homecoming activities.

Center for Rural Studies Founder Speaks at ABAC

TIFTON—As a part of the 2016 Homecoming activities at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, the Schools of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Human Sciences and Liberal Arts joined to host guest lecturer, Dr. Gene Theodori, a rural sociologist and founder of the Center for Rural Studies at Sam Houston State University.
Theodori teaches, conducts basic and applied research, and writes professional and popular articles on rural and community development issues, energy and natural resource concerns, and related topics. The multi-day event was made possible by the generosity of the Jim Andrews Family Foundation Student Enhancement Initiative.

ABAC offers a bachelor’s degree in Rural Studies, the only one of its kind in the United States. Students who enroll in the degree program can focus on Politics and Modern Cultures, Writing and Communication, Social and Community Development, or Agricultural Communications.

Theodori conducted a presentation titled “The Use of Community in Natural Resource Management” to students and faculty from the three schools of study sponsoring the visit. He also led a round table discussion with faculty from the three schools titled “The 'Rural' in Rural Studies: Noun or Adjective?”

Theodori also shared extensively about the work of the Center for Rural Studies, whose mission is to assist in the building, strengthening, and maintaining of rural Texas communities by addressing pertinent issues relating to community and socioeconomic development in rural Texas. Faculty and students from across the ABAC campus in the areas of agricultural business, rural studies, sociology, psychology, and natural resources attended Theodori’s discussion on “Cultivating Place: Toward a Framework for Sustainable Rural Community Development.”

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