For IMMEDIATE Release

ABAC President David Bridges and his wife, Kim, presented Harold Bascom “Pinky” Durham, Jr., scholarships to ABAC freshman Kevin Joachin (left) and Tift County High School senior Erin Fowler (second from left) on Thursday in a ceremony in Tift Hall. Joachin was the recipient of the original scholarship last year and had his scholarship renewed for another year. Fowler will be an ABAC freshman this fall and received the scholarship for the first time.

Fowler Receives Scholarship Named for Tifton Medal of Honor Recipient

TIFTON –Tift County High School senior Erin Fowler was awarded the Harold Bascom “Pinky” Durham, Jr., Scholarship on Thursday during the third annual Carry The Load Step-Off event at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.
ABAC President David Bridges said Fowler is the second recipient of the scholarship, which was initiated last year. Kevin Joachin, now an ABAC freshman rural studies writing and communications major, received the award in 2015 and had his scholarship renewed for another year at the ceremony.

Durham was a resident of Tifton and an ABAC alumnus. He gave his life serving his country in the Republic of Vietnam with the 1st Infantry Division on Oct. 17, 1967. He was honored posthumously with the Medal of Honor in a presentation to his mother, Grace Durham Jolley, on Oct. 30, 1969.

Carry The Load aims to restore the true meaning of Memorial Day by connecting Americans to the sacrifices of our military, law enforcement, firefighters, and rescue personnel. ABAC had seven students and four nurses participating in the East Coast Carry The Load Relay which begins in West Point, N.Y., on May 1 and ends in Dallas, Tex., on Memorial Day. Four other ABAC students are a part of the West Coast Relay which began in Seattle, Wash., on April 27 and also ends in Dallas on Memorial Day.

Fowler, the daughter of Stan and Tammy Fowler, served in the Tift County Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC) throughout her high school career. She rose through the ranks to become a Cadet Major. Fowler received the Reserve Officer Association Medal during her junior year and this year she was the recipient of the Daughters of the American Revolution Award.

Within the Tift County AFJROTC, Fowler has held offices including Foxtrot Flight Sergeant and Personnel Non-Commission Officer in Charge during her junior year. She now holds the offices of Foxtrot Flight Commander, Personnel Officer in Charge, First Group Commander, and Drill and Ceremonies Officer in Charge as a senior.
An active member of the Tift County High School FFA, Fowler was one of 28 students selected for the Tift County Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Career Academy Class of 2016. As a part of the Durham scholarship selection process, Fowler wrote an essay on Tifton’s only Medal of Honor recipient. She aims for a career as a neonatal nurse upon completion of her college education.

###