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ABAC Alumnus to Speak at Freshman Convocation August 9

TIFTON— Buzzing with nervous anticipation, hundreds of freshmen will enter Gressette Gymnasium on Aug. 9 for the 12th annual Freshman Convocation at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. The 11 a.m. ceremony serves as the opening of the academic year as the students embark on a path to gain a college diploma.

Dr. Gail Dillard, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, said convocation is a formal induction ceremony of the freshman class each fall semester into the academic community of ABAC.

“The ceremony signals the beginning of a college career,” Dillard said. “The program communicates to students their roles both as people who learn from others and as people who contribute to the vitality of the college.”

This year’s convocation speaker is Dr. Thomas Turcotte. A native of Jasper, he graduated from Pickens County High School before entering ABAC in 2008. As a student he was an ABAC Ambassador, a Campus Assistant, a Welcome Week Leader, a math and science tutor, an ASSETS Scholar, and an active member in multiple clubs.
Turcotte was one of the first students at ABAC to take advantage of the junior and senior level classes leading to a bachelor’s degree in biology. He received his ABAC bachelor’s degree in biology in the spring of 2012 and was accepted into the Auburn University veterinary medicine program in the fall of 2012. He graduated from Auburn this year and is now a veterinarian at Barnesville Animal Clinic, treating both small and large animals.

ABAC fall semester classes begin Aug. 10.

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