For IMMEDIATE Release

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Participating in the DNA Helix ribbon cut at the opening of the new laboratory sciences building at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College on Wednesday were (l-r): Brooke Appleton, Lynn Lovett, Dr. Johnny Evans, Dr. David Bridges, Kenna Scragg, Rob Evans, and Sarah Rooks.

New Laboratory Building Makes ABAC ‘Destination’ for Science Students

TIFTON—Opening a new $8.5 million laboratory sciences building sends a message to students considering careers in health care, science, and mathematics, according to Dr. Johnny
Evans, Dean of the School of Science and Mathematics at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

“ABAC is now a destination for students who will find cures for diseases, invent amazing technology, and solve the toughest problems the world has ever faced,” Evans said at Wednesday’s opening ceremony for the 20,966 square foot facility. “This new building is focused on meeting students’ needs and providing a space for discovery, research, and creativity.”

Other speakers at the opening ceremony in the spectacular atrium of the new facility were ABAC President David Bridges, Kenna Scragg, vice president of operations for International City Builders; Rob Evans, president of the IPG architectural firm; and Brooke Appleton, a senior biology major at ABAC from Albany.

“Faith, hope, and love are three words you probably don’t associate with a ceremony such as this,” Bridges said. “For this project to come to its fruition, there had to be a lot of hope that this day would come, faith that help would arrive, and love for our students because we are providing them with a building they richly deserve.”

In his remarks, Bridges thanked University System of Georgia Chancellor Hank Huckaby as well as Georgia lawmakers including Greg Kirk, Tyler Harper, Jack Hill, and Jeff Mullis from the State Senate and Penny Houston, Sam Watson, Clay Pirkle, Amy Carter, Jay Powell, Earl Ehrhart, Terry England, and former representative Jay Roberts from the House of Representatives.
“I can’t leave out the ABAC Foundation,” Bridges said. “Foundation President Lynn Lovett and the trustees committed $1.5 million to this building. We would not be standing here today without their support.”

Appleton shared the excitement of the ABAC student body, particularly those students who are majoring in the bachelor’s degree in biology.

“ABAC is a school that cares for its students,” Appleton said. “That care is shown through this facility. The new equipment and all the technology available to us in this building will help us succeed in the world as scientists. In the future, this building will see many students come through its doors. What they learn here will be a stepping stone toward their dreams and goals.”

Dr. Johnny Evans used a portable lighter to burn through a DNA Helix paper ribbon designed by Sarah and Hannah Rooks to symbolize the opening of the building, which contains eight laboratories focusing on general biology, microbiology, molecular biology, general chemistry, tissue culture, organic chemistry, and anatomy/physiology.

Fall semester classes begin at ABAC on Aug. 10.

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