For IMMEDIATE Release

JUNE 23, 2016

Pictured (l-r): Interim Mathematics Chair Melanie Partlow and Associate Professor of Mathematics Dr. Eunkyung You of ABAC’s School of Science and Mathematics.

ABAC Math Faculty Teaching at Colquitt Regional Medical Center

TIFTON- High school juniors and seniors in Moultrie may be taking the first step toward careers in the medical profession this summer in a class being offered at Colquitt Regional Medical Center by Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

ABAC Interim Mathematics Chair Melanie Partlow and Dr. Eunkyung You, associate professor of mathematics, began teaching a mathematics class on June 14 with the goal of enhancing math skills for rising juniors and seniors from Colquitt County High School who are interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields.
“I am very excited by these students’ enthusiasm, their work ethic, and their can-do attitude toward the level of mathematics they are encountering,” Partlow said. “Some of these students have jobs and are having to work hard to keep up with the classwork.”

Partlow said the program is the brainchild of Chief Executive Officer and Colquitt Regional President Jim Matney and ABAC President David Bridges. The mathematics department at ABAC worked out the details. Matney wants to make sure students in Moultrie are prepared for college and ready for a possible career as a medical professional.

“This is an innovative approach for an internship combining work experience with classroom education,” Matney said. “We have been very impressed with the quality of the instruction provided by the ABAC faculty, and I believe this will increase the number of students who consider a career in health care after graduation.”

The participating students are part of a summer internship and are working at the hospital shadowing professionals three days a week. They work in various departments and take a 90-minute math class in the Friedlander Boardroom at Colquitt Regional each day.

“Dr. You and I are team teaching this class,” Partlow said. “She teaches one week, and I teach one week. We are staying after the teaching time to tutor daily.”

You wrote the workbook for the class, and Mathematics Lab Coordinator and Lecturer April Abbott, Administrative Apprentice Sarah Rooks, and Partlow worked through the text and made revisions.

According to Partlow, the class is a combination of math classes that cover college algebra, calculus, trigonometry, and geometry. Homework is taken up daily. There are take-home tests every other week.

And the rules are very strict.
“If you are tardy once, miss one day of class, miss one homework assignment, or drop below a 70 percent then the student is out of the program,” Partlow said.

The Colquitt County High students should reap the dividends from the class this fall.

“For many students, their number one obstacle in the classroom is math,” Partlow said.

“With this class, students will return to school in the fall with a new understanding of how important math is in the medical field and have a new respect for high school math preparation.”

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