From the Office of the Dean and Director of Land Grant Programs, Robert W. Taylor, Ph.D.
The College of Agriculture and Food Sciences integrates teaching, research & outreach for the betterment of our students, communities and future generations.
CAFS Faculty, Staff Give Over $17.5K toward Scholarships in 2014

The College of Agriculture and Food Sciences recently received an award for being in the “Top Three” category of givers for Florida A&M University’s 2014 Faculty and Staff Scholarship Endowment Fund Raising Campaign. “Thanks to the generosity and kind hearts of our faculty and staff, our college raised $17,650,” said Robert W. Taylor, Ph.D., Dean and Director of Land Grant Programs at CAFS. The Division of University Advancement also thanked Phyllis Moore, Assistant to the CAFS Dean, for coordinating the giving campaign for CAFS.

For more information on how to contribute to the university’s scholarship funds, contact Sadiki S. Perry, Coordinator, University Advancement/Annual Giving, at (850) 412-6606.

Agricultural Sciences Grad Researches Urban Stream Bacteria Solution

Thalika Saintil, a recent graduate of the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (2014), will join the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia, in August of 2015 to pursue graduate studies in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences. Her research topic is: “Innovative approach to determine the source of and solution for high bacteria concentrations in urban streams.”

Saintil, a native of Haiti, earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Florida A&M University in agricultural sciences with a concentration in agronomy. Last summer, she participated in a paid internship at the USDA’s National Soil Erosion Research Laboratory, in conjunction with Purdue University, to conduct a Tile Riser Study on removal of nutrients and sediment that pollute water bodies. Saintil is currently employed by the FAMU-Sustainability Institute. “Thalika has always been a super student, a delight in a classroom and a role model to a lot of students. A bright future is ahead of her,” said O.S. Mbuya, Ph.D., Professor, Faculty Director, FAMU-Sustainability Institute.

Semester in France Helps Student Learn Sustainable Food Production

Gerard Magloire, a junior agribusiness major at Florida A&M University (FAMU), College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS), began his current semester as an exchange student at Polytechniq Institut LaSalle Beauvais, in France, where he is taking courses in nutrition, French cultural eating habits and cultures of the Mediterranean. His career goal is to create sustainable communities centered around growing and consuming food locally and sustainably. Magloire holds a 3.7 grade point average and is a native of Tallahassee, Florida. This is the first time in his adult life he has lived outside of Tallahassee, as well as outside of the United States.

“European Diets and Eating habits are very intriguing to me,” said Magloire. “I feel that sustainable food production, which is my ultimate career path, requires the consideration of nutrition, traditional food/cultural preferences, as well as sustainable agriculture.”

“This is evident when you realize that the current system of shipping foods from one end of the planet to another is incredibly energy-intensive, sets unreal expectations on seasonal availability and variety of particular food items, and causes many developing nations to focus their efforts toward monoculture crops for export while having little food to feed themselves,” said Magloire.

This eventually leads to dependence on food importation, foreign aid, and expensive and environmentally detrimental petrochemical products for developing nations in the Caribbean, Central and South America, Africa, and Asia,” said Magloire.
Florida A&M University (FAMU) was well represented at the 2015 Southern Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA) annual meeting held in Atlanta, January 31 – February 3. Undergraduate and graduate students from the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences’ (CAFS) Agribusiness Program, along with faculty members, represented FAMU at the event.

“This year we presented three seminar papers and one poster, and our students attended the quiz bowl. It was a very productive and fun trip,” said Daniel Solís, Ph.D., assistant professor for the CAFS Division of Agricultural Sciences.

One of the seminars presented at the SAEA summarized the preliminary results of collaborative effort between CAFS and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). Michael Thomas, Ph.D., CAFS Interim Associate Dean of Academic Programs, and Solís, are working with FDACS’ chief economist Sergio Alvarez, Ph.D., on evaluating the economic impact of citrus greening in Florida.

“Citrus greening is a destructive vector-borne disease that affects all varieties of citrus and is currently threatening the existence of Florida’s citrus industry,” said Solís.

The FAMU CAFS Agribusiness Degree Program combines the business disciplines of management, accounting and finance with economics, statistics and the physical sciences of agriculture. It offers a rich mix of social and physical sciences, statistics and computer technology and provides a unique combination of disciplines and diversity of training necessary to progress in today’s ever-changing marketplace. Agribusiness students learn the essential components of business analysis that qualifies them for employment with major corporations as managers, analysts and researchers. More information about the Agribusiness Degree Program may be found on the internet at http://agribusinessfamu.weebly.com/, on Facebook at facebook.com/AgribusinessFAMU, or on Twitter at twitter.com/FAMU_AEB.

More information about the SAEA conference may be found online at: http://www.saea.org/annual-meeting/.

Pictured to the right, from the top —
1st photo, from left: Kimberly Marie (M.S. Student), Victoria Smith (M.S. 2013), Akilah George (Agribusiness, Junior), and Gerard Gunner (Agribusiness, Junior).
2nd photo, from left: from left: Michael Thomas, Ph.D., CAFS Interim Associate Dean of Academic Programs; Daniel Solís, Ph.D., CAFS Associate Professor; Sergio Alvarez, FDACS chief economist.
3rd photo, from left: Victoria Smith, M.S. in Agribusiness (Class 2003) presents a summary of her Master of Science Thesis.
4th photo, from left: CAFS M.S. and B.S. Agribusiness Students: Carolyn Pomplius, Jarvis Greene, Victoria Smith, Akilah George, Kimberly Marie, Gerard Gunner, and Glyen Holmes.
Eight volunteer agricultural experts from Florida A&M University (FAMU) traveled recently to Montrouis, Haiti, to train local small farmers and students from the Université Caraïbe (UC) on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Market Development. The training is part of FAMU’s Office of International Agriculture Programs (OIAP) work in the Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance (VEGA) Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) Program. FAMU’s OIAP donated seeds, fertilizer and hand tools through university resources to assist small farmers start vegetable crop production in the area. The primary funding for this program is provided to FAMU by the USAID VEGA Small Grants Program.

Montrouis is a rural town located about 50 miles north of Port Au Prince, Haiti. Smallholder farmers in this community rely on staple crop production for income and to feed their households. These farmers mainly produce staple crops such as rice, beans and plantains. With production focused solely on staple crops, farmers had not previously taken advantage of the opportunity for increased income through production of high-value vegetable crops. Inputs such as seeds and fertilizer are expensive and difficult to access, and farmers generally lack the resources to attain these inputs. They also lack knowledge of GAP for efficient and sustainable production.

“Small farmers have a lot of production and marketing issues, and the national structure for extension is not able to address all the needs for agricultural advisory services for small farmers,” said Harriett Paul, Director of the FAMU Office of International Agriculture.

“Agricultural higher education institutions in rural areas have a responsibility to become engaged in the development process, and students need to move more from theory to practice. This program helps them apply their knowledge, become actively engaged as volunteer mentors and provide much needed agricultural services in their rural communities.”

A total of 660 direct beneficiaries and 3,116 indirect beneficiaries were helped by the training workshops conducted August through December of 2014. In October 2014, students organized to create the UC Club of Research in Agriculture (UCCRA), and its president, Auquel Elsonn, helped farmers secure a contract with the Moulin Sur Mer hotel for orders of fruits and vegetables. Farmers began delivery and received their first payment of 10,656 HTG (227.50USD) for products sold in December 2014. This new market linkage allows the small farmer group to increase the profit margin of fruits and vegetables sold by 500 - 600 percent. With the increased knowledge and skills provided by the help of F2F, members of the Montrouis community are equipped for continued development, growth and success. As a result of this effort, the UC students now serve as mentors to area farmers and local primary/secondary school students. Farmers are now able to take advantage of opportunities in local and regional markets.
Florida A&M University
Office of International Agriculture Programs
College of Agriculture and Food Sciences

Study Abroad in South Africa Through
AGR 4905 - Special Problems In Agronomy
International Education Program

Program Description

The College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS), in collaboration with the Office of International Agriculture, are implementing a student experiential learning teaching program through the CAFS AGR 4905 Special Problems in Agronomy course. This teaching program is sponsored through funding from the United States Department of Agriculture, National Institute for Food and Agriculture, 1890 Capacity Building Program. The long range goal of the program is to promote a greater involvement of minority students in significant international education experiences through the internationalization of the curricula in agriculture and natural resources and the development of interdisciplinary courses with an international focus.

This program will be executed through an internationalized three semester credit course, AGR 4905 Special Problems in Agronomy, offered during FAMU's Summer "A" Session 2015 (May 11, 2015 - June 19, 2015). Students interested in participating must register for the course. The course will include: Interdisciplinary lectures team-taught by interdisciplinary faculty on the important issues of Land Reform in South Africa; pre-departure orientation, and a 16 day immersion to South Africa. Under this topic the links between land tenure, agricultural productivity and food security will be explored. Students will assess the effectiveness of South Africa's Land Reform Program for reducing poverty, promoting sustainable agriculture, natural resource management and food security. The "Study in South Africa" two week immersion is a significant part of the course and is designed to provide students and faculty with a unique opportunity to engage in teaching, participatory learning, and community engagement activities, through South African partnerships with the University of the Western Cape, University of Stellenbosch, Western Cape Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Land Reform and Rural Development, the Sarong Primary School and private agricultural partners. The immersion will include lectures, workshops, student service learning projects, visits to significant historical sites and organizations.

Upper level undergraduate and graduate students from all food and agriculture disciplines who meet the minimum program requirements may take the course and participate in the immersion. Eight travel scholarships of $5,500 each will be awarded through a competitive process for the summer semester 2015. The Travel Stipend application deadline is February 27, 2015. Students must provide additional funds to offset the cost of living and other expenses during the immersion to South Africa.

Contact:
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Nandkumar Divate, Program Coordinator
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Agronomy, Food Science Majors Present New Grape Research at Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists National Meeting

Florida A&M University (FAMU) Agronomy and Food Science undergraduate, student researchers presented their discoveries at the 112th Annual Meeting of the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists (SAAS): Biochemistry and Biotechnology Division held in Atlanta from January 31 to February 3.

The SAAS is an umbrella organization that facilitates joint meetings of the southern branches of various professional societies dedicated to agricultural sciences.

Student researchers in attendance from FAMU’s College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS) were: Mariah Henry (agronomy major), Britney Clark (food science major) and Jasmine Hall (food science major). The students are mentored by Antony Ananga, Ph.D., assistant professor in Food Biotechnology at the FAMU Center for Viticulture and Small Fruit Research.

“The students were given the high honor to be lecture presenters for this year’s Biochemistry and Biotechnology Meeting,” said Ananga. “Our students were the only undergraduate presenters on the program and had the unique opportunity to measure upon graduate and professional researchers at the national level.”

The papers presented were as follows:

**Britney Clark**, Anthony Ananga, Vasil Georgiev and Violeta Tsolova: “Characterization and molecular cloning of flavonoid related Glucosyltransferase (GT’s) genes from muscadine grapes (Vitis rotundifolia Much.)”

**Jasmine Hall**, Anthony Ananga, Vasil Georgiev and Violeta Tsolova, “Identification and Characterization of potential allergens in muscadine grapes (Vitis rotundifolia Much.).”

**Mariah Henry**, Anthony Ananga, Vasil Georgiev and Violeta Tsolova: “Molecular identification and detection of Eutypa lata in muscadine grapes (Vitis rotundifolia Much.)”

Research and travel for these undergraduate students is funded in part through the undergraduate student research program initiated by CAFS Dean and Director of Land-Grant Programs, Robert W. Taylor, Ph.D. More information about SAAS is available online at: http://saasinc.org/default.asp

**FAMU CAFS’ Center for Viticulture and Small Fruit Research fosters young research endeavors.** From left: Jasmine Hall, food science major; Mariah Henry, agronomy major; Anthony Ananga, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in Food Biotechnology; and Britney Clark, food science major.
The College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS) recently hosted a visit from Yolanda Williams-Bey and Jeanette Miller of the University of Delaware who presented opportunities for paid research internships through the Delaware EPSCoR and NEWRnet programs based in Newark, Delaware. About 18 Florida A&M University students attended the presentation held February 10th. Last summer, Prian Esquivel, a CAFS agronomy major, secured an internship through the University of Delaware’s (UD) Delaware EPSCor Summer Scholars program last summer. Quincy Hardy, a CAFS food science major, also participated in a summer internship at UD at the invitation of the Delaware Environmental Institute (DENIN).

Find out how to get your internship this summer at denin-info@udel.edu or 302-831-3436.

**Come Grow With Us!**

www.famu.edu/cafs

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**FAMU Interns Sought for Paid, Summer Research in Delaware**

**Above Far Right:** Jeanette Miller, Associate Director of Interdisciplinary Programs Delaware Environmental Institute, of the University of Delaware, speaks to FAMU students on opportunities for paid research internships through the Delaware EPSCoR and NEWRnet programs based in Newark, Delaware.

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**The Growers’ Market**

(at Lake Ella)

Every Wednesday, 3pm-Dusk

229 Lake Ella Dr.
Tallahassee, FL

For more info contact:
Dr. Jennifer Taylor
famu.register@gmail.com
(850) 879-6895
Alumni Roll Call! Connect With US!

We are calling all alumni to reconnect by updating your contact data to keep you “in the know” of CAFS’ latest happenings and celebrates the successes of alumni. If you are a CAFS (or CESTA) graduate, please complete the box to the right and send it to:

CAFAS Alumni Affairs
1740 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Perry Paige Bldg., Rm. 106-S
Tallahassee, FL 32307
Or email: gilda.phills@famu.edu

Information collected will only be used for official university communications.

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