Florida A&M University Graduate Student, Tarik Eluri, will spend the next 17 months conducting research for his Master of Science thesis at the International Center for Potatoes (Centro Internacional de la Papa-CIP) in Ecuador thanks to the support of the Center for Water and Air Quality (CWAQ) in the FAMU College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS). He is one of six students (three from FAMU and three from the University of Florida -UF), who will be trained in the area of Agro-ecology under National Needs Fellow grant.

Eluri will conduct his research on “Potato Virus Autoinfection Efficiency Influenced by Positive Selection and Soil-borne Pathogens, Rhizoctonia solani and Streptomyces scabies, in the Highland Tropics of Ecuador” under the supervision of Dr. Odemari S. Mbuya, Professor at FAMU’s Center for Water and Air Quality. Through special arrangements between FAMU and CIP, Eluri will be co-supervised by Dr. Jorge Andrade (a member of his committee) while in Ecuador. Other members of his committee include Dr. James Muchovej (FAMU) and Dr. Diane Rowland (UF). Mbuya, is the Principal Investigator of the grant for FAMU, and Rowland is Principal Investigator of the grant for the University of Florida. The NNF grant can support two additional FAMU graduate students. The grant will provide assistantships of $16,000 - $18,000 for students interested in graduate studies in Plant, Soil and Water Sciences at CAFS. For more information, contact Dr. Mbuya at (850) 599-3428 or email at odemari.mbuya@famu.edu.

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) hosted its 14th Annual Grape Harvest Festival and Vineyard Run/Walk on Saturday, August 23rd, at the Viticulture and Small Fruit Research Center in Tallahassee.

This year's festival continued in the tradition of having an assortment of fun-filled amusements, educational displays and informative research and community demonstrations for all ages. Exhibitors included local arts, clothing, crafts, food, jewelry, and retail vendors as well as educational and community organizations.

Approximately 3,000 people enjoy this event each year which features a popular grape-stomping contest, grape and wine tasting, and the opportunity to pick grapes directly off the vines.
Youth Summit Highlights Ag Careers

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University’s (FAMU) College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS) hosted parents, students and faculty during the CAFS Youth Development Summer Institute’s 2014 Summit held June 21. The Summit allowed pre-college students and parents across CAFS’ Youth Development Summer Program areas to showcase what they learned about career opportunities related to STEAM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture and Mathematics). The theme for this year’s summit was “Need Food, Shelter, Clothing, and Technology? There’s an AG for that!”

“Most students come to the program with a specific major or career path in mind and a general concept of what agriculture and food sciences is all about,” said Program Director Gilda Phills. “However, in most cases, their career paths have not been well thought out, and they have a misconception of these disciplines because of little or no exposure to the various career options in their specific areas of interest.”

CAFS Youth Development Summer Institute Programs are a significant part of the university’s recruitment efforts as the majority of participants go on to enroll in studies at FAMU because of the experiential learning they receive across various academic disciplines offered through CAFS.

FAMU Students Help Build Primary School Garden In Western South Africa

Left: FAMU CAFS students Nicholas Miller, William Barker and Sean Sangster, joined Nandkumar Divate, FAMU CAFS Ag Development Specialist, and Harriett Paul, FAMU CAFS Director of International Agricultural Programs in Saron, Western Cape South Africa, this summer where they worked with Saron Primary school students and teachers on a School Garden Project as part of the International Ag Programs/International 4-H Youth Program and CAFS AGR 4905 Special Problems in Agronomy course. 

CAFS Bites Newsletter – September 2014
Forest Service Funds Projects for Research Center

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University’s (FAMU) Center for Water and Air Quality is delighted to announce that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service’s Southern Research Station (SRS) funded three new projects in 2014 as follows:

- Developing an Education Partnership with the FAMU Developmental Research School to Establish an Outdoor Classroom for Teaching Environmental (PI – Dr. Alfredo Lorenzo).
- Sampling Soil and Nutrient Accumulation Rates and Sulfur Chemistry of Ephemeral Wetlands and Their Indication of the Environmental Quality of the Surrounding Drainage Basin (PI – Dr. Y.P. Hsieh).
- Forest Soil Seed Bank and Vegetation Management in Apalachicola National Forest (PI – Dr. O.S. Mbuya).

The partnership is a result of a Cooperative Agreement between Florida A&M University and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service.

“We are pleased to be able to work with experienced and talented scientists within the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences’ Centers to facilitate innovative research in these areas,” said Dr. Johnny M. Grace, Forest Service Research Engineer at FAMU.

A team of SRS Executives from visited the College in July where they were updated on current research program projects.

For more information contact: jmgrace@fs.fed.us.

CAFS Alumni Roundup-Reconnect

The College of Agriculture and Food Sciences is calling all alumni to reconnect as it updates its contact data to keep graduates “in the know” of CAFS’ latest happenings and celebrates the successes of alumni. If you are a CAFS graduate and want to receive future mailings or be highlighted in our newsletter, please complete the info box to the right and send it to:

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

Information collected will only be used for official university communications.
CAFS Students Mentored @ Purdue

Five College of Agriculture and Food Sciences students were selected by Purdue University to participate in the “Mentoring @ Purdue’s Summer Scholar Program” held in June.

“We were the inaugural class of the Scholars Program and were given red carpet service,” said Jasmine Hall, a senior food science Major at FAMU. “The M@P program gave us the opportunity to have VIP access to The Graduate School and The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.”

Students met with the Dean of the College of Ag and the Graduate School and with potential major professors and department heads who gave them critical advice on what it takes to survive graduate school at Purdue University.

“While there we saw the need for diversity. The program also exposed us to what Purdue has to offer from the black historical side. They took us on a tour of their elaborate Black Heritage Center to show us that the Purdue community acknowledges and appreciate the African-American Race. From my visit to Purdue, I learned how to matriculate through the graduate school application and funding process. I also saw that the work that I would love to devote my graduate studies to is being studied at Purdue.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 1
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Inaugural Wine & Cheese Honoring FAMU’s 11th President Dr. Elmira Mangum
At the Black Archives Research Center and Museum on 445 Gamble Street
Featuring Special Displays from the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences

October 30
CAFS Gallery of Distinction Induction & Rededication Ceremony
In the Lobby of the Perry-Paige Building
1740 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Contact: Gilda Phills 850.412.5634 or gilda.phills@famu.edu

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