National Agriculture Leaders Attend FAMU CAFS 2015 Research Forum

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University’s College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS) hosted an impactful research forum on March 31. More than 200 participants representing the agriculture research community, farming industry, government agencies, and the private sector attended the event. The forum took place in commemoration of the 125th anniversary of the Second Morrill Act, which established FAMU as an 1890 land-grant university.

With the theme “A New Season for Agriculture Research,” the forum also presented an opportunity to showcase college-wide research, extension service, and outreach activities in support of the College’s mission of teaching, research and outreach.

Special guests attending the forum included Adam Putnam, Florida Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and Chavonda Jacobs-Young, Ph.D., Administrator for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service (ARS).

National leaders in attendance observed students and faculty presentations on research taking place at the college through oral and poster presentations. Their projects include:

- Strategies to monitor insecticide resistance in the Asian citrus psyllid, one of the most devastating insect pests of citrus in Florida
- How to reduce the use of chemical insecticides by using companion and refuge plants to enhance control of insect pests in vegetables
- The effects of natural organic matter on arsenic removal from drinking water
- An exploration of the first-ever gene cloning to help improve metabolic engineering in muscadine grapes
- The antimicrobial effect of cinnamon to extend shelf life in raw chicken breasts

University President Elmira Mangum, Ph.D., addressed forum participants with words of inspiration and encouraged the College to continue the work that is aiding communities around the globe.

“FAMU and other land-grant institutions are still thriving and adding to the education of African Americans and other low-wealth students as a result of the implementation of the Second Morrill Act,” she said. “It is important that land-grant institutions continue to be recognized and that the funding that has been established continue to provide open access for our students across the nation.”

Commissioner Putnam also delivered a stirring address to participants.

(See page 3 - A New Season for Research)
“A New Season for Research” - 2015 CAFS RESEARCH FORUM

Photo Gallery

Photos by Cynthia Lamb Portalatin
A New Season for Research

(Continued from page 1)

“A future need to feed 10 billion people worldwide means land-grant institutions are more important than ever,” he said. “The only way we will get there is through good science and technology, and a second green revolution that will allow us to bridge the gap.”

He added that advances in agriculture could and will move forward thanks to the work of land-grant institutions such as FAMU and the University of Florida.

“Our land-grant institutions are not only helping us on the farmer’s side, but also on the outreach side, so people know how to make healthier choices and how to stretch that household budget. We can’t do it without the extension services making it possible,” Putnam said.

USDA ARS Administrator Jacobs-Young also discussed the advancement of agricultural research and its undeniable impact on the world.

“These missions are still relevant 125 years later in the work that Florida A&M University and other 1890 institutions continue to do,” she said.

“Today, the scope of our work in research and agriculture is much larger, the technology and means of communication are more advanced, and the issues we face are more complex. But, the core values passed down by George Washington Carver remain the bedrock of everything we do as an agricultural research service.”

CAFS Presents Student Award Winners of 2015 Research Forum Competition

Poster Competitions:

Graduate
First Place — Mike James Vasilopoulos, Agricultural Science
Second Place — Tavia Gordon, Entomology
Third Place — Carolyn Pompilus – Graduate Student, Agribusiness

Undergraduate
First Place — Britney Clark, Food Science
Second Place — Kendall Strickland, Agribusiness
Third Place — Jasmine Hall, Food Science

Oral Competition:

Graduate
First Place — Eutychus Kariuki, Entomology
Second Place — Keleche Nwaokorie, Soil and Water Science
Third Place — Edidiong Inyang, Entomology

Undergraduate
First Place — Jasmine Hall, Food Science
Second Place — Britney Clark, Food Science
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) honored one of our very own research faculty recently for his excellence in contributions to the research enterprise during the Sixth Annual Principal Investigators’ Appreciation and 2015 Researchers of the Year Awards Luncheon held April 17. Anthony Ananga, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Food Biotechnology and Bioprocessing, received the Emerging Researcher Award during the luncheon and was presented with a plaque and award by FAMU President Elmira Mangum, Ph.D., and Vice President for Research Timothy E. Moore, Ph.D.

Ananga’s research interests and areas of expertise include:

- Grape vinification and bioprocessing
- Antioxidant capacities of phytochemicals in muscadine grapes
- Phytochemical bioavailability and efficacy in preventing chronic diseases
- Understanding the effect of grape phytochemicals in fighting obesity
- Understanding, characterization and purification, of potential grape allergens
- Using functional genomics to improve nutraceutical compounds in Muscadine grapes for health benefits.

Ananga teaches and conducts research for the university at FAMU’s Center for Viticulture and Small Fruit Research, which is part of the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences. The Center was established by the Florida Legislature in 1978 to build a long-term program focused on the development of improved grapes via traditional breeding, biotechnology and in-vitro selection. The university provides research and technical support to enhance grape products, demonstrate health benefits, protect vineyards from pest and disease, and address other issues of importance to the successful expansion of the grape growing industry.

Center researchers work daily to develop best management practices for Florida grapes and selected small fruit that improve disease resistance while also promoting marketability and creating value-added products through research and extension. ❖
Agribusiness Student Places Second in National Research Poster Competition

Kendall Strickland, a senior agribusiness major at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) recently placed second on a research project presented at the 30th Annual Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS) Career Fair and Training Conference held in Houston March 26–28.

Strickland received national recognition in the poster category of the competition for a project titled “The Economic Value of Palm Trees in Hotel Landscaping.”

The primary focus of the research is to determine the value of palm trees at hotels in areas such as Aruba. Since visitors travel to places like Aruba for its tropical environment, Strickland’s study addresses whether a low amount of palm trees could ultimately mean fewer visitors for hotels.

Inspired by his service as president of the FAMU student chapter of MANRRS, Strickland said receiving the award was rewarding for him. He also received recognition for the project during a recent College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS) Research Forum at FAMU that featured national leaders in agriculture.

“It’s really an honor,” said Strickland. “It’s given me more confidence in my work as an agribusiness student. I was able to work hard on my research because my heart is in agriculture.”

In addition to his role as a student leader, Strickland is also a full scholarship recipient of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s 1890 National Scholars Program. Strickland will complete a two and a half year employment stint at the Department upon graduation.

Commenting on Strickland’s accomplishments, FAMU President Elmira Mangum, Ph.D., said, “Kendall’s recognition helps to amplify the quality of our students at FAMU and the type of groundbreaking research that is happening every day at the University.”

CAFS Dean Robert Taylor, Ph.D., echoed President Mangum’s sentiments. “Kendall is one of our best students. We are very proud of him,” he said.

MANRRS is a non-profit organization that promotes agricultural sciences and related fields among minorities. For more information, visit the website: http://manrrs.org/.

Convocation Highlights Graduate Studies, Students Share Successes

Graduate students from the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences participated in a "Why Graduate School?" panel discussion at a spring 2015 convocation to answer questions, offer advice to current undergraduate CAFS students, and share how pursuing graduate school has benefitted them. For information on graduate study options within CAFS: james.muchovej@famu.edu or (850) 561-2582.
Animal Science Graduates Accepted Into Five Colleges of Veterinary Medicine

The College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS) is pleased to announce the following students from its Animal Science program were recently admitted into colleges of veterinary medicine:

- Dianna Brown
- Elba Nohely Gonzalez
- Aaron Judson
- Danielle Lewin
- Mary Madsen
- Tammy Ott
- Dianna Smith
- Jasmine Smith

The schools they were admitted into include:

- Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine
- University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine
- University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine
- Ross University College of Veterinary Medicine
- Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine

“These students have gained admittance into an extremely competitive pool,” said Glen Wright, DVM, Director of Veterinary Technology at CAFS. “The average grade point average of students admitted into veterinary school is 3.59.”

Wright also noted that during the last two years the following FAMU CAFS students have been admitted into the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, and Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine:

- Kamiliyah Miller
- Harlem Motley
- Miranda Shaw
- Mary Alice Teague

“These students are excellent representatives of CAFS and Florida A&M University,” said Wright. For more information on FAMU CAFS’ Veterinary Technology Program, contact glen.wright@famu.edu or (850) 875-8573.

“Intern Spotlight”

Agribusiness graduate student Kimberly Marie was selected as a summer intern by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Marie will work in the Office of the Chief Economist to analyze the effectiveness of Florida’s school lunch program.

Two undergraduate students—Prian Esquivel, an agronomy major, and Quincy Hardy, a food science major—have been selected again to participate in a summer internship at the University of Delaware to work with the state of Delaware on a $20 million National Science Foundation EPSCoR-Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research. Both students conducted paid research during the summer of 2014 at the Delaware Environmental Institute, located at the University of Delaware. Under the current project Esquivel and Hardy will have access to one of the world’s best state-of-the-art interdisciplinary science and engineering laboratories to engage in research.

Food Science major Josephine Gelin has been selected as Intern of Choice by DuPont Corporation in St. Louis, MO for the summer of 2015. DuPont, the fourth largest chemical company in the world, selected Gelin in response to a national search for a food science major. An honor student and CAFS ambassador, she currently holds the title of Ms. Sophomore at CAFS and also represented FAMU during the 30th Annual Minorities in Agriculture and Natural Resources and Related Sciences’ National Conference held in Houston in March.
Students Strong in American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers

Above: Members of the Florida A&M University student branch of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers.

The Biological and Agricultural Systems Engineering Program (BASE) student club American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) is an international organization committed to promoting Agricultural and Biological Engineering through professional development, continuing education, mentoring, and networking. At Florida A&M University, undergraduate students in the BASE program within the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS) enjoy exciting opportunities for professional development, leadership, service to the community, and social activities. The FL ASABE student club at CAFS has been featured on the ASABE website https://asabe.org. For more information joining ASABE, contact: ivanka.angelova@famu.edu.

2015 Spring Farm Fest
Agri-showcase
Saturday, June 13
9 a.m.—3 p.m.
FAMU Research & Extension Center
4259 Bainbridge HWY
Quincy, Florida
Info: extension@famu.edu
What influenced your decision to attend Florida A&M University and your choice of field of study?

I had a scholarship from Governor Bob Graham (from Haiti) for a four-year degree, and my interest has always been in agriculture... the scholarship chose FAMU for me, but it was the best choice!

That was my first time outside of Haiti. I didn’t speak English. I was living on campus and going to an intensive English program at FSU. My impression: people are extremely nice and attentive and giving... you get a lot of caring people here at FAMU — that’s why I stay in contact. I had a lot of caring, loving, giving people all around me at FAMU. I was blessed; people guided me and pointed me to the right direction.

What was your major area of study in college?

Agribusiness (Bachelor, 1988), and then an Assistanceship in Agricultural Economics with a specialty in marketing from FAMU to go to Penn State. I received one for Ohio State as well but chose Penn State because it was less cold there. I also have a PhD in rural sociology with a specialty in community and economic development.

How have you used your degree in your professional work?

Strange enough, the whole time that I studied. I crafted to go back to Haiti and transform communities. I made several attempts to go... actually I went a couple of times. The political climate was so upside down there that I couldn’t get a job; so I came back. At that time I was married, and I had my citizenship. We are both committed to go back; my mother is there. If I go to an agricultural village, I need the trust of the government and resources to get the people to develop the place—to develop and empower the people—and make it the place they want it to be. If God gives me the blessing, I still want to try it, because I have the whole academic training for it. That’s my goal. If it’s God’s will I will do it.

What positive experiences at FAMU helped you in your life, personally and professionally?

I have confidence — as a Black woman with an accent coming from a foreign country, you get the confidence to face the world in general and know that you can succeed. My experience at FAMU is above and beyond academic. I’m proud of them building me to be the Black woman that I am today and inspired to be in the future: the one that can brave that society and that no matter what, you know who you are, and you can succeed, work hard and embrace success. Because success is a process; it’s not an end. Everyday you have to really find it and claim it.

Has anyone in your immediate family attended or graduated from FAMU?

I am a first-generation college graduate. We open the door, and we will keep it open for our children and children’s children.

What is a typical day like for you at work?

Full of meetings and disturbances... you are in the middle of something and somebody else needs something — some scheduled meetings and several pop-up meetings, and you have to stay late and capture all that you have done in the meeting, make a plan for the work, and have it done before the next meeting. Either that or I am 80 percent immersed in work where I need to finish work. One of my major responsibilities that I am proud of is that I am an emergency manager for the city. It’s a major responsibility to make sure the city is prepared to meet any disaster and that we are in federal compliance with all federal rules and regulations; so that we can be reimbursed for federally declared disasters. You need to treat emergencies at that standard; so that if it is declared you can be reimbursed.

What best advice or wisdom nugget would you share with students?

Keep their eyes on the prize. And knowing that only through hard work and dedication they will get to the
Alumni Spotlight

(continued from page 4)

prize. No short cuts and I always say avoid easy A’s. It’s very important to work for the grade so they can always be proud of not only the grade but the knowledge. That is power. They are paying for and investing time for that power. Don’t leave the class without being empowered.

Where do you see yourself in five to 10 years?
I can be a manager in a different city. I want to be a manager in a different city and I want to teach on all of this knowledge that I have acquired over the years. It has to be shared. I want to teach at university level, and I want to go back to Haiti or another developing country and transform the community.

What are you most passionate about?
People and knowledge.

Those are the two active elements that you need for transformation. In loving and sharing you can gain knowledge to share with people in a loving way and recreate your environment for God’s glory.

Student Publishes Paper in Ecological Indicators Science Journal

Thalika Saintil, who recently earned a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Sciences with a concentration in agronomy at Florida A&M University (FAMU), has co-authored her first refereed paper published in the Ecological Indicators science journal. The paper is titled: “Using Landscape Metrics to Analyze Micro-scale Soil Erosion Processes.”

Saintil will join a graduate program of study at the University of Georgia’s Department of Crop and Soil Science in the fall of 2015.

“A peer reviewed paper as an undergraduate is a tremendous achievement. A student of this caliber reflects great credit upon FAMU, CAFS and the faculty and technical staff,” said FAMU Vice President for Research Timothy E. Moore, Ph.D.

The Ecological Indicators science journal integrates the monitoring and assessment of ecological and environmental indicators with management practices. The journal provides a forum for the discussion of the applied scientific development and review of traditional indicator approaches as well as for theoretical, modelling and quantitative applications such as index development.

Saintil’s publication may be viewed online at: http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1470160X15001752#.

Saintil interned with the United States Department of Agriculture’s National Soil Erosion Research Laboratory in conjunction with Purdue University last summer and previously conducted research at FAMU CAFS’ Center for Water and Air Quality.

Student Publishes Paper in Ecological Indicators Science Journal
Land-Grant Today Showcases CAFS Best on TV-20

The newest “Land-Grant Today” to air will feature a special interview with Florida A&M University (FAMU) Provost Marcella David and insight on her vision for enhancing the heart of the university—its academics. The show will also allow viewers to get to know David and hear what inspired her to come to FAMU.

"Land-Grant Today" airs nightly at 8 p.m. on TV-20 and is filmed as part of a partnership with the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences has with the School of Journalism and Graphic Communication. The half-hour show highlights academic, community outreach, extension, and research activities within CAFS through interviews and classroom, field and laboratory visits.

A recent episode explored the college’s Biological and Agricultural Systems Engineering Program at CAFS—a branch of engineering that integrates agricultural, biological, chemical, and engineering sciences.

“We followed students from the classroom into the field,” said Cynthia Lamb Portalatin, co-producer and host of Land-Grant Today. “It was exciting to hear directly from the students on how our college has helped them succeed and to see them apply their knowledge in the real world.”

Two shows were filmed in the spring 2015 semester and three in the fall 2014 semester with Charles Magee, Ph.D., serving as executive producer. Film and studio production is provided by Ernest Jones, FAMU TV-20 Station Manager. Other topics covered during the 2014-2015 academic year included:

**Entomology Program** — Highlights of research conducted by Lambert Kanga, Ph.D., regarding prevention of the collapse of Honey Bee Hives.

**W.L. Peters Aquatic Entomology Research Collections** — a look at the insects in the collection and one-on-one interviews with CAFS faculty regarding their research.

Archived episodes of Land-Grant Today are also available online at the TV-20 Media Gallery: http://www.famunewsnetwork.com//TV20.../mediaGallery.html. Go to “Show - full episodes,” scroll down and click on “Land Grant Today” (left column, midway). The shows on this website appear in order of broadcast, with the newest show at the top of the list. New shows will be added to the line-up as they are produced.

To be featured on an upcoming show, please contact Dr. Charles Magee at charles.magee@famu.edu or Cynthia Lamb Portalatin at cynthia.lamb@famu.edu.

Left: FAMU students majoring in Biological and Agricultural Systems Engineering measure water flow in a local stream during a field exercise facilitated by the Department of Environmental Protection as part of their Environmental Science Class.

Below: Javier Montiel and Shelby Pearson, senior BASE majors (with a concentration in Natural Resources Conservation Engineering) test equipment in the field.

(Photos by Cynthia Lamb Portalatin)
CAFS Celebrates Candidates for Spring 2015 Graduation

Master of Science, Agricultural Sciences
Josie D. Toliver, Sciences, Plant Science

Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness
Jeremy David Barlow*, Lashorn Renee Brascom, Ernst Charles**, Gerald Coney Jr., Kiana L. Harper, Christopher Hogan, Roscoe Rudolph Kemp Jr., Ryan Clark Kennedy, Stanley Dale McClary Jr., Corey Anthony McNair, Victoria Prothro Okon, Mo’nine Ebony Rose, Kendall Ryan Strickland*

Bachelor of Science, Biological and Agricultural Systems Engineering
Brizzane Aynelle Alexa Barrett, Erin M. Bell, Michael Anthony Faison*, Sydnee Jenaeh Hollingsworth

Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Science
Concentration in Animal Science

Concentration in Entomology
George Burns, Hassan N. Musa

Concentration in Food Science
Britney Ashely Clark**, Brandi Aspen Dishmon, Britney Semone Jackson, Thao Thi Tran*, Johniquia Lastarcia Creola McCoy

Concentration in Veterinary Technology
Rachel Nicole Graham*, Ivan Elvin Antoine Henry*, Kayla Chantal McKethan, Shearvaris Iesha Stewart

***Summa Cum Laude: 3.70-4.00
**Magna Cum Laude: 3.30-3.69  *Cum Laude: 3.00-3.29
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:

CAFS Alumni Affairs
1740 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Perry Paige Bldg., Rm. 106
Tallahassee, FL 32307

Or email: cynthia.lamb@famu.edu

Information collected will only be used for official university communications.

- Name
- Degree(s), Discipline(s) & Year(s) Graduated
- Current Profession/Title
- Company Name
- Phone & Cell
- Email
- Website
- Mailing Address