UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

# CALS Connection

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Connecting Our STUDENTS, ALUMNI & COMMUNITIES WORLDWIDE

*Number 1, Volume 1, June 2001*
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# MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Newsletter — the CALS Connection. It is designed to keep you informed about the accomplishments and programs of the college and its students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends.

As the teaching arm of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS), CALS is dedicated to developing society-ready graduates who are equipped to meet the demands of today's increasingly complex job market and changing societal needs. The curricula are designed to prepare students for careers or to continue their education in graduate or professional school.

Employment opportunities are plentiful in most fields, and graduate and professional school opportunities are exceptional. Our graduates are competent in their professional disciplines, possess effective oral and written communication skills, and have fundamental understandings of the social sciences, different cultures, the arts and humanities, and the global economy. They also have completed an internship that provides practical or experiential learning activities. With their effective leadership skills, they are prepared to be contributing members of society.

*Jimmy G. Cheek, Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences*

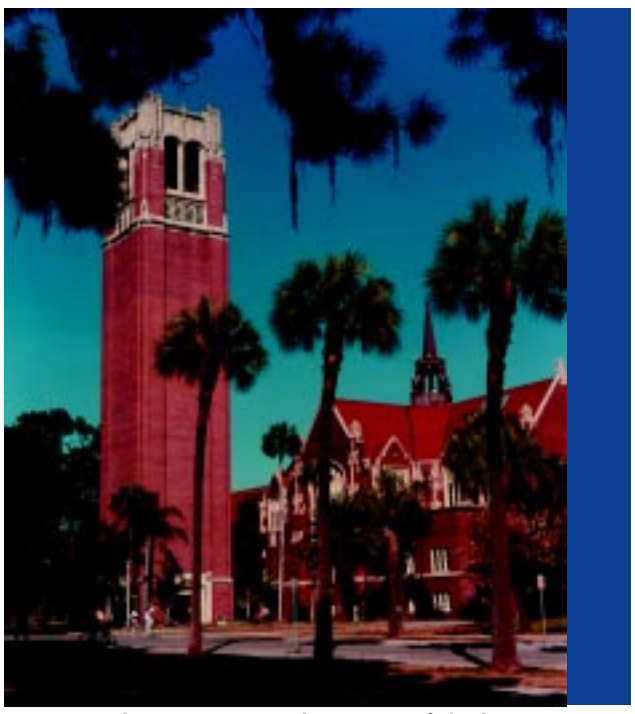
The past decade was marked by change, innovation and significant improvements in the college. Enrollment increased by more than 150 percent, curricula were revised, and new graduate and undergraduate programs were initiated, including combined and interdisciplinary programs. Distance education began to play a major role in delivering courses, and degree programs at Fort Lauderdale, Fort Pierce, and Milton were strengthened and expanded. The quality of students, faculty and programs improved significantly. These changes transformed the college and set the stage for the new millennium.

The new decade calls for continued critical appraisal of educational programs to enhance the quality of overall learning experiences and better meet societal and student needs. We will increase leadership and professional development activities for students, more fully recognize student accomplishments and increase student involvement internationally. We will forge new partnerships to strengthen our ability to meet the needs of students, society and other constituents. We will continue to ask: What can we do to be better? How can we recast activities to better prepare students for their future? How can we prepare students to be more successful in the global economy? How can we more effectively bridge the gap between academic and work environments? As we address these questions, we will continue to innovate, experiment and adapt to the changing conditions that affect us.

CALS is one of the leading colleges of its type in the nation, recognized for excellence in academic programs. The college has nationally and internationally recognized professors dedicated to excellence and innovative teaching and advising. We will maintain our commitment to quality teaching and advising. We will continue to improve and update the infrastructure to support teaching and advising. Internships — practical, experiential and clinical learning — will become more fully integrated into all curricula. To help accomplish these goals, additional public and private resources must be garnered.

I believe the 21st century will be characterized by a life sciences revolution, with major discoveries in genetics and molecular and cellular biology. These discoveries will revolutionize our understanding of plants, animals and ecosystems. They also will enrich our core knowledge base, resulting in significant curricula modifications. As a part of this life sciences revolution, our faculty and students will continue to develop technology that will improve the quality of our lives.

Our best years lie ahead of us. I am confident that we will continue to meet each new opportunity with our collective wisdom, energy and determination. I look forward to working with all of our constituencies to help make our dreams become reality.



*The Century Tower at the University of Florida*

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

# New Degrees and Minors

One of the most important responsibilities for faculty in the UF's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences is to remain connected with academic and employment trends.

"Changes in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences provide opportunities for new degree programs and majors," said Jane Luzar, Associate Dean of the college. Responding to this challenge, CALS has developed and implemented three new programs as well as a number of new minors.

"Our faculty will continue to work to keep our curricula relevant," she said. "Relevant degree programs connect us to the future careers of our students, ensuring our goal of producing society-ready graduates."

Packaging science, a new undergraduate major, is being launched this fall amid great excitement in CALS. The program stresses environmental issues, but draws from a diverse combination of majors, including engineering, physics, chemistry and marketing.

"North American corporations spend $50 billion annually on packaging, and they all want to spend less," said Bruce Welt, Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering. "With better packaging technology, they send less material to landfills, which saves money and benefits the environment."

The CALS packaging science major is one of only nine nationally. Kenneth Berger, Assistant Professor in the department, said 5,000 positions open each year for degreed professionals, according to industry estimates. Universities currently produce only 500 packaging science graduates yearly.

Florida continues to be a major producer of flowering, foliage and bedding plants. Florida also leads the nation in production of potted foliage, cut foliage and caladium tubers. Landscape management and retail segments of the industry have expanded in Florida.

In an effort to better connect with the demands of the growing environmental horticulture industry and academic discipline, faculty in the Department of Environmental Horticulture recently developed a new undergraduate interdisciplinary major in landscape and nursery horticulture.

Drawing upon expertise in landscape architecture, agricultural business, agricultural communications and horticultural sciences, the new program offers three specializations for its students: landscape and nursery management, public gardens management and environmental horticulture operations. Additional supporting course work in technical agriculture is provided by soil and water science, entomology and nematology, forestry and plant sciences. Job opportunities are plentiful for graduates with targeted educational backgrounds and experience in nursery and landscape management, public gardens management and environmental horticulture operations. Included in the environmental horticulture operations is a minor in agricultural business management.

Common to the new academic programs developed in CALS is a strong interdisciplinary mix of courses and experiential learning. The new Doctor of Plant Medicine (DPM) professional graduate degree program is a prime example of the interdisciplinary approach. Students enrolled in the new DPM program, believed to be the world's first, will be trained to diagnose problems that affect plants and to make recommendations to correct those ailments.

"Graduates will be called plant doctors," said George Agrios, Professor in the Department of Plant Pathology and Director of the program. "They will be able to diagnose and treat illness in a plant the same way a medical doctor would in a human patient. For the first time, we are combining the knowledge and expertise from various disciplines into one degree program that parallels professional programs in medicine and veterinary medicine."

This professional graduate degree program requires three years of course work at the graduate level across various disciplines and departments in the college. In addition, students are required to complete an extensive series of internships with plant pathologists, entomologists and nematologists, weed scientists, pesticide companies, seed companies and agribusiness firms.

## CALS Upper Division Honors Program

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences offers high-achieving students a unique opportunity through the university's only upper division honors program. Initiated in the fall of 1998, the CALS Honors Program graduated the first honors students in the spring 1999 semester.

The program is designed to offer upper division students an interdisciplinary program built around an honors colloquium course and individual honors course contracts. Upon completing the Program, graduating students receive the CALS Honors Medal.

Students are invited to join the honors program after completing 60 hours of course work with a minimum 3.5 GPA. The program uses honors contracts with existing courses and requires no additional courses to be added to a student's program. In addition to the honors contract courses, all students participate in a CALS honors colloquium course. Honors contract courses allow the student to enhance an existing course by adding an honors level research component or lab experience not expected of other students.

The colloquium is truly an intellectual conversation amongst colleagues where exchange of ideas and lively discussion is the norm. Subjects for the colloquia vary every semester based on the discipline and interests of the colloquium instructor. Recent offerings have ranged from "The Political Economy of Higher Education" to "Ecosystem Sustainability." Students participating in the colloquium appreciate the intimate class environment that fosters an open exchange of ideas. Another trademark of the CALS Honors Colloquium is the use of guest speakers. Students in the fall 2000 colloquium had the unique experience of hearing about higher education from former UF President John Lombardi as well as UF's current President, Chuck Young.

Students participating in the CALS Honors Program graduate with the knowledge gained from a unique educational experience that has connected them with the best faculty and other high-achieving students.

# University Scholars Program

Like the fall and spring semesters, the summer semester has become a busy time on the University of Florida campus — especially for the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences students in the University Scholars Program (USP). Now in its third year, the scholars program offers undergraduates a challenging opportunity to work – and earn money — with a faculty mentor on a summer research project.

Students are selected by their college to conduct research during the summer, and university funds are allocated to provide a stipend to the student. A faculty mentor oversees the student's research, providing additional assistance during the following year when research papers are written or presented

University scholars culminate their research experience with a presentation at the University Scholars Research Symposium. Presentations have ranged from development of Web-based educational programs to reduce neural-tube birth defects to an analysis of citrus and vegetable harvesting to development of transgenic melons. The CALS USP symposium topics reflect the excellence and diversity of research in UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

*Mike Fields, left, Professor of Animal Sciences, and Sarah Balaguer, university scholar.*

The scholars program also provides a unique outlet for research products through an online journal, the *Undergraduate Research Journal*.

The work of Carmelo Nieves Jr., a student in nutritional sciences, recently was featured in the journal. "Through the University Scholars Program, I have new respect for researchers. Research can be difficult and time-consuming, but I have learned a lot about my abilities and inabilities. I highly recommend this program to all students who have chosen to make science their career."

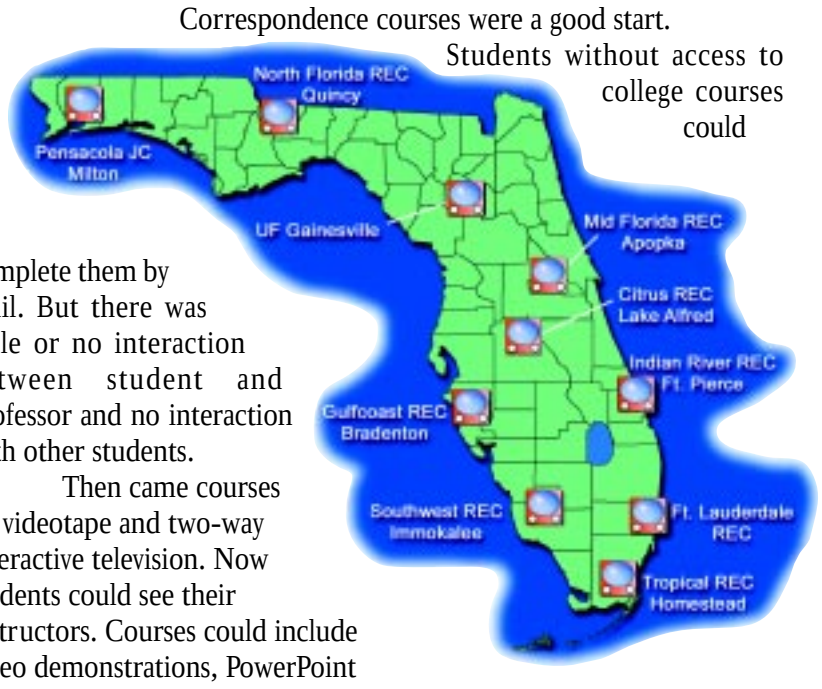
Like many other participants in the scholars program, Nieves said it's a natural link to graduate education.

During her junior year, Sarah Balaguer participated in the 1999-2000 University Scholars Program, working with her mentor, Professor Mike Fields in the Department of Animal Sciences. Now a graduate student in animal sciences focusing on reproductive physiology, Balaguer said the opportunity to conduct research as an undergraduate was rewarding.

Jenny Roll, currently completing her program as a university scholar in the Department of Environmental Horticulture, will begin graduate school at UF in molecular and cellular biology during the fall of 2001.

# CALS Distance Education Goes Coast to Coast

Correspondence courses were a good start. Students without access to college courses could complete them by mail. But there was little or no interaction between student and professor and no interaction with other students.




Then came courses on videotape and two-way interactive television. Now students could see their instructors. Courses could include video demonstrations, PowerPoint presentations and, in the case of two-way television, students in remote locations could talk with the instructor and their fellow classmates.

The Internet allowed course material such as class notes and diagrams to be posted on World Wide Web sites. Interaction between professors and students grew even more through e-mail and online chatrooms.

But faculty and administrators at UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences still believe there's room for improvement. They want more courses with online components, including more Web-only courses. They also want to increase originating courses from the video conferencing facilities located at UF/IFAS research and education centers, including the Tropical Research and Education Center (REC) in Homestead, the Southwest REC in Immokalee, the Fort Lauderdale REC, the Indian River REC in Fort Pierce and the West Florida REC in Milton.

"We do interactive video very well because of the tremendous infrastructure development we've had here," said Jane Luzar, Associate Dean for Academic Programs in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

As part of a new Internet-based master's program in agriculture, CALS offered a course in agribusiness human resource management that was taught entirely on the Web. Allen Wysocki, Assistant Professor in the Department of Food and Resource Economics, believes teaching the course on the Web had advantages over courses taught using interactive video, particularly in terms of each student's schedule.

"I think students benefited. Almost all of my students were online late at night doing their weekly readings," Wysocki said. "The Web-based nature of this course allowed students the flexibility to learn material at their own pace."

Wysocki said he and course co-developer Karl Kepner, Distinguished Service Professor in the food and resource economics department, have tried to take advantage of all the tools available to add variety to the course.

"Karl Kepner and I incorporated two or three bulletin board assignments, where students respond to questions and interact amongst themselves, discussing leading questions," Wysocki said. "We also stimulated the in-class experience by hosting a once-a-week chatroom for about an hour and a half."

*Allen Wysocki taught an Internet-only course in the fall 1999 term on agribusiness human resource management. Wysocki said having the course on the internet made it more flexible for his students.*

And it's that effort by instructors to combine methods of teaching that Luzar said will be the key to creating successful distance education courses in the future. Students will benefit most from courses that do it all, she said.

"Combining our interactive video with the Web results in mixed media, which is probably the best approach to distance education," Luzar said. "The students have the advantage of seeing an instructor but also being able to do the truly asynchronous work that distance education offers. If you go back to the original concept of distance education, in many cases it's asynchronous – any time, any place.

"We are currently working with faculty from Fort Pierce to deliver classes in agricultural business management statewide," Luzar said. "And, as we do that, we're opening up the next level of our distance education program. We're talking about not only emanating classes from Gainesville, but instead being able to do localized courses."

But right now, Gainesville is the UF/IFAS distance education hub. The control center is located in room G001 of McCarty Hall. The room is a lecture hall that has been completely equipped for distance education, with the capability to show slide presentations, video clips and the video presenter – a distance education version of an overhead projector that allows instructors to display a portion of a textbook or any kind of printed matter.

The room features several remote control cameras that can zoom in on any student in the classroom, and has four television monitors so students in Gainesville can see what is being transmitted to the remote sites as well as their classmates around the state.

During the spring 2000 term, Dave Clark, Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental Horticulture, taught a distance education version of a required undergraduate course in horticultural physiology. On Monday and Thursday evenings, Clark met in G001 with about 34 students who were joined by 26 others via the interactive video conferencing network from Fort Lauderdale, Fort Pierce and Milton.

*Dave Clark makes a point during a session of his spring 2000 distance education class in horticultural physiology. Clark taught 34 students who met in the UF/IFAS distance education classroom in G-001 McCarty Hall while 26 other students in Fort Lauderdale, Fort Pierce and Milton viewed the class over the interactive television network.*

Clark takes full advantage of the interactive nature of the video conferencing system by having his students get on camera to answer extra-credit questions. He said in addition to providing a review, the questions help students get to know one another.

"I'll go through the roll call, I'll say 'Joe Smith out in Milton, do you want to step up to the plate?' If they get on camera, they get one point on the next test," Clark said. "Then I ask them the question. It serves as a review, and if they get it right, they get a second point.

"It keeps them up to date, plus it lets them see what my exam questions are going to be like," he said. "Plus, the students in Gainesville know Joe Smith—by the end of the class they've seen him three times."

Efforts by faculty members like Clark and Wysocki help students in distance education courses get the same benefit from courses as students taking the course on the Gainesville campus. And while there haven't been any formal studies, Clark said he can't see any difference in the students' performance.

Administrators also point out that distance education allows UF/IFAS to save money as it pursues its mission of putting Florida FIRST (Focusing IFAS Resources on Solutions for Tomorrow).

"In a graduate program you generally have a core of courses and electives. Perhaps some of those electives would be offered by the best person in the nation at Purdue University or Cornell University," Luzar said. "It gives you the opportunity to put together a superior degree program, and that's our goal."

Information can be found at the college's distance education website: http://disted.ifas.ufl.edu.

# International Academic Opportunities
# Global Gators

In response to recommendations from a recent Faculty Task Force Report on Enhancing the Undergraduate Experience in CALS, there are several new initiatives designed to increase student opportunities for experience in the international arena. Wherever possible, these activities are linked to international cooperative agreements in UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.This college-level initiative is known as GLOBAL GATORS.

These international teaching, research and extension efforts, which are part of the Florida FIRST (Focusing IFAS Resources on Solutions for Tomorrow) strategic planning effort, support the goal of producing society-ready graduates.

CALS is coordinating this effort with the University of Florida International Center (UFIC) to increase promotion of existing traditional "study-abroad" programs. CALS faculty are working with the UFIC to identify study-abroad programs that can better accommodate UF upper division students at participating agricultural colleges.

The existing international relationship between CALS and the Pan American School of Agriculture (la Escuela Agrícola Panamericana, EAP) in Zamorano, Honduras is being enhanced. A recent visit to Zamorano was made to recruit students for the existing 3 + 1 program with CALS and to arrange a study tour for up to 15 students in spring 2002. The study tour includes time at Zamorano as well as a national tour of Honduran agriculture and natural resources.

A new cooperative agreement was implemented with Escuela de Agricultura de la Region Tropical Humeda (EARTH University) in Costa Rica in spring 2000. This relationship offers CALS students opportunities to participate in internships at EARTH University and for EARTH University students to intern at UF. There also are opportunities for faculty exchanges and study tours.

A cooperative agreement between UF and Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral (ESPOL) in Ecuador was initiated this year, and a 2 + 2 agreement was signed by both universities. The 2 + 2 agreement, like the Zamorano 3 + 1 agreement, permits students to transfer from ESPOL to CALS with in-state tuition and fees. The first students from this program, primarily in agribusiness, will enroll for the fall semester 2001. Opportunities for study tours in Ecuador are also being explored.

The CALS European connection includes a semester-long program in Moscow and a summer program in Prague. The Moscow State University program now includes two CALS students who will join students from other U.S. agricultural colleges in an academic program taught in part by U.S. faculty. CALS also actively participates in the faculty portion of this program, with one UF faculty member teaching in Moscow last year and two scheduled to teach in 2002. The program in Prague will involve CALS students participating in a six-week summer session.

*Mike Martin, Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Jane Luzar, Associate Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, plant trees at ESPOL. This ceremonial planting by the UF team is an invitation by ESPOL to return to care for the trees.*

## What's New In Your Life?

### Tell us what is happening! Stay connected to CALS

Through the CALS Connection, we are reaching out to keep you informed about CALS news and activities. Now it's your turn. We'd like to include current information about you in an upcoming issue of the CALS Connection.

We're interested in awards, jobs, moves and family information. Please note changes in your address, employment,or professional activities that you want to share with your classmates and colleagues.

Mail your information to: CALS Connection
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
P.O. Box 110270
Gainesville, FL 32611-0270
Email: tnpemble@mail.ifas.ufl.edu

Name:

Address:

Home Phone:

Work Phone: Email:

Is any of the above information new?

Information:

Please let us know if you have any questions or if we may be of help.
We welcome your calls and visits to McCarty Hall.

# Success Stories—Alumni Spotlight

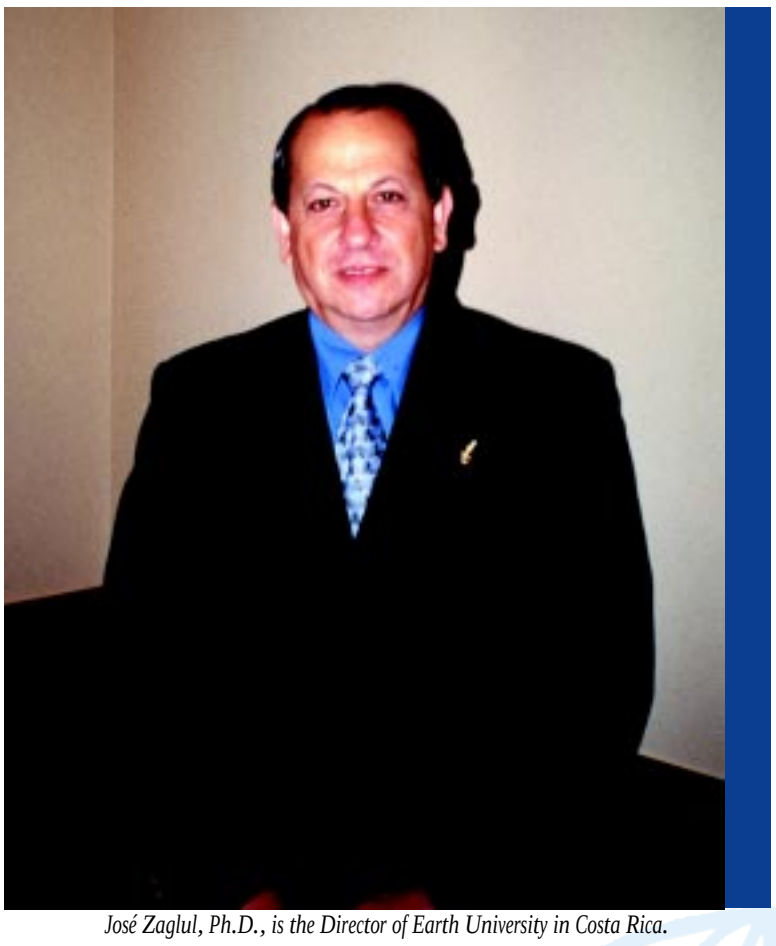
José Zaglul received a master's degree in food science and human nutrition in 1980 and a doctorate in animal science in 1982 from the University of Florida's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. He currently is president of EARTH University (Escuela de Agricultura de la Región Tropical Húmeda), an institution in Costa Rica dedicated to conservation and sustainable development in the humid tropics. Zaglul has been president of the university since its inception in 1989.

Previously, he served as head of the animal production department at the Centro Agrícola Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE) in Costa Rica. From 1981 to 1985, Zaglul was professor of food science and then became vice president of research and extension at the Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica (ITCR). In addition to serving as an international center for tropical research, CATIE is the oldest postgraduate school of agriculture in Latin America. ITCR is one of the four state universities in Costa Rica.

Zaglul is a native of Costa Rica. Prior to coming to UF, he obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees from the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, with majors in agricultural economics and animal science, respectively.

He holds memberships in the following professional organizations: Executive Committee of the Pan-Pacific Basin Workshop on Microgravity Sciences, American Meat Science Association, Asociación Latinoamericana de Producción Animal, Colegio de Ingenieros Agrónomos de Costa Rica, Asociación Centroamericana y del Caribe de Procesadores de Carne and the Institute of Food Technologists. He has authored many publications and papers and attended numerous professional conferences. His fluency in Spanish, English and Arabic makes international travel much easier.

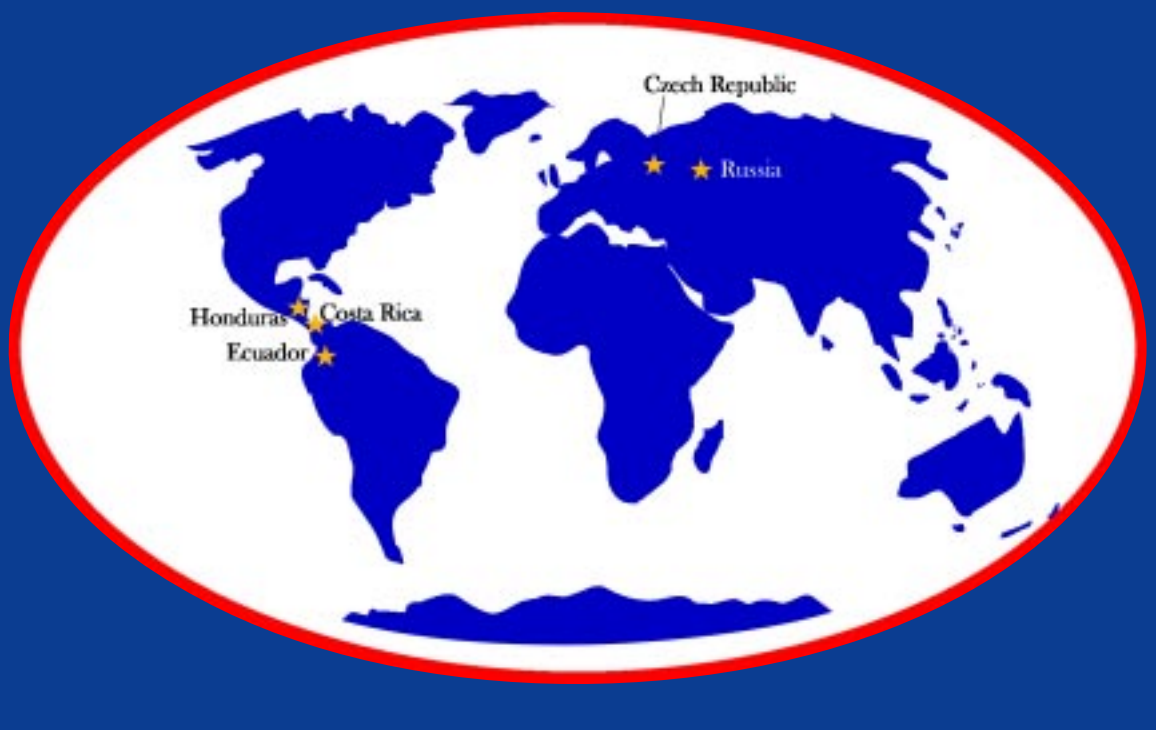
Jane Luzar, Associate Dean of UF's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, and Paul Willis, CALS Director of Student and Alumni Services, recently visited Zaglul at EARTH University in Costa Rica. "It is great to visit CALS alumni like Dr. Zaglul and see his many accomplishments," Willis said. "CALS alumni are truly making a difference around the world."



*José Zaglul, Ph.D., is the Director of Earth University in Costa Rica.*

*In April 2001, Ricardo Alvarez, left, President of Ruiz Food Products Company in Fresno, California, visited the University of Florida's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Charles Sims, right,interim Chair of the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, led Alvarez on a tour of new facilities in the department. Alvarez, who received his doctoral degree in food science in 1980 from UF's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, now oversees the $160 million California company that specializes in Mexican foods.*

## Global Gators:
## CALS International Programs and Development



# Experience Counts

Many students realize they need more on their résumés than just a degree when applying for their first job. Practical experience obtained through an internship program can be almost as important as an academic transcript.

Now, thanks to three new programs, students in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences have additional internship choices that are better suited to their academic majors, said Jimmy Cheek, Dean of the college, part of UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

"During the past two years, we have launched internship programs that will be increasingly important as we prepare our graduates for their role in society," Cheek said. "Internships provide a vehicle for students to gain real-world, professional experience related to their academic programs."

One program allows students to serve as legislative interns in Washington, D.C. According to Cheek, the legislative internship program benefits both students and legislators.

"Students gain insight and experience in the development of public policy and laws through legislative internships," Cheek said. "These internships also allow legislators and their staff to gain a greater appreciation of the agricultural and natural resource issues facing our society, as well as a better understanding of our college and its programs."

Greg Steube, a senior animal science major, was one of two students who participated in the first year of the legislative internship program. Steube, who had prior experience working with the Florida Legislature, interned in U.S. Representative Karen Thurman's office.

"The most important benefit I received from the legislative internship program was the contacts I made for my future," Steube said. "I was able to see how the system works in Washington — things work differently in the state legislature and the U.S. House."

Another college program gives students experience in extension work. "Some students may not have a clear understanding of statewide extension education programs offered by UF in every county," said Christine Waddill, Dean for Extension.

Lynne Michaels, a senior majoring in food and resource economics, was looking for just such an experience when she heard about the program from a friend who works for the UF Putnam County Extension Service in Palatka. Michaels said she already was considering an extension career, but her internship experience helped her decide.

"I had already pretty much decided to go into extension when the internship came up. I jumped on it, and that made me 100 percent sure," she said.

Michaels worked with the Florida 4-H youth development program in Putnam County, attending meetings and writing newsletters. After her internship experience, she was hired as an extension agent in the county.

"The third internship program allows students to gain research experience on the main campus in Gainesville or at statewide research and education centers, "said Richard Jones, Dean for Research." Like legislative and extension internships, research internships give students a critical real-world perspective," he said.

"It is important that students appreciate how research contributes to our knowledge, but it also is important that they appreciate the uncertainties, caveats and conditions associated with research findings," Jones said. "The experience enhances their abilities to make decisions that involve interpretation of research. It also allows them to develop their problem solving, teamwork and observational skills."

"Internships offer the opportunity for students to evaluate their interest in research as a profession," he said. "This is particularly important for disadvantaged students since they might not otherwise have such an evaluative opportunity."

*Devin Yontz, left, from Orange Park, and Greg Steube from Bradenton, were the first participants in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences' legislative internship program in Washington, D.C.*

# College Internships

*Abbey Shaffer, pictured with Florida Governor Jeb Bush, was an intern in the office of Congressman Alan Boyd in Washington, D.C. Beginning her internship in January 2001, Abbey was able to participate in several inaugural activities. She plans to pursue a graduate degree in public administration.*

*Ben Butler has been appointed to the USDA dairy marketing internship in Washington, D.C. for summer 2001. Growing up on a dairy, Ben is excited about the opportunity to learn more about dairy programs and policy making at the federal level.*

*Jenny Hayes, center, will intern during the summer of 2001 in the office of Congressman Adam Putman, a CALS alumnus. Hayes hopes to learn more about government as she makes her future career choices. She's pictured with Ben Butler, left, and Jimmy Cheek.*

# CALS Ambassadors

The CALS Ambassadors are a select group of students in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and School of Forest Resources and Conservation who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in academics and student leadership.

They support food, agricultural and life sciences and natural resources throughout the state. Their objective is to create awareness of the academic programs and career opportunities among students, teachers, advisors and the general public in Florida. They achieve this objective by speaking to high schools, community colleges and civic organizations around the state and at national events.

While serving as Ambassadors, they voluntarily meet weekly for leadership training and public speaking practice. They also receive information to increase their awareness of programs and industry initiatives by UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS).

As official hosts for IFAS functions, they have worked with the Southeastern Regional NAADA (National Agricultural Alumni and Development Association) Conference, Pre-Veterinary Medicine Advisement Workshop, Pre-Professional Workshops and Gator Encounter. CALS Ambassadors also assist with alumni gatherings throughout Florida, providing a vital link between alumni and the college.

CALS Ambassadors are experienced speakers who regularly address diverse audiences throughout Florida. They are available to speak at high schools, community colleges, alumni gatherings and trade events. You can invite an Ambassador to speak at your event by calling (352) 392-1963. FAX your request to (352) 392-8988 or e-mail your request to: tnpemble@mail.ifas.ufl.edu For more information, please visit the CALS Web site at: www.cals.ufl.edu

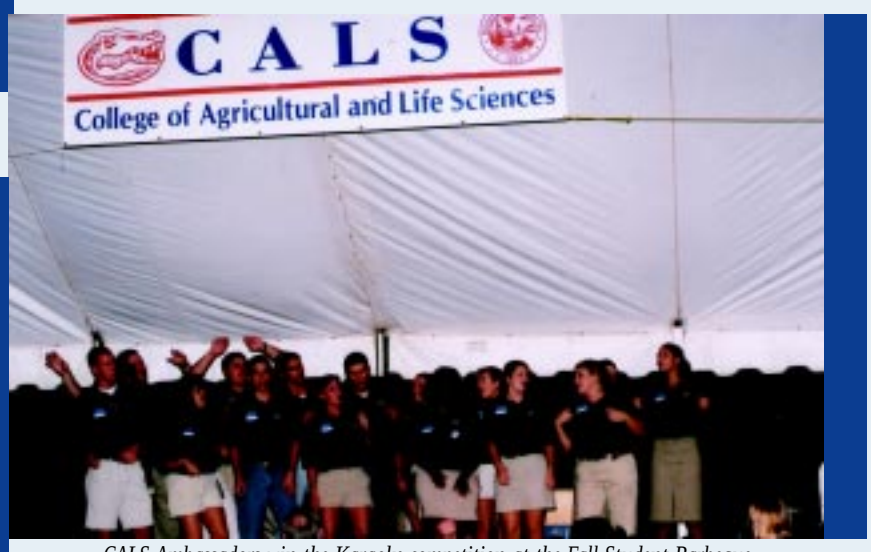
*Bottom row left to right: Jade Williams, Kimberly Feder, Antoinette Davis, Rachel Franck, Kristina Garner, Christina Fulford, Callief Shand. Middle Row L-R: Elizabeth Serca, Chrissy Wemmer, Claire Terrell, Kimberly Hunt, Kelli Dunn, Edouardo Jordan, Jeff Satin. Top Row L-R: Greg Steube, Jason Steward, Joe von Merveldt, Abbey Shaffer, Fernanda Cutrone, John Hall, Natalie Lamneck, Wendy Burton, Jeremy Burris, James Smith, Ben Butler.*

## CALS Ambassadors On The Road

*First Annual CALS Ambassadors Retreat at Universal Studios, Orlando, Florida*

*CALS Ambassadors at Cailfornia Polytechnic Institute in San Luis Obispo during January 2001.*

*Fernanda Cutrone, left, and Wendy Burton at a local high school.*




*CALS Ambassadors win the Karaoke competition at the Fall Student Barbeque.*

# Student Organizations

CALS has more than 30 student organizations representing almost every discipline in the college. These organizations operate under the Agricultural and Life Sciences College Council and provide social, professional and leadership development activities for current students.

Many organizations, such as Alpha Zeta and Block and Bridle have been active at UF for many years. Other groups such as the Ethnobotany Society and the Human Resource Development Club are relative newcomers. The common thread is the student. Current students have many opportunities available through these organizations.

Students in the Microbiology and Cell Science Club recently had the opportunity to visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. Other clubs perform numerous service projects, including Habitat for Humanity, Adopt-a Highway and Dairy Days for elementary school children—just to name a few.

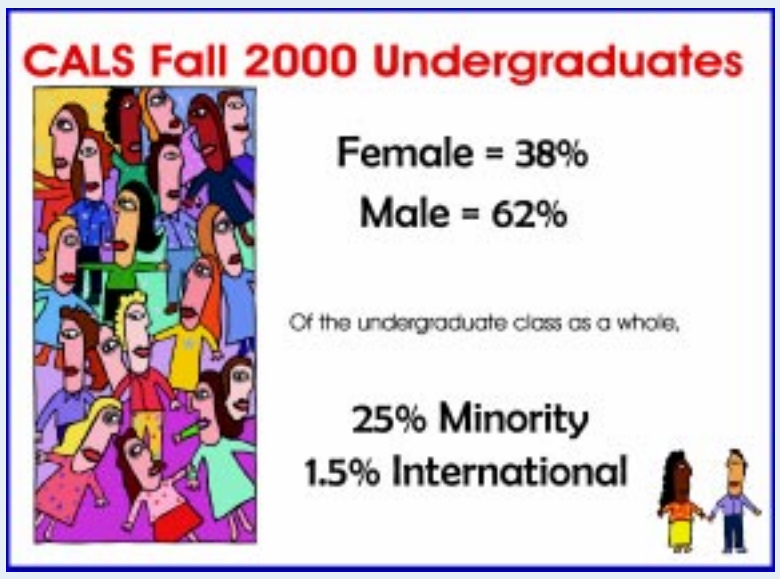
"These organizations play a vital role in the development of students," said Paul Willis, Director of Student and Alumni Services. "Our support of these organizations helps enhance the undergraduate experience in CALS."

*UF Equine Industry Club display*

*Block and Bridle Club meeting*

*Alpha Zeta Club display*

*Agricultural Education and Communication Department display*



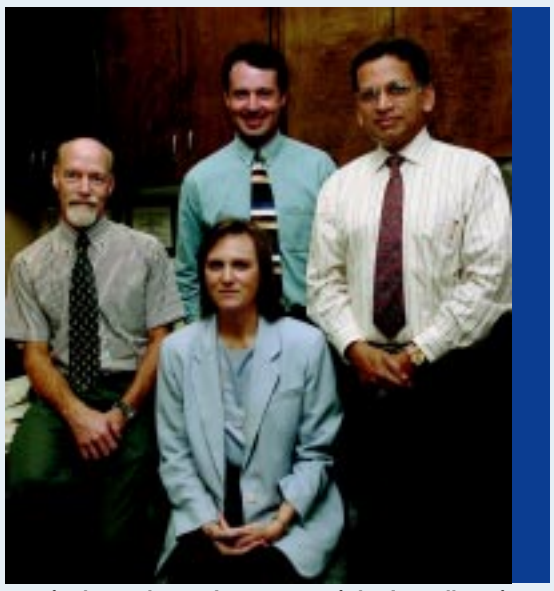
# Faculty Recognitions

Four faculty members in the University of Florida's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences were recognized for outstanding service at the college's recent annual scholarship and leadership convocation.

P.K. Nair, Professor of Agroforestry in the School of Forest Resources and Conservation, received the Graduate Advisor of the Year Award; Elaine Turner, Assistant Professor in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, and John Zenger, Assistant Professor in the Department of Entomology and Nematology, each received the Undergraduate Teacher of the Year Award. James Leary, Lecturer in the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, received the Undergraduate Advisor of the Year Award.

The awards were presented by Jimmy Cheek, Dean of the college, which is part of UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

Nair, who joined the UF faculty in 1987, has developed an interdisciplinary program in agroforestry that has attracted international attention. During the past 10 years, 14 master's and 10 doctoral students have graduated under Nair's supervision. Currently, he advises nine graduate students, including seven at the doctoral level.



*Four faculty members in the University of Florida's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences were honored at the college's recent annual scholarship and leadership convocation. Those recognized were, from left, Jim Leary, Elaine Turner, John Zenger and P.K. Nair.*

Turner teaches fundamentals of human nutrition, including an honors section. She also teaches nutrition through the life cycle and team teaches current issues in dietary supplements. Some of her courses are offered statewide via distance education.

Zenger, who teaches undergraduate courses in the principles of entomology and insect classification, also has created a successful Web-based entomology course.

Leary, an undergraduate coordinator and advisor in his department, teaches three courses. His introduction to engineering laboratory class is taken by almost all freshmen students entering UF's College of Engineering.

# Student Recognitions

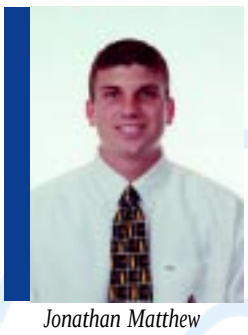
## J. Wayne Reitz
*Medal of Excellence*

*Virginia Angeline Braddock*

### *Virginia Angeline Braddock*

Virginia maintains a 4.0 GPA in her studies at UF and has been on the Dean's List each semester since fall of 1997. She has been inducted into Gamma Sigma Delta, Phi Kappa Phi and Golden Key National Honor Society. She has received the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship, the Rural Rehabilitation Corporation Scholarship, the Earl Wilmott Hart Scholarship and the SHARE Scholarship.

## Larry J. Connor
*Medal of Excellence*



*Jonathan Matthew Hernandez*

### *Jonathan Matthew Hernandez*

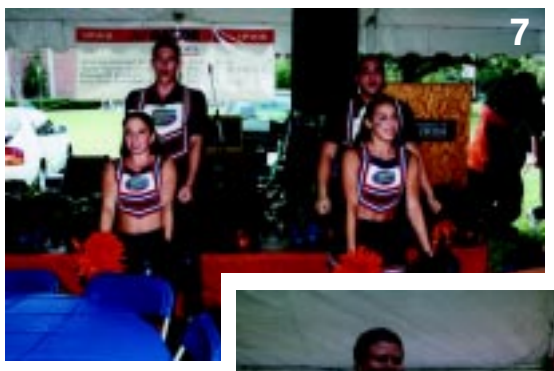
Hernandez has an upper division 3.96 GPA and is an Anderson Scholar of High Distinction and an American Physiological Society Undergraduate Research Fellow. A University Scholar, Hernandez repeatedly has been appointed to the Dean's List and the President's Honor Roll. He is in the CALS Honors Program, Gamma Sigma Delta, Golden Key National Honor Society, the Pre-Professional Service Organization and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

## E.T. York, Jr.
*Award of Merit*

*Jenny Hayes*

### *Jenny Hayes*

Hayes, who has a 3.95 grade point average, is an Anderson Scholar of High Distinction. She is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa sorority and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. She has been on the Dean's List or the President's Honor Roll every semester since fall of 1988. Active in many organizations, Hayes helps promote diversity at UF, serving as the multicultural affairs assistant director for Homecoming and as a volunteer for the Students with Disabilities Office.



*1. Jimmy G. Cheek, left, CALS Dean, and Doyle Conner, former Commissioner of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, visit at TailGator 2000. 2. Students adopt eggs at Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences display at the Gator Encounter, March 2001. 3. Jimmy G. Cheek, left, CALS Dean, and Paul Willis, right, CALS Director of Student and Alumni Services, talk with Fred Montsdeoca, who received the CALS Alumni Award of Distinction at TailGator 2000. 4. Department of Agronomy display. 5. Left to right: Richard Jones, UF/IFAS Dean for Research; Mike Martin, UF Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Chuck Young, UF President, visit with Bob Crawford, Executive Director of the Florida Department of Citrus, and Paula Dochery and Jeff Milller, State Representatives, at the Alpha Zeta Homecoming breakfast. 6. High school student examines cow at Gator Encounter, March 2001. 7. UF Cheerleaders "fire up" the crowd at TailGator 2000. 8. The "Pride of the Sunshine" entertains the crowd at TailGator 2000. 9. Christina Fulford, recipient of CALS Alumni and Friends Scholarship. 10. Paul Willis presents the Alumni Award of Distinction to Don Bates, who accepted the award for Bert Harris, Jr. at TailGator 2000. 11. Department of Food and Resource Economics display. 12. 2001 CALS BBQ Ambassadors Karoake Contest. 13. Students explore aquatic sciences at Gator Encounter, March 2001 14. Block and Bridle Club at Gator Encounter, March 2001.*

# CALS Teaching Enhancement Symposium

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences has a national reputation for excellence in academic programs. The first annual Teaching Enhancement Symposium was held in August 2000 in Gainesville. The symposium highlighted the continuing dedication of CALS to teaching excellence and teaching improvement. Approximately 200 CALS faculty from around the state attended the inaugural event.

Sessions included topics ranging from learning styles and instruction to distance education to working with support personnel. Andrew Barkley, Professor of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University, delivered the keynote address.

Those participating in the symposium said they appreciated the opportunity to meet and interact with colleagues and peers across all CALS disciplines. They also indicated that the symposium helped them discover new tools and ideas to enhance their teaching and student relations. Others said it was a great beginning for the new academic year.

The faculty and staff of CALS are committed to continued excellence in teaching. Activities such as the symposium help CALS faculty and staff realize that goal.

# IFAS Graduate Research Symposium

The First Annual Graduate Research Symposium was held on March 16, 2001. Sponsored by the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS), the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station and the Florida Cooperative Extension Service, the symposium is an example of one of the current initiatives underway to enhance the quality of graduate education in IFAS. As CALS strives to offer world-class experiences for graduate students, the symposium offered the opportunity to share research findings and conclusions with colleagues, learn about current research in other fields and interact with a broader spectrum of students and faculty. Twenty-seven papers and 18 posters were presented at the first annual event.

*Matthew Reetz, left, accepts the IFAS Award for Excellence for Graduate Research (at the master's level) from Richard Jones, center, Dean for Research. Mike Avery, Associate Professor in the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, accepted the award for Katie Sieving, Assistant Professor in the department, who supervised the Reitz graduate research program.*

*Ronald Labinsky, right, Professor in the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, accepts the IFAS Award for Excellence for Graduate Research (at the doctoral level) from Richard Jones, Dean for Research, on behalf of Christine Steible Hartless.*

*Jean Thomas explains molecular and physiological aspects of soybeans.*

*Cynthia Khoo explains transovarial transmission of a Rhavdovirus in the wasp.*

*Professor George Blakeslee, right, discusses research with a conference presenter.*

*Shawn Brooks, graduate student in the Department of Entomology and Nematology, discusses canine termite detection.*

*R. Andres Ferreyra, graduate student in the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, gives a presentation on the effects of water stress on photosynthesis in peanuts.*

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CALS Connection
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
Connecting Our STUDENTS, ALUMNI & COMMUNITIES WORLDWIDE

*Number 1, Volume 1, June 2001*
*www.cals.ufl.edu*

# Our Mission

The mission of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) is to provide students with a high-quality education that results in knowledge and skills for employment, productive citizenship and life-long learning in the areas of food, agriculture, natural resources, human and life sciences. The college offers two baccalaureate degrees: a Bachelor of Science (BS) and a Bachelor of Science in Forest Resources and Conservation (BSFRC). The college offers 23 majors, approximately 50 specializations, and 17 minors.

It is the only University of Florida college that offers an upper division honors program. The strong preprofessional program includes premedical, predental, prepharmacy and preveterinary tracks. CALS offers four-year degree programs, professional master's degrees, and teacher certification courses at five satellite program sites around the state. Many of these programs also are offered through distance education via interactive video conferencing, videotape and the World Wide Web.

The academic programs allow students to prepare for diverse and dynamic positions in business, communications, science, production and education as they relate to food, agriculture, human and natural resources.

Scholarships are awarded based on merit and/or financial need. In 1999-2000, the UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences awarded $428,000 in scholarships and fellowships. Funding also is provided by the UF Provost's office to undergraduate students for conducting research.

A full range of career planning and placement services are offered, including an annual Agriculture and Natural Resources Career Day held every February. There are internships and co-op programs ranging from the freshman to the doctoral level, and legislative internship programs at the federal and state level. The CALS Web site includes a searchable job bank.

The college encourages students to participate in extracurricular activities to enhance their educational experiences. CALS sponsors several organizations, including CALS Ambassadors, Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) and Alpha Zeta. During 2000-2001, students participated in international programs in the Czech Republic and Russia. CALS is currently developing programs in Costa Rica, Honduras and Ecuador.

Recruitment and alumni events include Gator Encounter and TailGator. Additional activities that take place during CALS Week include a barbecue for CALS students, an open house, a graduate workshop and a pre-professional information session.

Two computer labs located at UF in McCarty Hall B and Fifield Hall are available for collegewide teaching and general student use. A GIS (Geographic Information System) laboratory also is available.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Putting Florida FIRST
Focusing IFAS Resources on Solutions for Tomorrow