

Indian River Research and Education Center

news

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A Newsletter for IRREC Advisory Committee Members, Faculty, Staff and Students

Message From the Director

"Men make history and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better." Harry S. Truman

Harry Truman said it best. I've always admired this quote made by him during his Presidency and I hope you appreciate it as well.

As many of you are aware, I will be leaving the UF/IFAS Indian River Research and Education Center this month to accept a leadership position with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Tifton, Georgia. It has been my pleasure to have worked with you to improve and promote the state's agricultural and natural resource industries. As center director, I have tried to facilitate the growth and development of IRREC, but ultimately all of you have gotten the job done. In this last message, I would like to thank and congratulate the faculty, staff, our clients and the elected officials that helped make all this possible.

One of the most valuable achievements is the number of degrees IRREC now offers to the community. We have four master's degree programs, two bachelor's degrees, including a new environmental management program, and three certificate programs. Dr. P. J. van Blokland, his colleagues and our teaching staff have driven the progress of this program. We all need to thank them for a job well done. And, I personally wish P. J. all the best as he moves into retirement. In the near future Dr. Roy Carriker will assume P.J.'s

responsibilities and we wish him the best in this endeavor. IRREC has begun searching for a soils and water science professor, who will lead and enhance the environmental management bachelor's and environmental science master's degree programs. Hopefully, this effort will be successful and you can promptly return to your search for a citrus horticulturalist to work with our industry and IFAS colleagues.

Part of any center director's role is to carry forward the work and vision of his predecessor. The projects of my predecessor, Calvin Arnold, were brought to completion. The Aquaculture Demonstration Project, which began under the able direction of Dr. Ferdinand Wirth, has succeeded with the encouragement and partnership of Sonny Williamson. This program has now expanded under the leadership of Dr. Cortney Ohs, a newly appointed assistant professor of aquaculture. Another completed project is the Norman C. Hayslip Biological Control Research Laboratory and Containment Facility, under the scientific supervision of Drs. Bill Overholt and Ron Cave. This program should produce indispensable research on invasive species.



The University of Sao Paulo in Brazil

Spotlight on page 6 on Patricia Miguel, IRREC Short-Term Scholar from The University of Sao Paulo

The critical leadership of Anita Neal and Dr. Peter Stoffella on a cold winter evening in December, 2003, brought the concept of the Treasure Coast Education, Research and Development Park to reality, and I was proud to have worked with them from the outset. A collaborative effort among UF/IFAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, St. Lucie County, the St. Lucie County School District Board, Indian River Community College, Florida Atlantic University and other organizations, created and chartered the new Treasure Coast Education, Research and Development Park, which was only a dream four years ago.

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Our faculty and friends have now stepped-up to shape and help guide the Research Park Authority Board and we are grateful to Rick Minton, Buddy Johnson, Joe Joyce, Peter Stoffella, and Jane Bachelor, for their commitment to this endeavor.

As you also know we've had our share of tough times as well. A number of storms blasted Florida in the last four years. Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Jeanne, and Ivan hit us in 2004 and Wilma in 2005. Hurricanes Frances, Jeanne, and Wilma passed right over IRREC, and although we made it through all of them, a little battered and bruised, we were ultimately better off. The original Indian River Research Laboratory building, constructed in 1962, was damaged beyond repair by these hurricanes, and thankfully it is now being replaced by a much needed, state-of-the-art Plant and Soil Science building, which will house five of our faculty members. I am particularly pleased that after nearly eight years on the faculty, Dr. Mark Ritenour will finally inhabit a 'real' laboratory. We could also brag that Dr. Chris Wilson and Dr. Zhenli He will have two of the best soil and water laboratories in IFAS. Drs. Chris Wilson and Cortney Ohs co-chaired the laboratory design committee, and we thank them for their assistance.

The discovery of citrus canker in the Millennium Block was perhaps the greatest challenge to our citrus research and extension programs. This loss induced Drs. Powell, Wirth, and Ritenour to initiate research on stone fruit as an alternative crop for citrus growers. Dr. Sandy Wilson and Randy Burton, along with their crews, have done a superb job on the "Linear Garden" along Rock Road. The experiential garden provides students, garden enthusiasts and members of the nursery industry with an outdoor laboratory and plant identification venue. It also provides citrus growers with yet another set of possible options to diversify their agricultural enterprises. Nevertheless, our commitment to citrus is solid and we are grateful for Dr. Boman's Citrus BMP programs and the impact it has had statewide and throughout UF/IFAS. Over the years I have noticed an evolutionary trend in agricultural research, extension,

Moments From Dr. Scully's Farewell Party, May 5, 2007



Dr. Scully hard at work on the serving line

and teaching programs within IFAS. And IRREC is certainly no exception. We have expanded our programs in ways no one thought possible ten years ago. Along with these program expansions we've seen the center's infrastructure expand nearly three-fold to accommodate our growers' needs. This rapid growth has certainly kept David Black busy and he has dedicated himself to this task despite a few minor medical malfunctions. But we must never forget that our ultimate purpose is to establish scientific program success. If that is done, then IFAS and IRREC will be successful, and the impact of these programs will insure that our clients prosper.

And, as I depart, I know that IRREC will also be successful under the steady and thoughtful leadership of Pete Stoffella. I've known Pete from almost the day I arrived at UF, and I know he has a passion for IRREC. Stand by him, and he'll stand by you. Thanks again to all of you and "God-Speed".

Brian Scully



Everglades Research and Education Center Director Christine Waddill, Mike Adams, Anita Neal, Brian Scully and Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center Director Van Waddill.



Former IRREC Director Dr. Calvin Arnold, and the current U.S. Department of Agriculture Horticultural Research Laboratory Director, speaks about Dr. Brian Scully's accomplishments.



Right-hand-man Randy Burton, Dr. Scully, and his Left-hand-man, David Black

Summer Semester 2007

Important Dates:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Classes Begin Summer C | May 14, 2007 |
| Drop/Add Summer C | May 14-17, 2007 |
| Classes Begin Summer B | July 2, 2007 |
| Independence Day-No Classes | Jul 4, 2007 |
| Drop/Add Summer B | July 2-6, 2007 |
| Classes End Summer C | August 10, 2007 |
| Classes End Summer B | August 10, 2007 |

Course offerings:

Bachelor's Degree Courses:

Advanced Natural Resource &
Environmental Economics
Strategic Selling
Principles of Entomology
Water Quality and Irrigation in
Horticulture

Graduate Degree Courses:

Graduate courses are offered
primarily online in topics
such as environmental
horticulture, soils,
agricultural education and
entomology:
[www.cals.ufl.edu/
summer07courses.html](http://www.cals.ufl.edu/summer07courses.html)

Degree and Certificate Offerings at the Indian River Research and Education Center

Bachelor's degree programs

Agribusiness Management
Environmental Management

Master's degree programs

Agricultural Education and
Communication
Entomology
Environmental Science
Environmental Horticulture

Certificate programs

Agribusiness Management
Agricultural Education and
Communication
Entomology

NEW IRRIGATION COURSE

How nurseries, golf courses and other agricultural firms use and manage water will be the focus of a new course, Water Quality and Irrigation in Horticulture. The course will be offered during summer semester, from July 2 until August 10, Monday and Wednesdays, from 2 until 5 p.m., at UF/IRREC.

According to Jamie Gibson, Ph.D., who recently was named UF College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Undergraduate Teacher of the Year, the course will cover irrigation systems and current trends in water use for nurseries and turf industries. A special focus will be upon the development of a business plan for comprehensive water management.

Dr. Gibson added that nursery industries must develop plans for managing their firm's water use during times of droughts and heavy rains, which are typical to the climate throughout Florida.

To enroll in Water Quality and Irrigation in Horticulture, or for more information about UF degree and course offerings at the Indian River Research and Education Center, contact Coordinator of Student Support Services, Kim Wilson, at (772) 468-3922, Ext. 126. For more information about Water Quality and Irrigation in Horticulture, please contact Dr. Jamie Gibson at (850) 983-5216, Ext. 103.

UF/IFAS Indian River Research and Education Center Graduation Social

On Friday, Dec. 8, University of Florida officials and St. Lucie County School Board member Kathryn Hensley honored the accomplishments of nine students who have completed certificates, bachelor's and master's degrees.

The graduating students were: Fort Pierce residents Michael Burton, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticultural Sciences; Patricia Frey, with a Certificate in Gardening in Florida; Laura Hunnicutt, of Port St. Lucie, with a Master of Science degree in Entomology; Laura Parkel, a Fellsmere resident, with a Master of Science degree in Environmental Sciences; Brevard County residents Kari Ruder, with a Master of Science degree in Environmental Horticulture, and Jerry Mozoruk, with a Master of Science degree in Entomology; Palm Beach Gardens resident Carl Frost, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture; and Wellington resident Luis Elortondo, with a Certificate in Agribusiness Management; and Samuel Skogstad III from Miami, with a Master of Science degree in Agribusiness Management.

All of the recent graduates intend to continue with their careers in agriculture or natural resources industries. Michael Burton is a biological scientist at the UF/IFAS Norman C. Hayslip Biological Control Research and Containment Laboratory at IRREC. Patricia "Pat" Frey works in Dr. Sandra Wilson's environmental horticulture laboratory. Both Laura Hunnicutt and Jerry Mozoruk are employed at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Horticultural Research Laboratory, adjacent to IRREC. Luis Elortondo is Export Manager for San Juan de Los Olivos, a major olives production firm based in his native Argentina. Sam Skogstad III, is in Sales with Brooks Tropicals, in Homestead. Carl Frost, along with his wife Diane, would like to operate a vineyard on land the couple owns in New Zealand.

"On behalf of the faculty and staff, we are very proud of the students' recent educational accomplishments," said Brian Scully, Indian River Research and Education Center (IRREC) Director.



Dr. Scully congratulates graduate Laura Hunnicutt, who receives a Master of Science degree in Entomology from Dean Reiger



Kari Ruder and her husband. Kari earned a Master of Science degree in Environmental Horticulture. She and her husband reside in Brevard County



Samuel Skogstad III, who lives in Miami, earned a Master of Science degree in Agribusiness Management

Pat Frey earned the first UF/IFAS Certificate in Gardening in Florida





Luis Elortondo, Jane Bachelor and Jackie White



Jess and Michael Burton. Michael earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Entomology



On the right is Delta Harris, an IRREC charter student of the new Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Management. On the left is her sister.

“Many of the graduates are working professionals who have already made significant contributions to Florida agriculture and its natural resources. Their education will help them to accomplish even more with their careers and the state’s agricultural and natural resource industries will greatly benefit.”

“Many of the graduates are working professionals who have already made significant contributions to Florida agriculture and its natural resources. Their education will help them to accomplish even more with their careers and the state’s agricultural and natural resource industries will greatly benefit.”

Brian Scully and UF Associate Dean Mark Rieger lead the program which included speeches by Kathryn Hensley, UF Director of Recruitment and Alumni Services Charlotte Emerson and IRREC student Delta Harris.

Dean Rieger said he was impressed with the high grade point averages held by each of the graduates and that they would have been recognized separately had they participated in graduation ceremonies held in Gainesville.

Kathryn Hensley said the region is growing in such a positive way, with an emphasis on research because the University of Florida is here. She reminded attendees that a research park is being planned around the university location and that biotechnology companies are pursuing the region because of the business community’s support for the field.

“The status and caliber of people who work and study at this facility is very high and they are helping our community to improve,” said Hensley. “This event is a symbolic one for St. Lucie County.”

Guests of IRREC students Richard Freeman, second from right, and Cody Hoffman, far right



The Luis Elortondo family



The UF/IFAS 2007 Biological Control Brain Bowl

After a 2-hour-long, zealous demonstration of their mastery of biological control, each of the three competing teams emerged winners of the 2007 University of Florida Biological Control Brain Bowl. The 2007 Biological Control Brain Bowl, held Saturday, May 12, from 1 until 3 p.m. at the UF/IFAS Indian River Research and Education Center near Fort Pierce, was the culmination of a 2-month-long public affairs program, intended to share with the public, what takes place in the \$3.8 million UF Norman C. Hayslip Biological Control Research and Containment Laboratory, situated on the UF/IRREC campus.

Science scholars specially selected for the program representing middle and high schools in Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin counties, participated in experiments and other activities designed to educate them about biological control as the most efficient method to fight the state's more than \$1 billion annual fight with invasive species. Experiments were directed by Hayslip Laboratory professors Ron Cave, Ph.D., and Bill Overholt, Ph.D., and Dr. Scott Adkins, representing the U.S. Department of Agriculture Horticultural Research Laboratory, adjacent to the UF campus. UF/IFAS Cooperative Extension Agents Ken Gioeli and Dan Culbert hosted fun programs such as a "mini-Melalupoza" and the "Great American Cockroach Race."

The St. Lucie Brain Team, whose members were Matthew McCord, Jeanette Mills, Negar Nasiri-Kenari and Negin Nasiri-Kenari, Alannah Creswell and Vishal Korlipara, were presented with the Biological Control Brain Bowl Championship trophy. Martin Brain Team members were Raquel Rizkalla, Linda Lu, Vishalaksi Lakshimanan, Allison Ivak, Louis Shatkun and Tia Belvin; the team was recognized with



The 2007 Championship St. Lucie Brain Team

From left to right are: Matthew McCord, Alannah Creswell, Vishal Korlipara, Jeanette Mills, Negar Nasiri-Kenari and Negin Nasiri-Kenari. Second from right is team mentor David Pick. On the far right is Dr. Ron Cave, who delivered the Bowl.



the Professors' Choice Award trophy. Indian River Brain Team members were: Dakota Unruh, Jennifer Conway, Abby and Alizabeth Maldonado, Christian Culbert, and Nick and Kristen Rocha; the team won the Promotion Award trophy.

To prepare for the competition event, team mentors Daniel Call and David Pick, who were each members of the 2006 Biological Control Championship St. Lucie Brain Team, led the teams in their studies of more than 17 scientific scholarly publications, brochures and websites. Teacher sponsors and mentors were Tonya Belvin, from Anderson Middle School in Martin County, Deanna Pick, from Olivet Private School in St. Lucie County, and Carol Haffield and Ashley Smith, from Vero Beach High School in Indian River County.

Programmatic sponsors included The University of Florida, Pelican Island Audubon Society, St. Lucie Audubon Society, Audubon of Martin County, 4-H, TAME Melaleuca, The Florida Research Center for Agricultural Sustainability, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, the Bug Master Inc., an ethical, local pest management organization that practices IPM, and Papa John's Pizza in Fort Pierce.

The UF Biological Control Brain Bowl is an award-winning program intended to teach the public about the efficacy of biological control. It was initiated in 2005 with a grant provided by IPM Florida, or Integrated Pest Management Florida, based in the University of Florida in Gainesville. Since its inception, the program has served 59 students in Indian River, Okeechobee, St. Lucie and Martin counties, many of whom are expected to serve as future leaders in the natural resources.

According to the U.S. General Accounting Office based in Washington, D.C., invasive species are "one of the most serious yet least-appreciated environmental threats of the 21st century."



From left are: Team mentor Daniel Call and sponsor Tonya Belvin. Martin Brain Team members were Raquel Rizkalla, Louis Shatkun, Allison Ivak, Vishalaksi Lakshimanan, Linda Lu, and Tia Belvin; Dr. Ron Cave is on the far right. The team was recognized with the Professors' Choice Award trophy.



Indian River Brain Team members from left to right are: Christian Culbert, team sponsor Ashely Smith, Dakota Unruh, Jennifer Conway, Abby and Alizabeth Maldonado, Nick and Kristen Rocha (not pictured), and Dr. Ron Cave on the far right. The team won the Promotion Award trophy.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA FORT PIERCE DEGREE PROGRAM TO MEET STRONG JOB DEMAND

According to a recent U.S. News and World Report listing of "hot track" careers for future employment, 20 percent of the positions listed were related to the environment. But on the Treasure Coast, that percent is surely larger as new positions are created annually to fulfill the state and federal mandates to restore the Everglades and meet the increasing need for environmental protection.

As the state's population, economy, and the number of new residential developments grow steadily, so does the need to protect the state's resources. And protecting the state's resources will require more individuals who have expertise to carry out this work.

"South of Orlando, we have documented more than 1,500 public sector positions related to the environment, with all of the positions paying in the range of \$32,000 to \$80,000 annually," said PJ van Blokland, professor and teaching program director for the University of Florida Indian River Research and Education Center near Fort Pierce. "A minimum of 500 of those positions are for people who work along the Treasure Coast."

van Blokland said the growth in the state natural resource industry is in a word: astonishing, with new positions opening up monthly. He added that the positions are created for county and city governments, and for private industry such as agriculture, manufacturing and for a growing proportion of private consulting firms.

"We can document the number of jobs available in the public sector, but I am sure the opportunities within the private sector are far greater," van Blokland said.

The facts are: many employers on the Treasure Coast offer jobs such as: Environmental Resources Director with the St. Lucie County Government; Environmental Services Director, Martin County Government; Lead Environmental Scientist, South Florida Water Management District; Environmental Education & Outreach Manager, Indian River County Government; and, an Ecologist for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Vero Beach.

Other local government organizations and business firms that carry out work related to the environment include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District, both are based in West Palm Beach;

| Organization | No. of Jobs Related to the Environment |
|--|--|
| South Florida Water Management District | 450 |
| U.S. Army Corp Engineers | 350 |
| U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services | 60 |
| Martin County Govt. | 9 |
| St. Lucie County Govt. | 7 |
| Indian River County Govt. | 5 |
| Department of Environmental Protection | 250 |
| St. Johns Water Management District | 350 |
| University of Florida/IFAS | 30 |
| 24 private firms, with an average of two employees | 48 |
| No. of Jobs | 1,559 |



the South Florida Ecological Service in Vero Beach, and local private consultant firms such as EW Consultants Inc. and Ecological Associates Inc. Telephone books in Indian River, Lucie and Martin counties list a total of 24 such firms. Many engineering firms also offer environmental services.

Charmae Hillman, senior human resources professional with the South Florida Water Management District, said the organization employs more than 450 people from Orlando to the Florida Keys, each of whom perform work related to the protection of the environment.

"The South Florida Water Management District is only one of the area's largest employers for environmental jobs," said Hillman. "And this area keeps growing. Protecting the environment will always be important."

van Blokland said the bachelor's degree program was added to IRREC to meet the region's demand for employees trained in the environmental management field.

According to van Blokland, many of the new degree program courses are offered online, with electives and some primary courses available by live lecture and by videoconference at IRREC. Some of the program's professors are situated at other UF/IFAS sites such as Fort Lauderdale in the south, and Milton on the Florida panhandle. Their lectures are transmitted by videoconference and by on-site visits.

"This semester Dr. Roy Carriker joined our faculty full-time," he said. "Dr. Carriker is an expert in natural resource economics and policy, and his expertise will greatly strengthen the program."

For the summer semester, Carriker is offering Advanced Natural Resource and Environmental Economics to IRREC students. Carriker said the course will examine the relationship between humanity and the environment and how that relationship affects, and is affected by, economic and political institutions.

Spotlight On University of Sao Paulo Short-Term Scholar at IRREC, Patricia

Miguel



Mr. and Mrs. Miguel with their daughter Patricia, following her baccalaureate graduation ceremony at The University of Sao Paulo in Brazil

Patricia Miguel wasn't ready for all the choices she would need to make in a Vero Beach grocery store. She said Brazil grocery stores are smaller and are filled with a plethora of locally produced fresh fruit and vegetables. The 22-year-old Piracicaba, Brazil native is serving as a short-term scholar at the University of Florida Indian River Research and Education Center (UF/IRREC) in Fort Pierce until late July. While here, she works under the direction of Mark Ritenour, Ph.D., conducting post-harvest research with fresh fruit and vegetable commodities in the IRREC Postharvest Facility.

Patricia's home in Piracicaba is located inland, in Sao Paulo state, a region often described as one of the world's premier agricultural regions. It is located about 350 miles south of Rio de Janeiro. Sao Paulo leads the world in the production of oranges. For more than a century, growers have sustained the area's sugar cane, which produced 250 million tons in 2005. The state has also preserved its legendary coffee production. Other Sao Paulo grown commodities include potatoes, persimmons, bananas and peaches.

Like UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, or UF/IFAS, the Escola Superior de Agricultura Luiz de Queiroz, or ESALQ, is the agricultural campus of the University of Sao Paulo, with a mission to serve the state's agriculture with education, extension and research. The ESALQ was initiated more than 100 years ago when in 1892, a sugar cane grower, Luiz de Queiroz, donated his farm to establish a school of agriculture or an institute dedicated to the education of professionals in agriculture. At the turn of the last century, in 1901, ESALQ began with its first 11 students. Later, in 1934, it was integrated to the University of Sao Paulo, just as the university began research for the manufacture of ethanol from agricultural products, mainly sugar. Today, Sao Paulo State leads the world in ethanol production.

Many American researchers and agricultural economists study Sao Paulo State's agricultural practices. And, Patricia has elected to study American agricultural research methods at the UF/IFAS Indian River Research and Education Center.

In Brazil, and in Florida, her academic pursuits are focused upon post-harvest technology.

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Sao Paulo state in southern Brazil, is a renowned agricultural region. The state's growers enjoy the benefits of its rich soil



The University of Sao Paulo in Brazil



Facts about UF/IFAS, Florida agricultural interests, ethanol production and Sao Paulo State

- Members of the Indian River Citrus League recently visited Sao Paulo to observe the region's citrus-growing operations and pathogen management practices
- Fort Pierce-based U.S. Department of Agriculture renowned plant pathologist Dr. Tim Gottwald, visits Sao Paulo State regularly to observe plant pathogen management practices
- Sao Paulo State in Brazil leads the world in ethanol production
- In March, 2007, UF/IFAS Senior Vice President Jimmy G. Cheek visited Brazil with a group of Extension faculty as part of the new mission to internationalize Florida Extension to better serve Florida's clientele in a global economy, and to observe biofuels production
- Sen. V.P. Dr. Cheek is working to convince the legislature to support an alternative fuel initiative that would provide funding to help build a pilot plant in Gainesville and support cellulosic ethanol research
- According to Sen. V.P. Dr. Cheek, UF/IFAS will probably produce ethanol from cellulose, or agricultural products, agricultural waste, trees, urban waste, invasive plants, and hurricane debris--not corn and sugar cane
- University of Florida/IFAS professor, Dr. Lonnie Ingram, has developed a biotechnology "bug" that converts biomass and other farm wastes into fuel

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Her aspiration is to become an expert in the field and to assist Brazilian growers who ship fresh fruits and vegetables so that they arrive at destinations in good shape. Her work at the UF/IRREC Postharvest Facility includes testing BASF Corporation's FreshSeal[®] CHC, a new, innovative, polymer-based edible coating created to preserve the quality of fresh tomatoes and peppers.

"I like to do experiments that will help farmers and I want to do more in the future," said Miguel.

She said agriculture in Sao Paulo State is so important because the people in Sao Paulo, and all over Brazil, consume a great deal of fresh fruit and vegetables. Brazilians do not depend upon "ready meals" or frozen, boxed and canned foods. Prepared meals are available in Brazil, but for a very high price.

Upon her arrival in Florida, she said she was struck with the amount of choices made available to consumers in the grocery stores. And she spends a great deal more time in American grocery stores as it takes more time to select from such a wide variety of foods. The large sizes of boxed food, the repeated aisles and shelves of food in cans—and the availability of so many frozen foods were to her—amazing.

"In Brazil, most people cook their own food from fresh vegetables and they eat more vegetables and fruit," said Patricia. "The produce sections in Brazil are much larger and the fruits and vegetables are less expensive. In America, produce sections are so small—and the cost for the food is so expensive—in Brazil, bananas are 12 cents a pound; in America, they are four times that price."

The way Americans eat in restaurants is also very dissimilar to Brazilian restaurant customs. She said most of the eating establishments serve food buffet style, with traditionally-fresh prepared foods.

"In a restaurant we put food on a plate and then when we pay for the food, it is weighed on a scale," she said.

"You pay for the weight of the food, not what type of food is on the plate. It is about \$7 per kilo or \$3.20 cents per pound, which is much less than in restaurants here."

Although the differences in Florida grocery stores and restaurants have bewildered Patricia, she said America's natural resources, cities and its people's cultures are fascinating. While she is not conducting research in the Postharvest Facility or visiting packinghouses, she enjoys visiting other places in Florida and hopes to travel to New York City prior to her return to Brazil.

Patricia enjoys the beauty that natural resources provide. Whether the natural locations are in Brazil or in America, she said she will always find her way to forests, oceans and valleys where she marvels at beautiful plants and water sources.

"To be able to see different places is so exciting for me," she said. "To see the color of the sea in Miami was so beautiful."

In Brazil, Patricia visits beautiful sites such as Rio Grande do Sul State. The site is a natural wonder in some ways similar to states' Grand Canyon. There, she finds the landscape exhilarating, with its canyon, called Canela, and Itaimbezinho waterfall. When she returns to her native country, she plans to travel to Iquazu Falls, a magnificent series of waterfalls, and one of the world's Seven Natural Wonders.

Patricia's parents are accomplished and educated. Her father is a civil engineer; her mother holds a degree in administration. She has one brother, Alexandre.

In her free time, she enjoys talking with her family and friends by Instant Messenger, and dining out. Fortunately for her, and for UF/IRREC Coordinator of Economic Analysis, Jackie White, the two share a home in Vero Beach.



Patricia during a recent visit to Caracol's Fall, in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, 620 miles south of the city of Sao Paulo



Canion of Itaimbezinho, in Rio Grande do Sul State



Iquazu Falls, a magnificent series of waterfalls, and one of the world's Seven Natural Wonders, situated on the Iquazu River. The exact location of the Falls is on the border of the Brazilian state of Parana and the Argentine province of Misiones.

IRREC Student Scholarship News



The Garden Club of Indian River County

NEW Scholarship Opportunity for Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 !!

The Garden Club of Indian River County Scholarship Award is now being offered to UF/IFAS Indian River Research and Education Center students seeking degrees in Agribusiness Management, Environmental Horticulture or Environmental Management.

Organized in 1928, the club's mission is to further the education of its 240 members and the public in gardening, horticulture, floral arrangement and landscape design, to beautify Indian River County through various civic projects; and to study and assist in the protection and conservation of native plants and natural resources. In keeping with that mission, prospective scholarship recipients must meet the following:

1. Be a resident of Indian River County
2. Maintain a minimum 3.0
3. Be a degree-seeking student in any of the following degree programs: Environmental Horticulture, Agribusiness Management, or Environmental Management
4. Complete an official application form

Please see IRREC Coordinator of Student Support Services Kim Wilson for an application; call (772) 468-3922, Ext. 126, or by e-mail: wilsonks@ufl.edu

IRREC Upcoming Events

June 4, 2007

UF/IFAS Senior Vice President Jimmy Cheek to meet with Growers

June 12, 2007

Treasure Coast Education, Research and Development Authority Board Meeting

June 27, 2007

Department of Environmental Protection Aquatic Preserve Meeting

July 10, 2007

Treasure Coast Education, Research and Development Authority Board Meeting

July 17, 2007

IRREC Faculty/Staff Potluck Luncheon

July 31, 2007

St. Lucie County School Counselors Accountability Meeting

August 14, 2007

Treasure Coast Education, Research and Development Authority Board Meeting

September 11, 2007

Treasure Coast Education, Research and Development Authority Board Meeting