



ZAMORANO Learning by Doing

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA - Teaching today's youth to feed tomorrow's world

Director's Newsletter

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THE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

THE FUTURE OF A ZAMORANO GRADUATE

Many parents and their children develop a sincere interest in the Zamorano education because they have heard so many marvelous things about our graduates and our system: How it transforms young people into mature adults, provides experience and especially how it promotes self-confidence. Parents and

prospective students need to satisfy their own minds and make personal evaluations of how this institution compares to others. For this reason we would like families with sons and daughters interested in studying agriculture to visit us, to stay a couple of days at our W. K. Kellogg Center and to talk with students and professors about how we operate at Zamorano.

Obviously, the graduates of this institution especially those that work here feel very enthusiastic about our system. It is enormously inspiring for any educator to contemplate how a student is gradually transformed into a productive member of society with a sound personality, with ideas and well defined ambi-

tions. It is comforting to talk with our former students and perceive security and a confidence about their futures. The testing of their skills in actual work situations makes our graduates strong proponents of the benefits of our system of Learning-by-Doing.

Young Latin Americans between the ages 15-20 years traditionally have a lack of confidence in themselves and naturally an ingrained lack of faith in their future. The growing size of this population of young people needs greater opportunities to work actively, preferably using their hands in constructive projects. Their potential and talents fail to be utilized individually or collectively in organized, worthwhile learning activities. With the excep-

tion of sports, such as soccer (where a few are fortunate enough to escape poverty through professional activities) swimming and gymnastics, the youth of the tropical region do not have activities where they can use their energies constructively.

Insecurity inhibits the performance of agricultural graduates from institutions where theoretical concepts and philosophies are taught without an opportunity for practicing what has been learned in class. These students do not have field work and activities where they can obtain skills and acquire the experiences indispensable for their professional future. Confidence in our own physical and mental capacity is born after several years of trial and error working in agricultural production.

Zamorano education has been designed for urban or rural students without experience in the field, subjecting them to 3 and 4 years of rigorous intellectual discipline and manual work. Students must participate in all the aspects of the School's commercial agricultural production where they acquire experience in systems and procedures necessary to succeed in their professional lives.

A good balance of classroom with practical learning makes the Zamorano graduate highly skilled in any specialty of the agricultural profession. They distinguish themselves because they have no fear of the amount of work or of any new challenge that appears in their careers as food producers. They are ready to face problems in Forestry, Fish Culture, Marketing and Agricultural Economics as well as the more traditional areas of food grain and horticultural production.

The private sector responds positively to Zamorano each year by seeking our graduates. Our students receive offers and bright opportunities in all fields of agriculture. The demand invariable exceeds the number of graduates available and there always appears to exist a deficit of EAP graduates.

Zamorano offers a flexible academic program permitting students to culminate their university studies in four years with an Ingeniero Agronomo degree. After completing the 3rd year, (9 trimesters) and obtaining the title of "Agronomo," they can enter the 4th year, or enter a North American University for a Bachelor of Science degree. There are a large number of universities that gladly accept Zamorano "Agronomos." The University of Florida (Gainesville, FL.) and Kansas State University (Manhattan, KS.) consider Zamorano graduates as state residents waiving the Out-of-State fees charged to non-residents. This represents savings of up to \$3,500 annually in registration fees. There are also many universities that accept our Ingeniero Agronomo students directly into programs of

Master of Science or Ph.D. The large majority of Graduate Schools provide grants or stipends for research work (assistantships). A preference exists in the U.S. for graduates from overseas institutions with good reputations and for high caliber, broadly trained students, like Zamorano's Graduates, over graduates of other institutions.

A graduate from Escuela Agrícola Panamericana has an excellent future. A great number of Zamoranos are leaders in agricultural fields in a larger proportion to that of graduates from other Latin American institutions. Zamorano has more Ministers of Agriculture in the region among its alumni than perhaps any other college of agricultural operating in the region. The influence of Zamoranos in teaching, research, and in private and public fields in the hemisphere has been and will continue to be extraordinary.

NEW ALUMNI FUNDRAISING DRIVE OFF TO A GOOD START

The International Office of AGEAP and Zamorano has put out a new appeal to all graduates of Zamorano to help support the school. We have been pleased with the return and believe the two primary projects being supported by the Alumni Fund this year, the Student Center and The Zamorano Scholarship Program, are of tremendous importance to the school and its future success. To all graduates that have already given, many thanks for your support!



"W.K. KELLOGG CENTER"

BRITISH GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The British Government has announced that they are willing to consider individual requests from Spanish speaking students to receive scholarships to attend Zamorano. These scholarships will be available in countries where the United Kingdom finances a training program if the authorities in those countries give this program a priority. Interested persons should contact their local British Council or British Embassy for more information.

On Saturday, July 15, we inaugurated the W.K. Kellogg Center and uncovered a plaque in the courtyard testifying our gratitude to the Foundation for their gift of the building to Zamorano. In attendance were Dr. Dan Moore, W.K. Kellogg Foundation Program Director, distinguished visitors including Dr. W. Wickhoff, German Ambassador, Mr. J. Sanbrailo, USAID/Honduras Mission Director, Mr. J. Smith, Chairman of the Board of Zamorano, and other representatives from the Honduras Government, the InterAmerican Development Bank, and the U.S. Embassy. The new Center is the headquarters for all the non-degree training activities based at Zamorano and the Rural Development Program.

HONDURAN ENDOWMENT

In November 1988, Zamorano received a 30 million lempiras endowment from USAID via the Honduran Government. In order to utilize the interest from this endowment, the School must raise privately, one-fourth of this capital (Lps. 7.5 million). The interest from this endowment will be used to support scholarships for Hondurans to attend Zamorano and to enhance our environmental programs and activities. We are thankful to all our friends that have helped us meet this challenge, and we are hopeful that all our friends and supporters will help us realize this goal.



RECOGNITION TO THOMAS D. CABOT

Earlier this year we dedicated the Guest House to Mr. Thomas D. Cabot, one of the original founders of the school. We were very pleased he and his wife Virginia were able to attend the ceremony. In addition, a small monument was constructed in front of the "Casa Cabot" to express our sincere appreciation for his almost fifty years of generous support and commitment while understanding the complexities of working in the tropics. Mr. Cabot's years of persistence in promoting the importance of the environment has not only served the school's Mission but helped to educate the future agricultural leaders

with an appreciation for the environment and its tremendous ecological importance for the region.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

We have recently expanded our collaboration with Cornell University through a number of exchanges. With the support of the "Burke Wright Fund," Dr. Tom Scott, Soils Professor at Cornell, visited Zamorano for part of his sabbatical in September. In addition, we had our first exchange student from Cornell, Laura German, who spent the fall semester taking courses at Zamorano and using these credits for her undergraduate studies at Cornell. This year we will have a PHD candidate, Charles Nicholson, assisting in our Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Department. Lastly, Dean Jorge Roman is spending a six month sabbatical at Cornell which began in October 1989. We are very enthusiastic about our growing relationship with Cornell and other Universities throughout the world.

ISGSC

In August 1989, Zamorano began construction of the International Seed and Grain Science Center. The Center represents the first of its kind in the tropics which will provide research and appropriate training in the areas of pre-harvest sciences, seed quality and postharvest grain technology. Basic grains are the primary first crop throughout the world and an emphasis in these sciences will help to provide future food security to the Latin American region.

GAMMA SIGMA DELTA CHAPTER

On Saturday October 28, five representatives from the National Honor Society of Agriculture visited Zamorano to officially inaugurate the second Chapter of the Society outside of the United States. The Zamorano Chapter is the first in Latin America and in academic circles probably represents the best recognition of the value of the academic performance of EAP.



RETIREMENT

In 1988, Amado Pelén retired from his position as the School's Registrar. He has been a member of EAP's personnel for 44 years, almost since the School's founding. Besides working as registrar, Amado was secretary of AGEAP, the international alumni association of Zamorano. All active graduates have been used to the Newsletter that he prepared about AGEAP activities.

Amado Pelén, a Guatemalan by birth, set roots and started a family in Honduras, where he will remain dedicated to personal endeavors.



Amado Pelén (center), with EAP Director and Dean.



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