



ZAMORANO Learning by Doing

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

Director's Newsletter

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The 4th - Year Program

Starting in April, 1987, the School will begin a new dimension in its program of studies. A 4th-year will be added to the traditional 33-month curriculum of Zamorano. It will consist of 11 months of intensive studies which will be focused on a specialty and will grant the "Ingeniero Agronomo" degree. Two areas will be emphasized at the initiation of the program: Plant Science and Animal Science.

The 4th-year program constitutes a milestone in Zamorano's academic record of 45 years of learning-by-doing. It is open to all Zamorano graduates with a grade point average of 2.3 or better. Graduates of other institutions, who qualify, can also be considered. However, they may have to do an additional year at the School, taking enough field laboratory "modules" and formal courses to bring their hands-on experience to the level of their classmates.

After the establishment of the coeducational program in 1981, this new program is one of the most significant in the development of the education offered at the School. It underscores an institutional maturity and experience which only colleges with a successful academic record can organize and institute confidently. We are certain that the basic, intensive 3-year program will not be affected because the new addition complements and supplements the education of a Zamorano graduate.

The 4th-year program will actually operate as a mini-graduate program, giving the opportunity to Zamorano graduates to finish with a recognized university-level degree and in this way

they can eventually move directly into a Masters program in the U.S. As it is today, EAP graduates have to study in a U.S. university from one to two years, depending on the specialty, to get their BS degree. Since English proficiency of Zamoranos is very high by the time they get their "agronomo" degree, we are confident that eventually this new program will become a truly bilingual one with U.S. university professors from cooperating institutions teaching specialized courses. This aspect applies particularly to agribusiness and agricultural economics, since experienced faculty in these areas are difficult to hire in Latin America.

It gives us much pleasure to announce this new program which will bring to completion the university-level education of the institution, topping it off with the degree of "Ingeniero Agronomo", which is recognized practically everywhere in the world. It is hoped that Zamorano graduates will make note of this and will take advantage of the opportunity to complete their education.

DEAN'S OFFICE

The 1986 academic year was initiated in January with 438 students representing 15 Latin American countries and the U.S. Of those, 205 are in the first year, 126 in the second, and 107 in the third. Hondurans make up 33% of the student body.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to new members of our staff and community. In Animal Science, R. Disly (EAP '58) is working with animal production. In Agronomy, C. Alvarado, Dr. D. Graw, J. LaBrie, Dr. J. Rosas, and Dr. M. Swisher have responsibilities in forestry, soil science, fish culture, plant breeding, and rural development, respectively. In Horticulture, M. Rodriguez Cedillos (EAP '60), M. Zavala (EAP '80), and C. Zepeda (EAP '72) have responsibilities in fruit crops, vegetable crops, and plant propagation. In Plant Protection, E. Fernandez and C. Sobrado (EAP '82) are working in communications and entomology.



Presidents Azcona and Febres Cordero at EAP with Zamorano students.



Zamorano extensionist with campesino farmers

At the request of ROCAP Guatemala (the Regional AID Office for Central America and Panama), Zamorano has organized a training program for high school agriculture vocational teachers from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama. In groups of 25, these CAPS participants (Central America Peace Scholarships) are immersed in agricultural methodology and language training at Zamorano and in the U.S. It is hoped that this program will provide these teachers with new technical skills, innovative ideas, improved teaching capabilities, and an expanded understanding of the United States.

Zamorano has also initiated a cross-cultural exchange program with Future Farmers of America. Nine EAP graduates are presently living with farming families in the U.S. where they are partaking in day-to-day activities and demonstrating their prowess in agricultural enterprises. We are grateful to the international division of FFA for making the exchange possible and hope that this is the first step in a lasting program of exchanges.

AGRONOMY

As a significant contribution to agricultural development in Honduras, this department has, as is customary, made available to farmers high quality seeds of the following grain crops:

150,000 pounds of corn, 16,000 pounds of sorghum, 199,000 pounds of rice, 22,500 pounds of soya, and 40,000 pounds of beans. The certified seed are of various hybrids and varieties; they are characterized by high germination and vigor; and they are sorted and packed so as to prevent the inclusion of noxious weed seeds, insects and seed pathogens.

In spite of limitations in the availability of water for irrigation, the department has initiated new research projects and continued others in areas such as:

- Search for drought resistant beans;
- Renovation of the materials in the germplasm bank;
- Studies on light requirements of various strains of soya;
- Determination of the effects caused to soya by agrochemicals;
- Crossing of sorghum and sudan grass for new forage hybrids;
- Generation of bean cultivars with high symbiotic nitrogen fixation potential.

In collaboration with the Computer Center, this department offered a short course to students and personnel in the uses and applications of the Computer Program MSTAT. This program is used in the design, management of data, and analysis of research projects in agronomy.

ANIMAL SCIENCE

The Animal Nutrition and Poultry units cooperated in the development of a project sponsored by ICAITI (Central American Institute for Industrial Research and Technology) and the Honduran Government. The project evaluated the use of processed banana as protein-enriched livestock feed. Funds received from the project were used to partially finance the construction of a poultry research unit with 16 pens and an area for metabolic studies. It is being used as a research facility for evaluating the use of extruded soybean products in poultry rations. It will also be of great help for conducting applied research with 4th-year students.

The first phase of the new teaching and research swine unit is now close to completion. It consists of three separate buildings; a farrowing barn, a breeding and gestation unit, and a piglet growing barn. The first phase of the swine unit has a capacity for 40 sows and their offspring under a complete confinement system.

Work is underway in the design and construction of a special facility for the water buffalo herd which numbers 49 head at the present time. The new buffalo unit will consist of an area for grazing during the rainy season, another area for producing forage during the dry season and a milking barn and corrals for management and feeding. Data on the growth pattern of young buffalos has shown that the adjusted 210 days weaning weight is 474 pounds for males and 417 pounds for females.

The milk and meat teaching laboratories have been intensifying their work on processing the raw material into small units packed under vacuum and properly labelled to be sold to the public in the student marketing laboratory. The variety of processed products includes more than 12 dairy products and more than 15 meat products. Students are responsible for the entire process, from start to marketing.

HORTICULTURE

Due to the acquisition of new equipment and machinery, the students

and staff of this department are planting more vegetable crops with machines. This has provided better training for the students and also has increased the amount and efficiency of vegetable production.

A new post-harvest laboratory is being designed to teach students how to prepare produce for market. The apiary section will also be reconstructed and expanded to accommodate modern equipment to provide better training for students in this important field.

Besides improving our teaching capability, the new facilities will be used for national and regional short courses in the diffusion of up-to-date horticultural practices.

PLANT PROTECTION

On January first 1986, the Department of Crop Protection was established in order to better meet the production, teaching, research and outreach mandates of the EAP. At present, this new department undertakes work in agronomic, horticultural and fruit crops, but in the upcoming years will expand its activities into other areas such as forages, forestry and urban pests.

A major activity in the department is the Project of Integrated Pest Management in Honduras. Funding for

this project has been renewed by USAID-Honduras for an additional three years. Implementation of the technologies generated to date by this project would boost Honduran production of maize and beans by approximately US\$20 million per year. EAP's plant pathologist, Dr. Jairo Castaño has produced guidebooks and review articles and is undertaking an aggressive, pragmatic research program in bean diseases. The project will be actively collaborating with the Honduras Agricultural Research Foundation (FHIA). It has entered into an outreach-training phase whereby Honduran and international specialists can benefit from the project's findings. Project results are already being applied in neighboring countries.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

During the past few months, the school has hosted a number of distinguished visitors. Honduras President José Azcona del Hoyo came with his family for an informal visit and returned some months later with the President of Ecuador Leon Febres Cordero, the head of the Honduran armed forces General Humberto Regalado Hernández (whose son is a Zamorano student), the Minister of Natural Resources Lic. Rodrigo Castillo, and a host of government



Young women comprise 10% of EAP's student body.

representatives and reporters. Zamorano students and staff were on hand for an enthusiastic welcome of the Presidents and their entourages.

U.S. Ambassador to Honduras and Mrs. Ferch, and Michael O'Brian, director of the U.S. Information Service visited the school for an extensive tour and a luncheon of Zamorano products. Other distinguished visitors and U.S. representatives have included: Dr. Nyle C. Brady, Senior Assistant Administrator of USAID, Washington D.C., Tony Cauterucci, Director of USAID- Honduras, and other representatives of both the private and public sectors.

Zamorano was honored by the reunion of representatives of the first graduating class of 1946. There were 63 graduates in that first year, 18 of whom participated in the reunion. Following a tour of their alma mater, they had lunch in the messhall, in the same building where they took their meals forty years ago. There was a strong spirit of comradere and emotions ran high as the stories flowed one after the other of "the good old days".



Third year students caring for a young calf.



Zamorano graduates of the class of '46.



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