



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

OCTOBER 1957. This month we had a letter from Mr. Albert S. Muller, Counselor to Latin American Agricultural Students at the University of Florida. It was a rather matter of fact letter stating that one of our graduates, Ricardo Coronel will graduate from the University of Florida at the end of this semester "possibly" as an honor student and that Luis Carlos Gonzalez, who graduates in June, "will probably be the number one student in this year's graduating class of the College of Agriculture".

We now have had 18 of our boys with scholarships graduate from the University of Florida, 3 with Honors while 3 others graduated with High Honors. But we still can't receive such a letter as Bert's without a very justifiable thrill.

When the United Fruit Company endowed the Escuela Agricola Panamericana, the school assumed the responsibility to offer the best agricultural education possible. However, because of the nature of the background of our students--primarily of humble origins from rural areas with limited educational antecedents--it was not thought at that time that our boys would go on for higher education from here. However, as early as 1946 it was realized that there would be graduates who had so progressed during their time with us that they might continue their education, if funds were available.

Recognizing this, both the Rockefeller Foundation and the United Fruit Company established separate scholarships for our graduates which, to date, have amounted to more than \$43,500.00. The result of this money is now disseminated throughout Latin America from the Amazon River, where one of the graduates is now working on a Forestry Project, on throughout Central America where other graduates are primarily to be found in government agricultural extension services or teaching in agricultural schools. For instance, two of our newest staff members, Hernán Fonseca and Mario Jalil have both returned with Masters' Degrees (and High Honors) this year from Florida.

Another result is the very close relationship between the University of Florida and the Escuela Agricola Panamericana, a relationship which is well known throughout Latin America. It would be incorrect to leave the impression that all of our graduates who go on for more education go to the University of Florida, but certainly most do. The impression is even so well established that the University of Florida recently had a request from a boy asking for help to enter the Escuela Agricola Panamericana--so that he could then enter the University of Florida!

One reason, of course, for our very close ties with Florida is that, in the interest of international understanding, it does not charge our graduates tuition. Another is the similarity in climates and agriculture between Florida and tropical America.

But even more important is the climate the University establishes for the Latin American student through its counseling service which contributes greatly to the student's adjustment to U.S. university life--an adjustment which is essential if we are to receive such letters as the one this month! Bert Muller, as Counselor of Latin American Agricultural Students at Florida has developed an enviable reputation throughout Latin America for the very competent help he has extended his students.

The measure of success of our Rockefeller Foundation and United Fruit Company scholarship students in the U.S. rests in large part on the student counselor. So, we send our congratulations to Ricardo Coronel and Luis Carlos Gonzalez. . .and our thanks to Bert Muller.

Do not think so