



MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

SEPTEMBER 1954. Professional opportunities for our graduates seem to become more numerous as the years go by. But to take advantage of these opportunities, a college degree is often necessary - as we believe we have pointed out in previous News Letters. During the early part of the month under review, the Director spent several days at the University of Florida, where he discussed some of our problems with Dr. J. Wayne Reitz, Provost for Agriculture, Dr. Ivan Putman, Jr., Adviser to Foreign Students, and Professor Albert S. Muller, Counselor for Latin American Students in Agriculture.

For most of our students who need and deserve a degree of Bachelor of Science, we believe the College of Agriculture of the University of Florida is an excellent place to go for the following reasons: (1) It more nearly approaches Tropical America in conditions of climate, animal husbandry, crops and crop pests than most other colleges of agriculture in the United States; (2) quite a few Florida staff members have had tropical American experience; and (3) the institution has shown an active interest in receiving students from Latin America and in providing the best possible training for them.

We are proud of the records our boys are making at Gainesville. Let us consider a few examples. Eduardo Jimenez of Costa Rica received the degree of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, with honors, on 7 June 1954; and several of his professors wrote us asking that he be given sufficient financial help to make it possible for him to continue one year longer and qualify for an M.S.

Humberto Alvarez of Panama came to our school some years ago. When he looked over the curriculum, he said, "I am not going to take any courses in English." We asked why he did not want to learn English, and he replied, "I live in Panama, and will not need it," and he went on to intimate that he did not think too much of gringos anyway. He took English. He graduated with us, practically a straight "A", and we sent him to the College of Agriculture, Davis, California, for a year, where he was so good that the head of his department told our Director, "Leave this boy with me for another year; I am going to make a swell dairyman out of him."

Nato Alvarez (Nato means pug-nose; the boys gave him this nickname because of his long proboscis) went back to Panama, where he worked for a couple of years and then got a scholarship to study agricultural education at Florida. Look at his grades: first semester, AAAABO; second semester, AAAAAA.

Other graduates whom we sent to Gainesville on our scholarships last year have also made satisfactory records. Federico Malo of Ecuador, first semester, BBBBC; second, ABBBB. Roberto Jarquín of Guatemala, BBCCO and ABBBC. Ligio Tavarez of the Dominican Republic, AABCC and ABBBB. The English language seems to give the boys more trouble than any other subject; they say it is because they have become accustomed to hearing only the teachers we have here at Zamorano, and there are a lot of different accents at Gainesville.

We have standardised the amounts of money allotted annually to our graduates whom we send to Gainesville, both for single and married men; and the University of Florida has drawn up rules covering the free tuition scholarships which they are able to give a limited number of Latin American scholars. We greatly appreciate the fact that Florida has, up to now, been able to grant free tuition to our graduates who have gone there.