The Policy Corner
By José Alvarez

From the Director's Desk:
Research at the Everglades REC over the years has played a key role in agriculture, both to this area and agriculture in general. Of the key researchers were four faculty emeriti, retired years ago from the station, but in most cases still working in their respective fields. To honor these four valuable researchers, it was the desire of the local agricultural community to establish an endowment in their names.

On May 15th the EREC hosted an inaugural banquet to honor and pay tribute to Emil Wolf, Victor Guzman, Joseph Orsenigo and George Snyder. This event was the beginning of a fundraiser to establish a two million dollar endowment.

We were delighted that so many friends and colleagues of these gentlemen were able to join us in celebrating their accomplishments. Pictures from the event are available on our website.

If you would like to be a part of our efforts to honor these scientists you may contact me, any member of our Board of Directors.

Sincerely,
Chris T. Waddill

Lance Joseph

Moisés Baltazar García worked for Dr. Alan Wright in the Soils Department. He graduated from Palosoke Middle Senior H.S. and will be attending Florida Atlantic University Honors College.

John Ford, a student from Everglades Preparatory Academy, will be attending Florida Atlantic University Honors College.

Godfrey Guillama (no photo available), a student from Everglades Preparatory Academy, will be attending Valencia Community College. Working with Dr. Gregg Nuessly in the Entomology Department, he identified and counted insects from soil samples and entered research data in the computer.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO U.S. AND MEXICAN SUGAR TRADE IN 2008?

Readers may remember that NAFTA’s full implementation will become a reality on January 1, 2008. The U.S. Congress is in the early stages of writing a new farm bill, and the only suggestion by the Secretary of Agriculture has been the suspension of the Overall Allotment Quantity at the direction of the Senate, rather than consideration of the statutory minimum. The Mexican government has been discussing changes in the Sugar Law passed in 2005, but not offered a firm proposal.

Both countries have some common elements of domestic sugar policy that may make it easier to achieve free trade in sugar on January 1, 2008, but not without some refinements. Negotiations from both countries will have to take place in the context of the new farm bill.

It has been said that the full implementation does not appear as difficult as thought in the early phases of NAFTA. But it won’t be easy either. Negotiators from both countries will have to work hard to establish a framework that will work well in practice.

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Lance Joseph, a student from Everglades Preparatory Academy, will be attending Palm Beach Community College. He assisted Dr. Mabry McCray in the Soils Department with the collection and grinding of sugarcane samples.

Alexander Williams worked with Dr. Scallie’s program in sweetcorn breeding. Alex was a junior from Glades Central Community H.S., working with Dr. Ron Cherry in the Soils Department. He graduated from Pahokee Middle Senior H.S. and will be attending Valencia Community College. Working with Dr. Gregg Nuessly in the Entomology Department, he identified and counted insects from soil samples and entered research data in the computer.

Godfrey Guillama (no photo available), a student from Everglades Preparatory Academy, will be attending Valencia Community College. Working with Dr. Gregg Nuessly in the Entomology Department, he identified and counted insects from soil samples and entered research data in the computer.
We are proud to announce that Dacia Rezaei, Office Assistant, for the South Florida District Extension Director, has received the 2007 IFAS Superior Clerical/Old Office Support. She was recognized as a recipient of this award from Senior Vice President Jimmy Cheek at a ceremony in Gainesville last March.

Dr. Jose Alvarez attended the 17th Annual meeting of the Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy (ASCE), Miami, August 2-4. He presented two papers: “Dysfunctional Agriculture: Challenges Facing the Government”, with G.B., Hagelberg; and “ASCE’s Contribution to the Study of Cuban Agriculture: Implications for the Transition.” Dr. Alvarez also helped with the criticism and discussion of the two papers that won the student competition; and served as judge on the panel.

Dr. Samira Daroukh was invited to participate in the Indo-US project inception workshop on e-technologies for water management. The project is a joint collaboration and part of an agreement between the Indian Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, and US President, George Bush. The consortium aims to develop low-cost technologies to train farmers on ways to improve the efficiency of water use. The group met at ICRES-T-Patachuri in March. (Dr. Daroukh is 7th from the left in the front row).