



United States Embassy Belize

Press Release

April 5, 2004

Ambassador Freeman Congratulates
Fulbright Scholar Frantz Smith
on Attainment of Texas A & M's
Master of Science Degree in Mariculture

Belize City, Belize – U.S. Ambassador to Belize Russell F. Freeman met with Frantz Smith on Monday, April 5, to congratulate him on the attainment of his Master of Science Degree in Mariculture. Ambassador Freeman hand-delivered Smith's diploma and discussed with him his Fulbright experience.

Frantz Smith, an agronomist who worked at Belize Citrus Growers Association's Citrus Research and Education Institute (CREI), left Belize in August 2001 to pursue environmental studies at Texas A & M University in Corpus Christi. Smith was the first recipient of a Master's Degree Ecology Scholarship Program, which is administered by LASPAU: Academic and Professional Programs for the Americas, a non-profit affiliate of Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The J. William Fulbright Program and the Organization of American States jointly fund the scholarship program, while the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the United States Department of State funds airline travel to and from the United States.

"Given Belize's role in preserving the ecology of the Mesoamerican biological corridor, I welcome and support this initiative between LASPAU and its funding partners," said Ambassador Freeman. "My hope is that Belize will have an opportunity to participate in the Fulbright-OAS Ecology Scholarship Program for years to come; especially when one considers the Embassy's active interest in participating in the program to assist Belizeans in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development."

Ambassador Freeman and his staff wish Frantz Smith well in his future endeavors. Smith, who returned to Belize after completing his studies in May 2003, is currently working as a Feeding Supervisor at Melinda's Shrimp Farm.

Other recipients of the FB-OAS Ecology scholarship are José Luis Canul, Edgar Ek, Omar Figueroa and Nadia Bood.

For further information on the Fulbright-OAS Master's Degree Ecology Scholarship Opportunity, please contact the Embassy's Economic and Commercial Section at tel: 227-7161, ext. 360.

P.O. Box 286, Belize City, Belize
Telephone (501) 227-7161, Fax (501) 223-0802
e-mail: embbelize@state.gov