ESF students and staff were in Puerto Rico during winter break. Along with assisting with rebuilding efforts following 2017’s Hurricane Maria, the group participated in community events celebrating Three Kings Day, Jan. 6, on the island of Vieques.

ESF Students Return to Puerto Rico to Help with Relief Efforts

Relief and education projects filled the days of a team ESF students, staff and faculty on a trip to Puerto Rico over winter break.

The group traveled to Vieques, an island off the eastern coast of Puerto Rico, to continue relief efforts related to 2017’s Hurricane Maria. A number of the students on the trip are members of Acorns to Action, a student-led relief organization. During their weeklong stay, the team helped build three short recreational trails, cleared trees that fell because of the storm, cleaned litter from a public park, painted the inside of a school, cleared land for farming, documented a trail system in the national refuge and prepared...
Chief of Staff Mark Lichtenstein, part of the ESF contingent, said the students’ presence in Vieques didn’t go unnoticed. After clearing land at an organic cooperative, one of the farmers prepared lunch for the group using only ingredients from the farm. The farm might also provide opportunities for soil analysis and citizen science down the road, Lichtenstein said.

Read the ESF story HERE.

**ESF 'Discovery Challenge' Proposals Emerge**

Seventeen cross-disciplinary teams from across the ESF campus presented their ideas Jan. 8 on innovative ways to define the College's future.

Participating in the ESF Discovery Challenge, the faculty members shared pre-proposals in rapid-fire fashion before an enthusiastic audience of faculty, staff, students and administrators. Ultimately, three to five proposals will be submitted to SUNY for funding of up to $200,000 a year for three years.

Read the complete ESF story HERE.

**ESF Participation in USC Race and Equity Institute Highlighted in Chronicle**

ESF was featured in The Chronicle of Higher Education for participating in USC’s Race and Equity Institute. Dr. Malika Carter, chief diversity officer, led the college's efforts.

Carter attended the SUNY Chief Diversity Officer Network event Dec. 4 and 5 at SUNY Plaza. During campus sector discussions, she reported ESF’s challenges and opportunities relating to the institution’s fall 2019 participation in the University of California’s Race and Equity Institute.

This semester, the campus community can learn more and contribute to projects begun by institute participants. Once finalized, session dates and times will be posted on the Inclusion/Diversity/Equity website.

**ESF Thanked for Support of Tree, Wreath Sales**

Christmas tree and wreath sales at Heiberg Memorial Forest were successful this past holiday season.

“Happy New Year, and a big thank you to all who participated in our annual Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale," said Jill Rahn, Forest Properties senior staff assistant. "Although with the weather most of you experienced during your visit, it probably felt more like Easter than Christmas. We had an excellent turnout this year. Thank you for supporting the teaching, research and demonstration at Heiberg Memorial Forest."
Academic Governance Prepares for Spring 2019

ESF’s Academic Governance serves a variety of roles, among them facilitating the initiation, development and implementation of the College’s mission and educational program. Academic Governance (all faculty, staff and student representatives) meets eight to 10 times a year to discuss matters of broad interest to the community and conduct academic business, including the proposal and review of College policies. The AG website houses meeting agendas and minutes, policies under consideration and other action items.

If you would like to contact Academic Governance, send an email to acadgov@esf.edu.

The first Academic Governance meeting for the semester is 11 a.m. Jan. 29 in Gateway A&B. Meetings for the 2019 spring semester are Feb. 26, March 26, April 23 and May 9. The May meeting includes awards and a reception.

The Instructional Quality & Academic Standards committee will offer a workshop on mid-course evaluations later this semester. As details become available, they will be shared with campus.

Interim President's Message - New Year Brings New Opportunities to ESF

If you missed Interim President David Amberg's New Year's message to campus, you can read it HERE.

Inclusive Excellence Welcome Reception

Help create fellowship among students of different underrepresented backgrounds at the Inclusive Excellence Welcome Reception. This is an opportunity for new students to meet and connect with each other as well as with returning students, faculty and staff.

Jan. 17, 2019
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Gateway Center

Join Oakie for a Birthday Roll Up a Sleeve: Red Cross
Celebration
Come celebrate Oakie’s birthday by enjoying a piece of cake, entering a raffle, sporting an Oakie tattoo and getting an Oakie sticker for your water bottle. ESF’s favorite acorn will be on hand for pictures and good wishes.

Jan. 22, 2019
11 to 11:45 a.m.
Gateway Center

Declares Urgent Need for Blood
The Red Cross declared an urgent need for blood. Come donate in Nifkin Lounge. All presenting donators will receive a $5 Dunkin Donuts gift card and a T-shirt. Schedule your appointment today.

Jan. 22 and 23, 2019
10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Nifkin Lounge, Marshall Hall

ESF IN THE MEDIA

Going Green: Protecting the Skaneateles Watershed
Putting in plants to protect watersheds from contaminant runoff is called riparian planting. A group of volunteers including members of the ESF community engaged in a riparian planting project on Skaneateles Lake in the hope other property owners in the Skaneateles Lake watershed will join them.

WATCH HERE

Lancaster Farming: New York Christmas Tree Industry Growing
Dr. William B. Smith is working on a metric to verify Christmas trees’ freshness, similar to "use by" dates on food. His work is mentioned in an article on Christmas tree sales in New York state.

READ HERE

Times Union: Researchers Nervously Study Shutdown Impact
Dr. Chris Nomura offers his thoughts on the impact the federal government shutdown might have on federally funded research.

READ HERE

WRVO: ESF Nearing Completion of Blight-resistant American Chestnut Trees
Dr. William Powell reports that the American chestnut project is a waiting final regulatory review for the next step in restoration.

LISTEN HERE

READ HERE