

## Agribusiness Alumni Now North Miami Deputy City Manager

### What influenced your decision to attend Florida A&M University and your choice of field of study?

I had a scholarship from Governor Bob Graham (from Haiti) for a four-year degree, and my interest has always been in agriculture... the scholarship chose FAMU for me, but it was the best choice!

That was my first time outside of Haiti. I didn't speak English. I was living on campus and going to an intensive English program at FSU. My impression: people are extremely nice and attentive and giving... you get a lot of caring people here at FAMU — that's why I stay in contact. I had a lot of caring, loving, giving people all around me at FAMU. I was blessed; people guided me and pointed me to the right direction.

### What was your major area of study in college?

Agribusiness (Bachelor, 1988), and then an Assistanceship in Agricultural Economics with a specialty in marketing from FAMU to go to Penn State. I received one for Ohio State as well but chose Penn State because it was less cold there. I also have a PhD in rural sociology with a specialty in community and economic development.

### How have you used your degree in your professional work?

Strange enough, the whole time that I studied. I crafted to go back to Haiti and transform communities. I made several attempts to go... actually I went a couple of times. The political climate was so upside down there that I couldn't get a job; so I came back. At that time I was married, and I had my citizenship. We are both committed to go back; my mother is there. If I go to an agricultural village, I need the trust of the government and re-



*Lumane Pluviose-Claude, Ph.D., North Miami Deputy City Manager, is a 1988 FAMU graduate of the Agribusiness Program.*

*Photo by Cynthia Lamb Portalatin*

sources to get the people to develop the place—to develop and empower the people—and make it the place they want it to be. If God gives me the blessing, I still want to try it, because I have the whole academic training for it. That's my goal. If it's God's will I will do it.

### What positive experiences at FAMU helped you in your life, personally and professionally?

I have confidence — as a Black woman with an accent coming from a foreign country, you get the confidence to face the world in general and know that you can succeed. My experience at FAMU is above and beyond academic. I'm proud of them building me to be the Black woman

that I am today and inspired to be in the future: the one that can brave that society and that no matter what, you know who you are, and you can succeed, work hard and embrace success. Because success is a process; it's not an end. Everyday you have to really find it and claim it.

### Has anyone in your immediate family attended or graduated from FAMU?

I am a first-generation college graduate. We open the door, and we will keep it open for our children and children's children.

### What is a typical day like for you at work?

Full of meetings and disturbances... you are in the middle of something and somebody else needs something — some scheduled meetings and several pop-up meetings, and you have to stay late and capture all that you have done in the meeting, make a plan for the work, and have it done before the next meeting. Either that or I am 80 percent immersed in work where I need to finish work. One of my major responsibilities that I am proud of is that I am an emergency manager for the city. It's a major responsibility to make sure the city is prepared to meet any disaster and that we are in federal compliance with all federal rules and regulations; so that we can be reimbursed for federally declared disasters. You need to treat emergencies at that standard; so that if it is declared you can be reimbursed.

### What best advice or wisdom nugget would you share with students?

Keep their eyes on the prize. And knowing that only through hard work and dedication they will get to the

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*“Alumni Spotlight”*

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prize. No short cuts and I always say avoid easy A's. It's very important to work for the grade so they can always be proud of not only the grade but the knowledge. That is power. They are paying for and investing time for that power. Don't leave the class without being empowered.

**Where do you see yourself in five to 10 years?**

I can be a manager in a different city. I want to be a manager in a different city and I want to teach on all of this knowledge that I have acquired over the years. It has to be shared. I want to teach at university level, and I want to go back to Haiti or another developing country and transform the community.

**What are you most passionate about?**

People and knowledge.



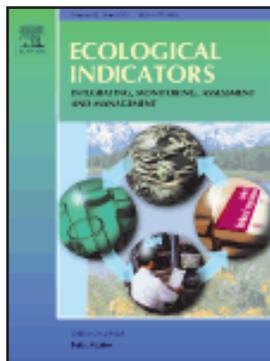
*Left: FAMU CAFS Professor Zacch Olorunnipa, Ph.D., and his former student Lumane Pluviose-Claude, Ph.D., North Miami Deputy City Manager visit in the Office of the Dean. Photo by Cynthia Lamb Portalatin*

Those are the two active elements that you need for transformation. In loving and sharing you can gain

knowledge to share with people in a loving way and recreate your environment for God's glory. ❖

**Student Publishes Paper in Ecological Indicators Science Journal**

Thalika Saintil, who recently earned a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Sciences with a concentration in agronomy at Florida A&M University (FAMU), has co-authored her first refereed paper published in the Ecological Indicators science journal. The paper is titled:



“Using Landscape Metrics to Analyze Micro-scale Soil Erosion Processes.”

Saintil will join a graduate program of study at the University of Georgia's Department of Crop and Soil Science in the fall of 2015.

"A peer reviewed paper as an undergraduate is a tremendous achievement.

A student of this caliber reflects great credit upon FAMU, CAFS and the faculty and technical staff." said FAMU Vice President for Research Timothy E. Moore, Ph.D.

The Ecological Indicators science journal integrates the monitoring and assessment of ecological and environmental indicators with management practices. The journal provides a forum for the discussion of the applied scientific development and review of traditional indicator approaches as well as for theoretical, modelling and quantitative applications such as index development.

Saintil's publication may be viewed online at:

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1470160X15001752#>.

Saintil interned with the United States Department of Agriculture's National Soil Erosion Research Laboratory in conjunction with Purdue University last summer and previously conducted research at FAMU CAFS' Center for Water and Air Quality. ❖



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