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Press release : 2009 : 08 : 19 : Dixon Sponsors Fulbright Scholar From Nigeria

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Dixon Sponsors Fulbright Scholar From Nigeria



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(St. Petersburg, Fla.) August 19, 2009 - Francis M. Nwosu, a research fellow at Nigeria's University of Calabar, will spend the 2009/2010 academic year at USF St. Petersburg as a Fulbright Scholar. Sponsored by Associate Professor Barnali Dixon, Nwosu will learn about GIS and Remote Sensing Application to Fisheries in Dixon's Geo-Spatial Analytics Lab.

Nwosu holds a PhD in Population Dynamics and Fisheries Management. Nwosu's project title is: *Identification and characterization of spawning and nursery habitats in a mangrove ecosystem using Geographic Information System and Remote Sensing.*

While at USFSP, Nwosu's project will focus on mapping mangrove habitat to indicate the reproductive categories of spawning, nursery and juvenile/fingerling. In his project he will characterize the habitat to indicate prevalent spatial and seasonal biophysical factors. He will use the gathered information to model likely environmental impact scenarios should a pollution incident occur.

Nwosu aims to use this research to broaden the scope of his academic contributions to fisheries and ecosystem dynamics with a particular interest in the emerging inseparability and relationship between fisheries management and ecosystem conservation. The Niger Delta region is the fisheries base of Nigeria and Nwosu plans to use knowledge gained from this project to protect the fisheries areas on which Niger Delta region communities depend.

Nwosu's background covers zoology, fisheries and aquaculture. His work includes mangrove mapping, surveying fishing villages, surveying possible areas for nature conservation and analyzing fishing practices in Nigeria. At the University of Calabar, he teaches undergraduate biology, ecology, plant biology, fish population biology, marine zoology and coastal zone management. Graduate courses taught include principles of fisheries management, coastal resource protection and conservation and fish population dynamics. Nwosu has published extensively on topics such as mangrove conservation as a remedy for climate change and the population dynamics in Nigeria's Cross River Estuary.

-USF St. Petersburg-

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