

Penn State Student

(Continued from Page A1)

started kindergarten in the school Ramn Marn in Guaynabo. Later on, his family moved to Yabucoa, the town where he started first grade.

"My family plays a very important role in my life," Javier noted on his Website. "I have two brothers and two sisters. Their names are Gelmarie, Jari, Glorimar, and Ethiel."

Noted on the Website, at the age of nine, Moreno finished the "DARE" class, committing himself to say "no" to drugs. He did very well in various public speaking contests in the Yabucoa district, often taking first place. He was graduated from sixth grade with high honors.

In 1996, his father was assigned to a church as a pastor in the small town of Mameyes, Jayuya Puerto Rico. Here he first had the opportunity to become a member of the FFA, later becoming one of the chapter leaders and then president of the southern region for Puerto Rico. It was there that Javier began his supervised agricultural experience, which consisted of banana, ornamental plant, and vegetable production. During summers, he participated in the Verna camp sponsored by the Puerto Rican Lung Association. He was a member of the Scholar Board of the S.U. Antonia Serrano School and belonged to the student council.

In 1998, the bishop of the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico consecrated him as the youngest

lay preacher of the church. In addition he was a volunteer in the library and community information center in Mameyes, an organization which benefited all the community.

In the ninth grade Language Festival, he won third prize for all of Puerto Rico in short story writing. He was graduated from ninth grade with high honors and won a medal of honor in all of the subjects. He was recognized by the Lions Club and represented his school in the TV quiz bowl. After Hurricane Georges, he worked as a volunteer in the community, giving out first aid articles, clothing, food, and assisting in other ways.

He participated in various FFA contests, both classroom and practical, and won second place in the region for public speaking in Spanish, first place statewide in horticulture, second place statewide for public speaking in Spanish, second place statewide in poultry, and third place regionally in extemporaneous public speaking in Spanish. He participated in workshops for regional directors and chapter officers. He also competed in an environmental public speaking contest at a local and regional level.

According to his Website, in May of 1999, he was elected state vice president of the Puerto Rico Association of the FFA. In June of the same year, he was one of three youth from his church who were sent to the International Youth Mission conference in New Hampshire. In July, he trav-

eled to Washington, D.C. to the FFA State Presidents' Conference where he had the privilege of meeting with Vice President Al Gore, Secretary of Agriculture Daniel Glickman, and Carlos Romero Barcelo, the former governor of Puerto Rico. In October 1999, he attended the 72nd National FFA Convention in Louisville, Ky. and also represented his organization with his fellow officers at the Puerto Rican Agronomist's State Convention.

During the Puerto Rican Soil Week, he was recognized as Young Farmer of the Year. In December he had the honor to attend the farmer's association annual meeting, where he met the governor of Puerto Rico, Sila M. Calderon.

In August 2000, according to his Website, Javier left his family, friends, and country to broaden his knowledge of American agriculture and FFA. He came to Lebanon, Pa. to live with the Bill and Deb Lovett Family.

"My host family also plays an important role in my life," Moreno wrote on his Website. "My host parents are Bill and Deb. I have two brothers (Ben and Matt) and one sister called Julia."

He attended Northern Lebanon High School during his senior year and became a member of the student council, the ecology club, and the FFA chapter. During the year he visited different FFA chapters within the region, offering workshops about teamwork and leadership. He was also invited to speak at several events such as banquets and conferences. In June 2001 he won second place in extemporaneous public speaking and third place in the parliamentary procedures contest at the state level.

In his role as president, Moreno is charged with guiding this year's national FFA officer team and serving as a spokesperson for the organization. In addition, he

and his team will serve with the National FFA Board of Directors.

"One of my favorite things in the world is the National FFA Organization," Moreno noted. "I enjoy mingling with people from around the country while learning about agriculture, diversity, and trading."

Fulfilling his position will require traveling more than 100,000 miles; meeting top leaders in business, government, and education; visiting approximately 40 states and participating in an international experience tour to Japan. His responsibilities will include providing personal growth and leadership training for students, setting policies that shape the future of the organization, and promoting agricultural literacy.

The national FFA officer selection process is intense and represents an assessment of years of academic and extracurricular accomplishments made by each student running for office. Nominees must first qualify at the state level to represent their particular state FFA associations. They then submit an in-depth application, detailing their accomplishments and contributions to the community, along with an essay detailing why they desire to be elected to the position. Once at the convention, candidates participate in six rounds of interviews, take an in-depth written test on the organization and agri-

cultural education topics, and complete a writing exercise.

A panel of nine state FFA officers comprises the nominating committee that proposes the slate of six national officers for approval by the convention delegates.

As an FFA member, Moreno received the National FFA H.O. Sargent Award. He was recognized for chapter scholarship, public speaking, and parliamentary procedure activities.

At school, Moreno is involved in the Alliance Christian Fellowship, Ag Advocates, MANNRS and Earth House. His goal during his year of service is to make a genuine difference in the lives of members and friends of the FFA.

He was accepted to Penn State University for the fall 2001 semester, but decided to work for a year in order to help finance his education. He is a freshman at Penn State and is majoring in agricultural education. Moreno has continued to be active in his community by serving as a member of the Lebanon County Drug and Alcohol Executive Commission.

FFA is a national organization of 464,267 members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business, and technology of agriculture with 7,194 local chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

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The three courses, veterinary medical terminology, small animal anatomy and physiology, and the mechanism of disease in companion animals, are non-credit versions of courses offered in the college's veterinary technology associate-degree-granting program, and are facilitated by instructors from the program.

These courses are available as open enrollment, meaning that new students can begin any of the 12-week courses at the start of each week. Students need an e-mail address, a reliable Internet connection, and time to log on to the course material regularly. Students may access the course 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Tuition for these courses is \$155 each. Texts are purchased separately. No refunds will be given for these courses.

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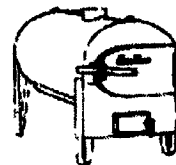
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