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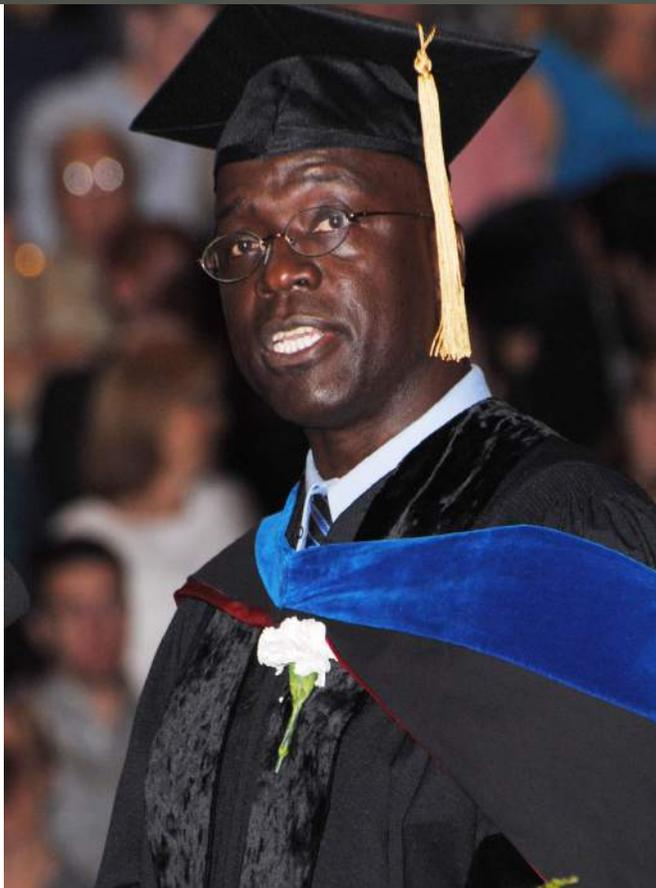


Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

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Dr. Steven Were Omamo delivers memorable commencement speech to 2014 College graduates

Dr. Omamo's eloquent commencement speech inspired students, faculty and family present as he shared his three hopes and his three asks for the graduating class of 2014. Dr. Omamo shared that his first hope is that students will struggle early and struggle often as to learn to overcome failure and obstacles that occur on your journey to success. He also hopes that students will come to know and embrace different kinds of people and to learn to recognize your glory moments and to use them wisely. Dr. Omamo requested three simple things from students: plant something to harvest every year, find a way to support Africa in its agriculture revolution, and lastly, he asked students to share their careers with their parents and family.

"Do take the time and care to share those treasures with your parents, wherever they may be; their love for you is eternal."

Dr. Omamo is the Director of the Policy Program at Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), based in Kenya where he oversees AGRA's programs with an aim to help Africa one day feed itself and the world. Before Dr. Omamo joined AGRA in 2012 he served as World Food Programme director of the Addis Ababa Liaison Office and representative to the African Union and UN Economic Commission for Africa. Dr. Omamo received his Ph.D. in Agricultural and Applied Economics from Stanford and his M.S. in Agricultural Economics from UConn and has published extensive works on economic development policy with a focus on policy requirements for supporting Africa's smallholder agriculture.

Department Welcomes Three New Faculty Members

ARE is excited to welcome **Drs. Charles Towe** (Assistant Professor at University of Maryland), **Richard Dunn** (Assistant Professor at Texas A&M), and **Nathan Fiala** (Postdoctoral fellow at DIW Berlin) to the department. Slated to begin in Fall 2014, Dr. Charles Towe has been hired to fill the Assistant Professor in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics position, Dr. Richard Dunn will fill the opening for Assistant Professor in Applied Econometrics, and Dr. Nathan Fiala has been hired for the Assistant Professor position in Agricultural and Resource Economics (Food Security).

Faculty News

Associate Professor in Residence **Syma Ebbin** was awarded 2014 Advisor of the Year at the Avery Point campus for her dedication and work as a faculty advisor for the EcoHusky club, *pictured at right with EcoHusky Club members.*

Dr. Pomeroy is beginning a new five-year partnership with NOAA/PIFSC on an ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM) in the Asia-Pacific region, including Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands. A multi-government partnership has been established by the Coral Triangle Initiative to protect coral reefs, fisheries, and food security through management of marine and coastal resources throughout the region.

Adam Rabinowitz and **Yizao Liu** published "The Impact of Regulatory Change on Retail Pricing: The New York State Milk Price Gouging Law" in *Agricultural and Resource Economics Review*. To view the article online, visit <http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/bitstream/165910/2/ARER2014%2043x1%20AEA%20Rabinowitz.pdf>



Dr. Syma Ebbins with EcoHusky Club members



ARE (facilitated by **Ben Campbell**) in conjunction with PSLA put together a tour of the Canadian greenhouse industry. The tour focused on greenhouses and marketing outlets in Southern Ontario. Participating in the trip were Steven Reviczky (CT Commissioner of Agriculture), Gregory Weidemann (Dean of the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources), faculty from ARE, PSLA, and Extension, along with CT greenhouse growers, investment groups and policy advocates from across CT. The group toured research, commercial and non-profit facilities associated with production (cucumbers, plants, micro greens) and technology incubation. The group also toured the Ontario Food Terminal which is Canada's largest wholesale produce terminal and one of the top four terminal markets in Canada and the United States. Of potential interest to the group is the potential establishment of a greenhouse research innovation complex that would serve the CT horticultural industry.

Pictured Right to Left: Rosa Raudales (Assistant Professor PSLA), Viki Radden (5 Stone Capital), Joe Geremia (Geremia Greenhouses), Ben Campbell, Dean Weidemann, Adrienne Houel (Policy Advocate), Wayne Brown (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food), John van Koeveeringe (owner of Spring Valley Gardens).

Research Study With Farm Credit East

In partnership with Farm Credit East, the **Zwick Center for Food and Resource Policy** is conducting a research study to quantify the regulatory burden on agricultural producers in eight Northeastern states (CT, RI, MA, NH, VT, ME, NY, and NJ). Zwick Center Director **Rigoberto Lopez**, Assistant Professor and Extension Economist **Ben Campbell** and Zwick Center member **Adam Rabinowitz** are tasked with employing their expertise in the analysis of the economics of agricultural industries to lead the study, with assistance from M.S. students **Laura Dunn** and **Neha Paliwal**.

Focusing on the dairy, fruit, vegetable, greenhouse and nursery industries, this project will summarize existing state policies that affect competitiveness of agriculture, quantitatively analyze the regulatory business climate, and survey producers on the impact of state regulation on business practices. The report will be completed by December 1, 2014 and will be available for download on the Zwick Center for Food and Resource Policy website.

Peanut and Mycotoxin Innovation Lab (PMIL)



Dr. Boris Bravo-Ureta is contributing to a new project titled "Using Applied Research and Technology Transfer to Minimize Aflatoxin Contamination and Increase Production, Quality and Marketing of Peanuts in Ghana," funded by USAID under the Feed the Future Initiative. PMIL is one of ten Innovation Labs funded by USAID and is managed by the University of Georgia. Research has revealed that groundnuts produced in Ghana contain high levels of a naturally occurring Mycotoxin called Aflatoxin, a species of fungi. Aflatoxin poses a financial threat to farmers and negatively impacts peanut production in Ghana.

Dr. Bravo-Ureta will collaborate with the Crops Research Institute in Ghana funded directly by North Carolina State University to conduct survey and sample design to help provide data to educate farmers on good farming practices, recommended planting and harvesting dates, and beneficial groundnut drying techniques.

Consumer Eye Tracking Technology



Assistant Professor and Extension Economist **Ben Campbell** conducts market research and promotes locally grown foods in Connecticut by using an eye tracking technology that can easily indicate to sellers and businesses what consumers are looking at in store displays. Campbell's eye tracking studies measure the effect of signage and display positioning within the store on the consumer's attention of Connecticut grown specialty crops. By studying what consumers see while shopping can help promote more demand for locally grown produce.

Campbell's research proves that store signage and labeling is an important investment for businesses as the eye tracking measures eye movements from the consumer and provides the data in the form of a heat map. The data shows not only where the customer looked, but how long and what held their interest. This advancement in research is especially beneficial in fulfilling the Governor's Council for Agricultural Development mandate to increase locally grown food expenditures to 5% by 2020, which is almost double the current spending level. Campbell also shares his results with children involved with USDA and Connecticut Extension projects by relaying the importance of eating healthy and making good food choices, even if it requires extra effort to look past the candy aisle.

Congratulations 2014 Graduates!

Bachelor of Science

Christopher Alvanos
Lateef Arnold
Michael Augustak
Luke Bailey
Smriti Bajgain
Michael Bartas
Emily Bergan
Robert Bowers
Mathew Bragano
Stephen Brown
Erin Burns
Hayden Carnaghi
Courtney Carver
Kevin Chubet
Paul Clermont
Jonathan Conderino
William Dean
Peter Deczi
Shailee Desai
Ian Desjardins
Christopher Dombakly
Kamilla Dynia
Jorge Evangelista
Pervaiz Fariduddin
Luke Federico
Kevin Ferreira
Morgan Fields
Stephen Filippo
Eric Fontanez
Kristan Fox
John Georgas
Patrick Gillane
Samantha Graf
Brant Harris
Kevin Hatch
Alyssa Healey
Max Heaton
Montana Heon
Bryan Huff
Michael Huse
Shayla Jackson
Alveena Javed
Christian Kearns
Katherine Kelleher
Michael Kilcourse

Cameron Kramer
Chelsea Krockomberger
Joseph LaPenta
Clement Lee
Kelvin Li
Jiaqi Liu
Robert Mancini
Sean Marren
Lauren Martin
Carlos Matos Brito
Jessica Matson
Connor Moughty
Luke Owen
Ryan Parmelee
Joseph Philbrick
Shakim Phillips
Jacob Pomerantz
Jordan Richard
Michael Robb
Darcy Rose
Calin Sapartoru
Gregory Sperling
Sophie St. Hilaire
Thristen Stewart
Austin Swim
Jonathan Zator

Master of Science

Xiaoyan Feng
Lu Huang
Joseph Krahe
Jinyun Lin
Lingqiao Qi
Yong Zhao

Ph.D.

Michee Lachaud
Eric Njuki

Graduating senior **Shayla Jackson**, right, was featured on the College blog, Naturally@UConn where she discussed why she majored in Agricultural and Resource Economics and her plans after graduation. Shayla says "I like that resource economics is different from regular economics in that it gives me a broader perspective of all the different components that go into business." Shayla concentrated in Marketing and hopes to go back to school to receive a master's degree.



Job and internship offers: **Nick Cass** was selected as an agricultural intern with Jones Family Farms this summer where he expects to learn the agriculture side of growing and harvesting produce and the business side of operating a farm. **Ariana Lema** will be interning this summer in Rhode Island with Save the Bay as a volunteer manager. Graduating senior **Will Dean** accepted an offer to work with Turner Construction in their NYC office.

Congratulations to Babbidge Scholars **Chris Bruno** and **Katherine Kelleher** for their academic excellence and to New England Scholars **Andy Bilich**, **Paul Clermont**, **Jessica Frech** and **Jonathan Zator**.

Graduate student **Madiha Zaffou** will be the main presenter at the June 1-3 NAREA meeting and the July 27-29 AAEA meeting. Madiha has also been selected for a summer assistantship with **Ben Campbell**.

Omer Hoke, ARE Ph.D. student, received a NAREA student scholarship for 2014 and will also be presenting at the AAEA and NAREA conferences.

Ph.D. student **Jeremy Jeliffe** received an award for best presentation at the September 2013 EuAWE conference in Talca, Chile.



Undergraduate Profile >>>

Honors and ARE student **Rose Croog** will be spending her summer interning with ICF International, an environmental consulting firm. Her internship is within the energy efficiency department and its purpose is to support the Connecticut Light & Power Clean Energy Communities Program and the CT "Lead by Example" initiative which encourages towns of CT to reduce their energy consumption 20% by 2018. Rose's responsibilities include communicating with and accommodating the local governments/energy committee of Beacon Falls, CT, benchmarking municipal building energy usage using EPA ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager, and developing a compiled energy reduction and management plan.

Graduate Students to Study Abroad in Italy This Summer

ARE M.S. students **Kristin Raub**, **Jingyi Chen** and **Laura Dunn** will be visiting the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Cremona, Italy for a two-week course titled *Strategy and Leadership* during May 2014. The course is to be taught by Christian Stadler, an Associate Professor at Warwick Business School, and it is intended to help students gain an understanding of business studies and learn how to analyze, discuss, and develop solutions to typical business challenges. Kristin, Jingyi and Laura were selected based on their interests and academic performance, and they look forward to learning about Agri-Business from a new and international perspective. "The opportunity to study abroad and gain fresh insight is a great experience for which we are all very grateful," shared Laura Dunn. After the two-week course, the students plan to explore the surrounding areas such as Cinque Terre and Venice.

Spotlight On >>> FELLOWSHIPS

ARE M.S. student **Ian Yue** was recently selected for the prestigious 2014-2016 NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship. This two year program provides on-the-job training and experience while matching students with state coastal zone programs to provide expertise and assistance on state and NOAA selected programs. Ian was placed with the Connecticut state project, where he will be working on seawall compensation with the Connecticut Office of Long Island Sound Programs.



Left to Right, David Blatt, Supervisor of the Coastal Planning section of the DEEP Office of Long Island Sound Programs (OLISP), Ian Yue, Brian Golembiewski, Supervisor of the Permitting & Enforcement section of OLISP.

Resource Economics Club

Recently elected officers include:

Chris Bruno - COO **Richard DeMarco** - CFO
Casey Foley - Secretary **James Rossi** - Event Coordinator

For more information or to join, contact us on UConncontact!

ARE Alum Dr. James Hsiao Receives Distinguished Alumni Award



From left is UCANRAA President Jen Cushman, CAHNR Dean Gregory Weidemann, and Dr. James Hsiao

Dr. James Hsiao received his PhD in Agricultural Economics from UConn in 1968 and has since made several contributions to academia and industry including becoming the founder and dean of the School of Business at Southern Connecticut State University. While at SCSU, Dr. Hsiao was a professor of economics and management science, a visiting scholar at Yale University, a visiting professor at UConn, and a visiting faculty mem-

ber at the University of Chicago. Dr. Hsiao's outstanding contributions to the state of Connecticut led to his recognition by Legislature of the State of Connecticut in 1985 and the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities in 1984.

Dr. Hsiao's international contributions include active roles in the development, economic reforms and open-door policies in the People's Republic of China. In 1998 Dr. Hsiao initiated the China Small Business Innovation Research Fund to fund entrepreneurial companies and during this time was one of the six original founders of Inframmat Corporation, a start-up company that focused on nanotechnology and originated with the guidance of UConn Emeritus Professor Peter Strutt. Dr. Hsiao has continued to have a substantial impact locally, nationally, and internationally by promoting technological innovation and encouraging a commitment to cultural exchange.



Andrew Cousins (B.S. '11) completed a program called Frontier Market Scouts at the Monterey Institute of International Studies in Monterey, CA in January 2014. I earned a graduate certificate in 'Impact Investing and Social Enterprise Management.'

Andrew recently accepted a new position as an Operations Associate with an

impact-investing network called Investors' Circle. The organization works to facilitate the flow of investment capital from angel investors and venture capitalists to entrepreneurs and for-profit businesses dedicated to improving the environment, education, healthcare, and community.

Aaron Miller (B.S. '12) recently accepted a position as a UCANRAA board member.

Visiting Scholars >>>



Maurizio Drolì

Maurizio Drolì is a visiting scholar with ARE until May 31, 2014 from the University of Udine in Italy.

Toru Nakajima is visiting from the University of Tokyo and will be at UConn through September 30, 2014.



Toru Nakajima

Join the ARE department LinkedIn group! <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/UConn-Agricultural-Resource-Economics->



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