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UConn photo by Frank Dahlmeyer

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Charles J. Zwick '50, '51 Granted Honorary Degree at 2013 Commencement

Charles J. Zwick, '50, '51, was granted an honorary degree at the 2013 Commencement ceremony, only the second such degree to be given in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources' history.

Honorary degrees are granted "only in recognition of extraordinary and lasting distinction. The award should represent the highest intellectual and moral values; it should reflect the very character and quality of the University itself." (Article XVII, University of Connecticut Laws and Bylaws).

Charles J. Zwick, '50, '51 Born in the Plantsville section of Southington with his early education taking place in a one-room school house, Zwick graduated from high school at age sixteen and enrolled at UConn. He found that he excelled at economics, and that agricultural economics in particular sparked his interest. After earning Bachelors and Masters degrees in the subject and a tour of duty in the Army in Japan, he returned to the classroom, earning a Ph.D. in economics from Harvard.

After a distinguished career at the RAND Institute, he was selected as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget under Lyndon Johnson, and carries the distinction of being the only director who balanced the budget, until the Clinton administration years later. He joined Florida's Southeast Banking corporation in 1969, and retired in the nineties as Chairman and CEO. His generosity to the Department and College has had a lasting impact— his transformative gift expanded the research agenda and gave a new name to the former Food Marketing Policy Center—now the Charles J. Zwick Center for Food and Resource Policy.

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Chad Cotti to Join ARE as Associate Professor and DeFavero Faculty Fellow

Chad Cotti will join the ARE faculty in Fall 2013 as a DeFavero Faculty Fellow and Associate Professor in the College cluster in Food and Health, a part of the University-wide cluster hires with a focus on health. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2006, and has an extensive publication record in the fields of applied microeconomics, health, labor, and public policy. He has published nineteen articles in top journals, including the *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Journal of Health Economics*, *Southern Economic Journal*, *Labour Economics*, *Economics and Politics*, and *Economics and Human Biology*.

Dr. Cotti chose to join the Department because "(It) has invested in several wonderful data sets that are useful in health research and many of the faculty are engaged in meaningful and interesting projects related to health behaviors. As a health economist the growth in this area, both in the department and across campus, is exciting, and I look forward to being part of the research environment at UConn. Moreover, the University is expanding dramatically and the atmosphere around campus and within the ARE Department seem to be very optimistic about the future, which was a meaningful factor."

About his appointment, Department Head Rigoberto Lopez said, "We look forward to Dr. Cotti's plans to continue work on his research relating to risky health behaviors, including smoking and drunk driving. He is going to be a major asset to ARE, the College, and around campus as a source of knowledge on a range of topics within health economics and public policy."



Associate Professor Chad Cotti

Spotlight on >>> INTERSHIPS



Resource Economics students have earned some career-starting internships recently, with employers ranging from Liberty Mutual and Farm Credit East to the Boston Celtics and Priam Vineyards. Students have participated in internships as close as the Depot Campus and as far away as an organic farm in Southern Spain.

Sophomore **Kathleen Barada**, a Resource Economics major in Honors College, became interested in Resource Economics through her own research of how she could combine her love for Botany, Economics and Politics into a course of study and found the major to be a great fit.

She will be combining her interests with an interesting internship this summer. She shared, "I will serve as an intern for Pete Sessions, a Congressman from the 32nd District of Texas. I will be fortunate enough to have the ability to attend Committee hearings and briefings, speaking forums, and other Congressional events while working in the Congressman's office on day to day activities. As the Chairman for the House Rules Committee, I hope to gain a broad but informative understanding of what goes on in all aspects of Appropriations."

Food Security Report Receives Wide Publicity

"2012 Community Food Security in Connecticut: An Evaluation and Ranking of 169 Towns" by Adam Rabinowitz and Jiff Martin has received wide publicity and interest after its recent release. The report was featured not only locally in the *Hartford Courant* and *New Haven Register*, but also in the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

The study, a joint effort by DARE's Zwick Center for Food and Resource Policy and the UConn Cooperative Extension System, provided a town-level assessment of community food security in Connecticut—defining "food security" as access at all times to enough nutritious food to lead a healthy life.

The study used three rankings—Population At-Risk Ranking, Food Retail Ranking, and Food Assistance Ranking to measure towns in comparison to one another in terms of food security.

About the study, Department Head Lopez said, "It's very encouraging that local and national media have picked up on this important topic studied by Rabinowitz and Martin. Their thorough examination of an important problem for our state will hopefully have wide-ranging policy implications for citizens in Connecticut and beyond."

The full study can be accessed online at <http://www.zwickcenter.uconn.edu/CFS>.



Faculty and Staff News

Assistant Professors **Joshua Berning** and **Ben Campbell** were selected to attend the Governor's unveiling of Next Generation Connecticut, plan to build the state's economic future through strategic investments in science, technology, engineering, and math disciplines (STEM) at the University of Connecticut. Professors Berning and Campbell's exhibit showcased the applications of eye-tracking technology to the green industry and healthy food choices.

Assistant Professor **Ben Campbell** presented at several events recently: "Eye Tracking Technology: What Drives Consumer Purchasing of Plants" at the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association Winter Symposium in Manchester, CT, Jan. 4th; "Applying Technology to Gauge Customer Marketing Preferences" at the Northern New England Nursery Conference in Portsmouth, NH on March 7th, and "What Really Captures Consumers' Eyes in the Retail Garden Center, Garden, and Landscape?" at the Perennial Plant Conference at UConn in Storrs on March 21.



Boris Bravo-Ureta, center in blue shirt, with participants at the UCAD workshop in January 2013.

Professor and Department Head **Rigoberto Lopez's** report on the impact of agriculture on the state's economy was featured in the *2012 Annual Report* of Farm Credit East.

Professor **Boris Bravo-Ureta's** research was featured in the *2012 CANR Highlights of Research* report. He is also at work on a USAID-funded grant in Senegal to support the full integration of universities, agricultural training centers, research institutes and extension services. His research has led to the report, "Agricultural Education, Research, and Extension: An Analysis of Human Capital Needs in Senegal." He led March and January workshops in Senegal at the Université Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD) to assist the University in drafting a strategic plan to support the creation of an Agricultural Institute, based on the land grant university philosophy. As part of the project, it is expected that high-ranking Senegalese officials and various agricultural leaders including private sector representatives, will visit UConn in September on Executive Leadership and Agriculture Knowledge Information System Study Tour

Professor **Robert Pomeroy's** report "Valuing the Coast: Economic Impacts of Connecticut's Maritime Industry," received wide publicity when it was released in March 2013. The report, written with the assistance of graduate students Umi Muawanah and Nataliya Plesha, showed that the value of the state's maritime economy is \$7 billion, and contributes 40,000 jobs.

The Department was saddened to learn of the passing of Vivian Putnam, the wife of **Paul Putnam**, a well-respected professor emeritus in ARE. Paul and Vivian were generous supporters of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the University through two funds, the Paul Putnam Endowment is currently used to support faculty travel and research in ARE, and the Vivian A. Putnam Endowment for the Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry.



Ben Campbell, far left, and **Joshua Berning**, far right, with UConn President Susan Herbst at the unveiling of Next Generation Connecticut in Hartford on April 11, 2013.

Student Update

Undergrad **Morgan Fields** was a Summer Camp Specialist and now is a volunteer with the program CT Operation: Military Kids, a group that provides programs and resources to support the children of deployed service members in Connecticut.

Ph.D. student **Nataliya Plesha** was the recipient of the prestigious NACTA Teaching Award, given by the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture to recognize graduate student excellence in teaching in the agricultural disciplines. She will be presented with the award at the NACTA Annual Conference at Virginia Tech in June.



Laura Dunn

Graduate student **Vivian Tang** will participate in the 2013 U.S. Borlaug Summer Institute on Global Food Security this summer at Purdue University.

Laura Dunn graduated in December of 2012 with a Bachelors of Science in Resource Economics and minors in both Spanish and Environmental Economics and Policy, with concentrations in both Business Management and International Development. She shared "I was accepted as a Master's Candidate for ARE and I am currently in my first semester. As a Graduate Assistant, I

teach Writing in Environmental and Resource Policy and reach out to undergraduate students considering our major. After my heavy involvement in sustainability initiatives as an undergraduate, I was also hired as a part-time sustainability coordinator at the Office of Environmental Policy. I love both my positions here at UConn and enjoy seeing the various sides of campus life."

Resource Economics students were offered a particularly exciting internship opportunity this year with MetroCrops, LLC, a Fairfield County-based company that was the recipient of a USDA research grant to test the technology for growing and hydroponic greens in vacant factories in cities like Bridgeport. MetroCrops rigorously interviewed many candidates from ARE, and selected ten talented and qualified students to work with them at their test site on the Depot Campus to grow and market their product. Students performed market research and economic analysis, and even conducted lettuce taste tests.

Congratulations, Graduates!

Bachelor of Science

Kyle Barr
Michael Berezecy
Manisha Bicchieri
Justin Bracco
Eden Brevik
Megan Butler
Elyse Calnen
Sean Cammilleri
Michael Canaan
Lauren Casey
Jeffrey Celone
Michael Clarke
Scott Conran
Michael Cummsiskey
Steven Daniels
Laura Dunn
Steven Feeney
Christopher Forsdick
Megan Frost
Michael Frulla
Ramonita Garcia
Mara Gauger
Ozzie Gooding
Matthew Goodkin
Michael Hagner
Spencer Haymond
Travis Herbek
David Herod
Brian Higgins
Anna Kurak
William Leet
Lauren Marotta
Kevin Mathieu
Morgan McCabe
Thomas Mello
Mark Meltser
Aaron Miller
April Moon
Wesley Nichols
Tzu-Heng Peng
Jacob Raleigh
Tyler Riotte

James Schondelmeier
Patrick Shah
Robert Shew
Cheryl Simonsen
Samuel Smith
Ethan Stewart
Irvine Taylor
Dominick Spina
Laura Sterling
Joshua Sullivan
Emily Udal
Blidi Wreh-Wilson
Scott Wolfe
Zachary Yakaitis
Michael Zimei

Master of Science

Xiaoyan Feng
Beverly Fernandez
Lu Huang
Jeremy Jelliffe
Quan Le
Youngho Lee
Xun Li
Pengfei Liu
Eric Njuki
Stacy Roman
Alexander Trofa
Eileen Underwood
Alexis von Rhade
Nicholas Wright
Ning Xu
Yan Xu
Hualu Zheng

Ph.D.

Ibrahim Abou-Saad
Umi Muawanah
Deep Mukherjee
Jason Patalinghug
Charles Rhodes
Tsvetan Tsvetanov
Taeyeon Yoon
Chen Zhu

PROFILE >>> Jennifer Clinton

Marine spatial planning is a marine management tool that encourages stakeholder participation and streamlines the governance process. Many research papers indicate the vast benefits it could produce, but none have yet quantified these benefits, or the cost of implementation, as of yet. Masters student Jennifer Clinton's research will set up a cost benefit analysis that will help policy makers and planners understand how and what to quantify, which will help decide whether or not to implement the policy. Her study also provides a rich literature review on the history of marine spatial planning in the United States, several reasons the oceans are in decline, and why cost benefit analysis and economics are essential tools to selecting marine management plans.

A Watershed Management fellow in the Department, Jennifer worked in summer 2012 at NOAA's National Marine Protected Areas Center as an intern, in Monterey, CA, where she wrote a literature review and researched expenditure profiles of marine recreational uses, specifically whale watching, kayaking, surfing, and SCUBA diving. This research also involved talking to local representatives to discuss economic impacts of recreation, and looking at past projects by the Army Corps of Engineers to understand its impacts in dollars. The report is not yet published, but initial findings indicate that SCUBA diving has a broader economic impact on local communities than did surfing or kayaking.



Jennifer keeps busy outside of her classroom and research work: she is also the Sustainability Coordinator in UConn's Office of Environmental Policy, where she supervises eight interns as they plan events and outreach for the Storrs campus. The office is responsible for events such as Earth Day Spring Fling, a spring festival that showcases local eco-friendly businesses, Green Game Days, where they encourage recycling at athletic events, and Campus Sustainability Day, in which they collaborate with student groups all across the university. The OEP is also responsible for data management of the Sierra Club Cool Schools survey, and bringing students' attention to the environmental initiatives going on around campus, like LEED certifications and water conservation. Jennifer will work in Mossel Bay, South Africa as an intern this summer, researching interactions between tourism and shark conservation with Oceans Research.



Fiona Stewart (B.S. '11) shared "I work for the Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority as a Project Assistant on the Clean Energy Finance team. I assist the team by creating presentations, coordinating meetings,

managing contact information and date, performing quantitative analyses, and developing and managing an online workflow process for our new financing products. My experience and education as an ARE student has certainly prepared me to succeed in this field. The understanding of policy, particularly environmental and energy policy, energy markets and economics, and business fundamentals, as well as the nurturing of my passion for sustainability I received during my time at UConn help me on a day to day basis. Besides working, I stay busy singing with Chorale Connecticut and representing the Irish community as the 2013 New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen.

Xiaouu Liu (Ph.D. '09) was promoted to associate professor, School of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development, Renmin University of China.

Carmen Liron-Espana (Ph.D. '00) was promoted to policy director, Department of Market Intelligence, in the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources.

Tsvetan Tsvetanov (Ph. D. '13) was appointed as postdoctoral fellow in the School of Forestry Management, Yale University.

Jiangying (Gladdy) He (Ph.D. '98) works as a Client Partner for Korn/Ferry International in Shanghai.

Aaron Miller (B.S. '12) is a Pricing Analyst at Travelers in Hartford. He plans to return to UConn part-time to pursue a Masters in Business Analytics and Project Management.

John Hogan (M.S. '12) will begin law school at the University of Richmond in Fall 2013.

Chen Zhu (Ph.D. '13) was appointed as assistant professor, College of Economics and Management, China Agricultural University.



Umi Muawanah (Ph.D. '13) will spend one year working in Arlington, Va., for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation. As a natural resource economist, Muawanah works on the economic study on Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation particularly National Fish and Habitat Partnership Program (NFHAP) and National Fish Passage Program (NFPP).

Currently, Muawanah is leading a study on the economic benefit of fish friendly culvert on flood resiliency, case study of Alaska along with Susan Well, Amy Unthank at the Forest Service and US Fish and Wildlife Office in Region 7 (Alaska) and Region 5 (New England). Upon finishing her fellowship, Muawanah will utilize the networking and experience on US conservation and fisheries management when she resumes her position at the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, in Indonesia.

Rui Wang (M.S. '13) will continue her studies in the Ph.D. program at Tulane University Department of Economics.

Justin Grimm-Greenblatt (M.S. '12) is a Research Associate in Economics and Marketing at the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff's Department of Aquaculture and Fisheries.



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