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, was 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 Bachelor’s and Master’s 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 carried 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.

Charles J. Zwick, ’50, ’51, was honored with the William E. Fenneman Award in 2004, and the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association’s Distinguished Service Award in 2006. He is a participant in the Phi Beta Kappa Society and was inducted into the University of Connecticut College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Hall of Fame in 2006. A member of the University of Connecticut Alumni Association since 1978, he was elected to membership on the Board of Trustees in 1995. In 2005, the Board presented Charles Zwick with the Alumni Achievement Award.

Chad Cotti will join the ARE faculty in Fall 2013 as a DelFavero 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 “(t)he work I do relates to risky health behaviors, including smoking and drunk driving. I am 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.”
Food Security Report Receives Wide Publicity

“2012 Community Food Security in Connecticut: An Evaluation and Ranking of 16 Towns” by Adam Robinevitz and Jeff 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 Policy Research 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 Robinevitz and Martin. Their thorough examination of an important problem for our state will hopefully have wide-reaching policy implications for citizens in Connecticut and beyond.”

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

Spotlight on >>> INTERNSHIPS

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 Praxair Ventures. Students have participated in internships as close as the Depot Campus and as far away as organic farms 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 Congressmen from the 32nd District of Texas. I will be fortunate enough to have the ability to attend Committee hearings and briefings, as well as participate in speaking forums, and other Congressional events while working in the Congressmen’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.”

Faculty and Staff News

Assistant Professors Joshua Berman 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 Berman and Campbell’s exhibit showcased the applications of eye-tracking technology to the green industry and healthy food choices.


Ben Campbell, far left, and Joshua Berman, far right, with UConn President Susan Herbst at the unveiling of Next Generation Connecticut in Hartford on April 11, 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 CMAN Highlights of Research Report. He is also at work on a USD-funded grant in Senegal to support the full integration of universities, agricultural training centers, research institutions, and extension services. His research has led to the development of a project, “Agricultural Education, Research, and Extension: An Analysis of Human Capital Needs in Senegal.” He lost March and January workshops in Senegal at the Université Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD) to assist University in drafting a strategic plan to support the creation of an agricultural university in Senegal.

Of the project, he says, “It is expected that high-ranking Senegal 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 Pomery’s report “Valuing the Coast: Economic Impacts of Connecticut’s Maritime Industry,” received widespread public interest when it was released in March 2013. The report, written with the assistance of graduate students Mittu Murawahn and Natallya Pleshko, 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.

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

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 undergrad, 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 en-joy seeing the various sides of campus life.”

Resource Economics students were offered a particularly exciting internship this year with MetroCrops, LLC, a Fairfield County-based company that was the recipient of a USDA grant to test the technology for growing and hydroponic greens in vacant factories in cities like Bridgeport. MetroCrops vigorously 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 conducted field taste tests.

Congratulations, Graduates!

Bachelor of Science Kiko Barr Michael Bendzicka Marina Benkherrou Justin Brasico Eden Breek Michael Bruner Elyse Calmen Sean Camerlent Michael Cavanagh Lauren Casey Jeffrey Colleen Michael Charles Scott Comen Michael Cummiskey Steven Danesi Laura Dunn Steven Farren Christopher Fosdick Megan Frost Michael Frulla Ramonita Garcia Maria Gauger Ophie Gooding Matthew Goodwin Michael Hageman Spencer Hamod Tracy Henn David Herod Brian Higgins Anna Hulse William Hett Lauren Herbst Thomas Mello Mark Mettler Aaron Miller Amanda Molon Vicky Nichols Tai-Hong Peng Jacob Russil Tyler Rutsa

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PROFESSOR >>> Jennifer Clinton

Marine spatial planning is a management tool that encourages stakeholder participation and streamlines the governance process. Many research papers indicate the value benefits it could provide, but none have yet quantified these benefits, or the cost of implementation, as yet. Masters student Jennifer Clinton’s research will set up a cost-benefit analysis that will help policy makers and planners understand the public costs and benefits of marine spatial planning, as well as an economic comparison of 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 Washedash Management fellow in the Department, Jennifer worked in summer 2012 at NOAA’s National Marine Protected Areas Center as an intern with the National Marine Stewardship Program. She will serve as the lead author of a project on marine spatial planning and fishery models 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 just 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 five interns as they design events and outreach for the Office for the campus. The Office is responsible for events such as Earth Day Spring Fling, a spring festival that showcases eco-friendly businesses, Green Games Days, where they encourage recycling at athletic events, and Campus Sustainability Day, where they collaborate with student groups all across the university. The OSP is also responsible for data management for the Siena’s O’Keefe Scholars’ focus on “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 Oceano Research.”

Phil D.

James Schondelmayer Patrick Shah Kohei Shibuya Chonil Simonsen Samuel Smith Eben Swett Irene Taylor Laura Sterling Joshua Sullivan Kevin Ueki Billy Vilkin Scott Watto Zachary Yasakiel Michael Zirine

Master of Science

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Assistant Professor Ben Campbell presented at several events recently, “Eye Tracking: What Drives Consumer Purchasing of Fruits” at the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association Winter Symposium in Manchester, CT, Jan. 4th; “Applying Technology to Gauge Customer Marketing Preferences” at the New Hampshire Nursery and Landscape Conference in Portsmouth, NH on March 1st; 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.

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

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Student Update

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Bachelor of Science

Kyle Barr
Michael Benackczy
Marina Becker
Justin Bischof
Eden Brek
Michelle Butler
Elyse Calmen
Sean Carmelletti
Michael Conaway
Lauren Casey
Jeffrey Colbourn
Michael Clarke
Scott Commen
Michael Cummins
Steven Daniels
Laura Dunn
Stefan Fong
Christopher Forsdick
Megan Frost
Michael Friula
Raminta Garcia
Mara Gauker
Cristie Gooding
Matthew Goodson
Michael Hager
Spencer Hammond
Tracy Harb
David Herod
Brian Higgins
Anna Hule
William Leet
Lauren Merlia
Thomas Melo
Mark Mellott
Aaron Miller
Alyssa Mon
Nataliya Plesha
Vivian Tang
Tou-Heng Peng
Jacqui Reilly
Tyler Rotte

James Schonheime
Patrick Shah
Nicki Sicko
Cheryl Simmons
Samuel Smith
Erian Stewert
Irving Taylor
Anna Tasker
Jared Thelning
Joshua Sullivan
Sarah Uyeda
Bilik Wei-Vinston
Scott Woffle
Zoe Yekelis
Michael Zimei

Master of Science

Xayan Feng
Beverly Fernandez
Lu Huang
Jeremy Jeffcles
Queen Lee
Youngho Lee
Xin Li
Pengfei Liu
Eric Nyiri
Stacy Corman
Abheet Torda
Eilean Underwood
Alena von Rhein
Nicholas Wright
Ning Xu
Yun Xu
Huaili Zhang

PhD

Alois Abou-Alex
Umi Marwah
Deep Mukweye
Jason Patlalinga
Charles Rhodes
Twaisan Tekeshwary
Tayeun Yoon
Chen Zhu

PROFILE >>> Jennifer Clinton

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Jennifer Clinton

A Watershed Management Fellow in the Department, Jennifer worked in summer 2012 at NOAA’s National Marine Protected Areas Center as a National Marine Protected Areas Fellow in Hatteras, North Carolina, as part of the OEP’s “Water Quality Source-Specific & Beneficial Use.” She helped write the final report on the OEP’s 2011 Environmental Justice Case Study, “Barriers to Opportunities for Latino Communities in a New York City National Marine Sanctuary.” Jennifer is currently working on a PhD focused on the economic impacts 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.

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