Updated Food Security Report
Assisting Towns and Policymakers with New Data

Zwick Center researcher and graduate student Adam Rabinowitz has partnered with the Department of Extension and Sustainable Food System Associate Educator Jiff Martin to author “2012 Community Food Security in Connecticut: An Evaluation and Ranking of 169 Towns” and bring attention to this important issue.

The joint report, funded by a USDA-NIFA grant, the Cooperative Extension System via Smith Lever funds, and the State of Connecticut Food Policy Council, seeks to provide timely updates to an earlier food security report from 2005 through a three-pronged approach to ranking populations that may be at-risk for food insecurity, and an analysis of additional measures to improve food security.

On a town by town basis, the report compared Connecticut’s 169 towns to one another and examined several factors that determine the likelihood that a town population is food secure; the geographic proximity from town population centers to food retailers; and how well town residents are being served through public food assistance services and public transportation. These three variables combine for a good indicator of community food security, and can be examined in concert to advise policy decisions.

Because Connecticut’s towns differ widely—compare tiny Canaan with just over 1,000 residents to Bridgeport’s more than 140,000—it is impossible to find a one size fits all solution to food security for the state. And because geography can play a large role in food access, some aspects of food security are about community resources and opportunities: think of the Union resident without a car who is miles away from a food retailer and has no access to public transport to access food versus the Manchester dweller without a car, easier access to the public bus and is participating in food assistance programs.

The report’s authors hope that this updated report will prompt discussions in towns to make better decisions about how to best serve their residents with food access, public transportation, and food assistance options that ensure that all Connecticut residents get all the food they need.

To view the full report and learn more, visit www.zwickcenter.uconn.edu/CFS
New Double Masters Program
With Renmin University of China

The Department is pleased to announce a new Memorandum of Understanding between DARE and the School of Agricultural and Rural Development at Renmin University of China (RUC) that will bring Chinese Master’s students to Storrs beginning in 2014.

Founded in 1937, RUC in Beijing is one of the country’s top universities, with strengths in the social sciences, and an enrollment of nearly 24,000 students. It has a prestigious reputation of excellence in research, and the mission “to seek truth from facts.”

UConn ARE Ph.D. graduate Xiaouu Liu ('09), now an Associate Professor at the School of Agricultural and Rural Development at RUC, and Department Head Rigoberto Lopez have collaborated on research projects since her graduation, and the two Departments enjoy a scholarly reputation that was formalized in 2010 when CANR Dean Gregory Weidemann visited the RUC campus with a delegation from UConn.

A formal MOU was signed in November 2012. Dr. Lopez says, “I am thrilled that students of the high caliber of RUC will be joining the DARE masters program. RUC is known for its strength in economics, I am sure that the students that are part of this new program will be benefits to the College and to UConn, both in and out of the classroom.”

Faculty and Staff News

ARE welcomed three visiting scholars in fall 2012: Nursel Koyubenbe of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Ege University in Izmir, Turkey; and Ph.D. students Jiawu Dai of China Agricultural University and Yu Ding of Renmin University of China.


Ben Campbell and his exciting research and outreach plans to understand consumer behavior and help producers maximize success were featured in UConn Today. Web readers can click here to read the full article; print readers can visit http://today.uconn.edu/blog/2012/11/agricultural-economist-ben-campbell-joins-uconn-faculty/.

Faculty and graduate students had a busy summer of conference attendance and seminar presentations, including the NAREA Annual conference in Lowell, MA; the AAEA Annual Meeting in Seattle; the ISMS Marketing Science Conference, the AAEVEAAE conference on Food Environment, and the EEA Annual Conference, all in Boston.

Joshua Berning was awarded the Journal of Food Distribution Research’s Outstanding Journal Article of 2012 for “Examining the Effectiveness of Nutrition Information in a Simulated Shopping Environment.”

Syma Ebbin presented as an invited panelist on a case study of Connecticut’s Climate Change Adaptation Policy at the 9th Marine Law Symposium “Shifting Seas: The Law’s Response to Changing Ocean Conditions” Nov 14-15 at Roger Williams University School of Law in Bristol, RI.

Deepak Joglekar ran the 2012 Income Tax School on November 13-14 in Rocky Hill. This event was held in coordination with the Internal Revenue Service and Connecticut Department of Revenue Services and featured continuing education lectures from attorneys, revenue examiners, professors, and a taxpayer advocate, among others. Coordinated in ARE by Claire Bazzano and Karen Nye, the Income Tax School had 145 attendees and provided the latest information to tax preparers.


Visitors from Kenya
Complete L.I.D. Program

Four visitors from Kenya’s Ministry of Finance joined the Department for two weeks in October 2012 to participate in the Learning for International Development Program. Above, L.I.D. participants and ARE graduate students gathered for an October luncheon. Back row: Michee Lachaud and Jeremy Jelliffe (ARE), Dorothy Kimeu (LID), Professor Boris Bravo-Ureta. Front row, from left: Rachael Shenyo (ARE), Monica Asuna (LID), Deep Mukherjee and Eric Njuki (ARE), David Komen and Emma Mburu (LID).

Fan operated by the New York Produce Show and Conference in New York in December, where they participated in a special program to learn more about careers in the industry. Show above, from left: Ben Campbell, master’s student Qishuo Yu, and undergraduate students Jacob Raleigh and Ethan Stewart.
Senior **Wesley Nichols**, second from left, sings in an a cappella group at Sadhana Forest in Auroville, Tamil Nadu, India, where he spent the spring semester.

After one year in the insurance industry, **Andrew Cousins** (B.S. ‘11) decided to leave his job and intern with Community Enterprise Solutions, an NGO in Ecuador that provides business assistance to entrepreneurs in remote communities. He says “The experience was very challenging but it was extremely rewarding and helped shape my goals for a future in international development.” Andrew is pictured above at the foot of the Chimborazo volcano near the agricultural village where he lived outside of Riobamba, Ecuador.

Senior **Laura Dunn** was selected by the Provost’s office to serve as an Undergraduate Student representative on the University’s Environmental Policy Advisory Council. She will graduate in December and plans to join the ARE graduate program in January 2013.

Studying abroad: **Manisha Bicchieri, Steven Daniels, and Lauren Marotta**: UConn Environmental and Agricultural Sustainability: Florence, Italy; **Ramonita Garcia**: National University of Singapore; **Michael Hagner**: Freie Universität Berlin European Studies Program, Germany.

**Wesley Nichols** spent Spring 2012 living at Sadhana Forest, an intentional community of 60-80 people in Auroville, India, working on a reforestation and water conservation project, and experiencing sustainable living. This was part of an ongoing project with Assistant Professor Josh Berning, investigating local reactions and possible solutions to some of the negative externalities created by economic globalization.

**Student Update**

Congratulations to Ph.D student **Nataliya Plesha** (left), who won the Applied Agricultural Economics Association’s national Excellence in Teaching. She is shown above left, receiving her award at the AAEA annual conference in Seattle.

Senior **Michael Canaan** spent fall 2012 in Boston participating in an internship with the Celtics in the sales and marketing operations division. His responsibilities included research on the team’s fan base, assisting with fan engagement at home games, and community outreach events. He interned in Chicago in summer 2012 with Octagon Baseball, working on professional athletes’ sponsorship activities.

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**W.B. Young Renovations >>>**

The Department packed up and made the move to its temporary home in Bio4 on Horsebarn Hill, where it will be housed until August 2013 while the W.B. Young Building undergoes renovations.
alumni news
Please send your updates to ResourceEconomics@uconn.edu

Ning Xu (M.S. ‘98) and Professor Emeritus T.C. Lee, shown above with Ning’s son, caught up during Dr. Lee’s recent visit to Seattle. Ning is working as Director of State Operations at Liberty Mutual in Seattle where she develops and executes business plans for the $100 million personal line products in several states. She wrote in to Operations at Liberty Mutual in Seattle where she develops shown above with Ning’s son, caught up during Dr. Lee’s relevant to me as my job is all about optimization, of re-
spective and interesting. Mathematical Programming was most
levant to me as my job is all about optimization, of re-
sourse, profit, operation, etc.”

Anne Kline, left, (B.S. ’08) graduated from Pace University School of Law on May 20, receiving a Juris Doctor with a Certificate of Concentration in Envi-

ronmental Law. She was enrolled in the Pace Law School Joint Program with the Bard College Center for Environmental Policy, and received a Master of Science in Environ-

mental Policy degree from Bard on May 26. She is cur-
rently working as an environmental law specialist in the
highway and bridge/government liaison department at
OME Associates, Inc. in East Hartford.

Alessandro Bonanno (Ph.D. ’06) has accepted a position as Assistant Professor at Wageningen University in the Netherlands.

Samuel Franco (B.S. ’11) has accepted a supply chain management position with Green Mountain Coffee Roast-
ers in Waterbury, Vermont.

Won Il Kim (M.S. ’08) is working as an Agricultural Officer in the Crop Diversification for Livelihoods, Plant Produc-
tion and Protection Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Rou Yu Wu (M.S. ’12) is working on a consulting project with a sustainable business in the Boston area and a non-
profit project to help restaurants in the New York city go green. She is also involved in a vertical farming start-up.

Kenneth Main, right, (B.S. ’97) was promoted to the rank of Lt. Colonel at Hanscom Air Force Base, Massachu-
setts, on March 30. Ken recently served as command-
er of the 82d Contracting Squa-

ron, Sheppard AFB, Texas. In
July, Ken was assigned to
Hanscom where he now works as Deputy Chief of Contracting, in the Battle Management Directorate.

Quelia Galan, right (B.S. ’09)
shared this photo of herself
at Cleopatra’s Shower, a rock
formation near Cairo, Egypt.
Quelia is teach-
ing English at
the American
University of
Cairo in Egypt.